

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

September Meeting

Diana Richard



October Meeting

The October meeting will be held on Sunday, October 12, at 3:30 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.

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 Prez Sez

Barbara Duer

Our September-fest meeting was a HUGE success. The food was fantastic, of course, thanks to Evie and Dick, and the music so wonderful. I like all those descriptive words. That's what the Club has become: fantastic, wonderful, energetic, and fun. It was great to have so many people play -- let's keep that up so we can all entertain each other. Everyone, get a musical piece ready each month, and play it for us.

I've written about Swiss music this month. My inspiration was a Swiss duet I downloaded free online a couple years ago. It is really a nice little piece. Karen and I are going to play it at the next meeting. It's also great as a solo.

Anyone who practices the song is welcome to join Karen and me at the next meeting.

• Barbara

Swiss Folk Music and the Accordion

Due to a lack of detailed records, little is known about Swiss folk music prior to the nineteenth century. Traditional instruments, included alphorn, hammered dulcimer, fife, hurdy-gurdy, castanets, rebec, bagpipe, cittern, and shawm. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Swiss folk music was largely performed by ensembles made of itinerant musicians and solo acts using one instrument, with only a few duos. In the 1830s, however, the Swiss military was reorganized, leading to the formation of brass bands that used modern instruments. These instruments -- mostly brass or wind -- were built much better than those played by itinerants, and musicians brought them back to their villages. Local players joined these ensembles, which played dance music for festivals and other celebrations. Dance styles included schottische, mazurka, waltz, and polka.

In 1829, the accordion was invented in Vienna, and it had spread to Switzerland by 1836. The accordion was popular because it was relatively easy to play, cheap to acquire, and took only one musician to play the melody and accompaniment. By the 1850s, the accordion was an integral part of Swiss folk music, and semi-professional ensembles were appearing to play at large social dances. Alongside the brass bands came string instruments like the violin and double bass. String bands soon began to displace the older brass bands. The accordion, however, did not make an appearance in these dance bands until about 1903, and it eventually replaced the two violins that had become standard.

The earliest Swiss accordions were the typically one- or two-row diatonic button accordions, which carried on in Switzerland as the *Langnauerli*, named for [Langnau](#) in canton [Bern](#). The *Langnauerli* usually has one treble row of buttons, and two bass/chord buttons on the left hand, much like the accordion used in [Cajun music](#) (minus the stops), but is sometimes seen with two or three rows on a stepped keyboard.

The *Schwyzerörgeli* accordion was a further development from the 1880s, with changes in the treble fingering and a flat keyboard (not stepped), and unisonoric basses. The *Schwyzeroergeli* is a type of

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The Treasurer Sez

Milo Shedeck

Greetings from your treasurer:

Kudos to Dick and Evelyn for providing another wonderful meal for *Septemberfest*!

October Birthday Wishes to:

- Diana Bongiovanni on October 2

- Karen West on October 8
- Wayne Turgeon on October 23 and
- Jocelyn Pederson on October 25.

Respectively,

• Milo



Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

The 67th Coupe Mondiale will be held in Salzburg, Austria from October 27 to November 2, 2014. Make your reservations early.

Pedone and Ballarini Accordion Clinic will be held on December 11 to 15, 2014 at the *TbarM Lodge* in New Braunfels, Texas. Guest artist and instructor is Tony Lovello. This is the accordion at its best, plus great environment and good food. For more information, visit www.TbarM.com for lodging

information, or contact Nick Ballarini at ballarini@sbcglobal.net.

Start your Christmas early. In December, the *Oklahoma Accordion Club* will have its annual "Gifts for the Needy Party."

We ask that members donate socks, gloves, scarves, and hats that will be given to a charitable organization. Please plan to support this cause.

Look for more accordion events in future issues of Squeezins.



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September Meeting

Maggie Abel

Oklahoma Accordion Club

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2014

Club President Barbara Duer welcomed 35 members and 13 guests to the Germanfest-themed meeting. Club badges were presented to members Myke Dixon, Rusty Dolton, and Bernie Adler. Members applauded OAC lifetime member Frankie Martinez.

- The *Accordions* (Dan Orza, Lois Roth, Karen West, and Maggie Abel), joined by Mary Hojem, Anne Lopez, Annette Zongker, and Janet Haskins, opened the meeting with a medley of German songs, including "Lustig ist das Zigeunerleben," "Das Kufsteiner Lied Walzer," "Schutzenliesel," "Westphalia Waltz," "Blue Skirt Waltz," "Stammcafe" ("Cafe Mozart Waltz"), and "Schneewalzer" ("Snow Waltz").
- Rod Murrow and Roland Lohmann performed "Danngehn Wir Mal Rüber," arranged by Gary Dahl. Rob then played a German piece, "Anna's Waltz."
- Annette Zongker performed the "Champagne Polka," accompanied by Dan Orza.
- Lois Roth and Anne Lopez conducted a sing-along, accompanied by Barbara Duer on her banjo. Lyrics were distributed to the medley of "Lilli Marlene" and "Edelweiss."
- Anne Lopez and Lois Roth teamed up for "Country Musician." Finally, Anne performed "Too Fat Polka" on Lois's button box.
- Club Vice-President Tom Schmidt played "Schnitzelbank." Tom said the title refers to a smorgasbord featuring a variety of sausages.

- Karen West, Bob Mansfield, and Barbara Duer performed "Oberek," a Polish dance.
- German food was served to those present, prepared by Dick and Evie Albreski. Treats included bratwurst and hot dogs, German potato salad, red cabbage, sauerkraut, and lattice-topped apple pie.
- George Secor and Bob Mansfield played "Century Polka." George then played "Chopin's Waltz in A-flat Major" and the jazzy "Moonglow."
- Frank Gesinski played a ländler from *The Sound of Music*, based on the tune "The Lonely Goatherd," and then he played "Bye Bye My Baby Polka."
- Barbara Duer demonstrated two ways of playing the Hungarian song "Csardas."
- Karen West and Barbara Duer performed a duet, "Polish Polka."
- Bob Mansfield performed the "Helena" and "Jenny Lind Polkas." Then he sang along as he played a medley of "Sistalles dunkel," "s ist alles trube," and "Wenn die Soldaten durch die Stadt marschieren."
- Club past president Dick Albreski played a medley of the "Pennsylvania Polka," "Beer Barrel Polka," "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," "She's Too Fat for Me," "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," and "The Chicken Dance."
- At Roland Lohmann's request, Bob Mansfield played "Peanuts Polka."

Barbara ended the meeting by encouraging members to join each other in duets at future meetings.

Respectfully submitted by

- Maggie Abel, Secretary



September Meeting

Diana Richard



- Janet Haskin
- Roland Lohmann
- Frankie Martinez



- Tom Phillips
- Phil Scibelli



Nobel Franz

trad. Swiss

A ♩ = 200

Swiss Folk Music and the Accordion

Continued from page 2

[diatonic button accordion](#) used in Swiss folk music. The name derives from the town/canton of [Schwyz](#), where it was developed.

Örgeli is the diminutive form of the word *Örgel* (organ). Outside of Switzerland, the instrument is not well known and hard to find. The early makers experimented with different arrangements and numbers of buttons. The typical *Schwyzerörgeli* today has 18 bass buttons arranged in two rows (one for bass notes and one for major chords), and 31 treble buttons on the right hand arranged in three rows, with a fingering similar to the “club” system. The basses progress in fourths, like the *Stradella* system seen on chromatic and piano accordions, but in the opposite direction. Since Swiss music rarely uses minor chords, even *Örgelis* with four bass rows usually have no minor chords, but majors and sevenths, instead. The only other variety still being made in substantial numbers today is the *Schwyzerörgeli*, with

chromatic fingering — usually with a C system (C-Griff) treble side and Stradella bass fingering.

The *Schwyzerörgeli* has a unique tuning (tone, voicing), called *Schwyzerton*. On the treble side, each button has three sets of reeds, with one main set and two other sets an octave higher than the first, each tuned slightly apart to give a somewhat tremolo sound. The *Örgeli* with two sets of treble reeds of the same octave, tuned slightly apart (tremolo or “wet”), is called a *Wienerörgeli* (Viennese *Örgeli*) because of the “Viennese” tuning that is widespread among button accordions around the world, such as those made by *Hohner* and the *Steirische Harmonika*.

I am including a Swiss traditional duet I found on-line. Karen and I will play it at the next meeting, and anyone who has practiced it can play with us.

Enjoy,
Barbara



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership Form

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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.
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Your Status (please check all that apply):

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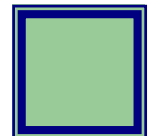
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