

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Memorial Day 2011



May Meeting

The May meeting will be held on Sunday, May 8. 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, May 8, 2011

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



The Treasurer Sez

Evie Albreski

We all know that June is National Accordion Awareness Month, but we just learned that May 6 is World Accordion Day. This one-day event has an interesting website should you care to visit. We just googled World Accordion Day, and there it was. By the way, we should do something for National Accordion Awareness month, which will follow our next meeting. Put on your thinking caps and see what you can come up with that would allow our club to do something special for the accordion.

The accordion world just lost one of its giants -- Tony Dannon passed away April 12, 2011. Tony was born in Italy. However, he grew up in Detroit, Michigan. Tony began by taking lessons from his father at the age of three. He was well known for being a teacher, an arranger, an accordion artist, and gentleman. Perhaps his greatest life achievement was playing at Carnegie Hall. Tony Dannon created many talented accordionists. Perhaps the best known is Peter Soave. Tony also collaborated with Art Van Damme, and together they produced two jazz books. He helped to grow the popularity of the accordion, and will leave a legacy of great arrangements and recordings for the world to enjoy.

Usually I am complaining about the lack of response to our membership drive. Well, today I'm not because we are getting close to our number. In fact, let me be the first to welcome Carolyn Felder to the OAC. We received Carolyn's membership application this week. Remember, memberships are our main income. Without your support, there would be no club.

I am happy to state that we are still in the black and our current checkbook balance is \$534.11. Our next meeting is on Sunday, May 8. We want to see you, but would love to see you with your accordion as well. I'll make sure Dick will be there with one of his 17 accordions. He even has one in the "guess where."



What's one thing you never hear people say?
Oh, that's the accordion player's Porsche.

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Add vibrato.

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April Meeting

Lois Roth

Oklahoma Accordion Club Minutes of the April 10, 2011 Meeting

President Oliver Delaney called the meeting to order at 3:45 pm. There were 16 members and one guest present.

- Oliver reported on the March NAA Convention in Dallas. He also reviewed the March OAC meeting.
- We were reminded that Frank Gesinski would like biographies from club members (contact him for a bio form). The club says thank you to Frank for doing such a fine job with the monthly Squeezins.
- Diana Richard reminded us that if you need a replacement name badge, you must buy one. A reminder will be placed in the May Squeezins. She showed us a cart from Home Depot that is sturdy and is great for accordion transport. The price is \$26.
- Dick Albreski announced that a donated accordion will be raffled off in the near future.
- New OAC business cards (from Margaret Oldham) are available for distribution.
- Club members should check the Squeezins each month for info about the next meeting.
- Dan Orza announced the Orchestra's future gigs. The next one will be on May 1 at the OKC Marathon, early morning, weather permitting.

- We welcomed a guest, Carolyn Felder.
- It was decided to have the May meeting on the usual day, May 8, even though it is Mother's Day and a busy day for many.
- The annual picnic is tentatively planned for July. Ideas and input are welcome.
- Then the following entertainment was enjoyed by all:
 - Frankie and Eleanor Martinez performed "Nuevo Laredo," "Volver Volver," and "Atotonilco."
 - Renaldo played two of his own arrangements.
 - Anne Lopez played "Never on Sunday," "La Paloma," "Dumani," "Besame Mucho," and the "Theme from The Godfather."
 - Orchestra members Dan Orza and Lois Roth presented some seasonal music: "Peter Cottontail," "April Showers," and "Easter Parade."

Our next meeting will be on May 8. The theme: MOTHER!

The schedule will be Orchestra rehearsal from 2:00 to 3:00 pm; board meeting 3:00 to 3:30; and general meeting starting at 3:30 p m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth



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Bio Sign

Our victim this month is Frank Gesinski. Frank was born and raised in Detroit and southeastern Michigan, and has lived and worked in southern California, Mexico City, Montreal, Toronto, Houston, Dallas, and Tulsa.

He and his wife, Rosa Maria, were married in Mexico City, where Frank lived and worked for several years. They have two children: Eric, who lives in Jenks, Oklahoma, and Marni, who lives in Maryland. Eric plays the guitar, and Marni is a pianist.

Frank is a Certified Business Continuity Planner as well as being a tech writer and, for many years, worked for American Airlines and Sabre.

When he was eight years old, Frank started asking his parents to have accordion lessons. Finally, after a couple of years, they



relented. He took lessons for a year or two, and hasn't stopped annoying people with his playing since then.

In high school, he played in a four-piece band that played at dances and an occasional wedding reception.

After moving to Tulsa, Frank started playing with The Polkatimers. They, too, play at various Oktoberfests, parties, and receptions. And they have played several times on a local Tulsa radio station over the years.

Frank also entertained solo in a local German restaurant for eight years, playing the accordion and telling corny jokes.

Frank has been an OAC member since a few months after the club's founding, and has been the

newsletter editor for many of those years.



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WA center celebrates St. Patrick's Day, experiences 'Map of Israel' presentation

Much has been going at the Warr Acres Community Center. Glenn Howard recently presented "Map of Israel."

We had wonderful turn out with about 65 in attendance. Glen Howard takes this illustration all over the world, and,

hopefully, we can have him visit again. The map is truly something to see.

This was a wonderful program, and you really felt like you were there. He brought a radio donated by KTOK to be given away. Winner was Dovi Fowler from the Danforth Living Center.

The Oklahoma Accordion Club played for us during lunch. Lois Roth and Dan Orza both started playing when she was 10 years old, and Karen West started in high school. They were wonderful. They say this is called a "party-in-a-box."

They played many Irish tunes, as St. Patrick's Day was just days

away. They also played many old tunes like "Irish Eyes are Smiling," "Danny Boy" and more.

It brought back many memories of looking for a four-leaf clover and the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. My friend, Car-

olyn Walvering, told me that when she was a child, she was looking

for a four-leaf clover and found a snake. After that, she looked no more.

I could never find that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, partly because I could never find the end of the rainbow.

The center is planning more events. Kathy Bingham, our director, is always on the lookout for new and exciting things. The center is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 1

p.m. We have lots of fun, games and fellowship — something for everyone.

We're located at 4301 N. Ann Arbor Ave. If you have questions, call the center at 789-9892. Lunch is served each weekday at 11:30 a.m.; the food is good, home-style cooking, prepared onsite. Lunch donation tickets are available in the office. They don't expire and when they're used up, they're put in a basket for a weekly drawing. The prize is a free lunch ticket. Past winners were Irene Dawson and Jim Matthews.

I hope to see you at the community center soon. You'll be glad you dropped by.



Dan Orza, Karen West and Lois Roth recently played accordion at the Warr Acres Community Center. (Photo courtesy of Charlene Brumley)



Accordions Around Town

We 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

Date(s)	Saturday, May 7, 2011	Saturdays, May 7 & 28, 2011	Saturday & Sunday, May 21 & 22, 2011
Time	2:00 to 4:00 pm	8:00 to 11:30 pm	Not Available
Performer(s)	Bohemian Knights, including OAC's Dick Albreski	Bohemian Knights, including OAC's Dick Albreski	Bohemian Knights, including OAC's Dick Albreski
Event	Prague Kolache Festival	Dance	N/A
Location	Prague, Oklahoma	Yukon Czech Hall 205 N. Czech Hall Road Yukon, OK 73085.	Royal Bavarian Restaurant 3401 S Sooner Rd Moore, OK 73165
Admission Fee	Not Available	\$5.00	None
For more information	405/721-0564	405/324-8073	405/799-7666



Club Nametags

If you would like a new nametag because your name has changed, your nametag is worn out or lost, or you're finally in the OAC Witness Identification Program, we will be placing an order soon. Please send your request to:

Diana Richard
617 Timber Lane
Edmond, OK 73034

Please include the name you want on your tag. Enclose \$5.25 to cover the cost of the tag. Make checks payable to "Oklahoma Accordion Club."



Tony Lovello in Concert

Dick Albreski

Dear Accordion Friends:

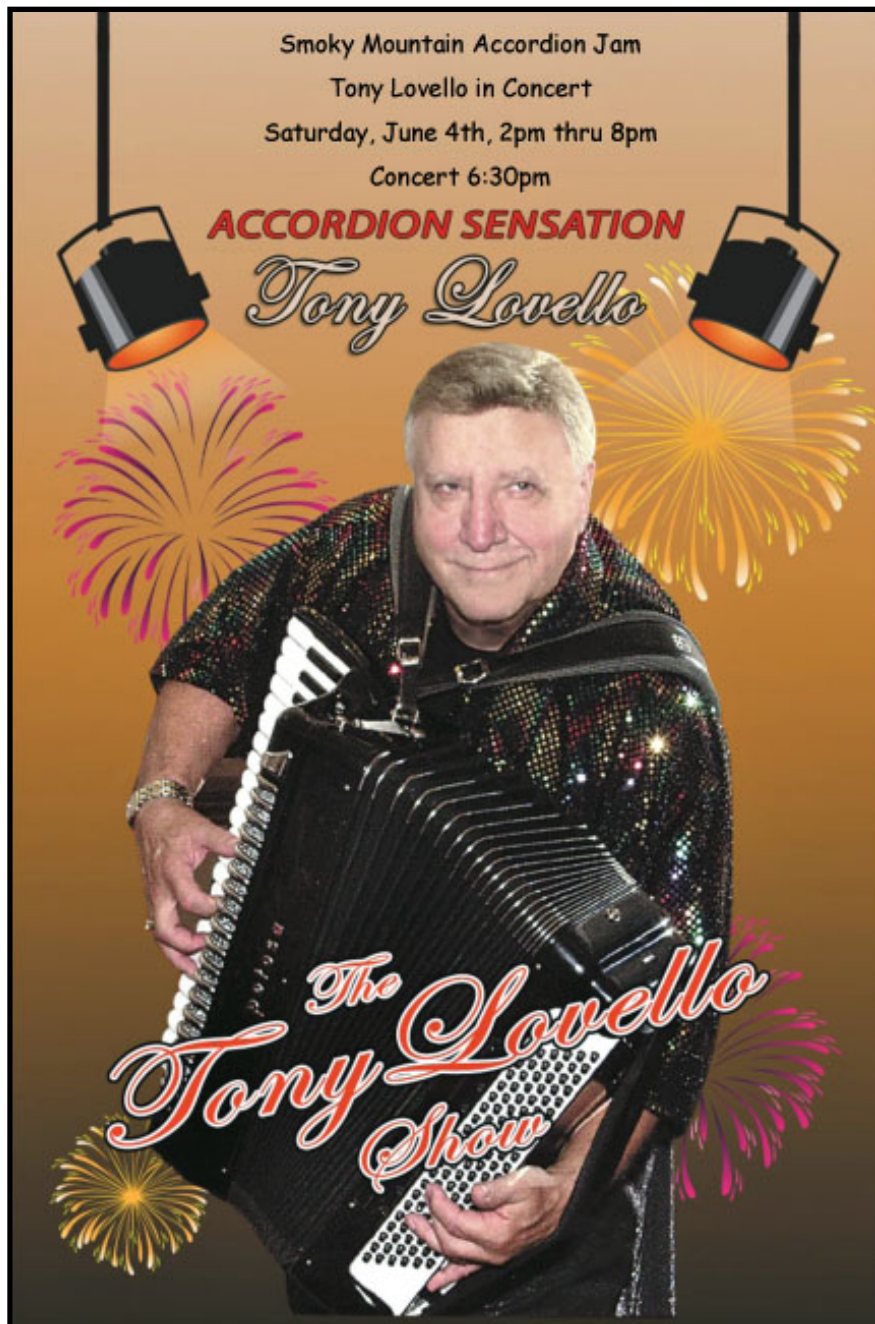
I am hosting the first ever *Smoky Mountain Accordion Jam* here in Maggie Valley, NC, on Saturday, June 4. Tony Lovello will be here performing all his great tunes. His concert will be an unforgettable experience, not to mention lots and lots of fun. Perhaps you've wanted to spend some time in the mountains, or just get away from the city heat, this is your chance. Maggie Valley is a great

area to tour, relax, and refresh.

See: www.maggiervalley.org.
Hope to see you on June 4.

Regards,
Joe Zalewski

Editor's Note: Tony entertained at our first annual dinner dance, and is a good friend of the OAC.





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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