

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

OAC's 25 YEAR Anniversary Par-tae!

*Celebrate
with us
this Sunday!!!*



Meetup Info for Sunday, Sept 14, 2025 — 3:30 PM

Oklahoma Accordion Club (founded in 2000) meets in person once again Sunday, September 14, 2025, at 3:30 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church, on the SE corner of Portland Ave. & NW Expressway in Oklahoma City. The south entrance to the church (there's a portico at that doorway in case of rain!) takes you to the foyer, where the sound of music (or the sight of signage) directs you to us and our accordions!

Snacks are welcome! Bring your accordion, or just come as you are and sit down with us to drink in the sweet sounds!

If you can't attend the live 3:30 PM meetup in person, you can experience it via *Zoom* — using the same codes (see **red type** below) you may have used in previous years. Zoom's musical sound quality is nothing to write home about, but feel free to tune us in anyway!

On computer, tablet, or smartphone, to join us with both audio and video, go to

**[https://
us02web.zoom.us/
j/5236709799](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5236709799)**



PREZ SEZ

Maggie Abel

Greetings to all those who share with us the most unique hobby in the world! Glad to hang out with you originalists!

The upcoming party this Sunday celebrates a **QUARTER CENTURY** of adoration for our beloved and irreplaceable instrument. Although we always meet on the second Sunday each month, this week we'll pull out all the stops (except for maybe making balloons fall from the ceiling like rain).

Although members like Shirley and Ron do drive "a fer piece" to attend, we will also welcome our "most farthest" traveler of this past few years, Wayne Turgeon, who's been to the UK and Israel and gosh knows where else since we last saw him. Since we expect to see him (and his entourage?) for the first time in a while at our celebration, maybe we can dig up some confetti for the occasion!

Here's an example of the kind of text I love to get: A member messaged me: "I met a lady in the dollar store. She hasn't played in years and has no accordion, but she used to play a lot! I invited her to come to our meeting..."

So word-of-mouth is the best kept secret for invigorating a club! Therefore the secret is: "Don't keep it a secret!"

FYI: In OKC, on October 11, the Village Civic Plaza at 2304 Manchester Drive will host many bands that day. At 3 PM, the Garage Band (seniors playing guitars, ukes, violins, and one accordion—mine) will perform at 3:00. It's free and outdoors, with food trucks! You can bring a blanket or lawn chair!

Come on out to the OAC this Sunday at 3:30 to see what accordion tunes await you!

~ Maggie

Our next Oklahoma Accordion Club meetup is Sunday, September 14 at 3:30 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church, OKC.

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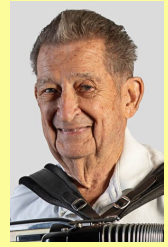
WEBSITE
<http://www.okaccordion.club/>

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Jim† & June Butricks
William "Rusty" Dolton
Frank Gesinski†
Janet Haskin
Roland Lohmann
Frankie Martinez
Bob Mansfield
Tom Phillips
Phil Scibelli
Ophelia Woody

Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski



National Accordion Conference (not convention) will be held in Forney, Texas (21 miles east of Dallas), from March 18th to the 21st, 2026. Registrations for the TownePlace Suites are now open. Incidentally, if you register now, breakfast will be included. To register go to the NAA website. This year's event will mark the 40th anniversary of the National Accordion Association. The musical journey began in 1986 and has grown to be one of the most attended, respected, and anticipated events of the accordion world. The emphasis in 2026 will be "Accordion Fun Band and Orchestra." If this tempts you, make plans to attend. Music for the Fun Band 2026 will be determined by the attendees. You pick the tunes! The Orchestra will encourage additional instruments to join in for a more diversified sound. A registration fee for the event is currently being determined, but one thing for sure, it will be lower than 2025. We aim to please and have one of the best meetings ever in 2026. As you read this, the NAA staff is diligently working to complete all aspects of the 2026 event. For more and current information go to accordions.com, the National Accordion Association website, and keep reading the OAC Newsletter. See you in Forney, Texas, on March 18th, 2026!

How old is the Oklahoma Accordion Club?

Good question, because this is something to be proud of. It began in June of 2000. We are 25 years old and will celebrate our existence at the next OAC meeting on September 14th, 2025. Please plan to attend to celebrate the accordion that the OAC has promoted for the past 25 years. Yes, there will be a cake, but more important there will be accordion players who will play the tunes you want to hear. The OAC can't survive without your participation. Please plan to attend the meeting and show your support for the Oklahoma Accordion Club.

~ **Dick**



JUST ACCORDIONS
7109 N.W. 102nd Street
OKC, OK 73162
juaccord@hotmail.com

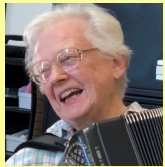
Dick Albreski
Sales - Repairs - Instruction
(405) 721-0564

Free Accordion Music Websites

Check out the following sites for new and free accordion music:

- Donquattrocchi.com
- 8notes.com/accordion

Try em! You'll like em!



Report of August Meeting

Secretary Lois Roth

The Oklahoma Accordion Club held a meeting on Sunday, August 10, 2025.

There were seventeen people present: fifteen members and two guests.

A board meeting was held at 3 PM. President Maggie Abel called the general meeting to order at 3:30.

VP/Treasurer Ron Shearon led the Pledge of Allegiance. Anne Lopez and Lois Roth played to accompany the singing of "America the Beautiful."

Linda Hardwicke has donated a Princetti accordion to the club! It is a 120 bass and weighs 16 pounds. Ron has checked it over and installed new straps. He demonstrated it and invited anyone interested to try it out.

Ron began the music per-

formances with "Margarita."

Past VP Karen West played "Have I Told You Lately" — a Rod Stewart hit.

John Warren played a medley of his favorite songs, including "Just Because," "By The Beautiful Sea," and "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

Shirley Hammack performed Xavier Cugat's arrangement of "Nightingale." Anne accompanied her with maracas.

Dick Albreski entertained the group with a variety of songs, including "A Night in May" (a German waltz), "All Of Me," "Moonlight in Vermont," "L-O-V-E Love," and "Helena Polka."

Maggie and Frank enjoyed dancing to "Helena," and we enjoyed watching them!

Dick announced that we will celebrate OAC's 25th anniversary at the next meeting!

Anne and Lois continued the music with a collection of Italian pieces. Anne soloed with "The Butcher Boy," "Lost Hope," "Domani" (Tomorrow), and her favorite version of the "Tarantella."

Their duets included "Santa Lucia," "Maria Mari and Ciribiribin Medley," "Return To Me," "Neapolitan Nights," and "The Woodpecker Song."

After the meeting was adjourned, there was jamming afterward.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 14. We will celebrate our 25 years together, and there may be some German music for September Fest.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, OAC Secretary



Birthday Greetings to Members!



Sil Lopez

Barbara Petersen

Sept 15

Sept 22



Your birthdate is collected from your OAC membership application, if you have chosen to include it.

If your birthdate isn't listed on our newsletter birthday page during the year, please contact Karen West at 405-949-0394, or at accordion_karen@yahoo.com

Popular accordion concert scheduled for August

BY HENRY DOLIVE
For The Oklahoman

YUKON — Members of the Oklahoma Accordion Club will stage the club's sixth annual concert at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 13 at Czech Hall, 205 N Czech Hall Road.

Admission is free, and club President Barbara Duer said several special performances are scheduled during the concert.

The 2016 concert drew about 500 listeners, said longtime club member Anne Lopez.

"It's getting to be so big, it's scary," Lopez said.

A new gospel band within the club will be introduced, Duer said. The band, which includes a vibraphone and bass guitar, will perform traditional gospel songs arranged in a jazzy style for accordion.

Also to be introduced is a new accordion band formed by club founder Dick Albreski.

Karen West, club his-

torian, said the accordion is an instrument on which all styles of music can be played.

"It's one of our most diverse instruments," she said. "It contributes to the ethnic music of every area, and also celebrates popular music of the day."

The club, founded with eight members, marked its 17th anniversary in June. Duer said membership totals just under 60. Its goals are to create interest in the accordion, to educate, encourage and

improve current members in their playing, and to promote and encourage young accordionists.

Members are invited to perform at meetings, which also feature workshops.

Lopez said she and fellow club member Lois Roth will perform as a duet, then lead the audience in a sing-along after intermission.

Lopez, 71, said she

began playing at age 7 while growing up in Cleveland, Ohio.

"I wanted to play piano, but a piano wouldn't fit in our house, and the accordion would fit behind the couch."

She said her inspiration to excel on the accordion came from Dick Contino, a popular player at the time. Contino was in Cleveland for a time, she said, and would perform for movie-



It's one of our most diverse instruments. It contributes to the ethnic music of every area, and also celebrates popular music of the day."

Karen West, club historian



Anne Lopez, a member of the Oklahoma Accordion Club, displays her accordion. (PHOTO PROVIDED)

goers during reel changes at a movie theater.

Lopez said she came to Oklahoma in 1964 to study Spanish at the University of Oklahoma. She married a Navy serviceman, and spent several years in Florida before returning to Oklahoma.

After college, she said, she played only a few times a year, but joined the accordion club in the early 2000s and began playing regularly again.

"Some of us had to re-learn," she said. Now, she said, when she and others begin playing together, "we can't stop."

The Oklahoma Accordion Club meets at 3:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month (except March) at Messiah Lutheran Church, 3600 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City, with visitors welcome.

For more information about the club, call 721-9657, go to www.OKaccordion.club or look for the club on Facebook.



OAC Meetup
August 10, 2025
 Pix: Diana L. Richard





OAC Meetup
August 10, 2025
 Pix: Diana L. Richard





OAC Meetup
August 10, 2025
 Pix: Maggie Abel



NEW IMAGES FROM TULSA ACCORDION CLUB



Here's a HELLO from "our Tulsa contingent" — thanks for sending the images, Irene! She believes TAC was established in 2002, with Jutta (holding red accordion) as a founding member. Some TAC members are OAC members as well.



COOL NEWS FROM OUR COOLEST GAL!



Karen will be moving to Acclaim Senior Living, 12525 N. Penn, Apt. 240, OKC 73120.
Soon she will be selling her house **4901 N. Woodward, OKC 73112** (just east of NW 50 & Hefner Pkway).
It is 818 square feet on a corner lot, facing east. *You can sit on the porch in the evenings!*
*You can call Karen at **405-949-0394***



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
c/o 209 South 2nd; Bison, OK 73720

Name _____ Date _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____ Phone (____) _____
Birthday (MM/DD) ____ / ____ (optional)

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 \$20 per year per individual ☐ Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$300
☐ Family Membership is \$10 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

Oklahoma Accordion Club
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