

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Jane Reichhold: That's a great photo! Are those the Swiss Alps behind you?

Don Krieger: Yes, we were on the Swisstrek in 2006. Behind us are the Eiger, Monch, and Jungfrau peaks. We also went on the Graf adventure to Peru and Ecuador and are signed up for the trip to Turkey next spring. We love traveling with friends and having part of the costs benefit Gualala Arts.



Carrie & Don Krieger

JR: As volunteers, and excellent ones at that, where do you concentrate your efforts?

Carrie Krieger: Both of us are involved in serving in a variety of capacities at other Gualala Arts events, including Art in the Redwoods. My work has included helping with a number of tasks for the office, including getting out the *Sketches* and data input for membership, serving on the membership committee, and being a part of the backstage crew for the Gualala Art Center Theater.

Don Krieger: My volunteer work for Gualala Arts includes serving on the Board of Directors, overseeing the "Local Eyes" concert series, and work with Art Center Theater as musical director and as part of the lighting team. I also accompany other musical events.

JR: Right now your big job is "Beauty and the Beast." Tell us about your participation in this production.

DK: My work as musical director began in the first part of year when I met with Lynne Atkins and a few others to decide which musical we would perform for our December show. After receiving the full score in mid-year, I put together the music so it could be played on the keyboards. I started practicing the music in July and orchestrating it so that it will make sense to be played on the synthesizers which I use during the show. After helping to decide the cast members from the August auditions, I have music rehearsals with the leads in my home studio. October is when we began music rehearsals at the Arts Center, and full play rehearsals started in November. My other role with this production is being a member of the lighting crew which designs and hangs the lights to be used in the show.

CK: I am part of the backstage crew in the "red light district" – in order not to distract the audience, we do our work under red lighting. The job involves a wide variety of tasks, including the opening & closing of curtains while the show is in progress, changing furniture and making sure the props are in their proper place for each scene, helping the actors change into their costumes (often several during a show), and sweeping & mopping the floors before each performance. Obviously the work requires being at all the rehearsals as timing is a critical part of this work.

JR: What did you do in your previous lives to prepare you for all you do at Gualala Arts?

DK: We were both active in volunteering for a variety of groups, including our church, and use our organizational skills as well as a commitment to help no matter what jobs are required.

JR: You do so much, but is there one favorite activity or involvement with Gualala Arts?

DK: My favorite volunteer activity is being a keyboard accompanist to the talented singers that appear in various shows.

CK: I enjoy coming in for the morning aerobics class. We both enjoy the art shows as well as the variety of performances given at the Arts Center.

JR: Now the question the readers are eager to ask – how did you decide to live here?

Kriegers: We originally rented various homes at Sea Ranch in the late 70's. After raising our family in Novato, we wanted to look for a vacation home. We decided to build a home at Sea Ranch which was completed in 2001. We loved the life on the coast, especially meeting so many wonderful friends, and, although it wasn't our original intent, we moved here full-time in 2003.

JR: Any goals or dreams you have for Gualala Arts?

DK: The auditorium here was built as a general use facility. A goal would be to help develop a separate performing arts building on the GAC grounds. Although the current auditorium has been used to showcase so many talented people, it is oftentimes a struggle to make the stage and auditorium work well technically as well as to give the audience a superior viewing and listening experience. Although it is a problem as well as a blessing, the current auditorium is in much demand, and conflicts arise over which group is able to use it. As an example, the ACT productions usually need the whole stage for at least a month prior to the shows in order to build the sets and rehearse. That limits what other events can occur within the auditorium. The building of a new facility would obviously take a sizable financial contribution, but we are hopeful that such an individual or group of folks could be found here on the coast to get the job done.

JR: Having worked with Carrie on *Sketches*, and watching your work in so many ways, Don, I have the feeling that if you two decide to tackle such a task, it will get done. Thanks to both of you for being who are and for doing what you do so well.