

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



September Hybrid Meeting

Our March meeting will be held on Sunday, September 11, at 3:30 pm.
It will be a "hybrid meeting," and will combine both an "in-person" meeting and a *Zoom* meeting.
Please follow the signs.

If you need instructions for using *Zoom*, please call Maggie Abel, and ask her for a trial session on using the *Zoom* meeting features.

For meeting details and instructions, see page 3.



Prez Sez

Maggie Abel

Hey, we had a surprise guest among those on our *Zoom* screen at the last in-person meeting. It was Myke Dixon, a popular and regularly-attending member before he moved to chilly Minnesota. You might remember him by his trademark — his smile and red-framed spectacles.

Club Co-founder Dick Albreski regaled us last month with quite a few anecdotes about Club history, and how he personally got started in the accordion-playing business!

Newcomers might not be aware that until the pandemic, the *Oklahoma Accordion Club* hosted — each August — a free concert put on by our members. Our emcee has been witty TV personality Lucas Ross, a Club member who also plays the squeezebox. The first few years were at the *Norman Train Depot*, which we soon outgrew. The remaining years, *OAC* required a larger facility — *Yukon Czech Hall*. Over the half-dozen years of the concerts, typical annual attendance reached toward 300.

Last month, many on social media reported that they had celebrated “Play Music on Your Porch” day. It occurs each year on the last Saturday of August. Don’t have a porch? Play on your sidewalk or in the backyard. A friend of mine even hosted an outdoor party at his home, to which he invited a variety of instruments. Why don’t you mark it on your calendar for next year!

To get some extra mileage on your accordion, you might consider attending some mixed-instrument practice groups (jams or open mics) that are popping up in many places. For instance, at *Old School Business Center* in Moore (monthly), *First Baptist Church* in Moore (weekly), at *Will Rogers Senior Center* in OKC (twice weekly), *Mustang Senior Center* (three times weekly), and *The Health and Wellness Center* on North Rockwell in OKC.

Oktoberfest, despite its name, is an exciting celebration often held in September. You can expect our next meeting — this Sunday, September 11, at 3:30 pm — to feature some familiar German songs! Other songs are encouraged as well!

Our meetings are currently “hybrid.” Meaning: we hope you will show up in person at *Messiah Lutheran Church* at NW Expressway and Portland Ave. But if you live too far away, *Zoom* to us using our link described on page 3 of this newsletter. *Zoomers* will always be invited to play first, if you are so inclined! Contact me if you want advance instruction or practice on the *Zoom* function!

• Maggie Abel, OAC President



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- William “Rusty” Dolton
- Janet Haskin
- Roland Lohmann
- Frankie Martinez
- Bob Mansfield
- Tom Phillips
- Phil Scibelli
- Ophelia Woody

September Hybrid Meeting Information

Out-of-town members, or anyone who cannot attend the live meeting in person, may still wish to experience it in *Zoom* (the same way they did in previous months).

(1) On computer, tablet, or smartphone, to join us with audio and video, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5236709799>

OR

(2) On your landline or non-smart telephone, to join us by audio only, call this number:

346/248-7799. When you are asked for a meeting ID, type in 523-670-9799.

If you want to try out the system before that date, just call me at 405/201-7867, and we'll give it a test to make sure all systems are go.

Grab your Ma and bring your Pa, as we broad-jump into that *OAC* squeezebox spirit, anticipating our upcoming meeting!



Outside Group Policy Messiah Lutheran Church Open Up and Recover Safely Plan:



- We ask that everyone who is entering the building wears a mask. The rule of thumb is:

IF YOU'RE MOVING, YOU'RE MASKING

- Once you are in place and safely distanced, you may remove your mask if you desire
- Groups are responsible for providing masks for their group members if they do not have their own
- Groups are responsible for providing their own hand sanitizer, gloves and disinfecting wipes to do the wipe down of touch points on the doors, bathrooms and surfaces used by their group during their activities.

Sanitation & Disinfecting of touch points: Wipe down all touchpoints used by group including but not limited to:

- Inside and outside door handles on all doors touched by group members
- Restroom touchpoints including faucet handles and stall door touchpoints
- Any chairs and or tables used by the group

Maintain Social Distancing

- Groups are asked to abstain from shaking hands and we encourage doing non-contact greetings.
- Seating should be set up to maintain proper spacing (family members from same household may sit together)
- If distancing cannot be assured, then masks should be worn
- It is recommended that group members use hand sanitizer before your group activity begins and again before leaving

Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

FUN BAND at the National Accordion Association Convention.

Once again, I will conduct the *FUN Band* at next year's convention. Currently I am working on the tunes that I feel will be appropriate. If you have any suggestions concerning the music, please let me know.

Thank you, Dick Albreski

CZECH FESTIVAL in Yukon, Oklahoma, October 1, 2022.

Come see the parade starting at 9:00 am, followed by the *Bohemian Knights* under the direction of OAC member Milo Shedeck. Yes, there will be an accordion in the band.

Gordon Kohl presents online workshops on Sundays that cover a variety of music. For more information, you can contact Gordon at gkohl5890@gmail.com. The fee is \$20.00, and will include handouts in PDF form

FUTURE EVENTS

National Accordion Association Convention, March 15-19, 2023, at the *Hilton Hotel* in Richardson, Texas. Information to follow in November 2022.

Accordion Extravaganza, on May 17-20, 2023, at the *Hughes Theater* in Branson, Missouri. *Lodge of the Ozarks* will give special rates for those attendees. More to follow.

As future events happen, hopefully we will see them in advance to make plans. Keep checkin' this column.

• Dick Albreski, OAC Co-Founder



**Happy Belated and Birthday Wishes to
the following OAC members:**



Sil Lopez, September 15

Barbara Pederson, September 22

Lou LeBrun, September 26



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.



August Meeting Minutes

Oklahoma Accordion Club

Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2022

The *Oklahoma Accordion Club* held its monthly meeting on Sunday, August 14, 2022. Thirteen people attended — ten in person and three on Zoom. "Welcome music" before the meeting was provided by Lois Roth.

President Maggie Abel called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. We stood and recited "The Pledge of Allegiance" and sang "America the Beautiful."

- Maggie made a few announcements. Frank Gesinski can't attend on Zoom today because of a family gathering. Anne and Sil Lopez are unable to be with us, but send greetings to all. Frequent guest Winston reported he could not attend, but will return soon.
- Dick Albreski and Ron Shearon gave a demonstration on tuning an accordion. An accordion gets out of tune from exposure to dust or smoke, from rust, and so forth. Dick said he learned to tune and repair accordions when he was a teenager. He reminded us that the wax and resin inside an accordion can be damaged by both heat and cold. If you are uncomfortably hot or cold, so is your accordion.
- Dick began the music with a French waltz called "Style Musette." Then he performed "Bésame Mucho," and a medley of "Pennsylvania Polka" and "Beer Barrel Polka." He was playing an Italo-American accordion that had once belonged to an *OAC* member.
- He told a funny story about going to the wrong place for a gig, and playing "Amazing Grace" for the burial of a septic tank!

- Maggie played two of her favorite songs: "The Donkey Song," and a waltz called "Dreaming."
- Janet Haskin performed "Amazing Grace" and "I'll Fly Away." She said she plays a Yamaha piano for services at her church in Stillwater. Janet asked if anyone knows an easy way to transpose music.
- Maggie reminded us of times past when the August meeting was our annual concert day.
- Dick announced that he will be rehearsing and leading the *Fun Band* at the March 2023 *National Accordion Association* Convention in the Dallas area. One of the pieces will be "Oklahoma Accordion Waltz," composed by Dick.
- The afternoon's music ended with an impromptu jam session by Dick and Lois. Songs included "Sentimental Journey," "Snow Waltz," "Tick Tock Polka," and "Tennessee Waltz."
- Dick told us about the time in his life when he had a wife and a new baby, and he lost his job as a salesman. He said he immediately decided to make music and accordions his career, and he has never looked back or regretted that decision.

The meeting was adjourned.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 11, at 3:30 pm. Join us to play or to listen -- or both.

You may hear some German music!

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Roth, *OAC* Secretary



Advertisement



The Bohemian Knights

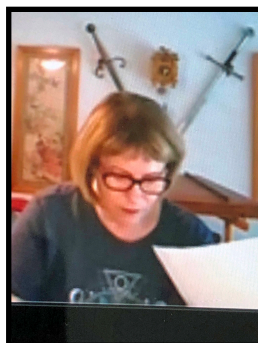
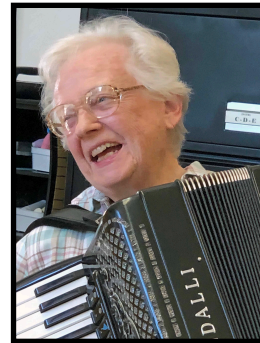
Featuring Master Accordionist Dick Albreski

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

Contact: MILO SHEDECK
405-748-5376
miloshedeck@cox.net
Playing at the Czech Hall in Yukon, Ok.
www.czechhall.com for dates

August Hybrid Meeting

Maggie Abel



August Hybrid Meeting

Diana Richard





Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
c/o 209 South 2nd; Bison, OK 7370

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

Oklahoma Accordion Club

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