

Carl Rohwetter Passes Away

Carl Rohwetter, publisher of the Polka News monthly for 37 years, died on July 7, 2011.

He was 81. Carl was honored by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame as a recipient of the Trustees Honor Roll. He was also enshrined in the Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame and International Polka Association. Carl lived in St. Charles, Michigan. He was very influential in communicating polka news throughout the country with his polka newspaper. Deepest sympathy to his wife Mary Anne and family.

POLKA FUN-RAISER CD

The National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame has produced an all-star polka album featuring 20 different bands. The CD will be available at the 8th Slovenian Sausage Festival on September 14, at an introductory cost of \$10. Polka Hall of Fame members can also order the CD for \$10 plus \$3 for postage. Anyone who joins the Polka Hall of Fame with a Lifetime membership will receive the album as a bonus gift.

The Polka Fun-Raiser album includes songs by seven Lifetime Achievement winners, and bands from California to Pennsylvania. There are instrumental polkas, vocals, and waltzes by the following bands:

Joe Fedorchak, Jeff Winard, Joey Tomsick, Fred Kuhar, Fred Ziwich, Dick Tady, Joe Novak, Joey Bajuk, Stan Blout, Ray Polantz, Walter Ostanek, Del Sinchak, Fred Gregorich, Denny Anderson and the International Main St. Polka Band, Steve Meisner, Wayne Tomsic, Karl Lukitsch, Bob Kravos and the Boys in the Band, Gary Seibert, and Cecilia Dolgan

Tony Petkovsek's Polka Memories on Exhibit



Stop by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum and enjoy "Tony Petkovsek, 50 Years as America's Polka Ambassador," a special exhibition presenting his life and career. Tony, our Hall of Fame Chairman and a co-founder, recently donated his personal archives of photos, recordings, awards, instruments and music memorabilia. His polka broadcasts, tour and events helped revive the polka scene and build interest in Slovenian and nationality music. You may even find yourself on display! The exhibition is free.

SAUSAGE FESTIVAL - continued from pg. 1

and the St. Clair Boys Button Box Band. Among the featured guests performing on stage are the Polka Hall of Fame All-Stars and the Penn-Ohio Polka Players.

Among the vendors returning to compete with their Slovenian sausages are last year's winners, Best in Fest – Maple Heights Catering, and People's Choice – Bill Azman Meats; and Raddell's Sausage Shop. A variety of down-home side dishes, strudels, and refreshments awaits you between musical numbers. The 2011 Top Sausage Makers will be announced at 6:00 p.m.

Advance tickets at \$7 are available at the Polka Hall of Fame, 605 East 222nd Street, in Euclid. Admission at the gate is \$8. SNPJ Farm is at 10946 Heath Road in Kirtland, Ohio, off Chardon Road (Route 6), three miles east of Route 306. Call the Polka Hall of Fame for tickets and details, (216) 261-FAME or toll-free (866) 66-POLKA, on-line at www.polkafame.com.

Tony Tribute to be Part of Awards Show XXIV

The 24th Awards Show of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame will have more music by the country's leading polka stars than ever before. The Show will also include a musical tribute to Tony Petkovsek, on the occasion of his 50 years of broadcasting polka music six days a week. Tony is the chairman of the Board of the Polka Hall of Fame and was a founder of the Museum and the Awards Show.

Some of the musical highlights will feature accordionist Alex Meixner and The Singing Slovenes from Minnesota. The two Greatest All-Time Hit Songs will be played during the award ceremonies. The Lifetime Achievement honorees will receive the organization's highest award. The 2011 Trustees Honor Roll recipients will be introduced. The results of the Polka Hall of Fame members' votes will be revealed as the Annual Award winners are announced for the first time. More details about the guest stars will be listed in the next Polka Quarterly.

The Awards Show will take place at 2 p.m., Saturday, November 26, at Euclid High School Auditorium, 711 East 222nd Street, Euclid, OH 44123.

The day's excitement will be

capped with the "Meet the Winners" dance at the Marriott Cleveland Downtown Hotel, where polka fans can meet and talk to the winners and nominees of all the awards. The evening begins with a Polka Mass, celebrated by Bishop Edward Pevec, with music by Bob Kravos and the Boys in the Band, who will also play for dancing, and the Dick Tady orchestra will play on the Main Stage for dancing, starting at 9 p.m.

Tickets for each event are \$15, with a special advance ticket of \$25 which includes both events.

NATIONAL CLEVELAND-STYLE
POLKA HALL OF FAME
8th Annual Slovenian
**SAUSAGE
FESTIVAL**
WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2011
SNPJ FARM
11000 Heath Road, Kirtland, Ohio
(866) 66-POLKA www.polkafame.com

2011 Polka Hall of Fame Award Nominees

CULTURAL/HERITAGE

The Singing Slovenes, MN
SNPJ Circle 2 Junior Chorus, OH
Slovenian Home, Sharon, PA
SNPJ Heritage Room, PA
Joe Valencic

SUPPORT/PROMOTION

Joe Gabrosek & Gene Kovack
Ed Ostry
Val Pawlowski
Gary Rhamy
Kay Sefcik & Kathy Paulenich
Pam & Jerry Zagar

BEST BUTTON BOX- Individual or Duo

Joe Bajuk
Joe Grkman, Jr.
Kathy Hlad
Joe Jagunich & John Stark
Ron Pivovar

BEST BUTTON BOX-Group

Alaska Button Box Gang
Fairport Jammers
Mahoning Valley Button Box Club
Northern Ohio Players
Western PA SNPJ Button Box Club

BEST NEW ORIGINAL SONG

Arlene's Waltz-Dan Peters
Free Beer Polka-Jake Kouwe
Logan's Polka-Ron Pivovar
Old Glory Polka-Marge Ford
A Waltzing Symphony-Joe Bajuk

BEST VOCALIST

Hank Guzel, Jr. John Ross
Susan McGovern Mary Spehar-White
Kim Rodick

MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

Joe Grkman, Jr. Brian O'Boyle
Bob Kravos Ron Pivovar
Joe Novak Joey Tomsick

BEST SIDEMAN (elect 3)

Mark Habat Eric Stehle
Phil Hrvatin Jack Tankovich
Brian O'Boyle Mike Yanek
Frank Okicki Brian Zupancic
Jim Penko

RECORDING OF THE YEAR

Getting Together – Dan Peters
Polka Lust – Ron Pivovar
Rainbow of Music – Frankie Spetich
Something for Everyone – Bob Kravos
Triglav – The Singing Slovenes

BAND OF THE YEAR

Klancnik & Friends
Bob Kravos and the Boys in the Band
Joe Novak and Friends
Eddie Rodick Orchestra
Joey Tomsick Orchestra

GREATEST ALL-TIME HIT SONG (elect 2)

Beverly's Waltz
Gogebec Range Polka
Italian Nights Waltz
Kamnik Polka
Lee & Ann Polka
Red Lips & Red Wine Polka
Save the Last Dance Waltz
Squeezer's Polka
Terezinka Polka

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (elect 2)

Eddie Adamic Fr. Frank Perkovich
Fred Kuhar Bob Timko

2011 Thanksgiving Weekend Entertainment Announced

This year's Thanksgiving polka dances represent the culmination of 50 years of polka radio show produced by disc jockey Tony Petkovsek. Tony again will host the polka music spectacular, on November 24 and 25, at the Marriott Downtown Cleveland Hotel.

On Thursday, the musical entertainers are: Linda Lee Brown, Wayne Tomsic Trio, Frank Moravcik orchestra with Linda Hochevar, Fred Ziwich and the International Sound Machine, the Dvojcki (Twins) ensemble, George Staiduhar, Eddie Klancnik and friends, Eddie Rodick orchestra, and special guests Joey Miskulin, Walter Ostanek, and Alex Meixner.

Friday's program starts in the afternoon with the Fairport Jammers, followed by, Jeff Pecon, Hank Haller, Don Wojtila orchestra, Joey Tomsick orchestra, and Frank Bucar and The Singing Slovenes.

Admission to each event is \$15. Tickets are available at the Polka Hall of Fame, 216-261-3263. Hotel reservations can be made through Kollander World Travel, 216-692-1000 or 800-800-5981.

PREVIEW MEETING OF AWARDS ON TAP

The Board of Trustees cordially invites all members of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame to attend a Preview Party
**Thursday, October 13, 2010
at 7:00 p.m.**

at Euclid City Hall Council Chambers
585 East 222nd Street.

Annual Awards nominees will be introduced.

The 2011 Lifetime Achievement honorees will be announced, as well as the recipients of the 2011 Trustees Honor Roll.

The two Greatest All-Time Hit Songs voted in by our members will be performed by one of our talented musician trustees.

Refreshments will be served.

We hope to see you there for a sociable evening of our members.

Congratulate Tony Petkovsek for His 50 Years as Polka Ambassador On-Line or by Mail

Share your favorite memories of Tony Petkovsek, his music events, or his polka tours. You can also convey your congratulations for 50 years on the air. Send your stories and regards to the Polka Hall of Fame and Museum. We're preparing a memory book to present to Tony at the November 26 awards ceremony.

Write to: polkashop@aol.com

Or drop a line to: The Polka Hall of Fame & Museum,
605 East 222nd Street, Euclid, OH 44123.



Polka Vibes *from the Gift Shop*

In the good old summertime, some new polka albums have been produced, and are now available at the Polka Hall of Fame



Gift Shop. The new CDs are: Rainbow of Music by Frankie Spetich, Pint-Sized Polkas, Volume 2 by Mike Schneider; If You Only Believe by Bud Hyrczk; Encore Tribute to Benzy Rathbone by Tony Grandovic; Three Ring Circus by Alex Meixner; From the Heart by Lori Skvarch; Under the Northern Sky by the

Alaska Button Box Gang, and Showtime by Richie Yurkovich.

Check out Alex Meixner's schedule as he will be playing in the Chicago and Cleveland areas at Oktoberfests. The Florida-based accordionist will be part of Awards Show 24 at Thanksgiving weekend in Cleveland. His website is: www.alexmeixner.com.



A new shipment of Tee-Shirts with a large, colorful button accordion graphic is now in plentiful supply. The Tees

come in button accordion or piano accordion on a background of maroon or black. Also, available are Sausage Festival tee-shirts, Polka Hall of Fame tees, Slovenija tees and sweatshirts, Squeeze-Me I'm Slovenian tees, and aprons. Prices range from \$10 to \$18 for most of the items.

Remember you can pre-order the new fund-raising all-star disc for the benefit of the Polka Hall of Fame and Museum, titled "Polka Fun-Raiser, members \$10, non-members \$15, plus \$3 postage, call 216-261-3263 or toll-free 866-66POLKA.

The National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame

Founded to showcase artifacts and memorabilia and to trace the evolution and history of Cleveland-Style Polka Music from its Slovenian origins with colorful displays and audio/visual presentations. Complete retail sales of cassettes, CDs, videos and Polka souvenirs. Accessible from downtown Cleveland via Interstate 90. Exit East 222nd Street, proceed North to 605 E. 222nd Street.

HOURS FOR POLKA HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP:

Noon till 5 p.m., Tuesday thru Friday • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., on Saturday • Closed Sunday and Monday
www.polkafame.com • (216) 261-FAME (3263) • Toll Free 1-866-66POLKA



the "QUARTERLY"

National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame
605 E. 222nd Street • Euclid, Ohio 44123



Summer

2011



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National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame

SUMMER 2011

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2011 Annual Award Nominees Talled



The nomination results are in for the ten Annual Award categories, the Lifetime Achievement candidates, and the Greatest All-Time Hit Polka or Waltz selections.

Four polka personalities will be on the ballot for Lifetime Achievement, with two being chosen for this high honor, in 2011. They are: **Eddie Adamic of Michigan, Fred Kuhar of Ohio, Fr. Frank Perkovich of Minnesota, and Bob Timko of Florida.**

Eddie Adamic has lived in the Detroit, Michigan, region and had a polka band since 1965. Eddie, a native of Windsor, ONT, Canada, has been playing polka music for more than 60 years. He has recorded five polka albums. For 20 years he has served as president of the Melvindale Slovene American Club, and president and leader of the Slovenian American Button Box Club. Eddie, an accordionist, is in the Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame.

Fred Kuhar had a polka band continuously for 38 years. The accordionist recorded a series of five albums with his band playing polka music in the style of Johnny Pecon. Fred produced seven Johnny Pecon "live" performance CDs, and has preserved the Pecon sound for posterity. Fred also served as president of the American Slovenian Polka Foundation for nine years, and initiated the project to transfer 78 polka recordings to digital for the Museum archives.

Fr. Frank Perkovich is known as the "Polka Priest." He popularized the Polka Mass by having his version recorded in his home state of Minnesota in 1973. The recording is the most popular Cleveland-style recording of the past 40 years. Fr. Perkovich has celebrated the Polka Mass worldwide, including the Vatican and countless communities. He has an autobiography titled, "Polka My Way to Heaven."

Bob Timko is considered to be one

of the premier accordionists born in Cleveland, Ohio. For many years, Bob was an accordionist with the Kenny Bass orchestra. In the late 1960s, the Bob Timko orchestra became one of the hottest Cleveland-style polka groups in the Midwest. He operated Timko's Polka Place, a popular Cleveland night spot, before moving to Florida. Timko recorded three albums, and has two CDs.

Members of the Polka Hall of Fame will receive ballots in early September to vote for all of the above awards. On Thursday, October 13, 2011, a Preview Meeting will be held at 7 p.m., at the Euclid City Hall Council Chambers, 585 East 222nd Street, Euclid, Ohio, to announce the Lifetime Achievement honorees and the two Greatest All-Time Hit Songs. The Annual Awards will be named at the Crystal Awards Show XXIV, at 2 p.m., November 26, at Euclid High School Auditorium.



the "QUARTERLY"

SUMMER 2011

Joey Tomsick, Editor
605 E. 222nd St.
Euclid, OH 44123

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Vote for Top Klobasa at the Polka Hall of Fame Sausage Festival, SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Wednesday, September 14

Vote for the Top Klobasa at the 8th annual Slovenian Sausage Festival, hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum, Wednesday, September 14, 2011. Your favorite polka bands and sausage-makers come to SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, for seven hours of non-stop music

and munching, from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

You can sample sausages from several makers and vote your tastiest choice. Dance to the finest Cleveland-Style polka ensembles, including Canada's Polka King Walter Ostanek and Bob Kravos All-Star Band, the Chardon Polka Band, the Polka Pirates, the Fairport Jammers

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