

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

March Birthdays



Happy Birthday Wishes to
the following OAC members:

Dan Hanson (3/28)

Janet Haskin (3/8)

Jackie Mashore (3/2)

Becky Rickard (3/25)

Kay Stout (3/27)



March Meeting

2:00 pm	Orchestra Rehearsal
3:00 pm	Business Meeting
3:15 pm	Individual and Group Performances
5:00 pm	Jam Session (see page 4)

The November meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 11, at 3:00 pm**. As usual, the meeting will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church, located on the southeast corner of Northwest Expressway and Portland in Oklahoma City.

Enter the parking lot from Portland and use the south church entrance.

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.

After the individual and group performances, we will have a Jam Session using the music on page 4 if this newsletter. All are welcome to join in on the fun!



The Treasurer Sez

Evie Albreski

Who's on first, who's on second? Do you recall the old Bud Abbott/Lou Costello routine? There has been some shuffling going on in our Board of Directors, and I feel confident that we now know who is on first and who is on second. Dick is now the president, and Bob Mansfield is our vice president. Both are seasoned members who want the OAC to grow in membership and exposure.

I think last February's meeting was a good example of future meetings. Our Youth Group performed and, as expected, played great! More individual members performed. The OAC Orchestra sure made Valentine's Day better with their selection of appropriate tunes. In fact, we had less time do all that we could have done. Now, I call that a perfect meeting.

I have the honor of welcoming two new members to our Club: Magdalena Brantley and Robbie Rattan will now wear OAC badges. Welcome to the OAC.

We are at 50% of last year's membership, but that's not good enough. We need all the support we can get so we can implement programs that will reward the membership. If you have not renewed your membership, please do.

We are meeting expenses, and income now shows that we have \$1,394.67 to date in our checkbook. My sincere *thanks* to those that continue to support the OAC.

March will be another great month. I know the March 11 meeting will be entertaining plus, right after that, Dallas and the NAA. Dick mentioned that our Club has one of the highest membership attendances at the NAA. That proves our members love and support the accordion. I'll see you all at both functions.



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The Prez Sez

Dick Albreski

Last month, I was your vice president, and today, because I did such a good job, I am now your new president. Well, it sounds good, but it didn't happen that way. Yes, I am your president, and I will do my best to gain your approval. I'm also excited about our vice president, Bob Mansfield, who knows how the OAC was started and how we must continue. We now have a very dedicated and hard working BOD. BOD is short for Board of Directors. This abbreviation became very popular recently, and is a convenient way to save words.

Do you know what Albini, Sanders, Simon, Maschler, Thunander, Semichasnaya, and Bratkovich have in common? If you don't, you should! They are some of the many accordion artists who will be performing at the National Accordion Association meeting March 15 to 17, 2012. This year there will also be three adult bands that you can join. There will be numerous workshops that will answer questions you haven't even thought about. There will be manufacturers with accordions (and related accessories) that you have never thought of playing. At this meeting, you can experience the TODAY in our accordion world. There's still time, so think about it if you haven't already registered. You can go to the National

Accordion Association 2012 website for more information. If you don't support the NAA, we may lose an opportunity.

World Accordion Day will be held on May 6, 2012. May 6 was chosen because it was on that date in 1829 when the accordion was patented in Vienna. This is an international promotion for all accordionists and related groups to do something special to promote the accordion. Here's an opportunity for us. Yes, all of us. What are your individual thoughts on how our Club could celebrate this day? Speak up.

I can't wait until our next meeting. I'm a little biased. I told you earlier that I was directing the Adult Fun Band at the NAA. Thanks to some students and friends, at the March 11 meeting we will give a preview concert of the arrangements I have prepared. We may not be as rehearsed as the OAC Orchestra under the direction of Dan Orza, but we will try. Come and give us a listen. Quoting the words of deceased member Fred Onken, "We don't make mistakes, that's the way we play it."

As president, I want to know what you would like for the OAC. If you don't tell me, I will never know. See you all at the March 11 meeting.



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
c/o 7109 NW 102nd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73162

Name _____ Date _____
Street _____
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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 \$16 per year per individual | ☐ Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$180 |
| ☐ Family Membership is \$8 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 |

Jam Session Music

Moderato

EASTER PARADE



A Beautiful Accordion

Jackie Mashore

We recently found ourselves in Nashville with a free evening and with one first-choice for the best music in town in a city of good music: *The Station Inn*, where friend and accordionist Jeff Taylor plays with *The Time Jumpers* in the house band. *The Station Inn* is famous for its unique band in which each member is an outstanding working professional and on any night, a famous Nashville “star” may sit in on the spur of the moment. The night we were there, Vince Gill sat in, and his wife Amy Grant joined the audience.

We caught up with Jeff during the intermission, and he eagerly talked about his newest accordion with the same excitement that all of us experience when we get a new instrument. We’ve all been there. However, few of us will experience the custom beauty that Jeff has for his professional use, a hand made Pietro Mario. These accordions are unique in



wood quality, reed quality, and varnish.

Esthetically, it is a no frills instrument, only solid wood with an exquisite varnish. No color or sparkle. Perhaps it sounds plain, but the fine quality of the carefully chosen wood, mahogany, and walnut, is stunning, and the accordion is every bit a piece of art. Much like you would find beauty in a well-crafted piece of hand carved furniture, these accordions have that same exquisiteness.

You can see the Pietro Mario wood accordions at their website: <http://www.pietromario.ie/home.html>

Also, Jeff recently returned from touring with world-renowned entertainer Elvis Costello. It was exciting to know an accordion was an integral part of this prestigious show.

Here’s a photo of Jeff with his new accordion and Elvis.



Frank Marocco

Rita Davidson

Frank Marocco died March 3 in Los Angeles at the age of 81. He was born in Joliet, Illinois on January 2, 1931, and grew up in Waukegan, a Chicago suburb. He studied classical accordion for nine years in the Chicago area, and began to learn the accordion at the age of seven when his parents enrolled him in a six-week trial program.

His first teacher was George Stefano, who greatly inspired him. Frank studied with him for nine years. Frank was trained in the classics but was encouraged to explore other areas. He learned clarinet, piano, harmony, and theory. He began his professional career playing in clubs and hotels all over America with a trio, which he organized at age 18.

Frank won first place in a national music contest and performed with the Chicago Pops Orchestra at Chicago's Soldier's Field. He then formed a trio touring the Midwestern states, and met his future wife, Anne, in Indiana. They decided to live in the Los Angeles area, where they raised their three

daughters.

He became one of the most recorded accordionists in the world. He is well known for his recordings of film music with a long list of composers: John Williams, Quincy Jones, Elmer Bernstein, Michele Le Grand, Henry Mancini, and dozens of others. He has also played with some of the best jazz musicians in America and Europe. His passion was jazz, and he played to huge audiences all over the world.

Marocco was a modest person, even when celebrated throughout the musical world. He was generous with his time and talent. Frank once said, “Although I’ve made a comfortable living, my primary goal has never been to make a lot of money. It has been to be the best I could possibly be. This takes integrity, hard work, and dedication. You must have respect for what you do.”

We will continue to forever learn from Frank. He touched so many lives in such positive ways. Frank Marocco will be missed by all.

February Meeting Minutes

Lois Roth

OAC MINUTES

February 12, 2012 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by our new president, Dick Albreski.

- Dick announced that our Youth Group has been working very hard and will play for us today.
- There were 26 members and three guests present.
- The club now has 34 paid members.
- The checkbook balance is \$1,367.27. This amount includes \$51.75 in donations received today from those taking music from Dave Mannan's collection.
- The Board has approved giving \$100 each to three families to help with expenses for five students going to the NAA Convention in Dallas.
- The OAC bylaws will be reviewed, and changes will be addressed soon.
- At our next meeting on March 11, several members of the Adult Fun Band will give a preview of the convention selections. The complete band will play these songs at their concert in Dallas on Thursday, March 15.
- The National Accordion Convention is March 15, 16, and 17. We were reminded to make reservations ASAP.
- Anne Lopez said that Annie Johnston, one of our Tulsa members, has had surgery, and that she will send Annie a card from the Club.
- Karen West volunteered to help design a new OAC business card.
- Bob Mansfield was approved and unanimously voted in as our vice president. We appreciate his willingness to fill the office.
- A program of fine accordion music followed the business meeting:
 - Dick began our Valentine's Day show with "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." Dick said it was a request from Billy Henson to Beth.

- The Smith Sisters, Rebecca, Bria, and Madeline, played "This Is Our Song For You."
- Becka soloed with "On Your Mark."
- Bria and Maddie played "Annie in the Cabbage Patch."
- Hannah Braden and Job Elliott's duet was "Clarinet Polka."
- Job performed "Sharpshooters March."
- Hannah performed "Autumn Nicole" by Dick Albreski.
- Luke Adams played a lively solo titled "Accordion Jump."
- Then Bob Mansfield and Win Blevins performed for us:
 - "Adio Querida" (a duet)
 - The "Theme from Antony and Cleopatra" (a solo by Win)
 - "Longa Farafaza" and "Si Tu Partais" (solos by Bob)
- Frank Gesinski played "Happy Birthday" to Evie Albreski. He followed with "True Love" from *High Society*.
- Roland Lohmann played his red accordion and sang "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You." He shared his happy memories of seeing Minnie Pearl with the Grand Ole Opry and hearing that song.
- Anne Lopez added three love songs: "Love Me Tender" (with Bob Mansfield on vocal), "The Anniversary Song," and "Returning Dreams."
- Dick treated us to "Un Valse Musette" and "La Tipica," a Mexican polka.
- The program concluded with the Orchestra (Dan Orza, Karen West, and Lois Roth) playing a Valentine's Day medley, including "I Love You Truly," "I've Told Every Little Star," and "That's Amore."
- Diana Richard took pictures as people performed.
- Piano and organ books and sheet music from Dave Mannan's collection were on display for members to view and to take with them. The remaining music will be displayed at the March meeting. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

We all enjoyed this great music-filled meeting!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, Secretary



February Meeting Photos

Diana Richard





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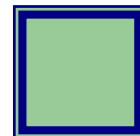
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