

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 1, Issue 16

October 26, 2008

## Massachusetts Accordion Association

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

### Just a quick summary of a our September meeting

It seems to keep getting better each month. The meeting started off with Joe giving us an update on the ongoing history of our organization and a quick snapshot of our upcoming meetings. The October meeting will have an open mic session with a Latin theme, followed by Dan's tech tips and finishing with Donna LaRue and the ever so popular MAAA ensemble. The November meeting will begin with a player's choice open mic session. Also, on a lighter side, Joe asked that everyone consider what accordion accessories or items their holiday wish list would consist of.

Evan Harlan was our featured guest. What a great master session and style demonstrations he gave us.

A quick overview in case you missed it: Evan pulled out his new Victoria wood accordion. He described his experience in his visit to the Victoria accordion factory where he first saw and then ordered the totally hand-made beauty. The sound had a beautiful resonance about it, truly a type of magical instrument. He then discussed what free bass was and explained that free bass



can be used like the left hand on a piano.

Evan also discussed creating different tones with the left hand, such as playing a C major chord with the Cm and Gm bass.

When he was in his teens and twenties, Evan use to play in Rock & Jazz bands. He had a diverse musical experience in his early years, then in his late 30's he focused solely on the accordion. You can learn more about Evan and ask him questions through his website at [www.Evanharlan.com](http://www.Evanharlan.com).

There was a short question and answer period with Evan and a short break there after. The meeting followed with Donna LaRue bringing the ensemble back together to practice on some of their songs to-date: The Calypso Washer woman, DixieLand Rag and Amore E Core. The ensemble will rehearse their total playlist at the November meeting. This is a definite treat to listen to.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming October meeting. See you on the 26th.

Bob

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:

Oct 26

Nov 23

Dec 21



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

November 1

**Magnolia Cajun Band featuring Alan Bradbury on cajun accordion.**

7:30pm The German Club, 78 Carter Ave, Pawtucket, RI

Call 401-726-9873 for further details and tickets



November 2

**"Polenta Party IV" featuring accordion music by Dominic Karcic.**

1:00pm Magnanini Farm Winery and Restaurant, 172 Strawridge Road, Walkill, NY

Call 845-895-2767 for further details

November 5

**Rube and The April Fishes featuring Isabel Douglass on accordion.**

This group is based in the San Francisco Bay area. They defy the notion of genre and bring a whimsical magic carpet ride through time and place, mixing sounds from the Far East, Latin America and the US. They perform an unforgettable multilingual performance with songs in French, Spanish, English, Hindi and Roma that range from raucous to romantic.

8:30pm Johnny D's Uptown Restaurant and Music Club, 17 Holland St, Davis Square, Somerville, MA (across from the Davis T-stop)

Call 617-776-2004 to confirm show/set times and tickets.

November 7

**Greenfield Contra Dance with music by "The Moving Violations" with Becky Ashenden on accordion.**

8:00pm, Guiding Star Grange

401 Chapman Street, Greenfield, MA

Call 413-367-9380 for further details and entry donation

November 9

**"Risotto/Cornish Hen" featuring accordion music by the Carozza Brothers.**

1:00pm Magnanini Farm Winery and Restaurant, 172 Strawridge Road, Walkill, NY

Call 845-895-2767 for further details



November 14

**Greenfield Contra Dance with music by "The Greenfield Dance Band" with Mary Cay Brass on accordion and keyboards.**

8:00pm, Guiding Star Grange

401 Chapman Street, Greenfield, MA

Call 413-367-9380 for further details and entry donation

November 16

**"Crespelle Party II" featuring accordion music by Mario Tacca.**

1:00pm Magnanini Farm Winery and Restaurant, 172 Strawridge Road, Walkill, NY

Call 845-895-2767 for further details

There are a few more events happening in the second half of November and the first couple of weeks in December. Check out the News and Events section of our website at

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

## Member of the Month

This month's featured member is Dave Sullivan. Dave was one of the first people I met when I first joined the MAAA. Because Dave took the time and shared his thoughts with me, I've been fortunate enough to learn several tips that has improved my playing and memorization of songs. Dave was gracious enough to share his thoughts with us.



.....I first heard the accordion played when I was in the fourth grade. The school offered free music lessons on any instrument a student wanted to play. I took lessons for a short while then quit playing for many years. I was at a party and I heard an elderly gentleman by the name of Ed Chrisileo playing. I asked him if he gave lessons and that's when I started playing again. He was a special kind of teacher. The lessons were supposed to be from 7pm to 7:30 on Wed. evenings but we usually played until almost 11 pm. He loved playing the accordion and he gave me a real love for the instrument. I would even play out on paying gigs even though I wasn't very good. After a few yrs he said he had taken me as far as he could. He told me it would be better if I could study it at someplace like a music college. A couple of years later I ordered a new accordion from Paul Monte. He said he'd be willing to give me lessons. A year later I took him up on the offer. I took lessons from him for many years. I was only playing for my own enjoyment so finally I decided it was time to move on. He had given me a pretty thorough music education. About a year and a half or so ago I bought a Roland FR 7 V accordion. It took me about six months just to be comfortable playing it. The feel of the instrument is very different than an acoustic accordion. Tony Marini asked me if I'd like to join an accordion club he had started. I agreed and I played at the first Dolphin Restaurant at the meeting. As a matter of fact I was the first one to get up to play. After hearing all the others play I was not a happy camper. My playing was nowhere near the level it should have been. I was pretty much ready to just quit playing for good. I think it was by the third meeting I was getting into the groove. Unfortunately, the following months were horrible. I was struck with severe stage fright. My hands would shake so much I could hardly play. It was painfully awful for me and I'm sure for the audience also. About that time a retired jazz pianist by the name of Joe Mattachio gave me a call. He said "You don't know me but I heard you have a new kind of accordion and may I come by and hear you play?" ( I was very happy that he did. He still comes to my house

once a week for a couple of hours and we jam. I feel my playing has gone way up to a new level.) One Sunday evening after freaking out worse than usual at the Dolphin one of the other performers told me " I know you can play that thing cause I've heard you play but you can't play anything if your hands are shaking. You have to find out what your fear is and confront it". (I knew what my fear was ...playing for an audience.) That evening I was so angry I went out onto my back deck and turned the volume up and played as loud as I could non-stop for an hour and a half. The next couple of days I stood in my driveway and did the same thing. Then one evening I got braver and saw a neighbor napping on her deck. I walked across the street and onto her deck and started playing. (Almost scared the pants off her I think.) From there I would go to someone's house and ask if they would like me to play for them. Soon my welding students were asking me to bring it to class and play for them. That was another good move. A couple of guys had been through Berkley music college and would offer helpful advice. My hands were staying steady for the most part and I realized if the audience was enjoying the music I was very relaxed and my hands wouldn't shake. The music I enjoy most are the standards and jazz. I wish I could play good jazz but so far I'm not playing it as I would like to. All in all I just enjoy playing and the more people I've been playing for the more relaxed I've become and the better my playing has become. The strangest part of it all is that I could get up in front of a large group of strangers and give a long interesting talk on how to sew. I don't know anything about sewing but I would be completely relaxed. As soon as someone would ask me to play something on the accordion the nerves would kick in. So, what I've learned through all this is one important thing that might be of a help to others who have struggled as I have: When you get up to play, enjoy what you're playing. Play for YOU!! As one musician told me: You're the one that's up in front playing. The audience thinks you know what you're doing even if you don't. Plus, no matter how badly you might play the audience will think your doing it on purpose. What the heck do they know??? LOL Dave

**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

# The MAAA Accordion Ensemble



*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: October 26th**