

Oklahoma Squeezin's

Newsletter of the Oklahoma Accordion Club

January 2008

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THE WEB:

oklahomaaccordionclub.com

The Oklahoma Accordion Club meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3500 N. Meridian. Orchestra rehearsal 2:30, Meeting begins at 3:30.

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What They Are Saying About the OAC Tote.....



"My new OAC tote really gives me something to smile about!"

~Mona Lisa Gherardini

"I will never, never, NEVER give up my OAC tote bag!"

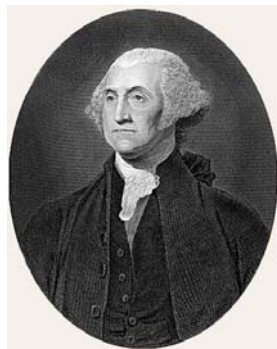
~Winston Churchill

"I cannot tell a lie. This is one great tote."

~George Washington

"A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse! Or one of those OAC tote bags would be even better!"

~William Shakespeare in 'Richard III'



Man: My doctor advised me to give up playing the accordion.

Friend: Why?

Man: He lives in the apartment below.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2008

Your highly prestigious OAC MEMBERSHIP expired with the old year! The membership form in this issue may be mailed in with your check, or we would love to see you in person at the January meeting!

Each member in 2008 (new/renewed) will receive a handsome

OAC TOTE BAG

Large enough to handle a stack of accordion music for your next gig, or a very large lunch. Totes will be mailed to those unable to attend meetings.

Please complete the membership form. Fill in all the spaces so that we may verify your information even if you are a long time member. Youth Members: that goes for you, too! Membership Dues options are listed on the form.

Write your check to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**

The mailing address is at the bottom of the form.

Thank you for your continued support of the best accordion organization anywhere!



Out going treasurer **Beth Henson** accepts her 'thank you' gift from the OAC for two years of excellent work on the Board. Beth received a high quality folding music stand.

Thanks, again, Beth!

OAC OFFICERS

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Note from the Editor:
Your suggestions and
submissions are always
appreciated!

Mountain Smoke Band
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www.mountainsmokeband.com

Next show: Feb 29th
UCO Jazz Lab

National Accordion Association Convention

MARCH 13-15, 2008 (Thur, Fri, Sat)

Make your plans NOW! There is nothing like being with a group of kindred spirits and surrounded by non-stop accordion music of the highest caliber. The Richardson Hotel, in Richardson, Texas, just north of Dallas, will again be the location. The room rate is \$85/night until the February 25th deadline. It then goes back to the regular rate of \$119/night. **Call the hotel direct at 972-231-9600 and ask for the IN-HOUSE RESERVATION DESK and ask for the "accordion convention" rate of \$85/ night.** It is best to call during the day and do not call the 1-800 number on the hotel website.

Registration is \$150 for 3 days with banquet meals for accordionist, and a spouse pass is \$50 without banquet. NAA members get a significant discount. The OAC will be helping folks coordinate carpooling. Additional information can be found on the NAA website which is updated as the convention date gets closer. The general schedule is now posted!

NAA website: <http://www.accordions.com/naa/>

Youth Band at Convention

Great news! There will be a YOUTH BAND at the NAA convention. An open invitation is extended to teenagers and younger who play accordion and read music grade 2 or better. **Music for your grade level is now available at no-charge.** Order your music today and be ready to join with others at the NAA Youth Band rehearsals. Contact Dick Albreski at juaccord@Hotmail.com or call him direct at 405-721-0564. Be part of the new generation.



The 'Accords' Ensemble from OKC will participate in the NAA Youth Band

Treasurer's Report.....Roland Lohmann

As I took office, the OAC checking account had a balance of \$773.69. Members have renewed their memberships with dues in the amount of \$269.00, which brings our total to \$1,042.69.

As my term as treasurer has now begun, I want to thank the club for the opportunity to serve. Thanks to Beth for a smooth transition and to Max and Beth for helping me with the drawing, and with collecting dues at the January meeting while I attended my Granddaughters first birthday party, arriving at the meeting just in time to hear some great performances!

I appreciate Jackie's resolve to play something at each meeting, and, of course special thanks are due to my friend, Bob Mansfield, for encouraging me to get involved with the accordion and the club. Thanks Bob!

I will not be at the next meeting because I will be on a mission to Israel with the Oklahoma City Jewish Federation. Beth and Max have once again graciously consented to help me. I appreciate you both.

Roland R. Lohmann, Treasurer

New Members



First New member of 2008 ROBERT FRANTZ shows his new accordion to Maxine and Karen.

WELCOME ROBERT!!!



Second New Member of 2008 MARGARET OLDHAM fills out her membership form.

WELCOME MARGARET!!!

Secretary Report.....by Maxine "The Max" Gunter

Bob Mansfield, Vice President, opened the meeting by welcoming guest **Robert Frantz**. Robert said he had received a new accordion for Christmas from his wife and wanted to know who could teach him to play it, and before long **Robert became our newest member for 2008**. Another guest, **Margaret Oldham also joined** the club at the meeting. Since the Big Squeeze last year was such a success, the Club is planning a second Big Squeeze at the OCU Jazz Lab in Edmond, OK, in May, 2008. And we are **still looking for a new place to hold our monthly meetings, so if you have a suggestion, please contact any member of the Board**. The NAA Convention in Richardson, TX, is coming up on March 13 thru 15, 2008. Reserve your room now.

A "Thank You" goes to all those who brought refreshments. Instead of having a sign up sheet, we are at the mercy of whoever feels like bringing a snack and so far it has been quite successful.

The OAC Orchestra practiced as usual before the meeting. The Orchestra, this week consisted of Jackie Mashore, conductor, and Darlene Dooner, Lois Roth, Karen West, Bob Mansfield, Jarion Baquero, and Maxine Gunter, began working on **"The Thunderer"**, a march by John Philip Sousa. We need more members to join, so if you think you might be interested, contact our inspiring conductor, Jackie Mashore.

It was a great meeting with wonderful music provided by:

Jackie Mashore played "Poeme" by Fibich and "Laura's Waltz" by Dan Newton. During the meeting Jackie showed off a recently acquired bass accordion.

Dick Albreski played "C'est Magnique" and "Clarinet Polka". Dick informed us that January 14th is National Accordion Day!

Jairon Baquero "Juarez" a Spanish Waltz by Palmer-Hughes and "Jaleo de Jerez"

Bob Mansfield "Free Again", "Tiko Tiko", "Uno", and "All My Love"

Frankie and Eleanor Martinez entertained the group with Cajun Music, Okie Mex and/or Tex Mex and as a special request by Bill and Beth Henson, "Squeeze Box"

If you have not yet renewed your membership, you should do so now!

January 2008 President's Message

– Dan Orza

Happy New Year to all of my wonderful accordion friends in the Oklahoma Accordion Club. Sorry I had to miss the last meeting. I seldom miss one. But it was one of those very rare chances that I had to go hunting for elk. Well, to make a long story short... I'm back – no elk. It was a great hunt, great scenery, COLD, we hunted in 7 degree weather, the wind often blew up to 40 mph. I saw lots of bull and cow elk, but they were 500-600 yards away (way too far to shoot) and on the last day it snowed so hard we had a white-out condition. So – NO ELK. That means we'll have **no elk roast at our OAC summer picnic too.** But, all things aside, I had a great experience. The mountains were beautiful.

I understand that our January meeting went very well. Thank you Bob & Jackie for covering for me in my absence. Our accordion orchestra rehearsed and performed. YEAH! My goal for the coming year will be to get more and more people playing at meetings. **Please remember Everyone is welcome to perform. You DO NOT need to be a polished musician to play at meetings.** You can be a beginner. The music you play does not have to be perfectly played – we just want to have fun playing for each other, with each other, in groups, as solos, whatever Having fun. We are NOT judging.

One more item ... the Nation Accordion Association is in Dallas in March. If you are planning to go, sign up and let's see if we can plan some car pooling to save on transportation costs. It is an excellent opportunity to see and hear some mighty fine accordion music.

Please remember to renew you membership as soon as possible. This year we are giving a beautiful bag to everyone upon receipt of you dues.

Dan Orza
OAC President



The next Big Squeeze is

Sunday, May 18th

UCO Jazz Lab in Edmond.

The first show last October was a huge success! Our accordionists fulfilled our goal of bringing the accordion to the public with an impressive concert. The format will be the same: a superb show of talent in an exhibition of a wide variety of accordion music!

**Plan now to either
perform or attend!**

Accordionist Nominated For Grammy Awards

Jeff Taylor, accordionist with the western swing band The Time Jumpers shared that the band has nominations in two Grammy Award categories. Best Country instrumental performance, and Best country performance by a duo or group with vocal. The nominations were announced December 6, 2007. Grammy Awards will be presented February 10, 2008 in Los Angeles. Jeff plays with the best of the best in Nashville, and it is wonderful to see the accordion making a strong appearance in a very competitive music arena.

**Good Luck
Time Jumpers!**

(Backstage at the '07
Winfield Music Fest:
Jackie and Jeff with their
almost identical
Weltmeisters)



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7-07

New Year's Eve at the Czech Hall

Milo Shedeck (sax)
and Dick Albreski
(accordion)



The Band wearing chicken hats
for The Chicken Dance



Bert and Dan Orza



Anne DeJohn and
friend, Sid

The **BOHEMIAN KNIGHTS Polka Band** hosted an excellent evening of dance music at the famous Czech Hall in Yukon New Year's Eve. Several OAC members and their friends showed up to enjoy ringing in the new year on one of the best dance floors in Oklahoma to a steady stream of familiar tunes. OAC Members **Milo Shedeck** and **Dick Albreski** are solid performers in this lively and professional band. Member **Lucy Shedeck** is in charge behind the scenes. The Bohemian Knights are regulars at the Czech Hall, so 'CZECH' their schedule for dates. The Czech Hall is a wonderful place to take family for an evening out—great music, food, it's KID FRIENDLY, and the exercise you get from polka dancing is unbeatable! Get out and support live music. ~Jackie MaShore



HAPPY 2008, BABY!
(Roger and Jackie)

ABOUT THE BOHEMIAN KNIGHTSby Milo Shedeck

We play a variety of music including country and western, polkas, waltzes, swing, Italian, schottisches, and the kid's favorites: the chicken dance, hokey pokey, Mexican Hat Dance, the Cotton Eyed Joe, 7 Step, and many others from our 600 song library.

Last year, we played for the Yukon Czech Festival, the #1 Oklahoma Polka Club in Enid, the OU Medical Center, the Hennessey Heritage Festival, Town Village Retirement Center in OKC, and two church's Oktoberfest in Norman and for private wedding receptions and anniversary parties at the Czech Hall. We also played for the Spanish Cove in Yukon and Fort Sill Army Base in Lawton, OK for their Oktoberfest.

Milo Shedeck has played in a polka band since the age of 14 and played with the Milo & Charlie Belsky Orchestra, the Vitek Polka Band in Perry and the Jerry Kaplan Polka band. He plays alto sax, clarinet and soprano sax. His wife Lucy helps keep the music library (and Milo) in order.

Mike Nielsen played in the Navy recruiting band for over 23 years and traveled the world playing for Navy bases. He is a great jazz trumpeter.

Neal Hickerson plays the tenor sax and clarinet and is an engineer for Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He is the newest member of the band and loves polka music.

Ken Leck is from Yukon and plays drums and piano. He also plays drums for his church band. He has one son 3 years old and is a new daddy just 3 weeks ago. His wife Sarah and sons Clayton and Evan are our polka supporters.

Our other trumpet man is Bob Bright. He is a loyal supporter and has played with the band only two years. He has traveled with us to all out of town jobs. He is an avid pilot.

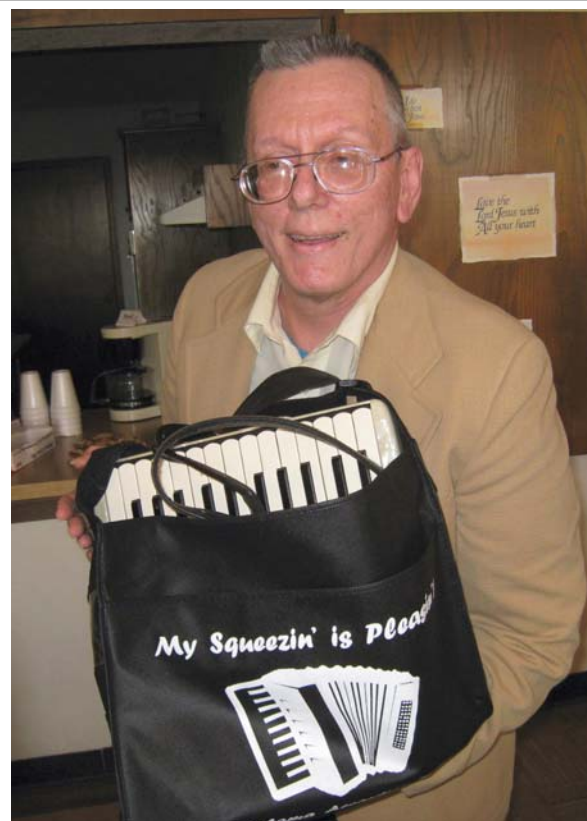
Dick Albreski is our premier accordion player and is known nationally for his talent and songs he has composed. He has played for many weddings and anniversaries around the state. He has also toured Texas and Pennsylvania giving demonstrations and judging students. He is the past-president of the Oklahoma Accordion Club. He also teaches accordion in Oklahoma City.

Contact miloshedeck@cox.net for booking information and for our \$10.00 CD.

The last few years we have taken member suggestions at the beginning of the new year. Here are suggestions given at the January Meeting. Please feel free to contact any board member if you would like to share your ideas. Consideration is given to every suggestion.

OAC Member Suggestions- Jan 2008

1. Theme- great idea, add ethnic day
2. Have different members play solos at the next meetings. Encourage those who have not played to perform.
3. Play for elementary schools
4. Have two concerts at the Jazz Lab every year
5. Have a food and drink volunteer for every meeting
6. Keep doing what works!
7. Reinstate jam sessions
8. Hand out next months jam music at the current meeting so beginners will have time to practice. Maybe announce them in the newsletter if the selections are from the jam packet.
9. Do one program at a public/private school—try to find a 5th grade music teacher who will cooperate.
10. Contact Boy Scouts (National) about establishing an Eagle Scout Merit Badge for accordion.
11. OAC be in a parade during a moderate temperature month- on a float.
12. Find a new meeting location.
13. Set aside one or more meetings where only beginners play.



Johnny Sakaly shows that the new OAC tote bag is large enough to hold his 48 bass accordion.



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Roland R. Lohmann
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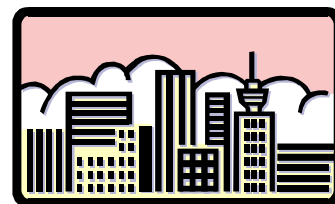
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10/07

Lookin' For A Home...



The search for a new suitable meeting location continues. It is inevitable that Prince Of Peace will close at some point in the future and the Club must find a good alternative. **The Board asks that members 'keep an eye out' for a good venue.** Good is qualified as : centrally located, large size room with proper acoustics, free/low rent, easy access, sufficient parking, etc. You get the idea!

Thus far the Teal Ridge retirement center has been eliminated due to the small size. Messiah Lutheran Church looks very promising. It is centrally located at NW Expressway, between Portland and I-44. The facility has an excellent meeting area with kitchen facilities, AND they are eager to build a relationship with the Oklahoma Accordion Club.

See photos next page.



Meeting areas at Messiah Lutheran Church: There are three possible meeting areas to choose from, any of which would serve our needs well. Each has a kitchen area, easy outdoor access, parking, and has a clean, welcoming atmosphere. There has already been interest expressed in the OAC by church membership. Pictures #1 and #3 are rooms of approximately the same size and are larger than they appear. The center picture is the "gym" and is quite a bit larger, but has a stage and the acoustics are OK. The Board will keep everyone informed as this and other possibilities develop.

MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

by Jackie MaShore

Everyone can appreciate the thought that goes into a NY's resolution.

What is my motivation?

How will it benefit me and others?

Can I realistically expect to **KEEP** it??

I have resolved to play SOMETHING at each monthly meeting. My motivation? In the beginning it was to keep me working on material outside of my band rehearsals and build confidence. Then I realized it might be an encouragement to others to play at meetings to see me make a few mistakes. I decided this was a tremendous benefit, indeed! I do expect to keep this resolution, and I **hope that many of you will join me in the ranks of those who struggle to play in front of others.** It takes a bit of courage to perform when we have such wonderful talent each meeting, but I have resolved that **my personal best is good enough...and yours is, too!**

GET UP AND PLAY!!!

MEETING THEMES

Each meeting of the OAC will have a THEME in 2008. It is hoped that members will get in the spirit and have fun with each idea. Thus far the schedule is:

FEBRUARY 10th- LOVE Ahh! The many aspects of love! And just in time for Valentine's Day. A tune you love, a song to someone you love, a song about a thing you love. And then there's heartbreak.....!

MARCH 9th- NO-PRO SUNDAY! No professionals or regular players! Only folks who seldom/never play and especially beginners will be the entertainment at this meeting. Start working on a piece now and you will be ready by the March meeting.

APRIL 13th- SHOW TUNES Can someone play the theme from Jaws? Moon River from Breakfast at Tiffany's? Oklahoma?

MAY 11th - ETHNIC: FRENCH & ITALIAN



Grandson Born with Accordion

It has happened again. Chad Preston Edwards, Jr., eighth grandchild of Roger and Jackie MaShore, was born wearing an accordion. This is the second of their grandchildren to enter the world with this fortunate anomaly, the first being born in June of 2006. "We try not to have 'favorites' among the kids, but when a child is born wearing an **ACCORDION**, well, it just makes them a little more special", said Roger. The new mother was heard to say she was "thankful it was only a small 12-bass". Little C.J. weighed in at 6lbs 5oz without the accordion.

January Meeting



Beth Henson congratulates Richard Butricks on winning the cash drawing.



Diana Richards, Roger Mashore, and Dick Albreski visit after the meeting.



Richard flashes a winning smile with Evie Albreski

Happy 2008!

Almost everyone made it into the group shot at the end of the meeting- some had to make an early exit. Aren't we a good looking bunch?!



We must all suffer for the sake of our music, but some of us more than others. Poor Dick Albreski spent an evening surrounded by beautiful girls when he played for the JARDIN de PARIS special on the Moulin Rouge at the Oklahoma Museum of Art last Saturday. The accordion was the perfect touch for the French theme. The dancers are from the Academy of Dance Art in Yukon.



**NEXT
MEETING
FEB 10th
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is the theme**

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6/07

Buddy Green on the Harmonica

<http://bentorah.multiply.com/video/item/191>

The harmonica, along with the accordion, is a member of the free reed family of instruments. OAC member Michael Yeager sent the above link to a most **amazing** performance of classical music on the harmonica. Well worth a listen!