

# SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

## Septemberfest

Dick Albreski

We can't forget that in three months it will be *Septemberfest* at the OAC. It will be held September 13, 2015 at the *Messiah Lutheran Church* located at the southeast corner of Northwest Expressway and Portland in Oklahoma City. This annual event precludes the spirit of the German *Oktoberfest* celebrations that are held all over the world. Accordionists are a very important part of the *Oktoberfest* parties, so it is only natural that the OAC celebrates as well.

We start the festivities with German music and German food in a Bavarian setting. On the plate for German music, you will enjoy the "Beer Barrel Polka," the "Liechtensteiner Polka," and the "Schnee Valzer," plus many more traditional German tunes.

On the culinary plate, you will enjoy brats or hotdogs, German potato salad, sauerkraut, red cabbage salad, rolls, and apple kucken. Soft



drinks will also be provided. This German feast will be served at 4:00 pm.

All OAC members are encouraged to attend, and each member can bring one guest. This event is not open to the public. This is our only **CLOSED MEETING** of the year. Reservations are a must for each

member and guest. WHY? We must know who will attend so we can prepare the required amount of food.

Now the rest is up to you. The only way we can make this event a success is to have you participate. That means you will start to practice your German music, and that you will make the necessary reservation. Please contact Barbara Duer at 405/721-9657, or e-mail Barbara at [bduer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bduer@sbcglobal.net) to make your reservation.



## August Concert

**In lieu of our August meeting, we will present our annual concert on Sunday, August 9, at 2:30 pm, at the Yukon Czech Hall.** The Hall is located at 205 North Czech Hall Road in Yukon, Oklahoma (I-40, Exit 137).

The general public is invited to come, and

the concert is free. Because of the overflow turnout last year, the venue has been moved to the *Czech Hall* in Yukon. Many of our members have volunteered to perform, so it will be a grand concert.

All are welcome to join in on the fun!



# The Prez Sez

Barbara Duer

The third OAC concert is just a week away. The concert is a lot of work for members of the committee and performers, but from what I've experienced, well worth the effort. I personally have benefitted from getting to know many of the members better. Working together brings us together to produce something very much enjoyed by members of the community we entertain. Each year we have had a great feeling of accomplishment from successful concerts.

Another benefit of the concert is the result of advertising that lets people know there is an accordion club. I've had two calls from people to donate accordions, a call from a person that produced a gig for the *Accordionaires*, and a possible new member who found out about us from the newspaper article.

*Septemberfest* is the next item on our calendar. At *Septemberfest*, the Club provides a great dinner of German food for members and their guests. I need your reservations as soon as possible, so we can determine how much food to buy and prepare. Call me at 405/721-9657 to make reservations.

I'm working on having short programs for some of the upcoming Club meetings. September is the *Septemberfest* dinner; in October, Bob Mansfield will entertain us with "Polkas Around the World;" in November, Dick Albreski and I will present a brief history and the music of Frosini; and the *Youth Band* will entertain us at the December meeting.

I'll see you at the Concert,  
• Barbara



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# Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

The *OAC* will hold their *Third Annual Accordion Affair* August 9, 2015 at the *Czech Hall* on Czech Hall Road in Yukon, Oklahoma. The concert will take place from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. All *OAC* members are encouraged to perform, plus bring family and friends. Once again, Lucas Ross from *KFOR* will show his accordion talents and emcee the program.

*Cotati Accordion 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival* will be held on August 22 and 23, 2015 in Cotati, CA. An old *OAC* friend, Ginny Mac, will be one of the many talented accordionists. It will also feature the reunion of *Those Darn Accordions* band. For more information, visit [www.cotatifest.com](http://www.cotatifest.com).

*Fourth Annual OAC Septemberfest* will be held on September 13, 2015, at the *Messiah Lutheran Church* from 3:30 to 5:50 pm. All members and guests are welcome. For more information, see *Squeezins*, the *OAC* N\newsletter, or visit the [www.OKAccordions.com](http://www.OKAccordions.com) website.

The *Callithumpian Squeeze* presented by Roland Lohmann and *The Good Things Confectionary* on October 18, 2015 from

2:00 to 4:00 pm at the *Norman Train Station*. Guest artist will be Nick Ballarini from Dallas, and George Secor. Also, you will hear the *Prime Squeeze Trio*, consisting of Bob Mansfield, Roland Lohmann, and Rod Murrow, plus many additional *OAC* members who will perform. For more information contact Roland Lohmann at 405/819-3521 or visit [Rolandshimr@aol.com](mailto:Rolandshimr@aol.com).

The *OAC Christmas Party* is currently scheduled for December 13, 2015, at the *Messiah Lutheran Church* located at the corner of Portland and Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. This annual event will have a silent auction, with the proceeds going to the *Youth Band*, and the collection of hats, scarves, socks, and gloves for the homeless. It is our time for giving, but also receiving. There will be a cookie and candy exchange that will tempt the appetites of all. Imagine eating all the treats as you listen to Christmas music played on the accordion.

Look for more accordion events in future issues of *Squeezins*.



Q: What is the perfect weight for an accordion player?

A: Three-and-a-half pounds, including the urn.

Q: Why do musicians leave their accordions on the dashboard?

A: So they can park in handicap spaces.

Q: What's the difference between an accordion player and god?

A: God doesn't think he's an accordion player.

Q: What do you call a successful accordion player?

A: A guy whose wife has two jobs.

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# July Meeting

Maggie Abel

## OAC Meeting July 12, 2015 Secretary's Report

As Club members arrived before the meeting, the *Accordionaires* (director Dan Orza, Lois Roth, Karen West, and Maggie Abel) played their August concert numbers, "Cactus Polka" and "Comrades March."

Club Vice-President Tom Phillips called the meeting to order. Twenty members and four guests attended.

- A photographer seeking photographs for Henry Dolive's article in *The Oklahoman* shot photos during the meeting.
- Several guests brought accordions to sell, which they set up at the side of the room.
- Tom said parking southwest of *Czech Hall* is suggested, with player entry through the south door. The *Czech Hall* concert location has a raised stage. Concert players will enter from the left, where a small room is available for players to prepare. After each number, accordions will be carried offstage, to the right, by the player.
- Tom requested concert participants to come forward to play in the order planned for the concert.

- Tom began the sequence by playing "Amazing Grace."
- The *Anfangers* (Tom, Myke Dixon, Rusty Bolton, Steve Scott, Wayne Turgeon, and Maggie Abel) played "Echo Waltz."
- Wayne played "Golden Slippers;" Myke played "Heartbreak'n Rock;" Maggie played "Soldier's Joy."
- Steven Scott played "Fast Train;" Colleen Rhettman played "Smile Awhile;" Karen West played "Going Out of My Head."
- Dan Orza played "Two Guitars" and "Glow Worm;" Rusty played "Over the Waves."
- The entire ensemble joined in the concert finale, "God Bless America."
- Members who were not present are requested to e-mail their song titles to Maggie at [magster@aol.com](mailto:magster@aol.com) for the printed program.

Tom invited anyone who wished to play additional music for today's attendees to come forward. None did, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by  
Maggie Abel

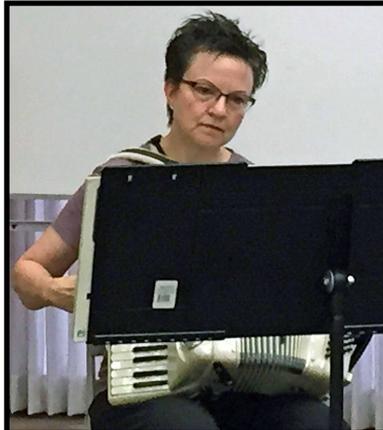


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# July Meeting

Diana Richard





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# Did you call???

Dick Albreski

Did you call and make your reservation for the annual *Septemberfest* party to be held on Sunday, September 13, 2015, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm, at the *Messiah Lutheran Church*, located at the corner of Portland and Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. If you did call, we did not get your reservation. It's very important for you to make your reservations so we know how much food will be required. Each member can also bring one guest.

The only thing you have to bring to the party is your appetite. Dinner will be served starting at 4:00 pm. Don't miss the

opportunity to enjoy a great German feast consisting of bratwurst, hotdogs, German potato salad, sauerkraut, red cabbage, rolls, and mouth-watering apple pie.

If you think that the apple pie is the dessert, you are wrong. There will be a lot of German music played on our favorite instrument. What better way is there to enjoy a great meal and German music? This is one event that you do not want to forget.

Now don't wait. Call Barbara Duer at 405/721-9657, or e-mail her at [bduer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bduer@sbcglobal.net). Get on the list for a fun, fun time.



# Alzheimers and Music Lessons

Dick Albreski

I recently read an article by the *Mayo Clinic* that suggests that music can benefit persons diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Based on limited research, they stated that music can: **relieve stress, reduce anxiety and depression, plus reduce agitation.**

I have had a pleasant experience in working with a student who was diagnosed with dementia. I found that the music lessons stimulated the student's life. The music lesson became a prime time event for this student, and the lesson became a goal. Playing the accordion also enhanced their co-ordination -- keeping time with music was a positive stimulation. Many times, to my dismay, the student would outperform the lesson material.

Lessons, I believe, also allowed the student to go beyond the normal thought process.

My experience taught me to evaluate what the student enjoyed. My goals were to find the student's preferences, provide familiar music, and to encourage the student in a positive manner. My reward was fantastic. To see this person come to the studio with a smile and optimism was so unique.

Based on my experience, I believe music lessons can and will help those who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and dementia. I look forward to my next opportunity to work those afflicted with these diseases. I encourage everyone else to do the same.



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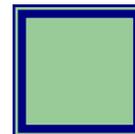
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