

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezein'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

The Treasurer Sez

Dick Albreski

The NAA Convention is, in my opinion, one of the best accordion events in the U.S.A. This year's convention proves my statement. I can only encourage those in our club who have not attended an NAA convention to put it on your "things to do list."

Our club members were very visible at the NAA, and our youth members were the best! I know I am being biased when I say our youth were the best, but they were. As conductor of the NAA Youth Band, I truly enjoyed the opportunity to work with such talented young musicians. Job Elliott and Hannah Braden were my section leaders. They not only played an assigned part, they learned all parts and were ready to switch when I asked them. Job Elliott played the "Honky Tonk Polka" without a mistake. Hannah Braden played "Sparkling" with such precision and expression that she captured the complete attention of the audience. The Smith sisters, Maddie and Bria, worked twice as hard to make this meeting. They learned their band music in a grade higher than their experience. Their duet was perfect, and they even added humor when Bria announced she would check the Google translator on her iPod to find the English name of their Polish duet. And the star, Becca Smith, played "Mary Had a Little Lamb" right into the hearts of the audience. No one could have played it better, especially when you are only four years old. The bad news is that some of you missed them in Dallas. The good news is that our KIDS will perform at the next meeting.

I am your treasurer and, in addition, I am your resident accordion technician who, when necessary, will speak out about some habits that are not good for accordionists.

Recently, I repaired a nice accordion with treble switch problems. I can't say for certain how the damage occurred on this particular instrument, but it did bring to mind how it might have occurred. DO NOT PUT MUSIC ON TOP OF YOUR ACCORDION IN THE CASE! THE CARRYING CASE IS MEANT TO CARRY YOUR ACCORDION ONLY -- NOT YOU'RE MUSIC! We are all guilty of this bad habit! Well, now you know.

I missed the March meeting because of logistics. I couldn't be where I wanted to be. I also missed the opportunity to meet our new members Jocelyn Perderson and Phil Scibelli. I do join with all of you in welcoming them to the OAC.

Again, this month we will show a newsletter page from the beginning of our club. As you know, this is our tenth anniversary year, and we are planning to make it a "special anniversary." Watch for more details.

On the date of the March meeting, our expenses were \$265.73, and our income was \$204.00, which gave us a checkbook balance of \$1,558.97.

Don't miss the April 11th meeting -- it will be one of the best!



April Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 11 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.



March Meeting Minutes

Beth Henson

Minutes March 14, 2010

President Bill Henson called the meeting to order. In attendance were 13 members, including two new members who joined today. The new members are Phil Scibelli and Jocelyn Pedersen, both of whom played the accordion when they were younger and have now decided to pull their accordions from the closet and resume playing. Welcome to the OAC!

Bill reported on the NAA convention in Dallas this weekend, and on the various workshops that he attended.

Bob Mansfield shared a great article about himself that appeared in *The Norman Transcript* this weekend, highlighting his multi-faceted life as accordionist and hairdresser, as well as many other areas. The article can be seen at:

<http://normantranscript.com/features/x1491882962/Accordian-to-him>.

We all agreed that he doesn't look like he's approaching his 70th birthday, and he says that he believes his music keeps him young. We wish you a happy birthday, Bob, with many more to come!

Karen West announced that she is retiring on May 29. Congratulations, Karen!

We were reminded of the OAC website: www.okaccordions.com.

We were entertained by our talented musicians:

- Anne Lopez performed "When Irish Eyes Are Shining," "How Are Things in Glocca Morra," "Danny Boy," and "Irish Washerwoman."
- Roland Lohmann performed "My Heart Is Weary" by G. Paisiello, "Under the Double Eagle" by J.H. Wagner, and "Waltz Musette" by Jo Bash and E. Bash.
- Bob Mansfield performed "Cpque (Hearth)," "Brahmsiana Dance," "Domino/Tango I," and "Pango Polka."
- The youth who performed at the convention did very well. Youth from our club were the Smith girls, Hannah Braden, and Job Elliott.
- The Las Vegas Accordion Convention will be held on November 1-5.



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2010 NAA Convention

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2010 NAA Convention

Dan Orza



OKLAHOMA ACCORDION NEWS for AUGUST

Did we have a meeting on August 6th or **DID WE HAVE A MEETING ON AUGUST 6th, 2000!**

From eight (8) members at our our first meeting, we grew to twenty-four (24) members. Folks, that's wonderful.

Where do I start? First, lets get the business out of the way. Until we can find a home for our meetings, we will meet at homes of those members who can support a large group. Also, the first Sunday of every month will be our meeting date.

BEFORE I FORGET! THE FIRST WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER IS THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND. A RANDOM CHECK OF THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS DETERMINED THERE WILL BE VERY FEW IN ATTENDANCE, THEREFORE WE ARE EXTENDING THE SEPTEMBER MEETING TO THE NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDERS.

Now back to business. We will continue the name of the club as the **OKLAHOMA ACCORDION CLUB.**

One of our primary goals is to unite all of Oklahoma into our club and folks it has started, we had representation from Tulsa at the last meeting. Frank Gesinski from Tulsa attended our last meeting and we all welcome Frank to the club.

Folks, we have to find a home for our meetings. We have tripled our attendance and that is very positive but as we grow, we will have to have a meeting place that we can plan on every month. We can't continue to meet in members homes. I respectfully request that each of you look around and see if you can't find a suitable place for our meetings. Hopefully, a place that would charge little or no rental fee because if we have rental expenses, that will have to come out of increased membership dues.

Quoting our Communications Director, Quin Henderson," everyone truly enjoyed the fine variety of beautiful music, food and fun" at the last meeting. For those of you who couldn't make the last meeting, we missed you.

The accordion music was terrific. Bob Mansfield played Brubeck tunes better then Brubeck and also some of his own compositions. We are truly blessed in having an accordion player like Bob that allows us to share in his talent.

The 'FABULOUS TRIO' (just kiddin) comprised of Bob Mansfield, Dave Mannan and Dick Albreski, played tunes from the Sound of Music and a traditional polka. According to band master, Dave Mannan, you will hear more of this group plus he wants to make it larger, soooo....folks get your accordions ready to join a band.

Kay Stout joined in as a soloist and got our adrenalin going with her arrangement of LADY of SPAIN. This gal can play and we want to hear more from her in the meetings to come.

Frank Gesinski, our Tulsa member, started us toe tappin' with his melodic arrangements, including one polka that he composed. Frank really brought us a gift from Tulsa with his accordion playing.

Thanks to Dave Mannan for the educational up-date on the bass accordion. This was a good lesson for some who had never seen or heard a bass accordion. Dave plays well on any type of accordion.

The accordion was truly king at the last meeting and the performers were all the **best you can get.**

Here's an article submitted by Dave Mannan concerning accordion repairs.

1. When you have a real stubborn accordion repair problem like keys sticking, leaking air bellows, worn out, out of tune, etc., give your accordion two sharp kicks, first with the right foot and then the left.
2. If that doesn't work, hit it with a hammer.
3. If you are still having problems, use a bigger hammer.
4. Second to last resort, curse at it lovingly.
5. Last resort, get yourself a new accordion.

You know Dave is sharing humor and any one who performs the above acts on any accordion is expelled from the accordion club immediately!



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) _____

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