

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

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

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Dan Orza

Phil Scibelli

This month we'd like to recognize Dan Orza for his ongoing commitment to the Club as our orchestra leader. Dan, as many of you know, has served our Club as president, as well as a board member and conductor for the National Accordion Association. A music educator since receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Hartford many years ago (let's just say long ago), Dan just can't stop sharing his knowledge of music and love of the accordion.



This year, Dan's leadership has resulted in more Club members joining the Orchestra and, in fact, some new members joined the Club just because they heard of the Orchestra and wanted to play in it! Dan has kept the Orchestra calendar full, with at least one public performance each month, and sometimes two. Notable

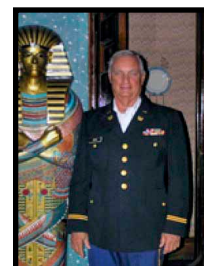


performances were given at the First Presbyterian Church and Ryan's Steak House. Dan arranged for the Orchestra to play at the OKC Marathon but, alas, we were rained out. But no fear, Dan also arranged a performance to support the National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk on May 21 at Hefner Park! One of our goals at the beginning of the year was to expand public knowledge of our Club, and Dan has certainly done his part and more!

Those of us in the Orchestra get treated to Dan's homemade beer and wine during our rehearsal breaks, and his wife Roberta's wonderful desserts -- so many advantages to being in the Orchestra -- not to mention Dan's coaching and mentoring of all members in their musicianship.

So this month, a Shake of the Bellows goes to Dan Orza, our esteemed orchestra leader, for his superb leadership, desire to share his wealth of knowledge, and dedication to the Club and the instrument!

THANKS, DAN!



June Meeting

The June meeting will be held on Sunday, June 12. 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, June 12, 2011

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



The Treasurer Sez

Evie Albreski

June will not only be “busting out all over,” but it’s also National Accordion Month. I read an interesting article about the Long Island Accordion Alliance and what they are doing to enhance the popularity of the accordion. This group works with restaurants where they can schedule a performance at a given time with advance promotion. For example, they might go to the local Olive Garden and talk with the manager about having 15 or 20 accordionists plus family and friends in for dinner. They request a section of the restaurant where they can perform. A key to their success is that the restaurant also advertises in advance with a sign in the lobby that this group will be there to perform, thus inviting others to join. I was wondering if something like this could be arranged in a trip to Tulsa.

Another thought. Several years ago, when Tony Lovello visited OKC, we partnered with the Tulsa Italian Society and had Tony perform at a Tulsa Italian Restaurant. There is a strong German-American Society in Tulsa that perhaps would join us in an accordion event.

Life was pretty sweet at the Albreski home until a customer brought in an accordion that was stored in its case. Not only stored in the case but wrapped in a towel. Needless to say, Dick hit the ceiling, not only about the musty odor that is derived from this process, but the devaluation of the instrument. This particular accordion is a professional grade instrument and was slowing being ruined not only by odor, but also by swelling of the keyboard. When you store an accordion in the case, you trap the air inside. One of the hardest challenges is removing a musty odor from an accordion. It can be done, but it is better if it doesn’t have to be done. Summer is here. The weather will be hot and humid. The best rule in handling your accordion is: if it is too hot for you, then it is too hot for your accordion. If it is too humid for you, then it is too humid for your accordion. Also, cases were meant to carry your accordion, not store it. Never wrap or cover your accordion with a towel. Towels have lint. Accordions are magnets for lint. The best wrap is a pillowcase with a very high percale count. Even I know this, and I don’t even play an accordion.

I am excited. We are getting very close to our membership number goal. There are less than five members who have not renewed their membership. If they do, we will have the highest membership ever.

We have paid all our bills and, at this point in time, we have \$473.33 in the checkbook.

See you all in on June 12 at the Messiah Lutheran Church.



Doug Green, 44, a U.S. Coast Guard retiree, died unexpectedly Tuesday morning, May 17, 2011, while on a field trip with his daughter’s sixth-grade class outside Anchorage, Alaska.

Green and his family were living in Eagle River, Alaska, just north of Anchorage, and had planned to make that their permanent home.

Douglas Paul Green was the son of OAC member Kay Stout.

Our condolences and prayers go out to Kay and her family.

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May Meeting

Lois Roth

Oklahoma Accordion Club Minutes of the May 8, 2011 meeting

President Oliver Delaney called the meeting to order. There were fifteen members present.

- Special recognition was given to Dan Orza for his work with the band, and to Dick Albreski for his work done on the membership drive.
- Name badges were presented to Barbara Duer and Carolyn Felder. A big welcome to our two new members!



- Frankie and Eleanor Martinez told us about the Conjunto Festival at Rosedale Park in San Antonio, Texas on the weekend of May 13-15. They will attend, but will not be performing.
- The music was superb as always!
- Barbara and Dick played "Jamboree."



- Frankie and Eleanor entertained us with "Por El Amor a Mi Madre," "Mil Noches," and "El Gavilán Pollero."



- Bob Mansfield performed a tango medley: "Dicitencello Vuie," "Pygmalion," and "Nightingale's Tango." He also played and sang "Perfidia."



- Carolyn Felder told how she started playing accordion, and debuted with "Oh, How I Love Jesus."
- Oliver told about buying his first accordion, and then taking it apart and reassembling it. He suggested performers tell a little of their "accordion history" before they play.
- Dick Albreski played a medley of songs from various countries including: "That's Amore," "Edelweiss," "Bésame Mucho," and "The Pennsylvania Polka." He related his accordion history and how he became a full time performer, teacher, buyer, seller, and repairer of accordions.
- The next OAC meeting will be June 12. The theme will be Father's Day!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth



How do you get an accordionist to play in time?
Get them to play by themselves.

How do you make two accordionists play in time?
Shoot one of them.

How do you protect a valuable instrument?
Hide it in an accordion case.

Knock-Knock.
Who's there?
Accordion.
Accordion who?
Accordion to the TV, it's going to be cold out.

Bio Sign

Lois Roth

First, a very brief history. I was born and grew up in Des Plaines, Illinois (near Chicago), and am a graduate of the Evanston Hospital School of Nursing. I was married to Edward Roth for 28 years, and we had three children, all born in Carlsbad, New Mexico. In the 1960s and 70s, Carlsbad was a thriving town because of the potash mines where Ed was a mining engineer with Kerr-McGee.

Now for my accordion history. When I was about eight years old, I went to a friend's birthday party where she played her new accordion for her guests, and OH HOW I WANTED ONE! The next Christmas, Santa obliged with a 12-bass. My sister Barbara and I took lessons for several years, with a step-up to a 120-bass along the way. Our Dad was our staunch supporter -- he even liked listening to our practice sessions.

Our Uncle Elmer (pictured above) played concertina expertly, and Barbara and I sometimes played accordion with him at family gatherings. From him came my love of German music. Elmer is gone now, but I have a collection of his sheet



music, and still enjoy playing it. Lessons stopped when high school started, but there was music -- I played viola in the orchestra and learned to appreciate classical music, and more importantly, how to keep one eye on the conductor.

I picked up the accordion again in the 70s, when I bought a student-sized Hohner on a trip to El Paso, Texas, and began taking lessons from Bill Ground back in Carlsbad. We

performed occasionally at a retirement home, and played together for several years.

Our family moved to Edmond, Oklahoma in 1984, and Ed passed away two years later. My daughter Diana and I joined OAC in 2005 by way of Dick Albreski. My current accordion is a 96-bass Scandalli, bought in August 2001 from Lindberg Musik in Munich, Germany. One memorable day, I discovered there is no quicker cure for jet lag than walking into a store full of accordions -- what an eye-opener!

It has all been fun and still is. I cannot imagine life without playing and listening to accordion music.



Accordion Foot Rest



One of our new members, Barbara Duer, uses a "classical guitar foot rest" when she plays her accordion. She is pictured here playing with Dick Albreski. And, as you can see, when she places her left foot on the rest, it gives her better balance and allows her to open her bellows without bending them around her knee. While this may not be for everyone, you may want to give it a try. The foot rest folds up compactly, is adjustable to several heights, costs under \$20, and is available in music stores and on-line.

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, June 7, 2011	Saturdays, June 7 & 28, 2011	Saturday & Sunday, June 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



NAMI

Members of the OAC Accordion Ensemble performed at Stars and Stripes Park for the National Association for Mental Health Institution (NAMI) on May 21 to support the Walk-A-Thon fundraiser on behalf of Jackie Mashore, their sponsor, who is a member of OAC and former member of the OAC Accordion Orchestra.

It was a beautiful day at Lake Hefner as they performed for the walkers and joggers who waved and cheered as they passed the Band by. It was a fantastic experience for a great cause, and The Orchestra had a great time. Jackie was most appreciative for their support, too.



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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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