

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 2, Issue 5

July 26, 2009

Massachusetts Accordion Association

www.MAaccordion.com



What a welcome to the 4th !!!!!



Yes, our June 26th meeting was definitely a patriotic welcome to our celebration of our Independence on the 4th of July. Dan Mackowiak started it by leading an accordion get together with a Patriotic medley of *You're a Grand Old Flag*, *This Land is Your Land* and the *Semper Fidelis* march. All accordions present at the meeting were invited to join in. This went so well that Dan has promised to try this a few times in upcoming meetings.

Also, our open "mic" sessions produced many Patriotic melodies and marches, and duo performances, first by Dan Dempsey and Dan Mackowiak, then Joe Maciejowski and Al Paradis, and finally the trio of Joe, Dan and Al. Truly entertaining and all firsts at a monthly meeting. We also welcomed our newest member, James Gerke on the button accordion. I applaud James for jumping right in on Dan's accordion get together.

Now for some news.....the membership renewal packets will be coming out shortly. Based on now having a cost of our meeting places, the membership dues will increase by \$1.00/month. Our overall goal is to increase our membership. So there was a plea to look

for some stray accordionists, who are looking for a place, once a month, to release their pent up accordion energies.

Our Tech Tip was entitled "Who's Counting", a discussion about time signatures. There was a handout explaining the different meters and how to re-calibrate them. We also learned how the C signature came about appearing next to the treble clef to reference "cut" time and that you can substitute 3/4 and 3/8 times by just changing the note values. The beats all line up. In keeping with the timing signature tech tip, Al Paradis also added that it was the 50 year anniversary of Dave Brubeck's piece "Take Five".

"Take Five" became Brubeck's best known, and signature, tune. It became famous for its distinctive, catchy saxophone melody and use of the unusual quintuple (5/4) time, from which its name is derived. While "Take Five" was not the first jazz composition to use this meter, it was the first of United States mainstream significance.

Look forward to our upcoming July 26th meeting at the VFW Hall. Our members make our meetings fun. The camaraderie and friendships keeps getting better.....Bob

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

1:30—3:30 pm

Upcoming Meetings:

VFW Hall
113 W. Central Street,
Natick

July 26

Open Mic

August 23

Open Mic and
Tech Tip

September 27

Open Mic

October 25

Songs in 3/4 or 6/8
time

November 22

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 June meeting!

Paul Castonguay

Al Paradis

Lewis Howes

Jerry Tramontozzi

Dan Dempsey & Dan Mackowiak

Bob Guenther

Dave Sullivan

Joe Maciejowski

Dan MacKowiak

Our June meeting at the VFW Hall



More great photos on
the MAAA website

Club Officers

President -

Joe Maciejewski

MAAA@charter.net

Vice-President -

Dan MacKowiak

Dmackowiak@gpinvestors.com

Treasurer/Secretary -

Al Paradis

aparadis@comcast.net

Board Member -

Tony Marini

amarini@aamcpa.com

Board Member -

Donna LaRue

ihSDLrue@gmail.com

A quick note from the

New Hampshire Accordion Association.....

Hello Everyone,

This month's meeting is truly an exciting one you won't want to miss. Surprise visit by Mario Pedone and Par Wahlgren will add a festive concert atmosphere to the afternoon. See the attached agenda for all the details.

We will have a lot to discuss about the festival so please come to help with final decisions on that subject also.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday, July 19th, 2009 here at Accordion Connection as usual.

Reminder: Friday, July 17 is the deadline to sign up for ACCORDIONS NOW! Festival Orchestra, also for reduced room rate at the Highlander Inn 1-800-548-9248.

If you haven't purchased your festival reservation yet, this would be a great time to do so. See you Sunday.

Sue Welch

for NHAA and Accordion Connection



ACCORDIONS NOW ! 2009

CONCERTS =====	JAM SESSIONS =====		DOOR PRIZES =====
WORKSHOPS =====	VENDOR DISPLAYS =====		OPEN MIKE NIGHT =====
FESTIVE LUNCH with Accordion Entertainment		ACCORDIONS FOR SALE =====	MIDI EXPERT =====
			GALA DINNER with Accordion Entertainment

2nd Annual Music Festival

Co-Sponsored by New Hampshire Accordion Association & Accordion Connection LLC

FRIDAY - SATURDAY, AUGUST 7- 8, 2009

Highlander Inn & Conference Center, Manchester, New Hampshire, USA

Okay here's one.....

If you know of anyone interested in learning to play the accordion, yet they do not have the time or money for lessons, here is an interesting web page.

This retired accordion teacher in Europe has posted 43 free lessons for the accordion. Check it out.....

<http://duaneschnur.com/accordion/lessons.htm>



From an e-mail I received from my subscription to **Let's Polka—An Accordion Blog**

Despite its many charms, the accordion can be a physically taxing instrument to play. Most accordion players I know have experienced some degree of back or shoulder pain during their playing careers. One simple, useful tip for alleviating back pain is to use a back strap — a small strap that connects the accordion's two shoulder straps across your back. The back strap helps support your back, distribute and balance the accordion's weight between your shoulders, and keep the accordion and shoulder straps in place.

Elena Erber had trouble finding an easy-to-use back strap that would fit on each of her four accordions. So, like any good entrepreneur, she scratched her own itch and started making accordion back straps, which she now sells online.

"I couldn't find the same style strap again, only leather ones with buckles or hooks or other connection contraptions that didn't look nearly as easy to operate as a nylon strap and a quick-release buckle, like on a back pack, that allows me to snug it up or loosen it with total ease while I'm wearing it. So I made a few — some for me and some for my friends... I enjoy the process of making them, sewing them, packing them up and sending them off, hoping someday to collect some stories about where they've been."

Her back straps are \$19.99 and you can buy them directly from her website or wherever fine accordion accessories are sold.

Events Throughout New England

July 24-26

Lowell Folk Festival

FREE Lowell Folk Festival brings a proud history of traditional folk music, ethnic foods, and crafts demonstrations

that attract visitors from across the country. Various music acts feature accordion performers.

Located at various venues throughout Lowell, MA

Call 978-970-5000 for further details

July 24, 25, 26

The American Accordionists' Association Master Class and Concert Series entitled

"Welcome Home Skinny".

Three consecutive days of seminars, workshops, lectures, discussions and performances with accordion composer-author-philosopher

Dr. William Schimmel.

3:00pm Master Class, 7:00pm Concert.

Tenri Cultural Institute, 43A West 13th St. (between 5th and 6th Avenues), New, York, NY

Call 203-335-2045 for details and ticket info

July 25

Central Massachusetts Accordion Club Ensemble

Performing at the

Finnish Heritage Society - Sovittaja (Dance) 7:30pm - 11:00pm, Finn Park Road, Rutland, MA

Call 508-885-2083 for further details



THE AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION
MASTER CLASS & CONCERT SERIES-2009

Welcome Home SKINNY

(almost) not (t)here



JULY 24, 25 and 26, 2009 at the Tenri Cultural Institute
43A West 13th Street (Between 5th and 6th Avenues), New York, NY

Three consecutive days of seminars, workshops, lectures, discussions and performances with accordionist-composer-author-philosopher DR. WILLIAM SCHIMMEL as moderator/curator.

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE PHONE (212) 876-0827 OR (203) 335-2045
Visit our website at: www.ameraccord.com

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.....



ACCORDIONS NOW ! 2009



2nd Annual

Music Festival

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Highlander Inn & Conference Center, Manchester, New Hampshire, USA

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: July 26th