

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



Garage Band

November Hybrid Meeting

Our March meeting will be held on Sunday, November 12, 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

Last week, a relevant comment was posted on the *Oklahoma Accordion Club's* Facebook Page. A writer asked about the experience of others in "graduating down" to a smaller or lighter accordion. If you "Like" that Facebook page, you can read what others commented on the subject, or post your own experience. In my case, adding a lighter accordion to my "harem" enables me -- at times -- to stand up while playing, which adds a nice visual element to your audio.

Not everyone is aware that if you arrive early (2:00 through 3:30 p.m.) at the monthly 3:30 p.m. *Oklahoma Accordion Club* meeting, you have a chance to: catch up on the doings of fellow members, arrange tables and chairs, set up *Zoom* equipment, help set out snacks and refreshments, or warm up your instrument by practicing the song you'll play before the Club an hour or so later.

A slightly accordion-related event occurred Saturday, November 4. A special event at OKC's *Will Rogers Senior Center* is its annual art show. This year it featured *The Garage Band*. For 90 minutes, a dozen musicians, age 50 and up, sang and played familiar songs. A few couples sprang into dance, while bystanders picked up nearby maracas or shakers to accompany. Prepping for such occasions, *Band* members at every skill level meet twice a week at the Center to practice.

Floating over and among the sound of the various guitars, ukuleles, harmonicas, and voices, was an accordion. That lone instrument attracted curious and sentimental comment after the show, often along this line: "I had a [grandmother, brother, aunt, etc.] who played the accordion. In fact, it's still [in my closet, under my bed, up in the attic]. How can I [learn to play it, find a way to sell it, set a price for it, get it repaired]?"

What can one individual do to promote this instrument? One simple thing will proclaim its existence to the world. Take your accordion out of its case and display it in a place of honor in your living room or den. It's surprising how many guests will express interest and, perhaps, even try it out, with your help. And guess what? Seeing it thus displayed encourages you to play it more for your guests or your teacher.

Was "teacher" mentioned? You'll usually find the business card(s) for accordion teacher(s) in our newsletter, *The Squeezin's*.

Our faithful and loyal longtime editor, Tulsa accordionist Frank Gesinski -- though he can never be replaced -- will soon be providing orientation to a new person. Yes, our monthly newsletter, *The Squeezin's*, is to be conveyed into other hands. Perhaps yours? Let me know, and we'll talk!

In this newsletter, view pix from October 7's annual Oktoberfest Night at *Czech Hall*, and the November 4 "Accordion with Garage Band"!

See youse guys Sunday, November 12, at *Messiah Lutheran Church* for this 3:30 meetup.

If *Zooming* in, use your computer to click on this link:

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

Or, if need be, copy and paste the link into your address bar.



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

November 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!

You must attend the Wurstfest in New Braunfels, Texas, November 3-12, 2023. Alex Meisner and Chris Rybeck are among the many polka stars who will perform at that gala event. Check the website for the additional information and schedule.

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!

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

• Dick Albreski; *OAC* Co-Founder



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October Meeting Minutes

Lois Roth

Oklahoma Accordion Club Meeting Minutes October 8, 2023

The *Oklahoma Accordion Club* held its Oktoberfest party on Sunday, October 8, at the *Messiah Lutheran Church* of OKC. There were fifteen members and eight guests present.

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

- We recited the "Pledge of Allegiance," led by Ron Shearon, and sang "America The Beautiful."
- Bob Mansfield introduced his guests. Elias Lansford, Bob's young student, performed "Morning" from "Peer Gynt Suite," "Samson and Delilah," and "Carefree Boogie."
- We sang "Happy Birthday" to Karen West. Dick Albreski followed up with the Polish version of the song. He had just come from playing a two-hour gig in Guthrie, OK.
- Dick handed out copies of "Silver Skates" and gave a short workshop on how to approach a new piece of music. He said the music is a road map, and the musician should study it carefully before picking up his accordion to play it.
- Dick and Barbara Yuill performed three seasonal duets: "Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie," "Das Kufsteiner Lied," and "Ole Suzanna Revisited Schottische."
- Dick and his student, Jack Schillo, played "Too Fat Polka" and "Du, Du, Licht Mir In Herzen."
- Then it was singalong time. We harmonized to "Lilli Marlene" and "Edelweiss." Song sheets and accompaniment were provided by Anne Lopez and Lois Roth.

• Anne and Lois continued the music with several German waltzes, including "You Can't Be True, Dear," "The Blue Skirt Waltz," and "Schneewalzer" ("Snow Waltz"). Dick joined them for a three-accordion version of "Rain-Rain Polka."

• Maggie announced that Frank Gesinski is retiring from his position as editor of the Squeezin's monthly newsletter. Frank has published the newsletter for many years and has done a great job. Thank you, Frank! The Club is searching for a new editor. If anyone is interested, please contact Maggie.

• Myke Dixon set up his electric chord organ and played for us. We were invited to give it a try, and several people did so.

• Then Myke picked up his accordion and played "When The Saints Go Marching In" and "Take Me Out To The Ball Game." He said he's happy to be back in Oklahoma and with *OAC* again.

• Ron concluded the afternoon of music with "Danube Waves" (several of its many parts), and "Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes."

The meeting was adjourned. Maggie and Frank Boyd added to the festivities by wearing German costumes, and by dancing to some of the German tunes.

Refreshments included delicious squash pie from Myke Dixon.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 12. The fun officially starts at 3:30, but come early to visit and to enjoy the warm-up music.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, *OAC* Secretary



Happy Birthday Wishes to the following *OAC* members:

Frank Boyd, November 4

Donna Dove, November 16

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.



October Hybrid Meeting

Diana Richard



October Hybrid Meeting

Diana Richard



October Hybrid Meeting

Diana Richard



Check Hall, 10/07/2023





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

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