

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 2, Issue 3

May 31, 2009

Massachusetts Accordion Association

www.MAaccordion.com

Happy Memorial Day

Welcome to the unofficial beginning of summer. Our April meeting was at the VFW Hall in Natick and worked out very well. There was plenty of space and the veterans were very gracious. Our May meeting, on the 31st due to the Memorial Day weekend, will be at the Congregational Church in Natick. We will be joined with the NH and CT accordion club ensembles. It will prove to be a tremendous time with other fellow accordionists from New England.

Some of the highlights of our April meeting: Dan Mackowiak spoke on the May 6th World Accordion Day. He gave a great history of the accordion from the Sheng (free vibrating reeds instrument) and Joe actually had one to demonstrate.

Many times in creating the newsletter, I lose my creativity and need to search the internet for any type of tidbits of information that would be either informative or entertaining for you. Well this month I truly lucked out. I was lucky to find that John Thorp sent in a performance on YouTube.com. To find him, do a YouTube search for Roland Accordion—Marina. I believe you'll enjoy it as much as I did. Please e-mail me if any of our other members appear on

YouTube.

Also I stumbled upon a publication that many of you may already get, "Making Music". I found that the trial issue I received was informative and helpful. It covered topics such as: Tips for taking the stage at open mike nights, making music midi style, secrets of playing piano bars (very applicable to accordion playing), Cajon and how it works and many other tips and info. You can get your trial copy at www.MakingMusicMag.com.

Well, this meeting will be at our third trial location since the Dolphin Restaurant. Please e-mail your thoughts or preferences or other location possibilities to Joe at MAAAA@charter.net. Joe and the rest of our board of directors are interested in finding the most affordable, yet comfortable, settings for our meetings and members. Your comments and suggestions are always welcomed.

Remember, Sunday the 31st is our May meeting at the First Congregational Church at 2 East Street in Natick. I hope to see you there with our NH and CT accordion club guests. It will be one of our best meetings yet. Bob

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

1:00—3:30 pm

Upcoming Meetings:

May 31

Note: this meeting shifted to the 5th Sunday due to Memorial Day weekend

1st Congregational Church

2 East Street, Natick

June 28

Patriotic songs & Marches

July 26

Open Mike

August 23

Open Mike

September 27

October 25

Songs in 3/4 or 6/8 time

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 April

Patty Simmons

Dave Sullivan

Al Paradis

Paul Castonguay

Dan Dempsey

Dan Mackowiak

Bob Guenther

Joe Maciejowski

Our April meeting at the VFW Hall in Natick



Club Officers

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The following is a snippet of an article from www.MakingMusicMag.com and it's current issue. **"Music Fits the Budget"** by *Shannon Price*.

Shannon Price coordinator for recreational music programs at West Music in Corralville, Iowa, tells us why music is a worthy investment in any economy

Get Lost in a Lesson

Taking music lessons is a financial commitment that you can consider an investment in your life. Even though your goal is not to become a professional musician, knowing how to play an instrument and taking it as far as you can makes you a more rounded person and that's something that can't be measured in financial terms. Research has shown, time and again, that music makes you healthier and helps you live longer.

Your 30- to 60-minute lesson is time just for you—so get lost in a lesson. Then, think of practice time as icing on the cake. Close the door and lose the outside world for a while.

If you are still uncertain about making the weekly financial commitment to music, consider other options. Some teachers are willing to take on beginner students at a lower than normal rate or will allow you to sign up for lessons twice a month instead of every week.

There is also the option of online lessons or DVDs. But it's not the same as having a live person who can see you, hear you, offer advice, and answer questions. Also, video lessons can't give you feedback on your technique.

Member Profile of the month



Hopefully you all know Al. He is our club's secretary/treasurer and regularly seen at our meetings. On March 7-9, 2008, the American Accordion Musicological Society (AAMS) held its annual Festival in King of Prussia, PA. The event included concerts by renowned accordionists, workshop presentations by experts, and professionally adjudicated competitions in a variety of categories. Al competed in two categories, Ethnic-Senior and, Festival Virtuoso, which is the elite category in the competition. He was rewarded for his thorough preparation by winning the first place award in both categories.

Al was kind enough to share some of his experiences with us. Next time you see Al just go up and say hi, he'll be glad to meet you.

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

I was a kid in the fourth grade when I started lessons. I admired my cousin who took lessons, and I wanted to be like him. It turned out that he was not the best role model, but I always liked the accordion. I not only continued long after he stopped but in college I played in a dance band and made some significant money that helped me get through college.

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

I like complex music that is difficult and challenging: classical, latin, and jazz. I have a growing interest in ethnic music but I don't have enough time to fit everything in.

3) *how did you get over the fear of performing before an audience*

I have never gotten over my fear of playing in front of an audience. I'm a little less nervous now than when I started at the club, but I'm still nervous in front of the group. When I play at the accordion club I usually make mistakes I've never made when practicing. However I am grateful for the opportunity to perform for a group that enjoys the instrument and tolerates the effort made by the performer even if the performance isn't perfect.

4) *also, anything you would like to tell about yourself would be a great feature*

Music has always been important to me. I enjoy live music by orchestras; soloists, particularly piano, violin, and accordion; and jazz groups at our local Java Room. Not only does music move me, but also as a player I really appreciate the difficulties of playing.

I would like to add the following: If someone wants to improve their accordion playing they need patience, practice, and persistence. Practice slowly until the notes are mastered. Pick up the speed gradually. Practice until the notes are in your fingers. Practice pieces in sections and work on each section separately. Before starting, read the music over, to understand the key, the dynamic changes, the tempo changes, the registration which must all be in the finished work. As you practice try to put all these pieces together so you don't have to keep correcting things later. Have fun getting to level you want to achieve. Don't be distracted if life gets in the way of your practice time. Just get back to practicing when you can. Al

Events Throughout New England

May 23-24 (*Memorial Day Weekend*)

"Bayou n' Boogie Fest"

Various Zydeco and Cajun bands with accordion performing throughout the week. Indoor and outdoor stages for continuous music. Grill area serving food. Dance lessons. Accordion workshop with Corey Ledet.

Starts noon each day. Smithfield Elks Lodge

329 Farnum Pike, Smithfield, RI

401-965-0849

June 5

Greenfield Contra Dance

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, entry donation

June 7

"Porchetta Party"

featuring accordion music by Mario Tacca with vocals by Mary Mancini.

1:00pm Magnanini Farm Winery and Restaurant, 172

Strawridge Road, Wallkill, NY

Call 845-895-2767 for further details

June 13

"Mixed Grill"

with Janet Borelli on accordion, performing at the Finnish Heritage Society - Dinner/Dance

6:00pm - 11:00pm, Finn Park Road, Rutland, MA

Call 508-885-2083 for further details

June 21

"Father's Day Party"

featuring accordion music by Mario Tacca.

1:00pm Magnanini Farm Winery and Restaurant,

172 Strawridge Road, Wallkill, NY

Call 845-895-2767 for further details

June 28

"Tortelli Party"

featuring accordion music by the Carozza Brothers

1:00pm Magnanini Farm Winery and Restaurant,

172 Strawridge Road, Wallkill, NY

Call 845-895-2767 for further details

the 2009 National Button Accordion Festival
May 22, 23, and 24th, Memorial Day Weekend.
The Bessemer Croatian Club, Bessemer, PA,
For more information on motels, RV parking, or other questions
contact Ron Pivovar by email at rpivovar@verizon.net
or call 724-588-3786.

Where knowledge and fun meet

WWW.MAaccordion.com

4th Sunday of every month
Check the newsletter or website for locations

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

Mark your calendars for this year's.....

American Accordionists' Association (AAA)

Member of the Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes - CIA (IMC-UNESCO)



The dates and place of the 2009 AAA Festival have been changed to:

July 15-19, 2009

University of Memphis / Holiday Inn Suites



Are You A Professional Accordionist? Why not visit beautiful Northern California next August and play for our 10,000 Guests at the Cotati Accordion Festival

Send a Demo CD or Tape and your Press Packet

Cotati Accordion Festival,
P.O.Box 809 Cotati, CA 94931

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...

(e.g. May's meeting on the 5th Sunday due to Memorial Day weekend on the 4th Sunday)

Reminder— NEXT MAAA MEETING: May 31st