

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Final Ruling for Air Travel with Musical Instruments



For the many accordionists who have had problems taking their accordion onto the plane, this is a welcome ruling to protect your precious accordion when you travel.

As of March 6, 2015, it's official and no longer at the discretion of the various airlines. According to the U. S. Department of Transportation, musicians who board planes must be allowed to carry on their instruments provided they fit in the overhead bin.

If this space isn't large enough, the musician is also permitted to purchase a second seat in which to stow their musical companion.

One caveat: the airlines don't have to prioritize musical instruments ahead of any other carry-on luggage, so if the bins are full, you'll still

have to check your instrument at the gate.

To remedy this, the U.S. Department of Transport suggests that musicians may want to pay the airline's fee for priority boarding to ensure that there will be room for their gear.



The Tri-City Florida chapter of AMBUCS continued to make a difference in their community this past January. Longtime Clearwater, Florida member John Gaunt of ACCORDIONS & KEYBOARDS donated an AmTryke therapeutic tricycle to a young girl with disabilities. Pictured from left to right are June Webber, a physical therapist at the chapter's Plum Elementary demo site, the family of the trike recipient, John Gaunt and longtime Tri-City chapter member Barbara Greiner. While perhaps best known for their extensive work in humor therapy and their installation of grab bars, the Tri-City chapter is also very active in the AmTryke therapeutic tricycle program. Members meet each Wednesday at 11:30 at the Cove Cay Country Club in Clearwater.

March Meeting

The March meeting will be held on Sunday, March 15, at 3:30 pm. As usual, the meeting will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church. The church is located on the southeast corner of Northwest Expressway and Portland in Oklahoma City.

Everyone is encouraged to come, and everyone is encouraged to perform. If you are

shy about playing alone, some of us will play with you.

After the individual and group performances, we will have a Jam Session.

Members are invited to bring snacks for everyone.

All are welcome to join in on the fun!



The Prez Sez

Barbara Duer

As I write this and look outside, there's four inches of snow on the ground. I sure hope we have some warmer weather in March. Of course, being stuck inside is a good time to practice our accordions. Our meetings continue to be very entertaining. Dick Albreski's *Fun Band* and the *Youth Band* played music that they will be presenting at the Convention. I am so grateful to Dick for the time he spends developing the music for these groups. I've played in the *Fun Band* for four years now at the Convention, and it's great to practice with everyone, and then to play at the Convention. February is a winter month with not too much to do, so the practices are welcoming.

I've explored Zydeco music this month. Here's a little about it. Zydeco is dance music played by Creole French speaking people of African descent who historically lived on the prairies of southwest Louisiana. At its core, it is the sound of an accordion paired with the scrapping of a rub-board. Cajun and Creole people have lived and worked side by side for generations. They have shared and traded many aspects of their cultures, including music. Some Zydeco songs are played by Cajun bands, and some Cajun songs are played by Zydeco groups, but *they are two different types of music*. One major difference is that you'll find accordions, fiddles, and steel guitars (rare now) in Cajun groups, but not in Zydeco bands -- where you will find accordions and rub-boards.



Who Says We Can't Play Ball?

The *Michigan Accordion Society* just announced that accordionist John Smoltz was elected into the *Baseball Hall of Fame*. Three other players who were elected into the *Baseball Hall of Fame* are Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez, and Craig Biggio. Unfortunately they did it without an accordion.

It proves the many hours spent doing five-finger accordion exercises is good for not only the accordion, but baseball as well.

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The Treasurer Sez

Milo Shedeck

Greetings from your Money Man.

Dues are now past due for those who still need to pay. Thanks to those who e-mailed me that your "Checks are in the mail!"

We have written checks for the student grants to the Smith girls and the Elliott boys. They will be representing the Club in the *Student Band* directed by Maestro Dick Albreski at the National Accordion Convention in Plano, Texas on March 4-8, 2015.

Happy Birthday for the Ides of March to:

- Janet HaskinMarch 8
- Bernie AdlerMarch 9
- Dan HansonMarch 28
- Becky RickardMarch 25

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on March 15.

Respectively,
Milo Shedeck



Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

National Accordion Association Convention will be held March 5-7, 2015 at the *Southfork Hotel* in Plano, Texas. Don't miss this accordion-packed event that will start your 2015 accordion year. More information to follow.

American Accordion Association will host their *2015 National Convention* July 8-12, 2015 at the *Holiday Inn Hotel*, Alexandria, Virginia.

Accordion Teachers Guild will have their *75th Anniversary Festival* in Lisle (Chicago), Illinois at the *Hyatt Lisle* July 22-25, 2015

Look for more accordion events in future issues of Squeezins.



- How do you make a chain saw sound like an accordion?
Add vibrato.
- How do you make two accordionists play in time?
Shoot one of them.

- How do you protect a valuable instrument?
Hide it in an accordion case.
- How is playing an accordion like throwing a javelin blindfolded?
You don't have to be very good to get people's attention.

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February Meeting

OAC Monthly Meeting

February 8, 2015

President Barbara Duer opened the meeting, which was attended by 29 members and 3 guests.

- The *Accordionaires* (Director Dan Orza, Karen West, Lois Roth, John Buchanan, and Maggie Abel), along with Mary Jeanne Hojem, Janet Haskins, and Steven Scott, played a medley of romance-themed songs for Valentine's Day.

- Past President Dick Albreski directed a youthful band comprised of the three Smith sisters and the three Smith brothers. They played "Jumbaloo," "Reginella Compenore," and "The Woodpecker Song," a preview of tunes they will perform in the *National Accordion Association Youth Band* in March.

- A newcomer couple was introduced. Chuck Vodicka, a former player from decades ago, is resuming his playing of the accordion. Members welcomed him and his wife Linda.

- Karen West suggested attendees bring snacks or beverages to meetings.

- Members sang "Happy Birthday" to Christopher Darr, Evie Albreski, and Bob Mansfield -- February birthdays.

- Last month the *Accordionaires* played for the funeral of Annette Zongker-Smith's husband Karl Smith in Tulsa. A video of Karl speaking on video at his funeral was playing in the back of the meeting room today for those who could not attend.

- The 2015 *National Accordion Association* convention will be held March 4-7 in Plano, Texas. Since OAC attendees will still be driving back home to Oklahoma on Sunday, March 8, the regular monthly OAC meeting will be held one week later than its

usual second Sunday -- that is, it will be held on March 15.

- Bob Mansfield and George Secor will entertain in three spots at the March convention: Thursday from 5:00-6:30 pm in the *Cattlemen's Club* lounge; Friday at 2:30 pm with Mr. Friede's workshop; and Saturday evening at the concert. They will perform solos and duets at the three events.

- George explained a little about his Moschino accordion system, and Barbara Duer said she purchased one and feels it is a wonderful system.

- Dick Albreski directed members of the *Fun Band* (Barbara Duer, Steven Scott, Maggie Abel, Karen West, and Lois Roth) in playing "Marie" and "My Wife Is Happy." They will perform these and other pieces at the convention under Dick's direction, with band members from other cities.

- Barbara Duer played "Minuet in G Minor" on the small 24-bass Machino-system accordion.

- Bob Mansfield played "Waltz Allegro."

- George played Domenico Scarlatti's "Sonata in C Major." Then he played "Barushka," which in Czechoslovakian means "Barbara," and dedicated it to Barbara Duer.

- Bob and George played four duets: "Gopak" by Mussorgsky, "Krakowiak #34" ("dedicated to Dick Albreski"), "Kolomeiki (Slovak Dance)," and "Canzona per Sonare #2."

- Steven Scott played "Fast Train," featuring train-like noises.

- Bob, Karen, and Barbara played three numbers: "A Joyous Acclamation," "Patriotic Prelude," and "Blow Up the Trumpet in the New Moon."

- Maggie Abel



February Meeting

Diana Richard







Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership Form

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (____) _____ Birthday (mm/dd) ____/____ (optional)

Newsletter

I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the Oklahoma Squeezins, by:

- E-mail at address (above) or at _____
 Conventional post (snail mail)

Membership Dues

The OAC membership year runs from January through December. Membership cost is prorated quarterly for new members.

- Primary Membership is \$16.00 per year per individual.
 Family Membership is \$8.00 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership.
 Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$180.
 Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18.

Your Status (please check all that apply):

- Professional Semi-Professional Amateur Student
 Associate Hobby Teacher Repairman/Repairwoman
 Other (specify) _____

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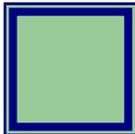
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