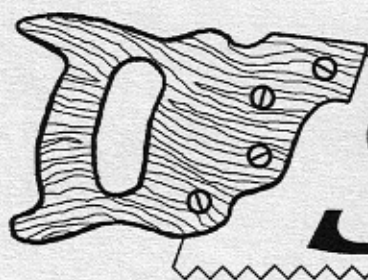


INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL SAW ASSOCIATION



SAW PLAYER NEWS

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The 2008 Musical Saw Festival



By Morgan Cowin

It was another FUN Saw Festival this year! Each year the Saw Festival is different, depending mostly on how many and who shows up. This year's attendance of saw

players was really low – probably due to high gas prices, fears about the economy, and several schedule conflicts with other events in the Bay Area.

We only had 6 saw players at the Saw-Off contest, when we usually have 12 – 22 or so, and there were FAR fewer people than I've EVER seen (in almost 20 consecutive years) walking along Pacific Avenue at our open jam next to the Tom Scribner statue (the world's only life-sized bronze sculpture of a saw player).

Usually, our saw jam/song circle there - plus the crowds walking along the street - totally blocks the sidewalk area while they stop to check out the jam.

However, we shared an abundance of good food and music at the 6 PM potluck jam at Roaring Camp, and we had a good time eating, playing and socializing late into the night!

Fortunately – the actual Saw Festival at Roaring Camp on Sunday had a GOOD turnout of people! We put on a good show throughout the day, and everyone I met seemed to be having a good

time. The good-sized, friendly audience seemed interested and gave enthusiastic applause to the groups and solo performers on stage. The "Chorus of Saws" attracted 24 saw players, and we had about 30 or so people at the musical saw workshop. It was a FULL music weekend for me, with lots of good people and good musicians contributing their talents and support.

The 2008 Saw-Off Contest was judged by **Kenny Blacklock, David Weiss and Joe Eding** – and even though there were fewer contestants, they reported that it was still a challenge to decide the winners. But decisions were made: 1st Place was awarded to **Terri Manning**, from Oakland, CA, 2nd Place was awarded to **Cynthia Weyuker** from Alameda, CA, and 3rd Place went to **Stephen Cook** from Minneapolis, MN. Other contest participants this year



Part of the 2008 Chorus of the Saws.

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