

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



July Meeting

The July meeting will be held on Sunday, July 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

If you attend the July 4 Independence Day parade in Bethany, you may notice two women toting toy accordions and American flags, as they hand out mini-invitations for OAC's August concert. That would be Vice-President Karen West and her dutiful follower, me! As the one who handles the advertising for our free annual concert, Karen never overlooks an opportunity to publicize it!

At the June meeting, we enjoyed Bob Mansfield's workshop, "Clues to Break into Unfamiliar Music," including handouts explaining his seven tips for evaluating and practicing unfamiliar music. Peruse Secretary Anne Lopez's column in this newsletter to review a bulleted list of those tips!

At our upcoming July 8 meeting, "Things You May Not Know about Your Accordion," will be the topic of a workshop presented by Dick Albreski. The Club is fortunate when experienced accordion teachers can be in attendance to mentor us! Their generous spirit is appreciated!

Although our monthly meetings officially begin at 3:30, an early crew arrives at 2:00 to set up the room in time to squeeze in a little pre-meeting jamming. Barbara brings extra copies of easier songs to hand out to accomplish this. You are welcome to join "the early shift." We especially appreciate our members who carpool down from the Tulsa area to participate!

Thanks to those who have contacted me by e-mail with the name of your August concert piece. Past President Barbara Duer is supervising the arrangement of the order of play. You are encouraged to practice your piece before the concert, at this July meeting.

Most would agree that "it takes a village" to put on an event that attracts and entertains 300 grateful people, as we have done for the last five years. At this final pre-concert meeting, let's put on our volunteer hats to see what small role we each can play in the success of our sixth annual event!

- Maggie Abel
OAC President



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Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

American Accordionists Association (AAA) will hold its 80th 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 Masfield, 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) 78th 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. For more information please visit: <http://www.accordions.com/atg>

OAC Annual Free Concert will be held on August 12, 2018, at the *Czech Hall* on Czech Hall Road in Yukon, Oklahoma, from 2:20 to 4:30 pm.

The talented members of the *OAC* will perform. If you plan to perform at this event, we encourage you to practice your selections starting now. If you have not registered to play at the concert, please notify Maggie Abel or Karen West of your intent. You are also encouraged to play your solo selection at the July 10 *OAC* meeting. The best advertisement is "word of mouth." Spread the word to family and friends about our accordion concert.

Yukon Czech Days will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2018, in downtown Yukon, Oklahoma. Festivities begin at 11:00 am, with a massive parade, followed by traditional Czech music and dancing throughout the day. *OAC* member **Milo Shedeck** will direct the **Bohemian Knights Orchestra** in performing familiar polkas, waltzes, and schottisches. There will be many culinary and merchandise vendors available to satisfy all your wants and desires. In the evening, there will be a grand ball at the *Czech Hall* on Czech Hall Road. Plan today for a day in Yukon, Oklahoma.

Look for more accordion events in future issue



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
c/o 7109 NW 102nd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73162

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone (_____) _____

Birthday (MM/DD) ____/____ (optional)

I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the Oklahoma Squeezins', by: E-mail Conventional mail

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

Primary Membership is \$20 per year per individual Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$300

Family Membership is \$10 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18

Your status (please check all that apply): Professional Teacher Repairman Student

Semi-Professional Associate Hobby Amateur Other



Bio Sign

As many of us know, Dick Albreski was the driving force behind the founding of our *Oklahoma Accordion Club*, and was its first president. He was born and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Every member of the *OAC* knows not just Dick, but his lovely wife, Evie. Dick says that Evie has endured both him and the accordion over 60 years. And she's still as pretty as the day he married her, so the accordion must be good for everyone.

They have four children: Lynne Marie, Melodie Anne, Doug, and Rick, Jr., along with 10 grandchildren, 2 daughters-in-law, and 2 sons-in-law.

When Dick was six, his Dad asked him if he wanted to play the accordion. Because (at that age) one wants everything, Dick said yes. According to Dick, he loved his Dad for six weeks afterward, then hated him for 7-1/2 years after that, because of



being forced to practice. Parents could do that in those days

Besides playing, Dick gives accordion lessons, repairs, renovates, buys, and sells the instrument. As he says, he plays everywhere, and sometimes even gets paid. Currently, he now plays for the retired community, and for several ethnic organizations. And besides the *OAC*, he is also an active member of the *American Accordion Association (AAA)* and the *National Accordion Association (NAA)*, in which, as many of us know, he is an extremely active participant.

Despite all his accordion activities, Dick still finds time for several hobbies, including hunting, fishing, travel, different restaurants, and good wine.

The old cliché holds true: you can't tell a book by its cover. Dick has depth that is not readily apparent, even when you know him.



One of our members, Sharon Fox, passed away on May 28, after suffering from a painful illness for many years. Despite that fact, Sharon was a very active accordionist, and a faithful *OAC* member. She lived near Springfield,



Missouri, and was a close friend of one of our other faithful members, Lou LeBrun. Sharon is survived by her sister, Shirley, and her daughter, Marcie.

Please keep Sharon in your prayers.



Happy Birthday Wishes to the following OAC members:

Diana Richard, July 4

Lois Roth, July 6

Frank Gesinski, July 14

Dick Albreski, July 23

Billy Henson, July 31

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.



May Meeting

Anne Lopez

Oklahoma Accordion Club Minutes

June 10, 2018

Our president, Maggie Abel, called the meeting to order. There were 19 members and 4 guests present.

- Jimmy Woolly thanked all who participated in the *Garden Festival*. He said that over 2,500 people were in attendance at the festival.
- It was decided that jamming will begin on our monthly meeting day as soon as the setup is completed, about 2:15 pm, until 2:55 pm for those who enjoy playing together.
- Many thanks to our *Music Makers* (Barbara Duer, Lois Roth, Karen West, Beth Henson, Jimmy Woolly, and Annette Zongker) who started our meeting off with upbeat selections:
 - "This Land Is Your Land"
 - "The Eyes of Texas"
 - "Dixie"
- Bob Mansfield led a workshop on "Clues to Break into Unfamiliar Music." His tips included paying attention to the following details:
 - ✓ Determine the key
 - ✓ Review the dynamic markings
 - ✓ Break the piece into learnable sections
 - ✓ Look ahead for big leaps or busy motifs
 - ✓ Search out accidentals in both clefs
 - ✓ Resist the temptation to play the easy parts.
 - ✓ Practice the "hard places" first.
 - ✓ If possible, listen to the piece on *YouTube*.

Thanks for the great tips, Bob!

- Bob then entertained us with two international numbers:
 - ▶ "SHERELE"
 - ▶ "SHER"
- Mike Clark played the inspirational song, "Praise Him! Praise Him!"
- We were all saddened to receive word of Sharon Fox's unexpected passing. This newsletter includes a brief *in memoriam* article. Sharon will be missed.
- Dick Albreski said he loves to play the accordion because of the flexibility to play international music. Dick took us on a tour of Italian, Spanish, French, German, ragtime, jazz, and classical music.
- Karen West gave us an update on the various advertising venues for the August Concert. She played some old favorites:
 - ▶ "The Shadow of Your Smile"
 - ▶ "Unchained"
- Anne Lopez, Lois, and Barb (on banjo) ran through the peppy sing-a-long selections for the concert:
 - ▶ "You Are My Sunshine"
 - ▶ "Que Sera Sera"
 - ▶ "Love Makes the World Go Round"

A good time was had by all!

- Anne Lopez
OAC Secretary



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7-07

June Meeting

Diana Richard and Maggie Abel



June Meeting

Diana Richard and Maggie Abel



The Bohemian Knights

Featuring Master Accordionist Dick Albreski



Music for your Party or Special Occasion
Polkas, Waltzes, Pop Tunes & Folk Dances

Contact: MILO SHEDECK
405-748-5376

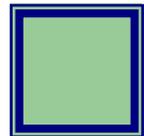
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Playing at the Czech Hall in Yukon, Ok.
www.czechhall.com for dates

Oklahoma Accordion Club

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