



HARMONICA HIGHLIGHTS

September 2018

www.milehighharmonicclub.com

Notes from the Prez



Dick Paige
MHHC President

And Now.....

THE NEWS

SPAH was another wonderful harmonica experience! Lynn and I and the other members I saw there seemed to be having a great time. We had the second largest contingent of members, 25, and at least 4 other Colorado players in attendance. The seminar I did, bass harmonica, was well received and so much so that I will volunteer to do it again next year with some improvements.

I am asking all of our members if we should try to have the convention here in 2021? I may not be president by then and another administration will have to follow through with help from the members. It is a fair amount of work but I believe that it is well worth it. Our club has a wealth of knowledge on how to do the event and maybe more than any other club except St. Louis. In 2015 our ladies outdid themselves and we will need their help again to make it a successful convention. I plan to take a vote on this at our September 9th meeting and if you cannot attend e-mail me or another board member so that you can vote that way and be counted.

For 2019 I am putting together a 50', 60's and 70's Rock Jam for SPAH. If you would like to participate let me know soon please.

I wish to pursue a dual membership deal with Colorado Blues Society and will ask for a vote on this at our next meeting. I have not spoken with them and will not unless approved by you. Think it over.

Meeting turnout remains high but I am hoping we can get even more players to come on a regular basis.



SEPTEMBER CLUB SCHEDULE

September 9, 1:30 p.m.

Club Meeting
Historic Grant Avenue
216 S. Grant Street, Denver

September 23, 1:30 p.m.

Club Meeting
Historic Grant Avenue

2018 Officers

President.....Dick Paige 720-220-1931
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Secretary.....Freddy Alexander 720-298-9445
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Member-At-Large....Lloyd Williams 303-404-2219
Newsletter Editor.....Nancy Bale 303-829-6465

Song for September's 2nd Sunday is a song that features whistling. October's 2nd meeting "something to dance to" and November's 2nd meeting "single word" songs like "Tequila" or "Sincerely".
See you on the 9th and 23rd!

Open Mic - August 12th

I'm afraid that in the excitement of getting ready for the SPAH, the playlist was lost.

Open Mic - August 26th

Ed Martin

Freddie Alexander

LeRoy DeVries

Louis Acosta

Nick and Steve

Roger Bale

Greg Coffey

Jim Keller

Scott Paulding

Barry Staver

Chris Wallace

Myron Wilson

Lee Taylor, Greg Coffey, Freddie Alexander

And Chris Wallace

Vonnie and Paul Davies

"Back Home Again"

Reggae backing track in D

"His Eye is on the Sparrow"

"Wind Beneath My Wings"

"Wild Wood Flower"

"After the Loving"

"Bye Bye Blackbird

"Whiskey in the Jar"

"Old Suzanna"

"Moon River"

"Bright Summer Days"

"I Got Rhythm"

"Rolling in My Sweet Baby's Arms"

"Red River Valley"



Look below the headlines and see the Sardo brothers in their usual place on a sofa with other harmonica players surrounding them. Front-page coverage is rare for us. Thanks to the St. Louis Club for this.

An article and more pictures follow.



SPA H 2018 CONVENTION

ST. LOUIS

AUGUST 14 to AUGUST 18

Sheraton Westport, Lakeside Chalet

The 55th SPAH is over now and we are back home. It was a great time with good music, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Roger said the seminars were excellent and found Dick Paige's very worthwhile.

There was wonderful entertainment both during the day and in the evening. Entertainers included the Gateway Harmonica Club, Will Wilde, James Conway & Richard Sleight; Chris Bauer and PT Gazell, Filip Jers, Charlie McCoy produced a fantastic show with guest artists including Buddy Green, Mad Cat and "Blues Brothers" performer Ron Paparozzi accompanied by Howard Levy on the piano (what a show).

Mile High members numbered about 25 as well as other Coloradans:

Chris and Ken Moyer; Barry Staver; Sally McKae; Richard and Lynn Paige; Laurel and Paul Davies; Freddie Alexander and wife, Myra Pena De Leon; Tim Winkelman; Greg Coffey; Lloyd and Vera Johnson; Pat and Lloyd Williams; Lee Taylor; Chris Wallace; Scott and June Paulding; Pat and Ed Martin; Roger and Nancy Bale. Non-members where: Chris Richards; Ronnie Shellist; and Jerry Deal.

Here are some pictures from Barry -



Pat & Ed Martin



Barry Staver & Sally McKae



The Trio: Tim, Roger and Ken



Freddie Alexander and Friend



The Gateway Harmonica Band.



Scott Paulding joins the hall players



Scott and Dick Paige Playing in the hall along with Tony Sardo



Nancy Bale, Lynn Paige and Pat Williams at the Ladies Breakfast

Sticky Wind Savers

At the convention in St. Louis I attended a seminar promoting Hohner's New Super 64 and 64X. Someone asked if the new instruments eliminate the problem of sticky wind savers. Tom Stryker, Past President of SPAH, said sticky wind savers are an inevitable problem on any chromatic harmonica. Then Tom shared his solution to the problem. He purchased an ultra-sonic cleaner (available from Harbor Freight for about \$80), and uses it to remove the accumulated gunk from the reed plates and wind savers.

I bought one of the cleaners when I returned from St. Louis. This is the method I used: First, put an inch or more of warm water in the cleaner tank. I also added a drop of mild dish washing soap. The cleaner has a setting to heat the water. Tom said NOT to use that function. Then remove the reed plates from the instrument and put them in the tank. I ran the cleaner for about five minutes. Remove the plates, rinse them thoroughly and dry them. I prop the plates up in front of a small desk fan and run it for about an hour. The two layers of the wind savers may still be stuck together. I used a very thin Xacto blade to carefully separate the layers. This seems to have done a very effective job of cleaning my harmonicas.

NOTE OF CAUTION: I don't recommend this method for harmonicas with wood combs. The reed plates are attached to the wood comb with small nails. Repeatedly removing and replacing the plates loosens the nail holes, and you won't be able to get an air tight seal between the plates and the comb.

Roger Bale