

# THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezein'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

## Branson Accordion Festival Postponed

Due to tornado damage, this event has had to be rescheduled. **The new date will be announced soon.** All deposits and registration fees will be returned in full.

The First Annual Branson Accordion Festival will unite accordion players from around the world at the Lawrence Welk Theater and Resort in Branson, Missouri. Activities include: accordion workshops, competitions, and concerts showcasing wonderful accordion performers including Gordon Kohl, Bruce Gassman, Nick Ballarini, Debra Peters, Steven Albini, Matt Tolentino, Tatiana Semichasnaya plus more.

Vendors from the accordion industry will be available offering new and used accordions, music, accessories, clothing, and other specialty items. Repair service will be available as well as a "swap shop" for those wishing to buy, sell, or trade an instrument.

Instructors will conduct workshops geared for all levels of skill from the beginner to advanced

student. Students 18 years of age and younger are admitted free to all events. Lawrence Welk's accordions and other memorabilia will be on display.

A panel of celebrity judges, including Jo Ann Castle from the Lawrence Welk show, will select the best performer from the competition to open for Tony Orlando at the Welk Theater later this year. There will also be a speed contest in an attempt to set a new Guinness World Record for the fastest accordion player.

Accommodations are available at the Welk Resort conveniently connected to the Welk Theatre. Mention that you are attending the 2012 Branson Accordion Festival to receive the lowest rate. Contact the Welk Resort directly by calling 800/505-9355 and ask for the accordion festival discount.

To find out more or to register for this event: [bransonaccordionfestival@hotmail.com](mailto:bransonaccordionfestival@hotmail.com) or call 417/336-6060.



## June Meeting

|         |                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 2:00 pm | Orchestra Rehearsal               |
| 3:00 pm | Business Meeting                  |
| 3:15 pm | Individual and Group Performances |
| 5:00 pm | Jam Session                       |

The June meeting will be held on Sunday, June 10, 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.

All are welcome to join in on the fun!



# The Treasurer Sez

Evie Albreski

As you read this article, we will be preparing for our June meeting. My how the time flies when you're having fun. I am very proud to say that we now have a roster of 63 members. There are six student members, three honorary members, plus 54 paid members. This is terrific. Thank you all for your support.

Please take a moment and say a prayer for Anne and Sil Lopez, and Anne's mother. Anne's Dad is not doing well health wise, and I'm sure our prayers will help.

In speaking with Teresa Laudermilk, administrator for the Messiah Lutheran Church, I mentioned that perhaps the OAC could someday play for the Church members as a gesture of our thanks for the use of the Church's facilities. Teresa thought this was a great idea, and this would be good for the members. Let's get together with our band director, Dan Orza, and see if we could arrange a program in the near future.

If you missed the pizza party, you missed a good one. This was one of the few times that everyone in attendance acted together. Everyone ate pizza at the same time.

We are not destitute financially. The checkbook shows we have \$1,132.52 to cover future expenses. See you all on June 10 at the Messiah Lutheran Church.



What is the difference between an accordionist walking down the road with his accordion, and a goldfish swimming down the gutter with a banjo on his back?

The goldfish has got a gig to go to.

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# The Prez Sez

Dick Albreski

I don't like cancellations, but perhaps I don't know all the reasons. I was saddened to learn that two events in the accordion world did not or will not happen.

The Branson Accordion Festival was cancelled, and now I learned that the *Accordion Heroes* summer accordion picnic scheduled for June 20 to 23 in Burr Hill, Virginia was also cancelled. The guest artist was to be Dick Contino. How many more times could we see Dick Contino perform in person? What is happening? Is it the economy, the lack of interest, or what, that stops an event before it can happen? I was making plans to attend the *Accordion Heroes* event. They also had a special program for the youth that I wanted to see. Let's hope that next year will be better for both events.

Our Club also has guest artists. At the June meeting, OAC member Barbara Duer will perform, playing her brand new Giulietti accordion. Don't miss her performance. Also, there are rumors that OAC member Roland Lohman is preparing a

program that will show his not-so-new but very nice *Italo-American* accordion that he acquired at the NAA last March. Those are two reasons for every one to attend the June meeting.

For a third reason, you can enjoy the OAC orchestra plus (fourth reason) at the last two meetings, we had a JAM session.

**RULE FOR JAMMIN: "ONLY THOSE WITH AN ACCORDION CAN JAM."**

Yes, there will be JAM session at the June meeting.

I am very proud of our membership. A roster of 63 members means that there are accordionists available to play. Now that we have the accordionists to play, let's find ways to do this. Evie has already mentioned that we could do a program for the Messiah Lutheran Church. Do you have any other suggestions?

A tune has in the lyrics "June is bustin' out all over." I would like to see this happen with attendance at the June meeting. Please don't let me down. See you all on June 10.



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

A chainsaw can be tuned.

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

One is loud, obnoxious, and noisy. The other is a bird.



## Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**  
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**  
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I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the Oklahoma Squeezins', by: ☐ E-mail ☐ Conventional mail

The OAC membership year runs from January through December. Membership cost is prorated quarterly for new members.

☐ Primary Membership is \$16 per year per individual ☐ Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$180

☐ Family Membership is \$8 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership ☐ Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18

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## Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

### June 17 to 19, 2012

Branson Accordion Festival at the Welk Resort, Branson, Missouri, featuring JoAnn Castle along with the Lennon Sisters. This is a new opportunity to enjoy the accordion close to home. This event will feature accordion greats, competition, workshops, and FUN. Check the [Branson Accordion Festival](http://Branson Accordion Festival) website for more information.

### June 20, 2012

Branson Zydeco Fest, which will be held at the Branson Convention Center, Branson, Missouri. If you like Zydeco, this is where you want to be. Check [www.bransonzydecofest.com](http://www.bransonzydecofest.com) for more information.

### President's Choice (I like this next one!)

### June 20 to 23, 2012

Accordion Heroes Convention to be held at the Hospitality House in Fredericksburg, Virginia. This event will honor Anthony Galla-Rini and Dick Contino. Youth will be the focus of this event, plus

workshops, concerts, jammin' and FUN. Check out [www.accordionheroes.com](http://www.accordionheroes.com) for more information.

### July 11 to 15, 2012

American Accordion Association Convention at the Sheraton City Center, in Baltimore, Maryland. Guest artist is Stas Venglevski, who is one of the best in performance and personality. There will be competition, workshops, concerts, and FUN. Check out [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com) for more information.

### July 25 to 29, 2012

Accordion Teachers Guild Convention at the Lisle (Chicago) Hyatt, Illinois. They will feature 19-year-old Alicia Baker from Milwaukie, Oregon, who plays fabulous accordion, and Cory Pesatoro who has won two international accordion championships.

*The OAC will continue to monitor these events and forward additional information when available.*



# May Meeting

Lois Roth

## OAC Minutes

May 20, 2012

President Dick Albreski called the meeting to order. There were 18 members and 11 guests present.

- Our celebration of National Accordion Month started with pizza, drinks, and cookies for all.
- Bob Mansfield performed four selections:
  - "Longa Farafaza"; a medley of "Dulab Hijaz" and "Dulab Shahnaz"; "Hadoni Hadoni"; and "Zeina." Dustin Cooper accompanied him on the drum.
- Lucas Ross received his membership badge from Dick. A big welcome to our newest member!
- Dick said we are very close to equaling last year's membership.
- The music continued with two solos by Job Elliot:
  - "La Spagnola" and "I Love To Dance."
  - Job and Dick followed with a duet: "Skoda Lasky" (aka "Beer Barrel Polka").
- Dick played "Madeline's Polka," an original composition.
- He then gave us an instant workshop:  
When performing at a retirement/nursing home, you should have a song plan:
  - First, a group participation songs with hand clapping -- "Music, Music, Music" or a similar

song.

- Second, a "lesson song" -- "When You're Smiling" or a similar song.

- Third, a song that lets the listener travel and use his or her imagination.

Dick then played a medley of songs from various countries: Italy, France, Germany, etc. to illustrate.

- Roland Lohmann reminded the group that the accordion is an entertainment center. Each accordion comes loaded with thousands of songs. You, the player, have to figure out which buttons and keys to push!
- Dick urgently requested that all "playing members" bring their accordions to the next meeting.
- The orchestra -- Karen, Dan, and Lois -- entertained with "I Want a Girl Just Like the Girl" for Mother's Day. Some spring songs followed: "While Strolling Through the Park," "Tiptoe Through the Tulips," and "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head."
- The meeting ended with a grand jam session. We played "Marie," and then all the jam book songs.
- Our next meeting will be on Sunday, June 10, at our regular church location. Note that this is NOT the annual picnic. That has been postponed until fall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Roth



# May Meeting Photos

Diana Richard





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