

December 5, 2019

Clarinet

Al Kranz

After Hours Community Band Member Spotlight

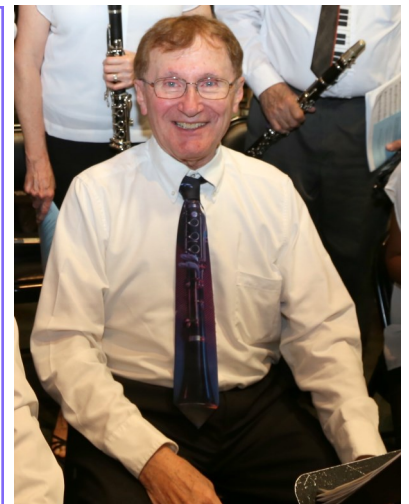


Al began his music experience at age 9. He received a plastic harmonica at his Grandpa's for Easter and learned to play "Mary had a little lamb..." in two days. The harmonica mysteriously disappeared by the time he got home.

His next music exposure happened at a friend's house while a sophomore in HS. Al was shown this "funny black instrument" and was told he could join the HS band after he took some lessons. He joined the HS band 6 months later and quickly learned there was more to it than playing "Mary Had a little Lamb." He played thru HS then joined the volunteer band at the U of Illinois. Al didn't play again after college for 10 yrs. He found out about an adult band forming at Riverview HS, which he played with for about 2 yrs. He had to quit to spend all his free time building a new home in St. Charles.

Al is a former Chemical Engineer at Monsanto, where he earned the nickname, "Lab Wizard", from being so helpful in the lab. He kept that nickname from his start there in 1966 till his retirement from Monsanto.

Al met the mother one of his son's friends (Joyce Pettus, a founding band member) who invited Al to join the AHCB in 1987 (the same day Carol Wilke joined the band). He's been a key member of the clarinet section ever since. Al has also arranged musical pieces for ensemble use in the band. He also never shies away from adorning himself in unique costumes for some of the band's themed concerts.



Special points of interest:

- Band Member since Feb. 1987
- Former 'Lab Wizard' at Monsanto
- A Costume Aficionado
- Mr. Tweetin' Reed Man