

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 1, Issue 15

August 24, 2008

## Massachusetts Accordion Association

[www.MAaccordion.com](http://www.MAaccordion.com)

# Where's the newsletter?

My apologies for the delay in getting this edition of the newsletter out. I had just completed half of my ark and then this brightness appeared throughout the land. So, I abandoned the ark and started to play my accordion. Not really news but just a sad way to say that summer is almost over.

The really great news is that the club is planning a lot of upcoming events that you will find on the website. No such thing as a boring season when you belong to the MAAA.

If you missed the July '08 meeting, here is a quick re-cap.

The meeting started off by saying hi to our new members and the reading of the treasurer's report. The logo design is still up for discussion and

we welcome your thoughts. The meeting dates will remain on the 4th Sunday of each month, with holiday adjustments each November and December.

On the website, the meeting calendar is completed and an annual meeting is scheduled to comply with our incorporation requirements.

Lewis Howes noted that he made a CD of one of his accordion performances by using ProTools (MacIntosh software application). I'm sorry, I have an added note on ProLogic software with tracks, but I forget how that ties in. Please say hi to Lewis and get the full details. Producing a CD of your playing is a great way to "hear" what your audience is hearing. Stay well and don't forget this Sunday's meeting (the 24th).

.....  
**Thank you to the performers at our June meeting!**

Bob Guenther

Lewis Howes

Dan MacKowiak

Janet Borelli

Vito Aiello

Al Paradis

Joe Maciejowski

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:

Aug 24

Sep 28

Oct 26



### 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



## Events Throughout New England

**August 29-31**

### **Rhythm and Roots Festival**

**New England's hottest festival of Roots Music and Dance.**

Many Cajun and Zydeco bands with accordion players.

Also offering food, children games, activities and a wide variety of vendor offerings.

Gates open at 4:00pm August 29, 11:00am other days

Ninigret Park, Charlestown, RI

**Call 888-855-6940 or 315-738-0356 for further details and ticket info**

**Sept 13**

**Bob Trottier performing at the Finnish Heritage Society - Sovittaja (Dance)**

7:30pm - 10:30pm, Finn Park Road, Rutland, MA

**Call 508-885-2083 for further details**

**Sept 19 - 21**

### **Northeast Squeeze-In**

A wonderful accordion event in the heart of Berkshires Workshops and spontaneous squeezing throughout the weekend.

Traditional concert and Contra dance Saturday night !

Event starts Friday afternoon (Sept 19),

Bucksteep Manor, 85 Washington Mountain Rd, Washington, MA

**Call 413-665-7793 for tickets and further details**



**Sept 24**

**Connecticut Accordion Association presents -  
Joe Cerrito in "An Afternoon of Jazz"**

Joe Cerrito is among Americas top jazz accordionist and will be performing with Ralph Corbo on bass guitar and drums.  
1:00pm, Cugino's Restaurant, 1410 Highland Ave, Cheshire, CT

**Call 203-272-1202 for further details and entry costs**

**Contact MAAA with additional New England accordion news and events.**

**WWW.MAaccordion.com**

## **Tech Tip - Technique Development**

Al Paradis shared with us on how to improve our fingering techniques. Al strongly recommended practicing scales, not only to warm up and get your fingers to move, but to do the scales slowly so you can stretch the muscles in your hand. Also, practice the scales in both directions so as to develop and stretch all the fingers equally. Al also recommended that you practice using the fifth finger on your left hand to afford you the capability in reaching more minor scale chord buttons to create different harmonic sounds on the bass side. Al suggested that a way to strengthen you fourth and fifth fingers on each hand is whenever or wherever you are place your fingers cupped on a flat surface and move the fourth and fifth fingers separately without moving any of the other fingers. I've tried it and it's a great strengthening exercise. Many thanks Al.

# Member of the month

As promised, this is a new feature where once a month a member will share their thoughts and introduce themselves to everyone. As we progress through the upcoming months, it will be great to really get to know each of our members. This month's featured member is Lewis Howes. Most of you know Lewis as the entertainer/performer that has written several songs and musical parodies, and sometimes plays alongside, as he calls it, the poor man's midi. Lewis was gracious enough to afford me the opportunity to interview him by e-mail since his schedule and mine were kind of difficult to align..... so, next time you see Lewis, say hi, he'll be glad to meet you.....

## 1) when and how did you get started in playing the accordion

I always liked polka. This motivated me to play the accordion. It was something I wanted to do. I started playing accordion at age 14 in 1956. I took lessons for five years at the Arlington Academy of Music. In that program there was an invitational all accordion band. I started out by playing the bass accordion and then went into an amplified Sonola. Frank E Ward ran the program. He arranged and conducted all the music. The band performed at various functions. It was a great. There were about 20 amplified accordions.



The players were high school aged students.

## 2) what kind or type of music do you like playing the best

I like to play polkas and oberek (the oberek, also called obertas or ober, is a lively Polish dance. "Oberek" in Polish means "to hop and turn"), rock and roll, jazz, and Irish. I like classical, but my classical repertoire needs some work.

## 3) what made you decide to become an entertainer and composer

My interest in music was rekindled by a teacher colleague at Norfolk Aggie, name Doug Calais. He started a music group of students and teachers. He taught the students how to play the guitar and write music. He wanted to have the students make CD.s and to save paying royalties he encouraged them to the write music. He liked the addition of the accordion to the mostly guitar band which had a drummer. It was kind of like the movie "School of Rock" . We played at coffee houses and did an annual performance in front of the student body. Since then I have made up 20 or thirty songs, some appeal to kids and some to adults. We played on the WERS Play Ground Show and the WERS Coffee House

When ever a teacher retired, I wrote a song and performed at the retirement party. After a retirement song, I was expected to write a song for any staff member leaving the Aggie. One time I did an accordion happy birthday to one of my students. After that I started getting requests. The motivating force for entertaining and composing is the expressions of appreciation given by audiences at performances.

## 4) how did you get over the fear of performing before an audience

I over came the fear of performing by performing. I was lucky to have people around me that encouraged my music and performance.

### 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



### 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

- [Janet Borelli](#) - 508-752-6213 (Paxton, MA)
- [Donna LaRue](#)—781-646-3013 (Arlington, MA)
- [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

## Did You Know...

*The study of music has proven to be beneficial educationally and socially, and also promotes people's health and well-being. Music can stimulate your brain, providing a platform for social interaction and a limitless creative outlet. Recent studies, promoted by the American Music Conference, have shown that young children who make music show dramatic improvements in memory retention skills, hand-eye coordination, and spatial-temporal reasoning skills, which assist in learning math and science. Adolescents who study music show higher SAT scores than those who do not. And seniors who are actively in music making enjoy significant health benefits.\* All this from music, and its fun!*

*\*Source: American Music Conference*

*We invite all our members and friends to join in the fun!!!*

Remember, our meetings are scheduled on the 4th Sunday of each month.

*Special dates around national holidays...*

**Reminder— NEXT MAAA MEETING: September 28th**