

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 1, Issue 7

Sept 23, 2007

Massachusetts Accordion Association

www.MAaccordion.com

An Incredible August Meeting

The August meeting was an accordion workshop lead by Arthur Welch and his wife Sue, owners of Accordion Connection. Covered topics included: a Midi System, demonstrated and defined by Accordion Connection's own John Leeman on an Acc Tone electronic accordion with Limex system; Accordion Repair Demo (Professional work and self-repair items that can be done in an emergency); and Quality levels of accordions, amp options. Arthur also had a state of the art tuning system and not only demonstrated how an accordion is tuned, but also assisted members in evaluating their accordions and making some spot-tuning adjustments, if necessary. Due to time constraints, Arthur could not cover all subjects but the handout booklet provided was an excellent supplemental reference for those that attended.



The Limex (pronounced Lee-mex, not Li-mex) Midi demonstration given by John Leeman (Accordion Connection technician, Midi and microphone specialist) was done using the Accordion Connection's new line of Acctone accordions.

Arthur took the time and defined the treble and bass reeds of an accordion and the importance of their tuning in producing the sounds of the accordion. He also explained the concept of why accordions use wood as an amplifier/resonator for the reeds in producing sound (demonstration example of a music box playing while held and the magnification of the sounds when placed on a wooden surface). A footnote—if your reed changed sound during the life of your accordion, it may have collected some dust or debris. Hold the key down while working the bellows may clear the debris. Be careful when laying down your accordion. Some debris may accumulate over the years and due to gravity, may clog the reeds if turned upside down or sideways.

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Monthly meetings are the 4th Sunday of every month.....

1:00—3:30 pm

The Dolphin Seafood Restaurant
12 Washington St.
Natick Ma.

(508) 655-0669

Upcoming Meetings:

Sept 23

October 28

Nov\Dec TBD



Come and enjoy the fun!!!!

No experience is necessary, just a love for the instrument, either playing or listening, or both.

All instrument types, playing styles, and skill levels are welcomed.

the opportunities to perform on a sign up basis

open forum accordion discussions are chaired to encourage MAAA member participation, involvement and resource sharing

Thank you to the performers at our July meeting!

Dave Sullivan

Vito Aiello

Bill LaPolla

Joe Maciejowski & John Leeman

Al Paradis

(duet)

See who these great performers are by visiting our website at

www.MAaccordion.com

Events Throughout New England



Sept 14-16

Northeast Squeeze-In

Wonderful Berkshire weekend get-a-way
Starts Friday afternoon, Bucksteep Manor, Washington, MA
Call 413-665-7793 for further details



Sept 28-30

Stowe Oktoberfest

Stowe's Jackson Ice Arena will be transformed into a Bavarian village
for this annual celebration of harvests and fall foliage
Fun, Food, Drinks, Singing, Dancing - Live Music by Die Lustigen Almdudler
Refer to the Stowe Oktoberfest web site for event schedules and start times
331 West Shaw Hill, Stowe, VT
Call 802-253-8506 for further details

Sept 29

Accordion Concert

10:00pm - 4:00pm, Accordion Connection, Gilmanton, NH
Call 800-328-5227 for further details

Inform us of other local accordion events you have heard about!!!!

Some photos of Arthur, Sue and John from Accordion Connection



Did You Know?

With winter only a few months away and with lots of time indoors just ahead, if you want to see other types of accordions and performers around the world or some on-line lessons I would recommend the web-site www.youtube.com and do a search for "accordions" or "accordion playing" or "accordion lessons". You will have access to hours of videos, some entertaining, some educational and some totally silly. Just another place to visit if you love accordions.

Performance Tips from our August Meeting

By

Arthur Welch, Accordion Connection



Accordion Connection performs a 69 point checklist in performing general maintenance on accordions in their shop. Minor repairs are done as well as spot tuning of the most obvious reeds that are bothersome. General maintenance depends on how much you play your accordion. If you play every day, you should have professional servicing every 3 years. If you play once in a while, you can follow a 5-year plan. This should prevent minor problems from becoming major ones.

Some key do's and don'ts:

Keep your accordion out of extreme heat or frigid cold conditions. Transporting in the trunk of a car is not recommended due to heat build-up. Storage in basements, attics and garages is a "No-No!".


Avoid dropping or bumping the accordion, for obvious reasons. **Never let your accordion be placed in baggage on airlines.** Never use polish or other cleaning chemicals on the accordion. We use a clean cotton cloth dampened with rubbing alcohol as a cleaner. This is immediately followed by drying and buffing with a dry cloth. Petroleum based cleaning products can actually pit and eat away at the celluloid of the accordion. This means **stay away from using bug spray on yourself when playing outdoors.**

If you think of making some repairs yourself, call Accordion Connection first! They will talk you through minor problems in many cases. What may seem as an easy fix to you could turn into a major problem for you. If you would like to learn how to repair your accordion, Accordion Connection has occasional workshop seminars at their shop that you are welcomed to attend. Just call 1-800-328-5227.

Please note that there is no absolute guarantee of shipping an accordion safely. There are extra precautions in the packing of the accordion in it's case and using extra heavy duty boxes and tape. (refer to MAAA's April newsletter on Paul Monte's bass packing for shipment). Please call Accordion Connection if you need more details covering the packaging and shipping of your accordion.



Upcoming Meetings

 Sunday Sept 23	1:00 PM	Dolphin Seafood Restaurant Natick, MA	Performing Ballroom dance songs	Scheduled
Sunday Oct 28	1:00 PM	Dolphin Seafood Restaurant Natick, MA	To be determined	Scheduled

Where knowledge and fun meet

WWW.MAaccordion.com

4th Sunday of every month
1:00 p.m. @
the Dolphin Restaurant

MAaccordion phone:
(508) 529-6163

E-mail: use our website for
direct contact

▶ Your music club where
fellow accordionists meet
for an afternoon of music
and discussions.

We're on the web:
MAaccordion.com



Saltarelle Shamrock

Local Resources for New and Pre-Owned Accordions

- [Accordion Connection](#) (Gilmanton, NH)
- [Luca Music](#) (North Providence, RI)
- [Monte School of Music](#) (Wellesley Hills, MA)
- [The Button Box](#) (Sunderland, MA)

Accordion Teachers throughout New England

- [Paul Monte](#)—781-237-0554 (Wellesley Hills, MA)
- [Joe Maciejowski](#) —508-529-6065 (Upton, MA)
- [A.T.A.M.](#)—Accordion Teachers of Massachusetts
- [CCE Boston Music School](#) Irish B/C Button Box classes at
Boston College & Harvard University

Additional resources for Accordion Music & Lesson Books

- [Accordion Connection](#) (Gilmanton, NH)
- [Mel Bay Publications](#) (Web)
- [The Button Box](#) (Sunderland, MA)



Other New England based Accordion Clubs

- [Connecticut](#) (Cheshire/Plantsville, CT) <http://www.ctaccordion.com>
- [New Hampshire Accordion Assoc](#) (Gilmanton, NH) 1-800-328-5227
- [Central Mass Accordion Club](#) (Rutland, MA) 1-508-885-2083

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Some other topics covered were:

Reed tuning is an art. You do not have to remove a reed to tune it. Today everyone uses a scope to tune a reed and their ear to final tune since the chamber can change the tone of the reed. Important note: if you are to have your accordion professionally tune, ask "Do you use a Dremel tool in tuning?" If the answer is yes, run away from that shop since a Dremel tool can ruin a reed in a second.

An accordion Chamber gives a richness to a note. There are tone chambers and double tone chambers. The more wood, the better the tone. "In Chamber"/"Out of Chamber" are different reeds. Some reeds are over an additional wood channel under the keyboard. "In Chamber" produces deeper tones and a more mellow sound and are used by Jazz playing. Polkas and ethnic folk music don't really need chambers since use a more sharper sound.

"Wet vs Dry" tuning. A "Wet" tuning makes a wavy vibrating type sound....like "wo wo wo wo". This uses at least "2" middle reeds. The "Dry" tuning has no wave type sound. Nowadays the 2nd middle reed can change between wet and dry for most accordions.

Reeds are attached in the accordion with a beeswax\resin\oil formula. Heat is dangerous for your accordion in that high heat will melt the wax and the reed will fall out.

This is just a snippet of information shared at the August meeting. If you have any questions or a need for more detailed information, just call Accordion Connection at 800-328-5227. They are highly qualified and dedicated to keeping your accordion in the best condition for many years of performance.

Reminder— NEXT MAAA MEETING: September 23rd