

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



SQUEGGIE di
BELLO sez:

Dunno forget
the PIZZA
Party to be
held at the
next April 13

monthly meeting. Reservations
are a must! Each member can
bring one guest. For
reservations, contact Karen
West at 405-949-0394.



April Meeting

2:00 pm	Meet & Greet+Orchestra Rehearsal
3:00 pm	Business Meeting
3:15 pm	Individual and Group Performances
5:00 pm	Jam Session

The April meeting will be held on Sunday, April 13, 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.

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.

All are welcome to join in on the fun!



The Prez Sez

Barbara Duer

Wow! What a wonderful meeting we had in March. Thanks to everyone who participated. We even have a new quartet that I hope will be playing more music in the future. I want to thank everyone for helping with the Club. You all help in many ways, some just by being there with your smiling faces enjoying the music.

Thanks to the Board members for showing up each week and attending to Club business; to Dick Albreski for continuing to take care of the membership, welcoming new members, and all the other things he and Evie do for the Club; Dan Orza for providing music for our jam sessions (Dan has agreed to have four or five songs sent to us each month for our jam sessions); Frank Gesinski for putting together our newsletter, thank you, it's a lot of work; and thanks to Bob Mansfield for your beautiful music, it inspires me to keep practicing.

We will start rehearsing our music for the August concert in May. We won't have auditions, but we want those of you who are planning to play in the concert to sign up and start playing each month. We can all work together with suggestions and accompaniment, if needed. We have three months to learn our music and practice at each meeting. It's a group effort, and so beneficial to all Club members.

• Barbara



Sadness and Joy

Dick Albreski

Being part of the Oklahoma Accordion Club for so many years has brought me much joy and satisfaction. I have watched our Club grow from six to 60 members. I thrill at the opportunity to meet new members. I love to see a member play their very first solo at a meeting. Nothing is more exciting then joining in or even listening to our *Accordionaires* or a jam session.

What pains me is to lose three members of our Club in the last two months. Eleanor Martinez, Frances Engle, and Johnnie Zibert are now jamming with the LORD. They were all long-time members who will be missed. Remember them in your prayers.

• Dick



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Happy April Fool's to Everyone:

An April Happy Birthday wish goes to:

- Nina Dunham: April 7
- Roland Lohmann: April 14
- Somebody named Milo: April 14
- Annette Zongker: April 18

- Beth Henson: April 25
- Ophelia Woody: April 27.

Thanks for help in raising over \$520 for student grants for the Accordion Convention in Dallas.

• Milo



Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

The Oklahoma Accordion Club will have a pizza party for members and guests on Sunday, April 13, 2014, at the Messiah Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Northwest Expressway and Portland from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. Reservations are a must. No reservation, no pizza. All members can bring one guest. Contact Karen West at 405/949-0394 for reservations.

The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) will host their 2014 Festival from July 9 to 13 at the DoubleTree Hotel, 445 South Tarrytown, New York, NY. Some of the guest artists are: Vladimir Mollow, Dallas Vietty, and Frank Carozza.

The Accordion Teachers Guild (ATG) will hold their 74th Festival from July 23 to 26, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel in Burlingame, CA.

The featured guests will be Stas Venglevski and Frank Petrilli.

The Oklahoma Accordion Club will have their annual Free Concert on August 10, 2014, at the Norman Depot, 200 South Jones Avenue, Norman, OK from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. No reservations required, but come early because of open seating. This is your chance to hear international music performed by the OAC accordionists.

The 67th Coupe Mondiale will be held in Salzburg, Austria from October 27 to November 2, 2014. Make your reservations early.

Look for more accordion events in future issues of *Squeezins*.



March Minutes

Maggie Abel

Oklahoma Accordion Club

March 9, 2014

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Club president Barbara Duer conducted the monthly meeting, attended by 18 members and 2 guests.

- Barbara noted that the upcoming meeting, Sunday, April 13, will feature a pizza party. Each member is entitled to bring one guest. Members should call Karen West at 405/949-0394 with their reservations to ensure food preparation will be adequate for the attendance.
- The August 10 meeting will consist of a concert at the Norman Depot train station. Last year's concert was attended by a full house, and Club members are invited to perform at the upcoming concert. Auditions will not be required, but participants are encouraged to prepare by performing their selected music during the May, June, and July Club meetings that lead up to the August concert.
- Thank you cards were sent to the OAC by several families whose children received financial assistance from the Club to attend and perform at the National Accordion Association's 27th annual convention in Plano, Texas in March 2014.
- Barbara said that the format of future meetings will change next month to include an initial meet and greet for 5-7 minutes after convening. After that, a jam will begin, using sheet music that has been e-mailed a few weeks earlier to members for practice at home.
- Performances began as OAC Vice President Tom Phillips introduced a group performing "The Donkey Song" from

Palmer-Hughes Book 1, performed in rounds by Tom, Wayne Turgeon, Steven Scott, and Maggie Abel.

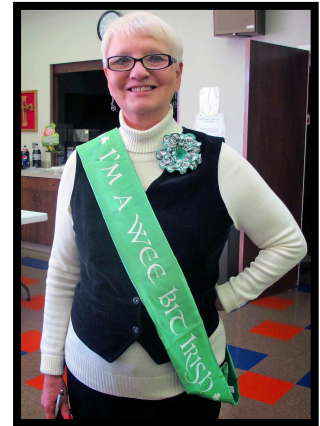
- The *Accordionaires* (Director Dan Orza and regular members Lois Roth, Karen West, John Buchanan, and Maggie Abel) performed a medley of Irish songs, accompanied by Past President Dick Albreski, Bob Mansfield, and Roland Lohmann.
 - Roland Lohmann and Rod Murrow performed "Chattanooga Choo-Choo." Their page-turner was Dan Orza.
 - Barbara Duer performed "Ashokan Farewell" on the accordion. The music is a 1984 fiddle tune that was picked up by Ken Burns for his video series on the Civil War.
 - Dick Albreski accompanied Barbara Duer with "Harvest Home Song," which music was included in the March newsletter.
 - Barbara Duer said the tenor banjo is considered the Irish banjo.
 - Dick Albreski performed "A Great Day for the Irish," "Las Gaviotas," and "La Piccinina."
 - Bob Mansfield played four pieces. The first two were mazurkas: "Tra veglia e sonno" and "La Napoletana." Then Bob performed "Dicitencello vuie," and "Sogno d'una Vergine."
 - Frank Gesinski played "Yours (Quiereme Mucho)" and the "Mickey Mouse March."
- The meeting adjourned with a reminder to call Karen West to make April pizza party reservations.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Abel



March Meeting

Diana Richard



The Polka

The polka was originally a Czech peasant dance, developed in Eastern Bohemia (now part of Czechoslovakia). Bohemian historians believe that the polka was invented by a peasant girl (Anna Slezak, in Labska Tynice in 1834) one Sunday for her amusement. It was composed to a folk song "Strycek Nimra Koupil Simla (Uncle Nimra Brought a White Horse)." Anna called the step "Madera" because of its quickness and liveliness.

The dance was first introduced into the ballrooms of Prague in 1835. The name of the dance (*pulka*) is Czech for "half-step," referring to the rapid shift from one foot to the other.

In 1840, Raab, a dancing teacher of Prague, danced the polka at the Odéon Theatre in Paris, where it was a tremendous success. Parisian dancing teachers seized on the new dance and refined it for their salons and ballrooms. According to Cellarius, the famous French dancing master of the mid-nineteenth century: "What young man is there, although formerly most opposed to dancing, whom the polka has not snatched from his apathy to acquire, willy-nilly, a talent suddenly become indispensable?"

Polkamanía resulted. Dance academies were swamped, and in desperation recruited ballet girls from the Paris Opéra as dancing partners to help

teach the polka. This naturally attracted many young men who were interested in things other than dancing, and manners and morals in the dance pavilions deteriorated. Dancing developed a bad name, and many parents forbade their daughters dancing with any but close friends of the family.

Of all the dances originating in the nineteenth-century, the only one that has survived is the polka. After the initial enthusiasm, the polka gradually declined in popularity and reached a low point with the introduction of ragtime, jazz, and the newer dances of the early twentieth century. After the Second World War, however, Polish immigrants to the United States adopted the polka as their "national" dance. It is also extremely popular with many other Americans who have succumbed to the new polka craze popularized by Lawrence Welk and other post-war bands.

For years to come, the polka will remain popular, with its variance in style from robust to smooth short, glide steps and ever-happy music. One of the most popular versions of the polka is the "heel and toe and away we go" due to its ease to execute.

Polka is a popular dance in the country and western sector. Polka and schottische are competitive Country and Western dances.

• On-line source by John Fuller

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Name _____ Date _____

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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
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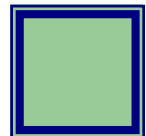
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