

# SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

## Importance of Accordion Clubs

Dick Albreski

In my earlier accordion career, I can recall how the accordion played an important part of our culture. Like all good things, it became somewhat lost during the Rock & Roll era -- somewhat lost, but never forgotten.

Thanks to Lawrence Welk and Dick Contino, the accordion was still in focus. This focus, I believe, encouraged the accordion club movement, which brought the accordion to many who had previously lost interest in it. The term "closet accordionists" became part of the accordion world. This rejuvenation also encouraged others to play the instrument, which allows both melody and rhythm to be played simultaneously.

Thanks to accordion clubs, new soloists emerged, and duets, trios, and accordion

bands became common. Prior to the accordion clubs, the accordion was more popular in the ethnic world. Today, the accordion is popular in all of the worlds.

We can even see a number of young people taking an interest in the accordion. What we cannot do is let the accordion club movement slow down -- we have to encourage others to become part of this movement. We have to expose the accordion to areas that, currently, do not support it.

The saying is "there is strength in numbers." I truly believe this is true. So, my first recommendation is for you to bring a friend to our next OAC meeting.



## April Meeting

**The April meeting will be held on Sunday, April 8, 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.

**Members are invited to bring snacks for everyone.**

After the individual and group performances, we will have a jam session.

All are welcome to join in on the fun!



# Prez Sez

Maggie Abel

April showers may bring May flowers -- and April also brings *Oklahoma Accordion Club's* fabulous annual pizza party! Nothing could be finer than to bite into a piece of supreme, pepperoni, cheese, or veggie pizza -- accompanied by spirit-lifting accordion music provided by our Club members.

So that the pizza may be plenteous, reservations are requested by noon, Saturday, April 7, for this April 8 event. Each member is free to invite one guest. Our reservations mistress, Vice-President Karen West, would like to be e-mailed at [accordion\\_karen@yahoo.com](mailto:accordion_karen@yahoo.com). If e-mail is not convenient, leave a message on Karen's phone, 405/949-0394. In your message, state the number of attendees and your preference among the four types of pizza mentioned above!

In case you missed it last month, Club Photographer Diana Richard will once again bring her camera and backdrop to snap you with your preferred accordion.

Those in the *OAC* band (aka, the *Music Makers*) should arrive early (2:00 pm) to practice before the 3:30 Sunday meeting starts. What a privilege it is for Club members to play under the direction of Master Director Dick Albreski!

Thanks to all the behind-the-scenes teamwork that takes place to make each meeting happen. See you at the pizza table Sunday!

• Maggie Abel, President



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### WEBSITE

<http://www.okaccordion.club/>

### Lifetime Members

- Jim & June Butricks
- William "Rusty" Dolton
- Janet Haskin
- Roland Lohmann
- Frankie Martinez
- Bob Mansfield
- Tom Phillips
- Phil Scibelli
- Ophelia Woody

# Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

**PIZZA PARTY!** The *OAC* will hold its annual pizza party on April 8, 2018, at the *Messiah Lutheran Church*, starting at 3:30 pm. Each member can bring one guest. **Reservations are a must!** You can contact the Board members or visit the *OAC* website, <http://www.okaccordion.club>. Pizza relates to Italian music, and Italian music relates to the accordion. Get it? So, bring your accordion to the party.

**On May 6, 2018, celebrate World Accordion Day.** This is the day that the accordion was patented in 1829. Here's your chance to plan something that will enhance the accordion in your world. **What have you planned for this most important time?** Everyone can register their plans on the *World Accordion Day* website, <http://www.accordions.com/cia>, and send a follow-up report of the success of your event. Make you and your accordion known.

**NOT JUST OOM-PAH** concert and workshop to be held June 16-17, 2018, at the *Texas Folklife Resources*, 1708 Houston Street, Austin, Texas, Featuring Ginny Mac (Gypsy Jazz) Jan Flemming (South American) Shirley Johnson (Eastern European), and Mario Pedone (Electric World). The fee is \$150 for accordionists, and \$60 for non-accordionists. The fee includes breakfast, lunch

and dinner on Saturday, plus one concert ticket. For more information, contact Shirley Johnson at [ShirleyJ@Vjeveric.com](mailto:ShirleyJ@Vjeveric.com), or Laura Niland at [lniland@texas.net](mailto:lniland@texas.net)

**American Accordionists Association (AAA)** will hold its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration July 11-15, 2018, at the *Holiday Inn*, 625 First Street, Alexandria, Virginia. 22314. There will be exciting competitions, workshops, outstanding guest artists, plus concerts. This year will also include solos and duets by famed dulcimer, cello, and violin artists. Grayson Masefield, a seven time accordion champion, will be one of the performing artists. Incidentally, Grayson performed with NAA Fun Band at the recent March convention.

**Accordion Teachers Guild (ATG)** 78<sup>th</sup> annual convention will be held July 25-28, 2018 at the *Hyatt Hotel* in Lisle (Chicago) Illinois. There will be workshops, vendors, plus original music for the accordion concert. Cory Pasaturo, Mike Alongi, Stas Venglevski, plus Donna Dee and Dennis Ray duo will be some of the featured artists at this event.

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



## Happy Birthday Wishes to the following OAC members:

**Roland Lohmann, April 14**

**Milo Shedeck, April 14**

**Annette Zongker, April 18**

**Beth Henson, April 25**

**Ophelia Woody, April 27**



Your birthdate is collected from your OAC membership application, if you have chosen to include it. If your birthdate is not listed on our newsletter birthday page during the year, please contact Karen West at 405/949-0394, or at [accordion\\_karen@yahoo.com](mailto:accordion_karen@yahoo.com).



# March Meeting

Anne Lopez

## OAC Meeting Minutes March 18, 2018

The meeting commenced at 3:30 pm, attended by 14 members and 2 guests. It was preceded by band practice at 2:00 pm by our very own *Music Makers*. *Music Makers* present included Ron Shearon, Barbara Duer, Toni Spaulding, Maggie Abel, Annette Zongker, and Lois Roth. The *Music Makers* performed "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "Sweet Rosie O'Grady," and "My Wild Irish Rose" to open our St. Patrick's Day celebration. Please note, in the future, the *Music Makers* plan to practice before Club meetings, whether Director Dick Albreski is present or not.

- Diana Richard began doing a photo shoot of the members with their accordions on to begin work on a directory, so we can get to know each other better. Be sure to check in with Diana at the next meeting if you have not had your picture taken yet. Thank you for all your hard work, Diana!

- Members Ron Shearon and Barbara Duer shared fun memories of their *NAA* convention in Dallas. All agreed the *Fun Band* had its best year yet.

- Bob Mansfield pointed out to those interested in playing the Roland, an electronic accordion, that programming skills would be needed. Maggie added that the Dallas convention includes digital electronics workshops each year. Bob will be performing at the *Main Site* in Norman on March 24 for a fundraiser for the arts. It will have a Paris Cafe theme, as Bob strolls around entertaining the audience. Bob played "I Wish you Love," "Sous le Ciel de Paris," "Y'a d'la Joie," and "L'ame d'poetes." Bob sang and played "Sur Ma Vie." Sounded like the real McCoy to us! He advised us that using a single reed gives the accordion the French sound. Thanks, Bob!

- Barbara headed our March workshop, giving us "Practice Tips." Using "O'Malley's Song," she pointed out to us that we can learn a song much faster if we apply the following:

- Take a highlighter and mark all identical or similar measures
- Learn to play the song in a slower tempo, then, gradually increase the tempo
- Learn one measure at a time, then add the next

measure

- Refrain from starting over and over from the beginning of the song. Instead, learn the measures that are giving you trouble by playing THESE over and over.

- Barbara also played the Irish tunes "O'Malley's Song," as well as "Galway." Many thanks, Barb. We greatly appreciate you preparing this for us.

- Barbara Mahar performed "Danube Waves" and a peppy "Julida Polka."

- Anne Lopez played "Danny Boy" and "The Irish Washerwoman."

- Lois Roth entertained us with a little ditty from the movie "The Quiet Man," ending with "The Band Played On."

- The Club received a nice thank you note from our *Youth Group* for our financial support. The *Youth Group* is comprised of Asher Elliot, Lazarus Elliot, Alex Rockwood, Anna Rockwood, and Matthew Medley.

- Lou LeBrun, preparing for a move, gave many of her hats to Barb. We had fun trying them on and taking pictures of us wearing them.

- Our faithful Club members from Tulsa -- Janet Haskins, Annette Zongker, and Barbara Mahar -- attended, as did Ron Shearon from Bison, Oklahoma. These long-distance travelers are true accordion aficionados!

### Reminders

- The April 8 meeting is our Pizza Party. Reservations are required so we have enough pizza, so please call Karen West by Saturday noon, April 7 if you haven't signed up yet.

- If you plan to play in the August concert this year, then at the May meeting you must give Maggie the name of the songs you will play in August. June and July meetings will be used to rehearse our songs in front of the Club.

- Anne Lopez, Secretary



# March Meeting

Diana Richard



# NAA Convention

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

### Membership Dues

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

Primary Membership is \$20.00 per year per individual.

Family Membership is \$10.00 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership.

Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$300.00.

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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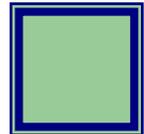
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