

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'!"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



Merry Christmas



To all of you from all of us,
A very joyous Holiday Season
and a very happy New Year



December Hybrid Meeting

Our March meeting will be held on Sunday, December 10, 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

Here's a riddle for you: Now that we've all survived those Black Friday shopping bargains, let's focus on a transaction costing a mere five cents a day, 38 cents a week, or \$1.66 per month. You guessed it! We're talking about your Oklahoma Accordion Club dues, which total up to only \$20 for the coming year, payable due before January. The benefits are deep friendships, exposing your friends and family to your beautiful homemade music, and your pride in showing off your developing know-how! Club Treasurer Ron Shearon, whose address is on page 2 of this newsletter, will happily accommodate your funds! It's only \$10 more for the next of your family members, and your additional squeezebox-paying youths are complimentary

A number of us have reserved our hotel room at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Lewisville, Texas, for the National Accordion Association convention, March 20-24, 2024. Registering does not require funds until much later. Choosing a nice roommate to share the experience is economical, and you both will have good memories of carpooling down. I drove myself last year with only Siri to direct me, and it was a pleasant ride, looking forward to all those workshops, the good food, the entertainment, and stimulating and talented friends. Note that the hotel includes breakfast each morning for those who've reserved early! Here's the NAA registration link with details all spelled out: <http://accordions.com/naa>

I understand that a few OAC people might be priming somewhat for the December meeting, as our returning and very high-tech member, Myke Dixon, is bringing his pro camera equipment to snap each photogenic member who wishes to have this memento. Start practicing poses with your accordion in front of the mirror to get "the look" you'll treasure!

And watch out for this guy, Myke! He and Lauren brought the cotton candy-making machine last month (see photos), and the month before that, his harmonium. I'm guessing "show and tell" was his favorite part of the school day as he grew up

We're continuing our historically famous Warm Woolley Drive this December 10 as we collect warm accessories to give to those in need -- such as a warm woolen muffler, hat, socks, or gloves

It's understood that on Christmas Eve, after Santa climbs down the chimney, he finds a cup of hot chocolate and a cookie waiting for him by the tree. As colorful treats and succulent sweets are practically a universal language, how nice it would be if each of us transported such things to the December 10 meetup to share with all!

Consider putting these two things on your list of ideas to strengthen the Club, and enhance your musical standing:

(1) If you use Facebook, click "like" on our page, "Oklahoma Accordion Club."

(2) Consider seeking out an accordion practice partner at the December 10 face-to-face meeting. Since all skill levels attend, you both have lots of choices. Our most famous such team is Lois Roth and Anne Lopez, often aided and abetted by John Warren.

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

December 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!



Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

Heads up! Yours truly will again conduct the FUN BAND and YOUTH BAND at the National Accordion Convention to be held at the Hilton Gardens, 785 State Highway 121, Lewisville, Texas, from March 20-24, 2024. <http://www.accordions.com/naa/cComingConvention.html>. There will be significant changes to this convention. Plans are now being made to make it the best. I would strongly urge all accordionists and accordion-lovers to attend this annual event. For more information download 2024NAA-Schedule.pdf. Wednesday evening will be a relaxed "meet and greet" for those early folks. Thursday evening will be open mic night for those who want to perform. Friday evening is Party Night, and Saturday evening after the banquet will feature a professional performance. Both the FUN BAND and the YOUTH BAND are currently scheduled to perform on Saturday, March 23, 2024. During the day, there will be dealer rooms for all your accordion needs and individual classroom activities.

The convention is carefully planned, but only your attendance can make it happen. See you there!

A BIG HEAD'S UP!!! The Annual *OAC* Christmas Party will be held next week, 12/10/2023, at the *Messiah Lutheran Church*, located at the corner of Portland and Northwest Highway, starting at 3:30 pm. Folks, this is a special event that can't be forgotten because it involves (1) the accordion, (2) our students, (3) camaraderie, (4) Food, (5) Giving.

THE ACCORDION: Don't forget the purpose of our Club. That is to encourage, promote and educate new and existing accordion players.

THE STUDENTS: Every year we help sponsor our youth at the National Accordion Convention that is held in March. We need your donations to accomplish this important function. If you wish to donate and cannot attend, please contact our Treasurer, Ron Shearon, or other Board members for their assistance.

CAMARADERIE: What better way to be a friend than with music. Squeezin' together is the only way to go. Sharing tunes is another.

FOOD: Bring those epicurean treats and sweets that you can share. Calories don't count. ENJOY!

GIVING: Every year for the past many years, you and I have donated socks, scarves, gloves, and hats for the homeless. This tradition can't stop. Please be generous for the needy -- again -- this year.

I'm sure there are many more reasons that will entice you to come to this annual event. I have given some of mine. Let's share your reason at the PARTY.

Free Accordion Music Websites. If you want some new and free accordion music; look at: <https://www.todoacordeon.com/> (Spanish), <https://www.donquattrocchi.com/sheetmusic>, or <http://8notes.com/accordion>. Try it! You'll like it!

• Dick Albreski; *OAC* Co-Founder



November Meeting Minutes

Lois Roth

The Oklahoma Accordion Club met on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at Messiah Lutheran Church in OKC. There were sixteen people present: Twelve members and four guests.

President Maggie Abel called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

Ron Shearon led us in the "Pledge of Allegiance."

We sang "America The Beautiful."

Bob Mansfield presented a workshop that included many valuable pointers on learning the basses; playing a duet with yourself; performing a bellows shake; and understanding chords, keys, inversions, etc. He also handed out papers titled "Bob's Finger Substitutions."

Dick Albreski said he has books and CDs of Christmas music for sale.

Then the music began!

- Dick and Myke Dixon played a duet — "Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes."

- Dick got us in a holiday mood with jazzy versions of "White Christmas" and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town."

- Myke said he will bring his camera to the December 10 meeting and will take pictures of anyone interested.

- A guest showed us a small accordion that he wanted to sell.

- Next on the program was a singalong. It included two World War I songs for Veterans' Day: "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kitbag," and "Till We Meet Again." The third song was "This Land Is Your Land." Anne Lopez and Lois Roth provided the music.

- Anne and Lois performed "Third Man Theme," "Elmer's Tune," and "Ashokan Farewell."

- Maggie and Frank added to the fun by dancing to "Cafe Polka."

The meeting was adjourned.

Refreshments today included cotton candy made by Myke and his spun sugar machine. Other snacks were provided by Karen West and her helpers.

The OAC Christmas party will be Sunday, December 10. You are encouraged to bring holiday treats to share. Also please bring hats, socks, gloves, etc. for charity. Join us for an afternoon of music and fun!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, OAC Secretary



Happy Birthday Wishes to the following OAC members:

Lucy Shedeck, December 13

Maggie Abel, December 21

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.



Jimmy Stewart and the Accordion



Two-page spread in the Washington Post Magazine when Jimmy Stewart died in 1997. Photo from 1938.

It is the time of year, once again, when my mind goes to holiday music, magical light displays, celebrations with loved ones, and to my all-time favorite movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." I have watched this heartwarming movie every Christmas season for the last 50 years. The message conveyed in this film is one that each of us should hear often: None of us is a failure if we have helped others, even in a small way.

The star of this movie, Jimmy Stewart, has always been my favorite actor. Wholesome and warmly "real," Stewart could so convincingly bring his characters to life. It's a Wonderful Life, produced and directed by Frank Capra in 1946, was one of three Capra films that starred Jimmy Stewart. Capra felt that Stewart was perfect to project a message of an ideal America. The two men became close friends. I soon discovered that they had something else in common: they both played and loved the accordion.



Frank Capra entertaining with his accordion on the movie set of "You Can't Take It With You".

Given an accordion at the age of 6, Jimmy Stewart fell in love with this instrument, and it remained a beloved part of his life until his death. In 1938, Stewart was chosen to do a photo shoot for a cover of the new periodical, the "Accordion World Magazine". The photos were mesmerizing with incredible shadows of his accordion's bellows. Although Jimmy Stewart's celebrated film career spanned 80 films and he was a Brigadier General in the Army Air Force during WWII (1941-1947), it was the accordion that meant the most to him in the end. Stewart chose one of the photos taken for the Accordion World Magazine in 1938 to be used when he passed away. Jimmy Stewart died in 1997 at the age of 89.

I strongly suggest watching "It's a Wonderful Life" this holiday season. In the last few moments of the film, Police Officer Bert (Ward Bond) comes in playing "Auld Lang Syne" on a beautiful old accordion. Happy Holidays, Everyone!!

Prez Sez

Continued from page 2

Holidays are an exciting time, and whether or not you are a fan of making New Year's resolutions, you know you'll never regret giving your accordion persona a shot in the arm by upping your participation in our great (since the year 2000) Oklahoma Accordion Club!

Next meeting is Sunday, December 10, from 3:30 pm until 5:30 pm at Messiah Lutheran Church & School on the SE corner of Portland Ave. and NW Expressway in Oklahoma City

- Maggie Abel, OAC President



November Hybrid Meeting

Diana Richard



November Hybrid Meeting

Diana Richard



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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 _____

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

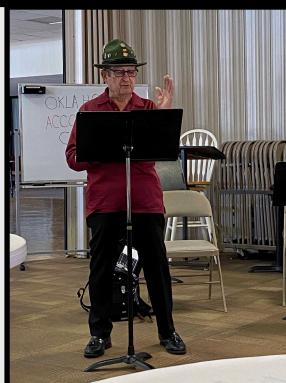
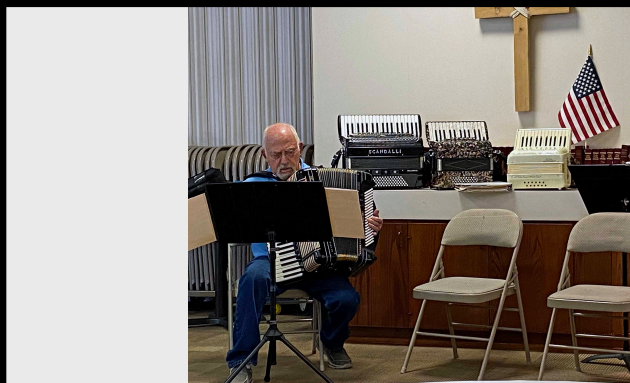
The OAC membership year runs from January through December. Membership cost is prorated quarterly for new members.

☐ 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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