

# MERA HOMETOWN NEWS

A COMPILATION OF ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MERA MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 2022

## A NOTE FROM MERA PRESIDENT

Sure look forward to seeing your beautiful, smiling faces at the Chicken Bake on September 15 at Jim Dietrich Park. Contact Clair by September 9 at 484 256 7168 to attend this fun event, enjoy good food and see your MERA Friends! Also, a great trip to Penn's Peak, "A Tribute to Dolly & Kenny," on October 12. Contact Henry by September 9 at 610 929 4059 to attend.

More fun ahead as temperatures cool and fall colors dazzle. Interesting MERA Programs, Trips, Hikes and Happy Hours in October and November are planned for our MERA Family.

God's blessings to everyone, Sandy

## IMPORTANT NOTICE: MERA MOVES TOWARD EMAIL DELIVERY

As we announced in July, beginning in January 2023 MERA communications will be arriving in your email inbox *not* your mailbox (if we have your email address). Key things to know:

- Between September and December 2022 most MERA members will get both an email version and a hard copy mailing. The email version will contain images that you "click on" to take you to the different components of the mailing (Hometown News, flyers, program information, etc.).
- If you are one of the 78 members who helped us to test and perfect our email communications OR if you joined MERA since January 2022, you will receive ONLY the email version.
- If you are a MERA member who does *not* have an email address, you will not be left out! We will continue to prepare and send hard copy versions of the MERA mailing via US Mail to this group of members.
- Communication is a two-way street! If your physical address, email address or phone number changes, please let us know. We don't want to lose touch with you!
- MERA will NOT flood your inbox with email.
- MERA will NOT sell or give your contact information to a third party.
- Using email to deliver MERA's monthly communications is more flexible, timelier, and in color! Further, MERA will save significantly on paper, postage and people time.
- **So, if you've got email...watch for MERABERKS emails!** (And, check your spam filter if you aren't receiving MERA emails!)

## MERA MEMBER PROFILE

When Fred Janosky was a just a kid, he built his own electric utility system in his back yard using his little red wagon and a bunch of flashlights. And from there, things just got more interesting. Born in Allentown and growing up mostly in northeast PA, Fred pursued his two key interests: electricity and music. He studied classical piano, sound recording, and this won't surprise you, built an electronic music synthesizer.

With the CB Radio craze happening in the 70s, Fred installed and built 2-way radios and in the process met his future wife, Mary. Fred studied Electrical Engineering at Penn State while running his part-time electronics and mobile DJ businesses, later taking a sabbatical from college to open a retail shop specializing in audio systems and custom manufactured loudspeaker systems. After selling his retail business, Fred returned to college and became interested in electric power systems.

Over the years, Fred held various roles with Bechtel, GPU Service Company, Met Ed, and PPL as well as serving as a consultant and industry advocate. He was invited to use his entrepreneurial experience to participate in starting a new venture, GPU Telcom, where, as Product Manager he initiated the wireless division to utilize and market GPU's infrastructure for cellular companies. With the boom in cellular telephones, this venture grew rapidly.

Retired since 2019, Fred enjoys bicycling (mountain bikes and electrics), hiking, mini-moto (small motorcycles), language study, socializing, exploring other cultures—and of course music, electronics, and

musical productions. Retirement has been an opportunity to let go of the “hustle bustle” and to learn new things. He has a travel destination to recommend to fellow MERA members: the PA Grand Canyon in Tioga County. “It is like stepping back in time. From the Allegheny National Forest to the Wellsboro Christmas Festival, there is always something to enjoy and explore.”

Fred is thankful to God for his interesting pre-retirement career and grateful to meet friends in MERA!

## **JULY MYSTERY TRIP SUMMARY - THE SUSPENSE IS OVER!**

**BY KATHY AND DENIS DORWARD**

The location of our mystery trip was the Gettysburg area of Adams County. The first stop was the Seminary Ridge Museum located on the site of the Civil War battle of Gettysburg. The seminary was used as a lookout for the Union Army. High above in the cupola, the small dome-like structure atop the 190-year-old building, scouts watched as the Confederate troops converged on the town of Gettysburg. The Union Army fought back and was victorious in the four-day battle that marked the turning point of the Civil War. The Seminary served as a hospital for the many wounded. It now houses the museum that contains educational displays of the four days of the battle.

Lunch was served at the historic Dobbin House in Gettysburg. After lunch, we headed to the WWII American Experience, also in Gettysburg. This museum contained actual vehicles and artifacts from WWII. An original jeep (both Ford and Willys), along with motorcycles, transports, recovery vehicles, and even two Sherman Tanks were on display. The vehicles that won the war.

Mr. Ed’s Elephant Museum and Candy Emporium in nearby Orrtanna was our next stop. All types of candy, reminiscent of the old General Store and Penny Candy shop (but not sold for a penny anymore) were available. Mr. Ed is famous for his replica elephant collection of all sizes, which he claims to number 12,000.

Our final stop was the Hollabaugh Brothers Farm Market in nearby Biglerville. A very entertaining demonstration on how to prepare an apple dumpling was presented. We left the market with a bag of peaches from the farm and a baked apple dumpling.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

Welcome new members **Donald Mummert, Kevin Straub and Debbie Calvaresi!** And a warm greeting to new retirees, **Micki Frey and Maria Frederick** (recruited by **Colleen Makowieki!**) We are so very happy to have you with us! Remember, anyone who recruits a new member any time during the year will be entered into a drawing for gift certificates at the Holiday Luncheon. The new member form can be found on [merasite.org](http://merasite.org).

## **SEPTEMBER MERA MEMBER MILESTONES**

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

Larry & Shirley Biehl  
Dave & Sylvia Heckman  
Gary D. & Sharon Heffner  
Susan & Daryl Hendricks  
Sonia E. & Donald Henry  
Theresa M. & Greg Hilbert  
Thomas & Peggy Hombach  
Ron & Helene Horn

Sharon & Steven Kerns  
Michael & Sarah Mathias  
Ray & Joyce Morse  
Donald & Kim Mummert  
William M. & Louise Pammer  
Carl J. & Lana Pentz  
Kenneth J. & Donna Peters  
Bruce & Susan Rimmel

Felix & Jennifer Rivera  
Cynthia L. & Bruce Rowits  
William D & Annette Schaeffer  
Paul & Ellen Schwartz  
Maxi & Fred Shirey  
Rod & Deb Ulrich  
Christina & Michael Zezenski

## **HAPPY MILESTONE BIRTHDAY!**

Nancy Bealer  
Christine Gasser  
Shirley Krick  
Dave Merkel

Judy Culshaw  
Terry Hillard  
Tom L Krick  
Steve Rathman  
Judy Seidel

September is National  
Blueberry Popsicle Month!  
Check out Martha’s recipe at  
[www.marthastewart.com/31324/4/blueberry-pops](http://www.marthastewart.com/31324/4/blueberry-pops)

