

THE OKLAHOMA *SQUEEZINS*

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



March Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 14, 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.

THERE WILL BE NO OFFICER'S MEETING
AT 2:00 pm OR ORCHESTRA PRACTICE AT

2:30 pm. We will have just our normal meeting at 3:30 pm, 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

March is here as I write this and I'm looking forward to it. Hopefully, it will get warmer, and the warmer it gets, the warmer our hearts should become to play the accordion.

The National Accordion Association (NAA) get-together will be held on the same weekend as our club meeting. However, I will do my best to be back in town for those who want to attend our monthly meeting.

There will be no officer's meeting at 2:00 pm or orchestra practice at 2:30 pm. We will have just our normal meeting at 3:30 pm. This may work out well, because a lot of music is normally played during orchestra time, so everyone should be fresh and ready to play at 3:30 pm.

Since March is the month for wind and kites, I'm sure you can come up with some songs that deal with this time of the year. So, put your minds to it and bring us a tune that reflects how you feel as spring starts to arrive.



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The Treasurer Sez

Dick Albreski



There are times when an OAC meeting turns out to be one of the “special” meetings. The February meeting was one of those meetings. There was a lot of accordion playing and some very attentive folks. I had a chance to hear some of my Youth Band arrangements, thanks to Dan Orza and Bob Mansfield who joined in playing the various parts. As I reflect back on the meeting, I’m searching for something that was different from the other meetings. Then it dawned on me -- we were in a smaller area. Why does a tight room (the room wasn’t that tight, just smaller) seem to hold people closer together? I could elaborate on various theories, but there is no reason to do so. Let’s leave it that the meeting was great, except we missed those of you who didn’t attend.

Next month is the NAA Convention in Dallas. This year’s event promises to be bigger and better than ever. Our club will have five student accordionists perform in Dallas. I don’t think there are any other clubs that can say that. Our board unanimously approved five new OAC student members who will represent the OAC in Dallas

next month. They are Job Elliott, Hannah Braden, and the Smith sisters, Bria, Becca, and Maddie.

These students are working double-time on the band parts and their own solos for this big event. For those who cannot attend the Dallas event, our students will do a concert for the members here in OKC at either the April or May meeting.

The NAA meeting is more than a bunch of accordionists playing in the hotel halls. It’s a chance to see and hear some of the best accordionists in the world, a chance to gain knowledge in the many workshops, and the opportunity to visit with accordion manufacturers and dealers. Evie and I learned many years ago that there is much more than just accordions. There are some darn nice people who share a common interest. We look forward to being there with folks who are now as close to us as family.

I sincerely hope that if you have not made an NAA meeting, you start to consider doing it in the near future.

Our club is on good financial ground. We spent \$70.63 in February, but our income was \$182.00. See you at the March meeting.



If you drop an accordion, a set of bagpipes, and a viola off a 20-story building, which one lands first?
Who cares?

What's the difference between an Uzi and an accordion?

The Uzi stops after 20 rounds.

What do you call ten accordions at the bottom of the ocean?

A good start.

What's a bassoon good for?

Kindling for an accordion fire.

Golden Rules for Ensemble Playing

J.W. Swing

Golden Rules For Ensemble Playing

by J.W. Swing

1. Everyone should play the same piece.
2. Stop at every repeat sign and discuss in detail whether to take the repeat or not.
3. If you play a wrong note, give a nasty look to one of your partners.
4. Keep your fingering chart handy. You can always catch up with the others.
5. Carefully tune your instrument before playing. That way you can play out of tune all night with a clear conscience.
6. Take your time turning pages.
7. The right note at the wrong time is a wrong note (and vice-versa).
8. If everyone gets lost except you, follow those who get lost.
9. Strive to get the maximum NPS (note per second). That way you gain the admiration of the incompetent.
10. Markings for slurs, dynamics and ornaments should not be observed.
They are only there to embellish the score.
11. If a passage is difficult, slow down. If it's easy, speed it up.
Everything will work itself out in the end.
12. If you are completely lost, stop everyone and say, "I think we should tune."
13. Happy are those who have not perfect pitch, for the kingdom of music is theirs.
14. If the ensemble has to stop because of you, explain in detail why you got lost.
Everyone will be very interested.
15. A true interpretation is realized when there remains not one note of the original.
16. When everyone else has finished playing, you should not play any notes you have left.
17. A wrong note played timidly is a wrong note. A wrong note played with authority is an interpretation.

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February Minutes

Beth Henson

Minutes Oklahoma Accordion Club February 14, 2010

- President Bill Henson called the meeting to order. There were 14 members and one guest in attendance.
- Today is the last day to make reservations at the hotel for the NAA Convention. The Sunday following the convention is the regular meeting date of the OAC. Bill plans to be back in Oklahoma City in time for the meeting. That is also the weekend we go to Daylight Saving Time.
- Bill will get with Jackie Mashore to confirm the date of the NAMI event at Stars and Stripes Park. OAC members have been invited to perform at the walk again.
- The tenth anniversary of the OAC is in June. A committee was formed at the last meeting to plan a celebration. There was no report today.
- Diana Richard has done a lot of great work on the website.

- Dick Albreski reported he will take five youths from Oklahoma City to the NAA -- Hannah Brennan, Job Elliott, and Dick's three granddaughters.
- Dick presented tips on how to play in an ensemble. He said that they will be published in the newsletter.
- Dick performed "The Galemignon Waltz."
- The trio of Dick, Dan Orza, and Bob Mansfield performed original scores written by Dick for the youth to perform at the NAA: "Melody of Love" and "The Accordion March."
- Dan has two accordions for sale if anyone is interested.
- Karen West and Bob performed Brahms' third movement theme.
- Bob performed "Gozak," "La Zingana," and "Crikos Post."
- Dick and Bob discussed tone chambers and the differences between accordions.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Henson



Bumper Stickers:

1. Play an accordion -- go to jail!
2. Three rows and you're out!

Minimum safe distances between street musicians and the public:

1. Violinist: 25 feet
2. Bad Violinist: 50 feet
3. Tone Deaf Guitar Player who knows 3 chords: 75 feet
4. 15 year-old Electric Guitar Player with Nirvana fixation: 100 feet
5. Accordionist: 60 miles

RUMORS

The Texas Accordion Association may change its meeting date from March 15-18, 2001 to March 8-11, 2001. Traditionally this meeting is always around St. Patrick's day and that respective weekend. I wonder if our own Oliver Delaney had anything to do with the date change? Also, The Accordion Teachers Guild meeting and competition may go to San Antonio, Texas in July 2001. The above are both very good meetings and you should plan to attend. The Accordion News will keep you updated. **How about planning a group trip?**

Here's some thoughts on practicing:

In order to be productive when you practice, you have to want to practice. It's an attitude thing. I have found there are several incentives that help me want to practice.

- 1) Try to practice at the same time every day. This starts a habit that is hard to break.
- 2) Limber up with some favorite tunes before you start scales and finger exercises. This helps you feel better and makes those arpeggios seem easier.
- 3) Try practicing in front of a mirror. You will be surprised on how many frowns' turn into smiles when you watch yourself play. Besides, you should practice **presentation** as well as technique.
- 4) Isolate your practice to the difficult areas of an exercise or music manuscript. After the difficult parts are mastered, the rest is a piece of cake.
- 5) Add a level of difficulty to your practice. Don't become complacent playing Magnante's 'ACCORDIANA' when you could be starting on his arrangement of 'MALAQUENA.'
- 6) Set goals in your practice. Tell yourself **" I VILL PLAY FOR DE FOLKS AT DE NEXT OKLAHOMA ACCORDION CLUB MEETING."**

As we announced in our last issue of the O.A.N., June was the National Accordion Awareness month. Did you do something to promote our favorite instrument? Tell the folks about your experience at the August meeting.

HELPI! This is your Newsletter. The best way to keep it going is for you to keep us posted on all future accordion events. We don't care if you plan to stand outside your friends bedroom window in the middle of the night playing "MY BUDDY", we want to know. Let's make the August Newsletter three pages long!

WE MADE NATIONAL ACCORDION NEWS. Reprinted from the ATG Bulletin, Summer Issue, June 2000

On June 4th, a group of local accordion players met in Oklahoma City to discuss the feasibility of starting an accordion club. To date, this has never happened but now history has changed. The group has unanimously agreed to continue on and even adopted two unofficial rules. First, there will be a next meeting and second, the accordion will always be featured.

Amy Jo Sawyer, ATG Newsletter Editor

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- ☐ E-mail at address (above) or at _____
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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):

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