

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

*Our colorful
past often made
the news! Were
you with us
"back when"?
Our hobby
has long been
an object of
fascination.*



Meetup Info for Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024 — 3:30 PM

Oklahoma Accordion Club (founded in 2000) meets in person once again on Sunday, Oct. 13, at 3:30 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church, on the SE corner of Portland Avenue and NW Expressway in Oklahoma City. The south entrance to the church (there's a portico at that doorway in case of rain!) takes you into the foyer, where the sound of music (or the sight of signage) will direct you to where we and our accordions await!

Snacks are welcome! Bring your accordion, or just come as you are and sit down with us to drink in the sweet sounds!

Out-of-town members, or anyone who cannot attend the live 3:30 PM meeting in person, may wish to experience it via Zoom (the same way and same codes you used in previous years).

On computer, tablet, or smartphone, to join us with both audio and video, go to:

[https://
us02web.zoom.us/
j/5236709799](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5236709799)



PREZ SEZ

Maggie Abel

Greetings, fellow Squeeze-boxers and wannabees! Thanks to those of you who share with me the most up-to-date accordion gossip! I notice a lotta buzz going on about another maker of electronic accordions coming to the fore! Yes, not just Roland with its 8X and 4X, but now Korg's got in the act and has its own creations coming out. Check it out!

You'd be surprised how many offers came across "my desk" this past month from parties seeking live accordion music for birthday or holiday events. During this most Oktoberfest of months, demand exceeds supply! Some take advantage of this phenomenon, preparing accordingly!

Speaking of Oktoberfest, last Saturday ye trusty old hubby and I squeezed into our eagerly awaiting Bavarian costumes from the Halloween store, and attended the main fest night at Czech Hall. Great displays of Czech royalty in their actually authentic cos-

tumes were a delight. Club members Susan Hause, Lucy and Milo Shedeck (playing in the band), a few girlfriends we dragged along, and hall emcee Elaine Benda were all present. Kielbasa sandwiches covered with sauerkraut in one hand, I shot ample video of folkdancers both young and old, very colorful indeed.

November 2 is a Saturday to put on your calendar. The senior citizen jammers known as the Garage Band perform that day noon to 1:30 PM at Will Rogers Senior Center, 3501 Pat Murphy Drive, OKC. Among the dozen or so other instruments played, there is one solitary accordion, and it does stand out! (Ahem!!!) Admission is free and all ages are invited! The occasion is the annual Seniors Art Show which takes place there from 10 to 2 PM while the band entertains. (Will Rogers defines "seniors" as 50+ age 50.)

See page 4 for Czech pix. See you Sunday for monthly musical happiness! ~ Mag

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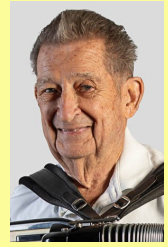
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**Our next Oklahoma Accordion Club meetup is October 13,
Sunday, at 3:30 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church, OKC.**

Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski



WHY NOT plan on attending the next Oklahoma Accordion Club meeting at the Messiah Lutheran Church at Portland and Northwest Expressway on October 13th at 3:30 PM. You can bring a friend and your accordion as well. This is our time to shine!!!! What other instrument can do all that an accordion can do to Octoberfest music? Barb and I'll be there to share our Octoberfest music with you all and trust you'll do the same for us.

NEXT BIG EVENT...At the December OAC meeting we'll again feature our Youth and hopefully raise some money for them to attend the National Accordion Convention in March 2025. The youth will perform plus there will be a silent auction where we ask the members and guests to bring items that can be auctioned off. In addition, we ask members and friends to bring treats to share. Without your support this event can't happen. More to follow and please plan to help with the event. Thanks!

START PLANNING: I have a great plan for you. Next March 13th to the 15th in Lewisville, TX, the National Accordion Association holds its annual Convention at the Hilton Garden Inn. This is your opportunity to enjoy some of the best accordion performances close to home. You can also par-

ticipate in the program. There will be jam sessions, an adult FUN Band plus other chances to play for your old and new friends. Consider this something to do in 2025. If you are not familiar with the Hilton Garden Inn, this is your opportunity to enjoy some of the best accordion performances close to home. You can also participate in the program. There will be jam sessions, an adult FUN Band plus other chances to play for your old and new friends. Consider this something to do in 2025. If you are not familiar with the program, give me a note and I will get you started. As future events happen, hopefully we will see them in advance, so you can make plans to attend. Keep checkin' this article!

~ Dick

Free Accordion Music Websites

Check out the following sites for new and free accordion music:

Donquattrocchi.com

8notes.com/accordion

Try em! You'll like em!



July Meeting Minutes

Secretary Lois Roth

The Oklahoma Accordion Club held a meeting on Sunday, September 9, 2024. The location was Messiah Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City.

Before the meeting, players welcomed members and guests with German music. President Maggie Abel called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. There were twelve members and three guests present. Ron Shearon led us in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance. We sang a verse of "America The Beautiful."

Maggie introduced the three guests, one of whom was looking for an accordion teacher. Maggie reminded us that The Club has officer positions open. Maggie asked if all members present had received the latest "Squeezins" newsletter. Everyone had received it.

Dick Albreski made these announcements: The Bohemian Knights will play in Yukon the first Saturday in October. He is working on the Nation-

al Accordion Convention Fun Band Songs for March 2025.

There is a story about OAC in the August 26 issue of Oklahoma Magazine, but the digital link has proven difficult for some to locate it.

Anne Lopez, Lois Roth, and Dick began the September Fest music with "The Snow Waltz."

Dick connected an amp to his 72-bass accordion. He performed "Volare," and told us it was the first song he and his late wife Evie heard on the radio after they were married. He continued with "The Seniorita Polka," "Tulips From Amsterdam," and "Fascination."

Anne and Lois provided music for a singalong: "The Happy Wanderer," "Wooden Heart," and "You Are My Sunshine." Afterward, they performed "Blue Skirt Waltz," and "The Country Musician." Dick joined them for everyone's favorite "Beer Barrel Polka." Anne soloed with "Trumpeten Echo Polka." [Shelia Lee wrote that this song is

considered the most played instrumental tune in the world. Even more so than "Beer Barrel Polka"! – Maggie]

Next the two women played "The Chicken Dance" with enthusiastic audience participation. Dick played the romantic "Once in a While." Dick, Anne, and Lois concluded the music program with a lively polka – "Just Because," and "The Lorely."

The meeting was adjourned, but Anne and Lois played more German songs while the clean-up crew worked.

A big Thank You to Karen West for setting up the refreshment table. Today's snacks featured apple pies from Anne and Lois.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, October 13 at 3:30 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church. Join us if you can!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, OAC Secretary

Birthday Greetings to OAC Members!



Karen West, Oct 8

Anne Lopez, Oct 22



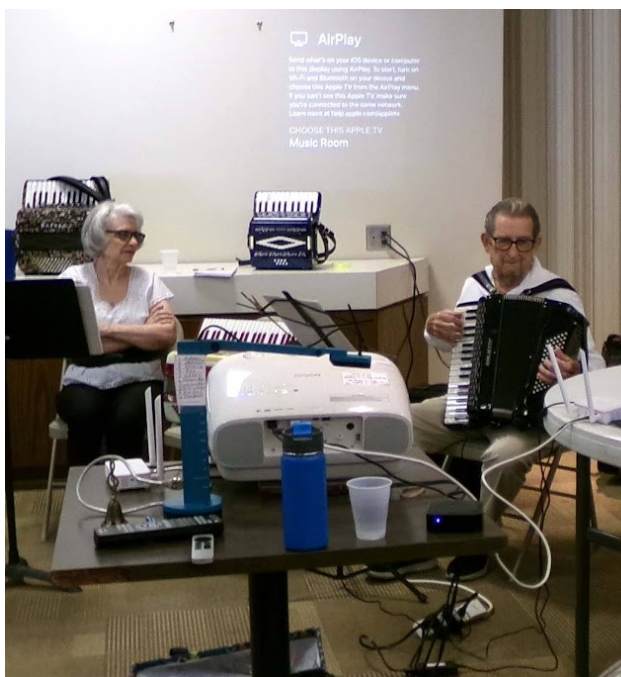
Your birthdate is collected from your OAC membership application, if you have chosen to include it. If your birthdate isn't listed on our newsletter birthday page during the year, please contact Karen West at 405-949-0394, or at accordion_karen@yahoo.com



OAC Meetup

Sept 8, 2024

Pix: Diana L. Richard





Pix:
Maggie
Abel



Czech Hall Oktoberfest Oct. 5, 2024



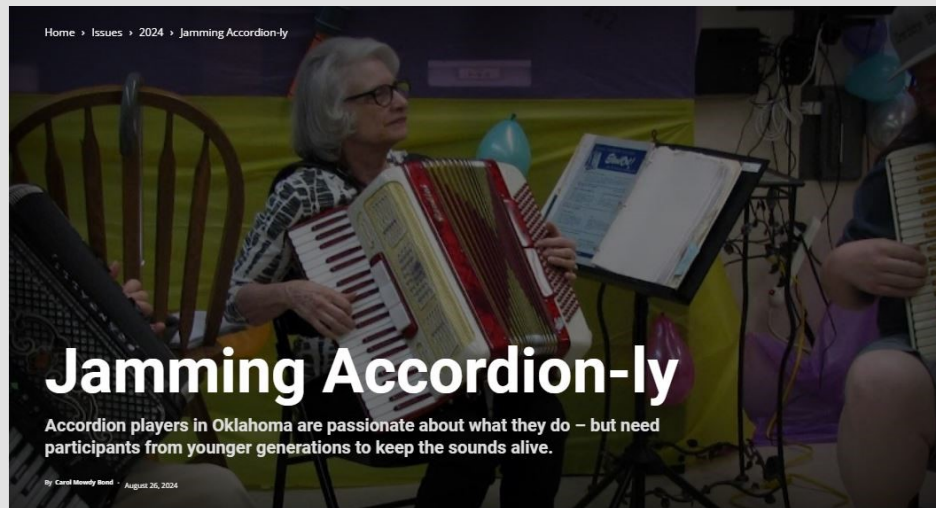
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Here, the August 26, 2024, digital article in Oklahoma Magazine by Carol Mowdy Bond, is shown in five screenshots.

Jamming Accordion-ly

Carol Mowdy Bond · August 26, 2024



The accordion's rhythmic melodies, including that sometimes oompah-pah jam, still resonate with music lovers of all genres. Its captivating sounds conjure up images of the Czech polka, the Polish mazurka, the Russian khorovod, the Norwegian Rheinlander, Mexican norteño and Latino-based mariachi. Known globally, squeeze boxes come in numerous sizes and types, and some are electronic. As a bellows-driven family of...

[Read more](#)

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Known globally, squeeze boxes come in numerous sizes and types, and some are electronic. As a bellows-driven family of box-shaped musical instruments, accordions produce sound through airflow and vibrating reeds.

A Pennsylvania native, Dick Albreski began accordion lessons at age six. During high school, he played in a band for parties, weddings and dances within his Polish community. Of late, he has been the accordion player for the Bohemian Knights, a band that plays for Saturday night polka dances at Yukon's Czech Hall.



Members of the Oklahoma Accordion Club meet monthly to play, find performance opportunities and hone their crafts. Photos courtesy the Oklahoma Accordion Club

"It's not a hard instrument to learn," says Albreski. "But it requires both hands to function at the same time. Your left hand will not function as your right. It will be completely different most of the time."

ACCORDION ORIGINS

As a wind instrument invented during early 19th century Europe, the accordion quickly gained popularity throughout the continent. By the 1840s, Russians were manufacturing around 10,000 accordions annually.

But in 1863, a farmer in Castelfidardo, Italy, founded the Italian accordion industry, making the area the international accordion epicenter. The area reeled in skilled and inventive craftsmen who created unique accordion styles.

Several famous European composers took the instrument to a higher status. With mass migrations from Europe to the Americas from 1814 to 1913, immigrants arrived with musical instruments. And the Castelfidardo brothers founded an accordion factory in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The accordion's popularity surged across continents during the 20th century, and it symbolized cultural diversity and musical innovation. Accordions merged into popular American music such as jazz, country and even rock 'n' roll. Artists like Lawrence Welk popularized accordion music through television, exposing millions of viewers to the unique sounds.



Accordion Band, Irene Bookbinder wanted to take piano lessons, but her family didn't have space for a piano. So, in fifth grade, she opted instead for accordion lessons.

"You have to read music to learn the accordion," she says. "It is melodic, and you can make so many different sounds with it. It's a versatile instrument and they're beautiful to look at."

Hoping the accordion's popularity will continue to rise in the music world, Albreski says: "You need youth. The most important thing for the accordion would be youth."



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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