

SQUEEZINS

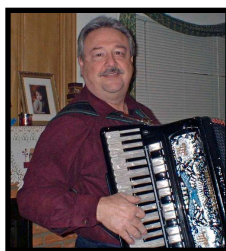
"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Nick Bratkovich

Nick Bratkovich will perform at the Oklahoma Accordion Club meeting on Sunday, November 11. Nick has played the accordion since he was six, and formed his first band at the age of 13. He is the premier accordionist in all-Serbian, Balkan, and International folk music.

Nick grew up in Milwaukee,



Wisconsin, and now calls Tulsa his home.

Please plan to attend and bring a friend. Our meeting starts at 3:30 pm at the Messiah Lutheran Church, located on the southeast corner of Northwest Expressway and Portland in Oklahoma City. See you there!

November Meeting

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

The November meeting will be held on Sunday, November 11, 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.

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!

Starting in 2013, we will need a new club treasurer, secretary, and historian. The current treasurer, Evie Albreski; the current secretary, Lois Roth; and the current historian, Diana Richard have done a super job for the last two years. Their terms are now up, and we look to you for the next generation of officers.

I am proud to say one member has come forward, and will allow his name to be placed in nomination for the treasurer position. He will be an asset to the Club because of his extensive banking experience. We still require a secretary and a historian. These are not extensive time-consuming

positions, and no special skills are required. Without your support, the Club cannot continue. We need you to come forward and place into nomination your name or the name of someone you feel will continue working to achieve the goals of the OAC. Nominations will be held at the November meeting. Voting will be at the December meeting, and I want the pleasure of introducing the new officers at the January meeting. Remember, we need you.

Thank you,
Dick Albreski



The Prez Sez

Dick Albreski

Evie has a lot to say in her column, but somehow she forgot to acknowledge those members who are celebrating a birthday. Best birthday wishes go to Frankie Martinez (11/9) and Donna Dove (11/16). Remember the more birthdays you have, the longer you live. If we missed your birthday, it was because we didn't know about it.

I am so excited to announce that Nick Bratkovich will be our guest artist at the November meeting. I first heard Nick perform at this year's NAA meeting in Dallas, and is expected to perform there again March 2013. He is so talented -- you don't want to miss him. Also, our own Barbara Duer will perform for your listening pleasure.

I truly enjoyed working with Lois and Diana in their respective officer positions. You all know how much I enjoyed working with Evie. Now their terms are up and we need new members to pick up where they leave off. We have a truly great candidate for treasurer, but we still need a secretary and historian. These are such simple tasks that even I can do them. Please stand up and place in nomination at the November meeting your name or someone else's name that you would like to see as an officer. Only you can continue the Club. Voting will be at the December meeting. New officers will be in place at the January 2013 meeting.

The December meeting has brought the Spirit of Christmas back into view. The theme is sharing. We ask that you share "goodies": a gift for auction that will support our Youth group, and an item of clothing for someone in need. All this doesn't have to be expensive. Anything you can give will be appreciated. Each of you has been notified in advance concerning the end of the year events. If you were not notified and have any questions, please let me know.

Usually I advise where there are accordion events in this segment of my column. Well, this time I'm listing our next two meetings as the place to go.



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The Treasurer Sez

Evie Albreski

Where do I start? Membership renewals, election of officers, the Christmas meeting -- all coming up in the next two months. Well, I'm thrilled. Don't we work better under pressure?

This year we had a record number of OAC members. That is our goal for the next year. Thanks to your support, we will start our thirteenth year as a recognized accordion club. We also have a record number of student members who you all support and whose playing you enjoy. The new 2013 membership cards are ready and available. All we need is your \$16.00 donation to continue, or \$8.00 per member on the family plan. Student youth members get free memberships. Incidentally, we have not changed our dues from the day our Club began.

I did it! I was able to keep your financial records for the last two years. No checks bounced, and our bills are all paid. It was fun and not a chore because this was my non-accordion playing way of saying, "Here's what I can do for the Club." Thank you for your faith in me.

We do now need our members to come forward, first to nominate, and then to vote for a treasurer, a secretary, and an historian.

The unannounced theme for our last meeting of the year is "sharing." This year we ask that you share your favorite Christmas cookies, cakes, or candy with other members and guests. And we ask that you support an auction to raise funds for our Youth by donating a small gift and participating in the auction. Last, we ask that you donate a hat, gloves, scarf, or even socks that will be given to charity for distribution before Christmas. To prepare a dozen cookies or pick up a small item of clothing is not expensive, but the return is great. Don't forget, the OAC December meeting is on the FIRST Sunday of December at the Messiah Lutheran Church.

We are in the black in our checkbook. All bills are paid, and we have \$622.75 in reserve. See you all at the November meeting. Nick Bratkovich will perform, and he is a super accordionist. Don't miss this meeting.



Why did the accordion cross the road?
Because it was glued to the chicken!

Why did the chicken cross the road?
To get away from the accordion recital.

Why did the clarinet player marry the accordion player?
Upward mobility.

Why do accordionists make good politicians?
They are used to playing both ends against the middle.



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
c/o 7109 NW 102nd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73162

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 \$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

September Meeting

Lois Roth

OAC Meeting October 14, 2012

President Dick Albreski called the meeting to order. There were 17 members and three guests present.

- Members were invited to take copies of available jam music.
- Our Christmas meeting will be held on December 2. Mark your calendars please! Each member is asked to bring a gift to raffle. Proceeds from the raffle will be for the Youth Fund.
- Hats, gloves, and other winter accessories will be collected at the December meeting and donated to charity.
- The terms for club secretary, treasurer, and historian are up at the end of the year. The president and vice president will each serve for one more year. If any member is willing to fill one of these positions, please contact Dick Albreski. We need volunteers!
- Anne Lopez suggested that we try to have more time to jam at each meeting.
- Music followed the business meeting:

- The band started things off with "Cruising Down the River" and "Heart and Soul."
- Anne Lopez and Lois Roth played "Isabella Waltz," "The Woodpecker Song," and "The Country Musician."
- Bob Mansfield performed a medley of German songs, followed by "Dance of the Gypsies" and "Mischievous Swing."
- Job Elliott played "Tesknota Za Ojczyzna," "Czardas," and "Magic Fingers."
- Then Dick demonstrated the versatility of his midi-accordion with a medley of songs, including "Beer Barrel Polka" (tuba effect), "La Paloma" (marimba effect), and "The Twelfth Street Rag."
- Frank Hulstrom, a guest, concluded the music with "Ghost Riders" and "Buttons and Bows," played on his guitar.
- An enthusiastic jam session followed the meeting.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 11. Details about the Christmas meeting will be discussed then.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, Secretary



Mike Stoops was a regular in the early days of the OAC. His only love in life, other than his wife, Susan, was the accordion. I never met a man who loved playing the accordion more than Mike. He passed away last month, and I know



where he is now playing. Mike is survived by his wife Susan, and by his parents Carl and Shirley Stoops. Please remember Mike in your prayers.

Heads Up!!!

This is a "heads up" for the December meeting. It will be held on Sunday, December 2, at the Messiah Lutheran Church, as usual. This will be on the first Sunday of the month, NOT the second Sunday. Please bring some of your favorite Christmas cookies, cakes, and/or candies that can be enjoyed by others. The Club will provide all the drinks and paper products.

There will be no member gift exchange, but we still want you to have an opportunity to get a gift. Therefore, we will have an auction to gain some financial support for our student members who will be traveling to Dallas in March 2013. This year we anticipate six of our student members will perform in the Dallas Youth Band. This will not be an expensive auction -- you can set your limit. Currently, we have two fine gifts that will be on display and, if you have something you can donate

to the cause, please bring that gift to the December meeting. We would love to offer 15 gifts for auction, but we are 13 gifts short. We do ask that, if you can provide a gift, please let us know so we can keep a record. Knowing our Club, there will be additional gifts.

Also, our tradition will be continued where we collect items that are given to a charity, items that can keep some person in need a little warmer. We are asking that you bring to the December meeting a pair of gloves, a hat, a scarf -- even a pair of socks -- that we can donate to others.

As you read this memo, it seems that all I have done was to ask for something. Well, isn't that the spirit of Christmas?

Your Christmas present will be the student members performing a Christmas program at that meeting.

September Meeting Photos

Diana Richard



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