

THE OKLAHOMA *SQUEEZINS*

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Weird Al and his accordion are ready for the digital age



Weird Al Yankovic smiles on the 2010 Grammy Awards red carpet -- he was nominated for a Grammy for "Internet Leaks."

Weird Al Yankovic has seen his career go from Dr. Demento curio to rock-parody man of the moment to, well, a respected music/comedy veteran.

But one question still remains: Why isn't the accordion appreciated more?

"You don't have to tell me!" said Yankovic, who will be firing up the mighty instrument on Saturday

at the Center for the Arts at Mizner Park in Boca Raton. "I'm still out here trying to bring it to the masses, trying to make it the sexy instrument it was meant to be."

The accordion is ever-present for Yankovic, even though a lot of the music world has changed dramatically around him. His first single, "My Bologna," a 1979 parody of The Knack mega-hit "My Sharona," was released as a vinyl 45.

Yankovic's latest work, "Internet Leaks," was released as a digital-only EP. And though the collection wasn't a smash, Yankovic said the EP did

Continued on page 3

August Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, August 8, at the Messiah Lutheran Church, which is 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. Festivities begin at 2:30, when the orchestra rehearsal starts. At 3:30 our

meeting begins, followed by individual and group performances, and then a "jam session" follows until 5:00 or 5:30 pm. 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.



The Treasurer Sez

Dick Albreski

A geography teacher asked his class to list the Seven Wonders of the World. As the students worked to complete the assignment, he noticed one girl had her pencil down. He asked the reason and she replied, "I'm finished." Amazed, the teacher asked the girl to read her answers. She stood up and read: to touch, to taste, to see, to hear, to run, to laugh, and to love.

I would like to add another wonder, and that is playing the accordion. Think about the amazing gift we have in playing the accordion. Think about the many actions that are required to play this instrument: bellows in and out; right and left hands playing in contrary motion; rhythm and timing; reading notes; watching fingering; adding articulations and ornaments; and, most of all, adding yourself to the instrument. I'm sure there are many more actions required to play the accordion, but those I have listed truly make playing one a unique talent. The accordion is not a joke, but an instrument to be admired.

Once again, the OAC is asked to help with the Czech Hall fundraiser to be held on August 28th, starting at 6:00 pm. This event is called "the Polka Picnic" because there will be continuous music plus great food. Advanced tickets are \$10.00 per person, and they will be available at the next OAC meeting scheduled for August 8th. Tickets at the door will be \$12.00. The Czech Hall is a good friend to the OAC, and here is our chance for us to say "thanks." Remember the Czech Hall supports LIVE MUSIC. If you would like to play at the party, let us know.

The sheriff won't be after us because we still have a few dollars in our checkbook. The July expenses totaled \$35.77. There was no July income, and we now have a balance of \$776.55. See you on August 8th at the Messiah Lutheran Church starting around 3:00 pm.



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July Minutes

Beth Henson

Minutes Oklahoma Accordion Club July 11, 2010

- Vice President Jimmie Woolly opened the meeting with 15 members and 3 guests present.
- The bash for the OAC's tenth birthday in June was discussed. Everyone had a great time. Hats off to those who planned the event.
- The orchestra will perform at Spanish Cove in Yukon on July 21, 3:00 pm.
- The OAC orchestra performed at last year's Polka Picnic at the Czech Hall in Yukon and has been invited to do so again this year. The hall is in need of a new roof, and this is a fundraiser for that project. This year's event will be on August 28. Doors will open at 5:30 pm, and the meal will begin at 6:00 pm. Tickets will be \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Performers will eat free. Tickets will

be available for sale at the August meeting. The roof will cost about \$20,000. Members of the Czech Hall have been supportive of OAC activities in the past, and this is a good opportunity for us to reciprocate.

• Bob Mansfield encourages members to attend either the Dallas (in March) or the Las Vegas (in November) accordion convention, if possible, for the experience.

• Bob Mansfield and his son Beau Mansfield performed "American Patrol," "Skater's Waltz," and "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

• Dick Albreski shared songs he plays at different venues, e.g., nursing homes and the Oktoberfest. He played "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," "Schnee Waltz," "La Paloma," and "Blue Skirt Waltz."

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Henson



Weird Al and his accordion

Continued from front page

what it was supposed to do.

"It was sort of an experiment," he said in a telephone interview. "It was a reasonable success, maybe not a huge hit. But it let me roll out one song at a time, and treat each like a minor event, at least among my fans."

It was also a collection of mostly Yankovic originals — only "Whatever You Like," which turns T.I.'s song "Whatever You Like" into a tale of courtship through financial hardship, was a true parody. Still, it was well received, earning Yankovic a Grammy nomination.

"Internet Leaks" also afforded Yankovic the chance to work with Doors keyboardist Ray Manzarek on the song "Craigslis." Yankovic talked with Manzarek about performing with him before he wrote the song, a Doors-styled salute to the classified-ad website.

"I sort of called him out of the blue," Yankovic said. "I told him I was writing an homage to the

Doors, and would love to know if you'd play on it. He said yes, although he had reservations at first. But he did think it was a cool idea. It was one of the high points of my life, to see Ray Manzarek recording my song."

"Craigslis" may end up on Saturday's set list, which has become a real challenge for Yankovic, given that he's been recording for as long as artists like Tom Petty or (almost) Aerosmith. And some songs, like "Amish Paradise," "Eat It," "Fat," "Smells Like Nirvana" and the Star Wars two-fer of "The Saga Begins" and "Yoda," are staples of any set.

"The set list can be a bit of a juggling act," Yankovic said. "Unless it's a 12-hour show, there's always going to be someone walking away saying, 'Aw, how come he didn't play this song?'"

• By Jonathan Tully
• July 23, 2010

• Courtesy PalmBeachPost.com

July Meeting

Beth Henson



Karen West



Dick Albreski



Jimmie Woolly and Johnny Sakaly



*Johnny Sakaly with Oliver
Delaney and Jimmie Woolly
visiting in background*



Diana Richard



Tenth Anniversary Celebration

Beth Henson



Bob and Beau Mansfield



Jimmie Woolly and Bob Mansfield



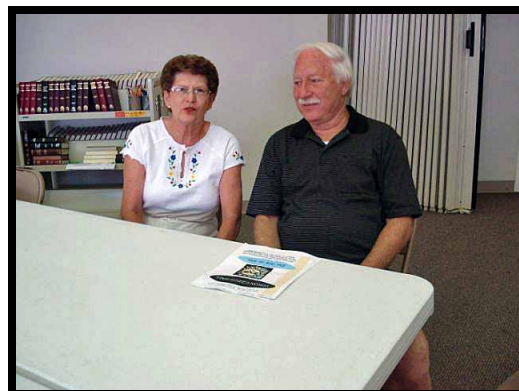
*Karen West, Lois Roth, Dick Albreski,
Beth Henson, and Jimmie Woolly*



June and Richard Butricks



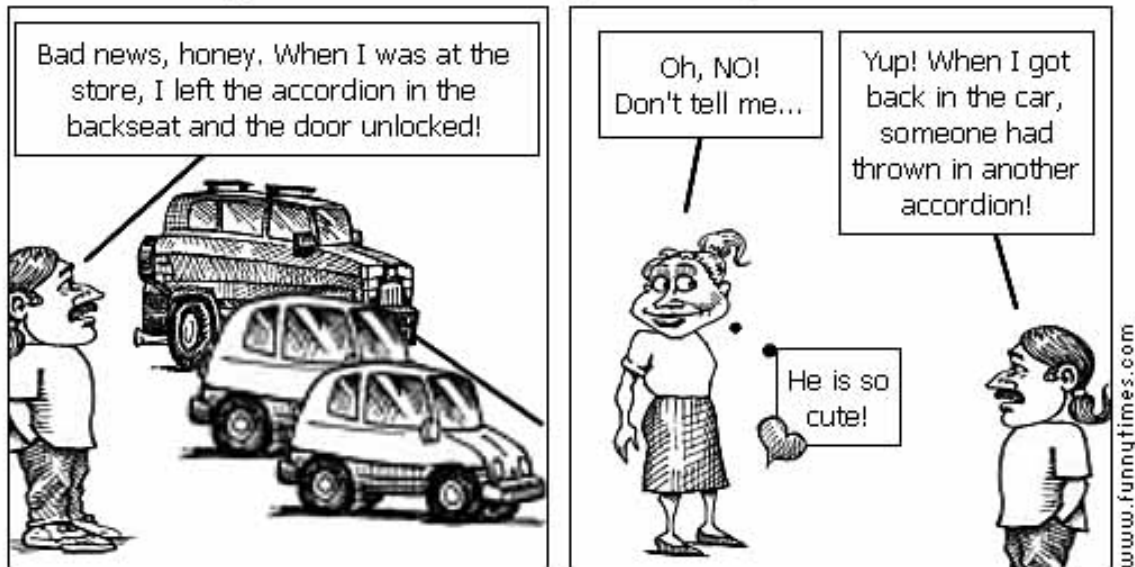
*Lois Roth, Dick Albreski, Jimmie
Woolly, and Bob Mansfield*



Lucy and Milo Shedeck



The Loving Band-Wife by Ellie May



Q: What's the difference between an accordion and a trampoline?

A: You should take your shoes off before jumping on a trampoline.

Q: What do you get when you toss an accordion off a tall building?

A: Applause.

Q: Why do some people have an instant aversion to accordion players?

A: It saves time in the long run.

Q: When does an accordion player sound the best?

A: When the tune is over.

Q: What's the definition of a gentleman?

A: Someone who knows how to play the accordion and doesn't.

Q: What do accordion players use for birth control?

A: Their personalities.

Q: What's the difference between a dead accordion player in the road and a dead squirrel in the road?

A: The squirrel was probably on his way to a gig.

Q: What kind of calendar does an accordion player use for his gigs?

A: "Year-at-a-Glance."

Q: What do you call an accordion player with a beeper?

A: An optimist.

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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):

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- ☐ Other (specify) _____

Make checks payable to: Oklahoma Accordion Club

Mail your membership dues TODAY to:

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Oklahoma City, OK 73162

Editor's Note

28 All OAC members, please accept my apology for not getting this August Squeezins out on time. For a month or so I have been having problems with my five-plus-year-old computer. It finally reached a stage where my productivity was so severely impacted that we were forced to bite the bullet and get a new computer. Now, we intend to get back to the regular schedule. Thanks for your support.

• Frank Gesinski

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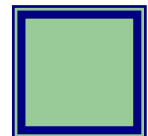
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