

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

April Meeting

The April meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10. As usual, the meeting will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church, 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. 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.

Oklahoma Accordion Club Meeting Agenda for Sunday, April 10, 2011

2:00 pm	Orchestra Practice
3:00 pm	Board Meeting
3:30 pm	General Membership Meeting



NAA

Dan Orza



The Treasurer Sez

Evie Albreski

March was one exciting accordion month. The National Accordion Convention in Dallas was one of the best, and our own OAC meeting that followed was just as great.

The NAA is not just a great occasion for accordion enthusiasts, but also a chance to visit old friends and meet some new ones. Dick was so proud of the Youth Orchestra. All students performed above expectations. Our own kids did a super job. Job Elliott and Hannah Braden worked with Dick for months on the music for this event. The Smith sisters also showed that the accordion is one of their best friends. Thank you Oklahoma students.

Our friend, Laura Niland of the San Antonio Accordion Club wrote a great article on the Youth Orchestra that you will see elsewhere in this month's Squeezins.

We were saddened to learn that Benny Layton, one of the Roland accordion performers who performed at this years NAA meeting, lost his life in a tragic motorcycle accident on March 26. He was a very talented conjunto style accordionist who will be missed. Our prayers and condolences go out to his family.

We still have not hit the jackpot with membership renewals, but we are getting close. If you haven't renewed your membership to date, please do so as soon as possible.

With all the expenses that we incurred from the start of this year, we still show a balance of \$430.74 in the checkbook at this point in time. We are in the black, but a couple more renewals would really help at this time. Renewals are our income.

See you all at the April 10 meeting. Bring your accordion and a friend. Even enemies soften up with music.

Evie



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TREASURER

Evie Albreski

7109 NW 102nd Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73162

405/721-0564

evrich@swbellnet

SECRETARY

Lois Roth

Edmond, OK

Roth6454@gmail.com

HISTORIAN/LIBRARIAN

Diana Richard

Edmond, OK

Diana.L.richard@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Henson

Mustang, OK

MustangBilly@cox.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Frank Gesinski

8035 South Irvington

Tulsa, OK 74136-8404

918/492-1715

OKAccordionClub@sbcglobal.net

WEBMASTER

Diana Richard

Diana.L.richard@gmail.com

WEBSITE

<http://www.okaccordions.com/>

March Meeting

Lois Roth

March 2011 Meeting Oklahoma Accordion Club Minutes

The meeting was held on Sunday, March 20. President Oliver Delaney presided. Twenty-four members and seven guests attended.

Please take note that the schedule for our next meeting day will be:

- Orchestra rehearsal from 2:00 to 3:00 pm
- Board meeting 3:00 to 3:30 pm
- General meeting starting at the usual time, 3:30 pm

Dick Albreski introduced our very talented youth group:

- Bria and Maddie Smith played "Deyainu," "Annie in the Cabbage Patch," and "Twinkies March"
- Becca played "Becca Main Stage"
- Hannah Braden and Job Eliot teamed up for "American Cadet March," "El Relicario," and "Let's Dance the Polka"
- Hannah played a solo, "Autumn Breezes by Rossini"
- Job's solo was his own arrangement of "Tico Tico"

- The finale was Job and Dick playing "Accordion Jump"

Dan Orza instructed a group of players on bellows shakes. The piece used to demonstrate was "Glow Worm."

Bob Mansfield performed four selections: "Danny Boy" (a contemporized version), "Rhythm and Blues," "Shadows of the Human Heart" by Wes Harris, and "Quizas, Quizas, Quizas."

Oliver told us the history of "Danny Boy," aka "Londonderry Air."

Frankie and Eleanor Martinez treated us to several button box and guitar pieces, including "Cómo Te Llamas," "Tragos Amargos," and "Viva Seguin."

The orchestra closed the meeting with a medley of Irish songs.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, April 10. The theme is "Spring-plus-Easter."

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth



OAC at First Presbyterian



Bio Sign

This month we would like to paint a brief portrait of our 2011 president, Oliver Delaney. He may not look like a leprechaun, but Oliver was born and raised in Dublin -- no, not Ohio -- Ireland.

Surprisingly, like our past president, Bill Henson, Oliver didn't start playing the accordion until he grew up and was mature enough at 51, and he claims to be a closeted accordionist. Nevertheless, he has been very active in the OAC and was (and is) a charter member when it was founded in 2000.

Clare has been Oliver's better half for 45 years



and, she too, is a musician who plays the piano. What a duet!

As you may know from previous meetings, Oliver is a big fan of Irish culture and dancing. Maybe he can lead us to that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow -- if we're nice to him.

When he's not dancing a jig, Oliver keeps busy restoring British cars and collecting rare books.

As with all of our officers, besides being very interested in the accordion, Oliver is a versatile and many-talented

individual. Hopefully, this little bio will help you to know him better.



Accordion Cart

Diana Richard



At the NAA convention, I saw several accordionists using this cart, that you can see in the link below. Since I'm the Roadie, and a Roadie's life is so hard, I immediately went to Home Depot and got one. It's great!

http://www.homedepot.com/h_d1/N-5yclv/R-202204471/h_d2/ProductDisplay?langId=-1&storeId=10051&catalogId=10053

It has big wheels and a sturdy base, holds a lot of weight, and folds up to a very compact size. I see so many members carrying accordions or using those flimsy luggage carts that spill the accordion when you take it up a curb. I did a quick search on the Internet (brand name Magna Cart), but it looks like the one at Home Depot is about the cheapest.



Accordions Around Town

We are are trying to track and announce when and where any of our members is playing, or any other accordionist is playing. We rely on you, our members, to give us this information. Once you e-mail us the info, Diana Richard will publish it on our website, and we will also publish it in the Squeezins.

However, after our initial submissions, **we have received no response from you members**. If you wish to continue this feature you need to support it. Please send us your submissions by the end of the month.

We will need as much of the following information as you can give us:

1. Date(s) and Time(s)
2. Who is playing the accordion

3. What is the event/kind of event
4. Where is it taking place
5. Admission fee
6. Phone number for more info.

If you do know of any of our members playing somewhere, or of other accordionists entertaining somewhere in our area, please send the information to:

OKAccordionClub@sbcglobal.net

before the end of the month, because that is the deadline for submissions to the newsletter. Diana will also put the information on our website.



Q: My accordion is a half step lower than the other instruments in my band. The other musicians keep complaining. What do I do?

A: Undoubtedly, you've thrown your lot in with a group of unappreciative people with little or no talent. However, if you wish to humor them, walk several hundred yards away from the group. At the beginning of your solo, run rapidly toward them while playing your accordion. The Doppler effect will make it seem that you're in tune with them.

Q: My spouse has threatened to move out due to my practice schedule. I usually play from 3:00 to 5:30 am. How can I save my marriage?

A: You can't. You really should be practicing for longer than that. We would suggest starting earlier, perhaps about 1:00 am.

Q: What's the difference between a chainsaw and an accordion?

A: A chainsaw can be tuned.

Our Youngest Member



Youth Orchestra at the NAA

Dick Albreski and Laura Niland



The Dick Albreski Youth Orchestra was a true inspiration. Albreski has many students in Oklahoma, and brought several to Texas to show off their talents.

There were nine students performing. Maddie and Bria Smith started the program with their arrangement of the tune "Twinkies."

The first group was a quintet of four girls and one boy: Hannah Braden (Teacher: Dick Albreski), Demi Wolford (Age: 17; Teacher: Greg Klugiewicz), Becca VanderVate (Joel Persson), Flora Hollifield (17; Greg K.), and Job Elliott (Dick A.). The quintet played "El Relicario," and did a great job. Abigail Bingham (8; Greg K.) played "Here We Go," smiling all the way.

Becca Smith (5; Dick A.), who is also Albreski's granddaughter, demonstrated superb technique with a tune taught by her grandpa. The young trio of Bria Smith (Dick A.), Maddie Smith (Dick A.), and Abigail Bingham (Greg K.) played "Annie," and "The Cabbage Patch."

Each of the young musicians showed great composure throughout their performance. Joe Elliott belted out his own beautiful arrangement of "Tico Tico." Hannah Braden played "Autumn Breezes" from memory, and did a beautiful job. The duet also played "Let's Dance the Polka," a tribute to Palmer-Hughes. Flora Hollifield played "La Spagnola" with superb execution. Becca VanderVate played a lively version of the "Grasshopper Polka."

The Youth Orchestra was absolutely wonderful. The audience gave them a well-deserved standing ovation. We look forward to seeing these young performers again and wish them all the best.

Many thanks to their teachers -- Dick Albreski, Greg Klugiewicz, and Joel Persson -- for devoting their time to foster excellence in these young musicians.

• Courtesy Laura Niland
San Antonio Accordion Club





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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