

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Know Thy Switches (Shifts)

Dick Albreski

TREBLE REGISTERS OF THE ACCORDION

Clarinet		
Bassoon		
Piccolo		
Violin		
Bandoneon		
Oboe		
Organ		
Harmonium		
Musette		
Master (Musette)		
Musette (with Piccolo)		
Master (Piccolo)		

Here is a handy guide to help you make shift changes in your music.

Through the ingenious way our accordions are designed, we can change octaves by simply pushing a shift on the treble grille.

Note the circle with 3 areas: top, middle, and bottom. The dots in each respective area of the circle represent a reed block. The top is for the "high" (smallest) reeds; the bottom is for "low" (largest) reeds; and the middle (you guessed it) is for the middle size reeds. If you look at the ORGAN shift, you will see that it is a combination of the piccolo (smallest reeds) and bassoon (largest reeds).



The Treasurer sez

Dick Albreski

Today, I am a new accordion man. After many hours, I finally completed the arrangements for the Youth Band Concert that will be played at the NAA meeting on Saturday, March 15th, 2009 at 2:00 pm in the Hyatt Hotel in Richardson, Texas.

Wow! What a bunch of words, but do they have meaning? What do they mean to you? Do they mean you will put them in your "Things to Do" calendar, and will you make plans to attend the concert? If your answer is "yes," then my words have meaning. If your answer is "no," all I can say is that the youths and I will miss you.

Our last OAC meeting really "rocked." There was a little bit of everything. The next March 8th meeting should be even better. There should be some "potentially great" young students performing. Don't miss the March meeting!

We have a balance in our checkbook of \$1,795.23. Our February income to date is \$195.00, and our expenses to date are \$46.93.



Why do some people automatically hate accordionists?
It saves time.

Meeting info

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 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.



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The Prez sez

Bill Henson

The second meeting of 2009 was a lot of fun. We had visitors from Tulsa -- all now members of the Oklahoma Accordion Club -- who visited us and played several songs for our meeting. It was a fun day with a lot of sharing of music. We will have to return the favor and visit them sometime when they have their meeting.

Feedback that I received from numerous members has left me with the impression that we are on the right track so far. I want our meetings to be fun, but we do have to take care of a little business along the way.

We have business-type cards made up for us to use to invite people to come to our meetings. Keep in mind, you do not have to play an accordion to be involved with the Oklahoma Accordion Club. If you have a friend who mentions that they used to play, invite them to come with you to a meeting. It might ignite an old love for something they have done in the past.

Last month I left you with a statement that this month I would tell you about superglue and heat. Well, believe it or not, that is what got me interested in the accordion.

I'm a car nut at heart, and one Sunday after church services my wife and I planned to go to an estate sale in Mustang. The reason I mentioned that I was a car nut was that there was a 1961 Chevy that was going to be auctioned off in the sale, and the car had belonged to a Chevy car club member. That meant that the car was probably in pretty good condition. It was, and even though I thought I would be lucky and no one would show up for the auction, I was wrong. There were a lot of people

who thought the same thing I did and were interested in the car. Needless to say, I did not get even close to getting involved in the purchase of the car.

However, they did have something that caught my eye, and at the same time it also caught my wife's eye. There was an accordion setting on a table, with all the other items for sale, in the bright sunshine on that beautiful 90-degree day (remember the 90-degree part). It was a 48-button accordion with "S. Mario" embossed on the front. As we got closer to the item, I mentioned to Beth that this might be something nice to have, and she said she had also looked at it and liked it. So we waited. And when the time came, we bid against a couple of other people, and won.

Later, when I was at home, I tried to play it, or I should say operate it, because I had no idea how it worked. After a couple of squeezes back and forth, I could hear objects rattling around inside. Remember the accordion setting in the 90-degree heat in the sun? What I have learned since that time is that, since I would not have liked sitting outside in the sun on that table in a 90-degree day, then the accordion wouldn't either.

The next day I was thinking about all the stuff rattling around, so I decided to take it apart to see what was wrong. Probably within 15 minutes I had it apart, and I could see all the objects lying around that I now know are called reeds. So, I carefully matched each one of them up to the reed blocks and superglued them back on. Word of caution, don't try this at home, this is not the proper way to repair a

Continued on page 9

February Meeting Minutes

Beth Henson

February 8, 2009

- Members jammed to love songs.
- Bill Henson presented new nametags to newlyweds Sid and Anne Lopez.
- Bill presented nametags to the following new members:
 1. Mike Dovalina
 2. Barbara Mahar
 3. Linda Adams
 4. Geraldine Sue Hickman
- OAC business cards are available for members to take for use in promoting the club.
- The orchestra will play patriotic music at the Bethany First Nazarene Church on February 26 at 5:30 pm for \$200 and a free meal for members who participate. Next Sunday afternoon, February 15, there will be orchestra practice at Dan Orza's home.
- Bob Mansfield brought the library of music to the meeting, as well as the club scrapbook, for members to peruse. Music may be signed out for personal use. The scrapbook will be at every meeting.
- Proposed changes to the bylaws were presented to the membership:
 1. The past president will be a voting member of the board, and will serve a two-year term.
 2. The treasurer needs to have been a member of the OAC for at least three years.
 3. A member in good standing must be present to vote, and dues must be current.
- A motion was made by Bob Mansfield and seconded by Dick Albreski to accept the changes as presented. The motion

carried. The president will maintain the official copy of the bylaws.

- Dan Orza has misplaced his copy of "Glow Worm." If anyone knows of its whereabouts, he would like to have it returned.
- Janet Haskin, Annie Johnston, Barbara Mahar, Geraldine Hickmann, and Linda Adams, members of the Tulsa Accordion Club, were present at our meeting and entertained us with "Anniversary Waltz," "American Cadet," "Fiddler on the Roof," and "Matchmaker".
- Janet Haskin and Dick Albreski played "The Harry O Polka," a song written by Dick.
- Annie Johnston inquired on behalf of Norm Seaton of the National Accordion Association if anyone would be interested in participating in a conductor's class at the convention in March. Two members indicated they might be interested.
- Roland Lohmann performed "Alice Blue Gown" and "Come Back to Sorrento."
- Bill Henson said that the OAC needs to start a new website, and asked if any members had experience building websites. Troy Jones indicated he does and volunteered to serve as the webmaster. He also agreed to serve as the club photographer. Bill and Troy will discuss the website and determine what options are available.
- Jimmie Woolly talked about the monthly Friday night art gallery walk in the Paseo. He will get more details about the event for members who might be interested in playing their accordions at the event.

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February Meeting

Troy Jones and Beth Henson



Dick Albreski holding his accordion maintenance workshop



The Tulsa Accordion Club performing



February Meeting

Troy Jones and Beth Henson



*Bill Henson with
newlyweds Anne and Sid Lopez*



Geraldine Hickman and Bill Henson



Dick Albreski and Janet Haskin



February Meeting

Troy Jones and Beth Henson



The OAC jamming



Linda Adams and Bill



Bob Mansfield



February Meeting

Troy Jones and Beth Henson



Roland Lohmann



Troy Jones



Bill and Mike Dovalina

February Meeting Minutes

Continued from page 4

- Bob Mansfield played and sang “Watch What Happens,” and performed “Duj Duj.”
- Karen West won the \$14.00 giveaway, and presented the money to the Tulsa Club to help cover their gas expenses in traveling to Oklahoma City.
- Troy Jones performed “O Sole Mio,” “It’s Now or Never,” and a medley of “If That Isn’t Love” and “The Love of God.”

- Dick Albreski held an accordion maintenance workshop.
- Members are invited to play marches at the March meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned.
- A few members remained after the meeting to jam.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Henson



You can't keep an accordionist down

Dick Albreski



A couple of years ago, Richard (Jim) Butricks, an OAC member, endured a heart bypass procedure. He completed rehabilitation as required, and all was going well until not to long ago when he was diagnosed with a serious gall bladder condition.

On President's Day, Jim once again underwent surgery. On that day, I learned from his wife, June, that Jim did it again. The surgeons got there in time, and Jim will be just fine.

As I said earlier, "you can't keep an accordionist down."



The Prez sez

Continued from page 3

reed. When I was finished and after making a few bends and adjustments to the linkage, after putting it together I gave it a squeeze, and I have to tell you that was one of the sweetest sounds I had ever heard.

I took a trip to a music store I had frequented when my children were in school because of their musical instruments, and asked if the store had any music to learn how to play the accordion. They informed me that they didn't, but the gentleman did know of a man who might be able to help me. I called this man, Mr. Dick Albreski, and met with him. He showed me that the instrument I had could sound much better than I had even imagined. so, I took him up on an offer to take a few lessons to learn how to play correctly from the start.

That was 2004. It is now 2009, and I'm still enjoying myself. I know most of you probably started when you were young and have played all your lives. I'm not as young, but I'm not afraid to learn something new. I just wish I had more time to apply myself, but I continue to work on this as much as I can.

So, don't get discouraged if you do not play well; you probably play a whole lot better than I do, but I don't let that stop me. I still continue to learn every day.

If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, please come. I'm amazed at all of our talented members. Our orchestra is getting ready to play a few performances, and in March we have the NAA in Richardson, Texas coming up again.

See you at the meeting?





Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership Form

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (____) _____ Birthday (mm/dd) ____/____/____ (optional)

Newsletter

I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the Oklahoma Squeezins, by:

- ☐ E-mail at address (above) or at _____
☐ Conventional post (snail mail)

Membership Dues

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

- ☐ Primary Membership is \$16.00 per year per individual.
☐ Family Membership is \$8.00 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership.
☐ Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$180.
☐ Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18.

Your Status (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Professional ☐ Semi-Professional ☐ Amateur ☐ Student
☐ Associate ☐ Hobby ☐ Teacher ☐ Repairman/Repairwoman
☐ Other (specify) _____

Make checks payable to: Oklahoma Accordion Club

Mail your membership dues TODAY to:

Oklahoma Accordion Club
c/o 7109 NW 102nd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73162

OAC Bio

As many of us know, Dick Albreski was the driving force behind the founding of our Oklahoma Accordion Club, and its first president. He was born and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Every member of the OAC knows not just Dick, but his lovely wife, Evie. Dick says that Evie has endured both him and the accordion over 50 years. And she's still as pretty as the day he married her, so the accordion must be good for everyone.

They have four children: Lynne Marie, Melodie Anne, Doug, and Rick, Jr., along with 10 grandchildren, two daughters-in-law, and two sons-in law. Music must run in the family, because two of Dick and Evie's grandchildren, Maddie and Brianna, play the accordion, too.

When Dick was six, his Dad asked him if he wanted to play the accordion. Because (at that age) he wanted everything, Dick said yes. According to



Dick, he loved his Dad for six weeks afterward, then hated him for 7-1/2 years after that because of being forced to practice.

Besides playing, Dick gives accordion lessons, and repairs and renovates the instrument. As he says, he plays everywhere, and sometimes even gets paid.

Currently, he plays in an Italian restaurant during the week, and plays Polish and

Czech music at the Czech Hall every other weekend. And besides the OAC, he is also an active member of the American Accordion Association.

Because of all his accordion activities, Dick still finds time for several hobbies, including hunting, fishing, travel, different restaurants, and good wine.

The old cliché holds true: you can't tell a book by its cover. Dick has depth that is not readily apparent, even when you know him.



Smarty Pants accordion facts

- On April 20, 1931, Cornell Smelser, backed by the Ohman-Arden Orchestra, became the first accordionist in history to play Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" on the radio.
- Professor Willard Palmer is credited with having the longest continuous master's degree program in accordion ever (it was at the University of Houston). Palmer also

appeared on the television show, "America's Funniest Videos" playing the "Beer Barrel Polka" on the accordion. It fell apart in the middle of the song.

- The first color documentary about accordion production was released in 1954.

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