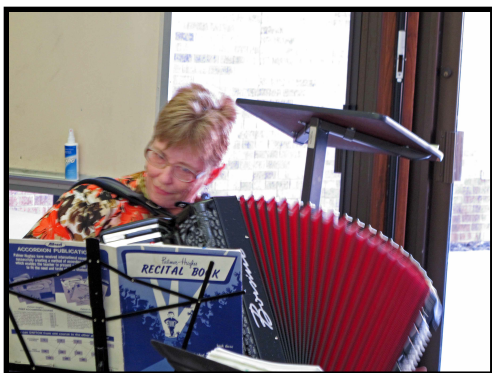


THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

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

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Janet Haskin



Our friend Janet Haskin in Tulsa has been diagnosed with cancer in both kidneys. She really needs your prayers and good wishes. I know Janet, and if there is way to beat this, she will do it. God bless our club associate.

If you wish to contact Janet, call or e-mail Dick Albreski



Anne Lopez



OAC member Anne Lopez lost her Dad on June 6. He passed away from an extended illness that started several days after he and Anne's Mother visited with all of us at the OAC March meeting (Look at the March Gallery on our OAC website, photo 4 of 16). Anne's parents live in Cleveland, and that's where Anne is currently staying with her Mother. She will return to Oklahoma later in July.



July Meeting

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

The July meeting will be held on Sunday, July 8, 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

Just think, we have enjoyed six great meetings so far this year, and now we look for the next six great meetings. I am so pleased to see the many smiles that our meetings produce. Take a look at the pictures in our Gallery (on our website) and you will see what I mean. Although I don't play the accordion, I somehow became addicted to its sound. I wonder how that happened? Our goal is to spread this addiction to others. The accordion -- as I am told by you know who -- is the most versatile, portable, complete music machine there is. I am told -- by you know who -- that you play the accordion from your heart and embrace it with both hands. I'm wondering if I should be jealous. Well, I'm not. The accordion has been a great friend to the Albreskis, and I know it is also your best friend.

If you haven't attended a recent meeting, you are truly missing a great afternoon. The OAC band under the direction of Dan Orza plays some terrific arrangements, The soloists are increasing in number and performances plus, one of my favorites is the JAMMIN'. I just love it when everyone gets together and plays. We have to thank Lois Roth for all her work putting together the Jammin' books for all to enjoy. If you don't have one, they are free. All you have to do is come to the meeting to get one.

The OAC is now on using on-line banking. It's a new experience for me, and I'll let you know later how well that works. We had no income to date in June, but we still are in the black with a balance of \$1,084.17 in the bank.

I hope to see you all at the July 8 meeting.



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The Prez Sez

Dick Albreski

You can show your patriotism by coming to the next OAC meeting dressed in patriotic attire. This should receive serious consideration, because our patriotism is something we should flaunt, living in the USA. We will have a contest to see who comes with the most impressive costume. You are encouraged to include your accordion in your costume, but it is not required. The winner of the patriotic contest will win a gift card to a local restaurant in the amount of \$20.00. I personally would like to encourage all that attend the next meeting to play something patriotic.

I am so proud of our Club and our website. Last week we received a request from a soldier in Afghanistan asking if anyone had the tune "Ambiance Musettiene." Today, thanks to our

webmaster, Diana Richard, that soldier is playing the tune he requested. Great job, Diana.

Our younger members will be performing at the next meeting. You will see Job Elliott play his new Titano accordion. What you will not believe is the arrangement he has chosen to play. Maddie and Becca Smith will also perform. Bria is off to summer camp. We welcome Isaac Elliott to the Youth Group. You won't see him perform at the next meeting, but you will see him perform in the very near future.

Don't forget! It's summer time and the temperature rises. This is bad for your accordion. All the reeds in your accordion are held in place with WAX! Wax melts! If it is too hot for you, it is too hot for your accordion.

See you on July 8.



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Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

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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 |

Your status (please check all that apply):

- | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ Professional | ☐ Teacher | ☐ Repairman | ☐ Student | |
| ☐ Semi-Professional | ☐ Associate | ☐ Hobby | ☐ Amateur | ☐ Other |

Tap to Squeeze: Accordions on the iPad

With the new iPad coming out, it seemed like the perfect time to check out the latest iPad accordion apps. Believe it or not, this is actually a pretty active category — we found more than 25 apps for the iPad alone, and even more for the iPhone and iPod Touch.

While tapping your iPad is no substitute for playing a real accordion, it can be a handy learning tool. Imagine practicing a few scales while watching TV on the couch, or plugging in headphones and mastering a tune after the family has gone to bed. Plus, all of these apps are around \$5 so (even after you factor in the cost of the iPad itself) they're significantly cheaper than a real accordion.

Here are a few we've tried:

Hohner Squeezebox

Wait, that Hohner? Yes, the world's largest accordion maker now has a line of iPad apps that mimic their Corona Classic diatonic accordions. You can show or hide the names of the notes on the keyboard, tap on the bellows to alternate between "push" and "pull" mode, and even switch between wet and dry tuning. The app is treble only — no bass/chord buttons (although this isn't a big loss for most diatonic players I know). The app comes in five key combinations — GCF, FB♭E♭, EAD, ADG, and B♭E♭A♭ — and there's also a "mini" version for iPhone/iPod touch.

Michael Eskin, who developed the app for

Hohner, has a number of other accordion-related apps available, including one-row Cajun/Zydeco accordion, two-row Melodeon, and Anglo Concertina.

Hohner Squeezebox \$1.99

Accordéon

We reviewed the first version of Accordéon last year when it was one of the only accordion apps available. It offers a piano accordion interface and even includes a handful of bass/chord buttons so you can get a fairly full sound going. My favorite feature, though, is the "Learning Center," which helps you learn popular songs by following along with highlighted keys. "Jingle Bells" comes for free with the app and you can buy other tunes for 99 cents each.

Accordéon \$3.99

Accordio Pro

The chromatic accordion has always intimidated me with its vast, imposing array of buttons. Accordio Pro has helped conquer that fear by simulating a full-featured chromatic accordion, complete with six-row Stradella bass. You can switch between C, G, and B-layouts, scroll and zoom along the keyboard, and even play along to songs in your music library. The developer also makes a version for piano accordion.

Accordio Pro \$5.99

• Courtesy of www.letspolka.com

Catching Up with Castelfidardo

Recently, the New York Times had an excellent article on Castelfidardo, the longtime center of the Italian accordion industry. From Paolo Soprani's shop in 1863 to the peak of accordion production in 1953 — 200,000 instruments built by 10,000 full-time workers — Castelfidardo has been inextricably linked to the accordion. There are still about 27 companies building accordions and parts there and, rather than compete with cheap models from Eastern Europe or Asia, they're focused on building fewer, but higher-quality instruments.

"Our accordions are like bespoke apparel," said Francesca Pigini, a top manager for the company her grandfather started in 1946. "For us, it's a pleasure and an enrichment to work and collaborate with artists and people who make music a big part of their lives."

Pigini is the largest accordion maker in

Castelfidardo, making professional-caliber accordions ranging in price from \$3,000 to \$43,000. While China has long since passed Italy as the largest producer of accordions, the folks in Castelfidardo are confident that the best players will eventually find their way to Castelfidardo's exceptional, hand-crafted instruments.

"We're not pessimistic about the future because some young Chinese players will become professionals, and once they're looking for more important instruments where will they come? To Castelfidardo."

If you're planning a trip to Italy and want to visit Castelfidardo, be sure to check out the International Accordion Museum, which traces the accordion's evolution from the 19th century to present day. There's also (of course) a big accordion festival there every Fall.

• Courtesy of www.letspolka.com

Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

July 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://www.bransonaccordionfestival.com) website for more information.

July 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 for more information.

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

July 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 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 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 Pesatore who has won two international accordion championships.

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



June Meeting

Lois Roth

OAC Minutes June 10, 2012

President Dick Albreski called the meeting to order. There were 20 members and two guests present.

- Dick announced that the next meeting on July 8 will be highlighted by a CONTEST for the best patriotic costume. The winner will receive a gift card. The judges will be Magdalena Brantley, Steve Scott, and John Sakaly.
- Dick reminded all accordion owners: DO NOT leave your accordion in a hot car!
- New business cards will be available next month.
- A big event is being planned for the Fall. It may be a picnic or it may be some other special meeting. Ideas from members are welcome!
- Then came the music!
 - Barbara Duer and her new Giuletto accordion played two duets with Dick: “Galaminnen Waltz” and “Adios Muchachos.”
 - Dick performed two original songs: “Brianna's

Dream” and “Rebecca's Request.” He concluded with “Le Gammin d'Paree.”

- Dick and Lois Roth played “J'Attendrai.”
- Frankie and Eleanor Martinez treated us to three songs: “Viva Seguin,” “La Media Vualta,” and “Frankie's Polka.” They told us about their attending the Conjunto Festival in San Antonio last month.
- Dan Orza, Karen West, and Lois Roth played a few oldies: “In The Good Old Summertime,” “Heart and Soul,” and “Five Foot Two.”
- Dan soloed with a fine arrangement of “Ol' Man River.”
- Bob Mansfield performed four pieces: “Dom de Iludir,” “Quizas,” “Frenesi” (with vocal), and “A French Touch.”
- The meeting concluded with a seven-player jam session. We tried out a new song, “There'll Be a Hot Time.”

Our next meeting will be July 8 at the usual church locale. Patriotic costumes -- and music -- everybody!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, Secretary



June Meeting Photos

Diana Richard





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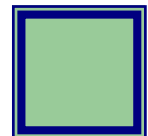
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