

THE OKLAHOMA *SQUEEZINS*

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



Meeting info

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8, at the Messiah Lutheran Church, which is located at the intersection of NW Expressway and Portland Ave., just west of I-44 and Baptist Hospital, and across the street from Deaconess Hospital on Portland Ave. Festivities begin at 2:30, when the

orchestra rehearsal starts. At 3:30 our meeting begins, followed by individual and group performances, and then a "jam session" follows until 5:00 or 5:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to come, and everyone is encouraged to perform. If you are shy about playing alone, some of us will play with you.



The Prez sez

Bill Henson

As most of you already know, in January I took over the task of leading the Oklahoma Accordion Club (OAC) as your president. Our first board meeting occurred prior to the club orchestra practice, and I will try to speed these up in the future since we had to rush through orchestra practice.

One of the things that I have resumed is the jamming session. I personally missed them and, from the responses I've received during and after the meeting, the idea was well received. Actually, I may implement what occurred at our meeting, where everyone jammed on all three songs that I brought. It really sounded good.

We also have a theme for February. The theme will be love songs, so dust off your music and bring out a tune you would like to share with the club.

For those who missed the meeting, I will repeat a comment I made during the meeting. I'm not Dick Albreski (however, I am half-Polish, since my mother's name was Baronowski), I'm not as pretty as Jackie, and I'm not as sophisticated as Dan, so basically I'm just the Accordion Guy. So I will be leaning on the people I just mentioned and on the other officers, committee members, and club members to help me do the best job I can for the OAC.

When I joined the OAC several years ago, being so new to the instrument, I wasn't sure what this club was going to be like, but I have never regretted attending a single meeting. The only time I was uncomfortable was at our Christmas Party a month ago when the temperature dropped from 72 to 32 while we were inside. I knew it was getting cold, but I was not ready for what I felt when I walked outside. So, come to the meetings, get involved. I'm trying to come up with something for everyone.

We also have a request to play patriotic music at the Bethany First Nazarene Church on February 26. The OAC will be paid for our performance. It's not too late to get involved and help the OAC out.

In my next article, I'll tell you what I learned about superglue and heat.



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The Treasurer sez

Dick Albreski

When I complete this article, Evie and I will be starting to fix the “buffalo wings” for the Super Bowl game. Evie and I migrated west from Erie, PA, and so Pittsburgh (south of Erie about 110 miles) will always be a soft spot in our hearts. Yes, we are “Steeler fans,” but today, knowing how hard the Cardinals played to get where they are, we are just looking for a good game.

What does this have to do with the accordion? The Cardinals had a goal. At the beginning of the season, no one thought they would even come close to playing in the Super Bowl. The Cardinals proved everyone wrong. When was the last time you set a goal with your accordion habits? With OAC, there are so many opportunities to gain more

knowledge and even ambition. Ask a fellow member to practice a duet, or decide to play a solo at the next meeting. How about discussing with one of the OAC members a music or technique problem you might be having? Now, that’s ambition. Watch how fast you start practicing more when you do something to motivate yourself. If you change your practice habits, you can change your accordion playing. Don’t we start every New Year with a goal?

The OAC started this year with \$1,610.16. So far in January we spent an even \$163.00, and received from membership renewals an even \$200.00. At this point in time we have a checkbook balance of \$1,647.16. See you at February 8th meeting.



Smarty Pants accordion facts

- The word accordion comes from the German word "akkord," which means "agreement, harmony.”
- "Weird Al" Yankovic got his first accordion at age 7 from his parents, who promptly enrolled him in the Famous Zamour Academy of Music. His grandmother would subsequently pay him a dollar every time he came over to visit and play his accordion.
- On April 18, 1939, Joe Biviano, Abe Goldman, and Gene von Halberg became the first people in history to play the accordion in Carnegie Hall. Their

selection, but of course, was an eerie selection -- Bach's "Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor.”

- There used to be a game show/talent contest on television in the Soviet Union that was called "Play Your Accordion! “
- Stanley Dural, otherwise known as Buckwheat Zydeco, refused to play the accordion as a child because he considered it to be the instrument of his father and grandfather. He stuck to the piano and organ until the mid 1970s after playing organ for Clifton Chenier.

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January meeting

Beth Henson



*President Bill Henson presenting plaque
to Outgoing President Dan Orza*



*Bill presenting plaque to Outgoing Secretary
Max Gunter*



*Bill presenting plaque to Outgoing Vice
President Bob Mansfield*



Lois Roth and Johnny Sakaly



Dan Orza

January meeting

Beth Henson



Anne Lopez, Troy Jones, Bob Mansfield, Max Gunter, and Karen West



Bob Mansfield



Troy Jones



Anne Lopez, Troy Jones, and Bob Mansfield



Anne Lopez



Cirque du Soleil

Dick Albreski

Have you ever wondered what kind of future one could achieve with an accordion? I can relate how much additional pleasure and resource I have found with the accordion during my years in retirement. Below is an excellent opportunity for an accordion talent to spend the next two years living a life some folks dream about. Evie and I recently attended the Cirque du Soleil in Orlando, Florida. The show and the cast were truly amazing -- it is not just a circus. There is not one, not two, but as many as three different precision acts performing at the same time. Perhaps the best way to describe our experience is to encourage you to make plans to see the show. You will not be disappointed.

By the way, good luck if you decide to audition for the position.

Cirque du Soleil, the multidisciplinary show company combining circus arts, acrobatics, music, singing, dance, and theatre is urgently seeking an accordion player for its two new Las Vegas-based productions.

The contract is for two years and the show's casting department is now accepting submissions and applications before they choose applicants for an audition at a later date. The successful applicant will join Cirque du Soleil in September as the new production

prepares for its premier at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in December.

The new theatrical show combines acrobatic performances, martial arts, puppetry, multimedia, and pyrotechnics to illustrate the lives of a pair of twins who were once separated. The music is composed by René Dupéré, and the band is made up of seven musicians: keyboards and bandleader, keyboards and voice, guitar, drums and percussion, cello and voice, singer, and piano accordion.

Cirque du Soleil is looking for an accordionist who is a professional and versatile musician. The artiste also needs to have had academic training and extensive experience in jazz, pop, contemporary, and ethnic musical styles.

Owner Guy Laliberté got his start playing an accordion for tips on the streets of Montreal. Today his act is one of the most lucrative ventures in live entertainment. There's no escaping him. People flock to his show at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. In Las Vegas, where he operates in three different casinos, his shows have become Sin City's biggest draw. His five touring productions travel the globe, performing in such locations as Spain and Japan. His outrageous acts and colorful characters are celebrated in newspapers and magazines, and have even appeared on a reality TV show.



What do you call an accordionist with a beeper?

An optimist

What is the difference between an accordionist and a terrorist?

Terrorists have sympathizers.

National Accordion Association

National Accordion Association, Inc.

The Accordion Network!



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Welcome to the National Accordion Association Official web site!

2009 National Accordion Convention Theme:
"Networking in Action!" - It's all about the accordion

The 2009 Accordion Convention is sponsored in part by
The *Roland Road Show* by Roland Accordions
Concerto Accordions International

Seriously introducing "electronic and MIDI accordions" is a new concept for accordion conventions

[The 2009 National Accordion Convention Information is Now ON-LINE!](#)

[This gives you two chances to find our "2009 Convention" web site!](#)

The NAA is celebrating 22 years as a leader in accordion networking!

Since the new web site uses a Navigation bar instead of buttons, click on "Associations" to view the exciting event going on in the USA.

2009 National Accordion Convention Dates

March 11-15, 2009
Hyatt Hotel in Richardson, Texas
701 East Campbell at I-75 (Dallas area)

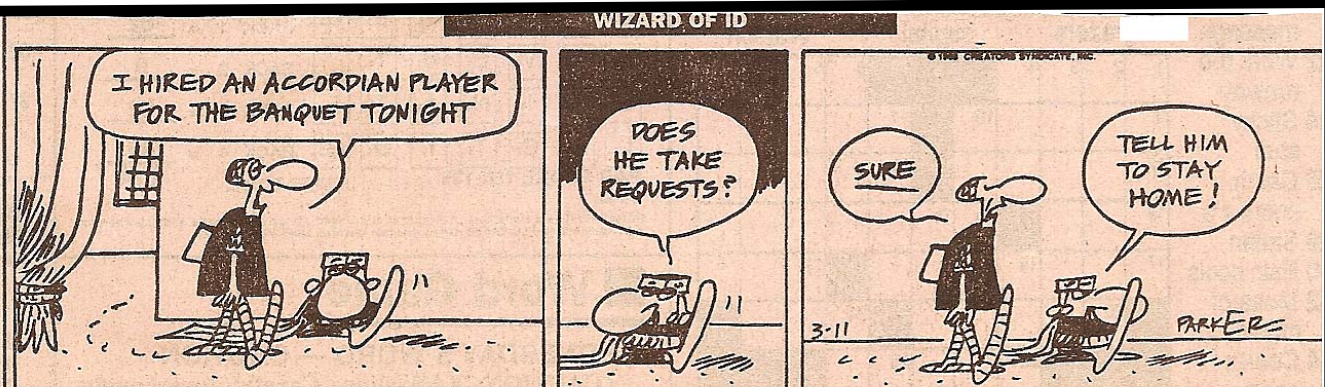
Same great location with a new name! Contracts and proposals are still pending, so specific convention details are not being announced yet.



The 2009 National Accordion Association's convention is coming up this March. Most of the NAA website (above) is up and running. Look over the full website:

<http://www.NationalAccordion.org>

Be sure to look for the convention material.





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