

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezein'...is pleasin'!"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

NAA Convention

The 2013 National Accordion Convention took place March 7-9, 2013 at the Westin Park Central Hotel in Dallas. The convention included a stimulating three days of non-stop accordion: learning one or more accordion-related techniques and/or musical styles to take home with you.

American music was featured this year, including popular music such as rock 'n roll, jazz, country, and Hispanic. Convention activities included:

- Play-along sessions with lead sheets and director (ear-players welcome)
- Gospel, Bluegrass, Pop Tunes, Ethnic Music, and Traditional Accordion Music
- Workshops for all levels of musicians (Folk, Light Classical)
- Evening Events: Band/Orchestra, Polka Show, Concerts, Jam Sessions. This year's convention was a social occasion, and has even been called a "reunion" of sorts.

President Norman Seaton said, "Our 2013 [NAA](#) Convention was extra special because this is the

first year we were coordinated with Spring Break. As a result, we had multiple youth activities scheduled for all day Saturday, 2013 National Accordion Convention Youth Day, March 9, with Shelia Lee, Daniel Kott, and Dick Albreski.

Saturday Concert Artists included: Patricia Bartell, Gordon Kohl, [Amy Jo Sawyer](#), Nick Bratkovich, Richard Noel, Mario Pedone, Joel Guzman, and Jessica Faltot. Fourteen-year-old (OAC Member) Job Elliott also performed during the banquet.

2013 Convention Workshop presenters included: Joel Guzman, Richard Noel, Amy Sawyer, Debra Peters, Alvaro Barsi, Kaitlin, Gilbert Reyes, Dr. Ian Blair Fries, Bill Palmer, Nick Ballarini, Patricia Bartel, Dan Orza, Mario Pedone, Jessica Faltot, Rebecca Ratcliff, Daniel Kott, Shelia Lee, Tony Lovello, Dick Albreski, Arlyn Visentin, Kim Clowe, Joe Recchia, Gordon Kohl, Norman and Sharon Seaton, and Nick Bratkovich.



April Meeting

2:00 pm	Orchestra Rehearsal
3:00 pm	Business Meeting
3:15 pm	Individual and Group Performances
5:00 pm	Jam Session (Easter Parade)

The November meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 14, 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 Prez Sez

Dick Albreski

Will April showers bring spring flowers? With some accordion music, they sure will. This is the time to pick up one of your favorite "squeezes" and let loose. There is nothing that can stop your immediate world and put you in a better place than squeezing an accordion. Try it, you'll like it.

It's been a busy time. Having the opportunity, along with OAC member Milo Shedeck and the Bohemian Knights, to perform on the Mollie "B" Polka tour was a tremendous experience for me (see photos on next page). We traveled to Ennis, Texas last February 23 and played at the Czech Sokol Hall, along with other great bands. As I understand, our performance will be aired on the RFD Channel sometime after April 10. Look for us on TV. Go to the Mollie "B" website for more details.

The NAA this year was extra special for Evie and me. I conducted the Adult Recreational Fun Band and received their prestigious YOU PUT THE FUN IN THE FUN BAND award. I truly enjoyed the many talented performers who joined with me to present a great Thursday evening concert.

Our OAC Youth, along with the Greg Klugiewicz Accordion School students in Dallas, played their hearts out in their traditional Saturday PM concert. Special thanks go to OAC members Timothy Granger, Job and Isaac Elliott, Bria, Madz, and Becca Smith who spent many hours practicing for this event.

What do you think will happen at the April OAC meeting? If you do not attend, you will never know. How about a workshop? This will be fun time workshop, and you will enjoy it even better with your accordion.

Out treasurer, Milo Shedeck, advised us that we are still down on membership renewals. If you haven't re-upped to date, please do. We don't want to lose you. See you at the April meeting on April 14 at the Messiah Lutheran Church, Portland and Northwest Expressway stating at 3:30 pm.

• Dick



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The Treasurer Sez

Milo Shedeck

Greeting from your club treasurer:

Our Club now has 27 members paid. We are already one quarter of the year in and need to balance our budget. Please send your check for this year's dues ASAP!

We received a nice thank you note from Dick and Evelyn's granddaughters, "The Smith Sisters." This was for the Club's donation for their Dallas convention trip. Dick said they did a super job with the other student performers that he directed in the Youth Orchestra.

Get well wishes to Dick Albreski and Sil Lopez.

Glad to see Sil and Ann Lopez at our last meeting.

We really missed Dick and Evelyn at the last meeting.

Happy Birthday in April to: Nina Dunham 4/7, Eleanor Martinez 4/11, Carolyn Felder 4/12, Roland Lohmann and his twin brother Milo Shedeck 4/14, Annette Zongker 4/18, Beth Henson 4/25, and Ophelia Woody on 4/27.

See ya at the next meeting.

• Milo Shedeck



Bohemian Knights at Mollie B's



Dancers at Mollie B's Polka Party

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March Meeting

Maggie Abel

Oklahoma Accordion Club March 17, 2013 St. Patrick's Day Meeting

- Attendance: 17 members:

- Anne Lopez
- Barbara Duer
- Barbara Mahar
- Bob Mansfield
- Dan Orza
- Diana Richard
- Donna Dove
- Frances Engel
- Janet Haskin
- John Buchanan
- Karen West
- Lois Roth
- Lucy Shedeck
- Maggie Abel
- Milo Shedeck
- Renato Gladio
- Sil Lopez

- Bob Mansfield conducted the meeting, filling in for Dick Albreski.

- There was a brief visit by Messiah Lutheran's Kerry Barnett.

- As members arrived, Dan Orza directed The Accordionaires, the Oklahoma Accordion Club's band, in playing Irish songs for St. Patrick's Day:
 - "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling"
 - "Londonderry Air" ("Danny Boy")
 - "The Band Played On"
 - "Sweet Rosie O'Grady"
 - "My Wild Irish Rose"
 - "How Are Things in Glocca Morra?"
 - "That's An Irish Lullaby" ("Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ra")
 - "Galway Bay"
 - "A Little Bit of Heaven" ("Shure, They Call It Ireland")

- Members playing: Dan Orza, Karen West, John Buchanan, Lois Roth, and Maggie Abel. • Accompanying the band today were Ann Lopez, Barbara Duer, and Janet Haskin.

- Several members reported on their experience the previous weekend at the 26th Annual National Accordion Association Convention. Dallas attendees included Club members: Dick and Evie Albreski; Bria, Maddie, and Rebecca Smith; Dan Orza; Lois Roth; Diana Richard; John Buchanan;

Barbara Duer; Magdalena Brantley; Janet Haskin; Annette Zongker-Smith; Timothy Granger; Job and Isaac Elliott; Roland Lohmann; Maggie Abel; and Steven Scott.

- Milo Shedeck said the Smith Sisters sent a thank you letter for the Club's assistance with their expenses.

- Musical events announced:

- March 23, Saturday, 7:30 pm: "Cabaret" at Norman Train Depot. Scissortail Productions presented Bob's Gypsy Wind Band, followed by OU music students' performances, whom Bob accompanied.
- March 28, "Maundy Thursday," 7:00 pm: "Too Hot To Handel" at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, 5700 N. Kelley, OKC, a "syncopated, sophisticated" jazz version of the Messiah.
- May 19, Sunday, 4:00 pm: Kerry Barnett directs the Windsong Chamber Choir at Messiah Lutheran Church. Mr. Barnett came to our meeting to invite us to this event.

- Maggie Abel played "Tourelay" from Recital Book 2.

- Barbara Duer played:
 - "The Galway Horn Pipe"
 - "My Wild Irish Rose"
 - "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling"

- Anne Lopez played:
 - "How Are Things In Glocca Mora?"
 - "Irish Washerwoman"
 - "Danny Boy"

- Bob Mansfield played:
 - "The Hornpipe: The Red-Haired Boy" and "The Rose of Tralee"
 - "The Minstrel Boy"
 - "The Wearing of the Green"
 - "Cherokee Shuffle"
 - "Whiskey Before Breakfast"
 - "St. Anne's Reel"
 - "Danny Boy"
 - "Klezmer Gypsy Dance" and "Mischievous Song"
 - "Si Tu Partais" by C. Mordaunt Spender

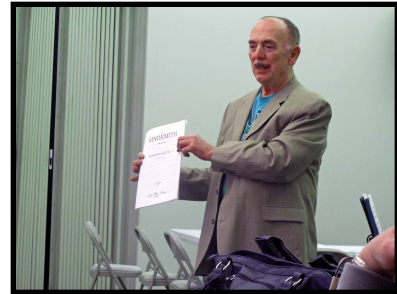
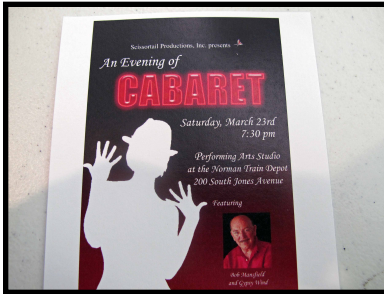
A final jam continued at length while guests conversed. Players included Anne Lopez, John Buchanan, and Lois Roth.

- Maggie Abel



March Meeting

Diana Richard



How the Accordion Found Italy

What happened in 1863 seems to be a legend but was, in fact, a reality important enough to start an industry that would become famous all over the world: the accordion industry.

An Austrian pilgrim, returning home from a visit to the Loreto sanctuary, asked for hospitality for the night at a farmhouse near Castelfidardo. After having been refreshed, he sat down near the fireside and started to play a strange "box." This was the house of Antonio and Lucia Soprani and their sons. One son, Paolo, was interested in this musical box that was, in fact, a copy of the "accordeon" patented in 1829 by Mr. Demian of Vienna.

Many different stories tell of how Paolo obtained this box: some say that during the night, the young Paolo woke up to study all the secrets of the box. The important thing is that, from this little box and Paolo's intelligence, after a few years the accordion industry would be born in Castelfidardo.

In 1864 Paolo opened a little workshop inside his home, with the help of his brothers. After some years, he moved to a bigger house, engaging some workers. The first "armoniche" produced were sold in fairs and markets of nearby towns. In Loreto, there were always many pilgrims, religious visitors, and dealers. Paolo went there to exhibit his accordion, and he also became a good player.

In 1872, he moved to the center of Castelfidardo, and opened a factory in the Piazza Garibaldi. His instruments had immediate success, especially in the country where the farmers danced to popular songs. Quickly, the popularity grew, and requests came from other European countries like France. At the end of the nineteenth century, the "armonica" started to be exported to other continents, for example the USA, where many Italian people had emigrated, and the sound of the "armonica" eased their homesickness. To supply the increasing number of orders, he needed to find a bigger place and more workers, to organize the phases of production in a better way, and create a commercial office. For this reason, Paolo, with his sons Luigi and Achille, opened a new factory in Castelfidardo, where about 400 people worked.

In 1900, the company had a big success at a fair in Paris. Paolo became a member of the academy of inventors of Bruxelles and Paris, and met the president of France. He continued to work in his factory until he was 70 years old, when his two sons took over. He died in his house on February 20, 1918, when he was 73 years old.

Paolo Soprani accordions are still being manufactured in Castelfidardo.

• What's the difference between an accordion and a lawnmower?

You can tune the lawnmower, and the owner's neighbors are upset if you borrow the lawnmower and don't return it.

• What's the difference between an accordion and a macaw?

One is loud, obnoxious, and noisy; the other is a bird.

Mark Your Calendars

June 8th, 2013, the *West Texas Association Squeeze, Off* will be held at the West VFW Hall, Post 4819, 716 Reagan Street, West, Texas (Exit 351 on I, 35 and then east on 1858) from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Activities will include al-day OPEN MIKE (solo, duo, group, etc.). No admission fee (donations welcome). FREE FOOD AND DRINKS, plus a SWAP SHOP for accordions and electronics.

July 17th to the 20th, 2013, the *Accordion Teachers Guild* will hold their "Accordion Festival" at the Hyatt Lisle in Lisle, Illinois. There will be concerts

by some of the world's greatest accordionists, workshops, master classes, and performances by the ATG Festival Orchestra. For more information, please go to the ATG website.

August 14th to the 18th, 2013, the *American Accordion Association* will hold it's 75th Anniversary Celebration at the New Yorker Hotel, in New York, New York. There will be competitions for all ages, exhibits, and concerts by accordionists from all over the world. For more information, please go to the AAA website.



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership Form

Name _____ Date _____

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

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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
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