



Volume No. II Issue No. 0012 Date April 2007

Delaware Accordion Club Newsletter
WHAT'S SHAKIN'

Editor: Gary Robinson

President: Joe Oberly

Sec-Treasurer: Gary Robinson

www.delawareaccordionclub.com



EDITOR'S SOLO

- On a sad note, Joe Alexander and his wife were in a car accident early in February. They're doing OK now. Joe attended the April 15, 2007 open mic session.
- We wish Bobby Raye a speedy recovery from an operation in April. Matt Hedson of Philadelphia called me on Sunday, April 15, after talking to him. He's doing OK and that's great to here. Bobby, Tony Mohl, Marty Sorcsek and Mickey Zahurak made it to one of our open-mics a few years ago and we had a great time.
- CASTING CALL!! I've been acting as the secretary-treasurer and newsletter editor for the DAC for several years. I would like to find someone else to assume these roles beginning in November. The first newsletter by the new editor wouldn't be due until the end of January, 2008 and would reflect his/her own tastes regarding format. As you know, we are a very informal "club", so these are not elected positions and don't have to be held by the same person. If anyone is interested please let me or Joe Oberly know.
- Joe Oberly found an autobiographical sketch of

Pietro Diero, which he thought readers might be interested in. A copy is enclosed.

- Matt Hedson recently had a very good experience having his accordion checked out and serviced. He went to Aldo Mencacini (formerly of Bell Accordions) in New York. If you would like info about Aldo contact Matt at meh4ab2u@aol.com.
- If you are thinking of traveling to any accordion conventions around the country (or anywhere else for that matter) please consider using the services of the following DAC supporter:
Thelma Maiorano
Hockessin Travel Service
710 Yorklyn Road
Hockessin, Delaware 19707
302-239-5209
302-234-1852 (fax)
- Carmen Vitanza has been one busy guy. Check out the enclosed newspaper article.
- Ronnie Rider was awarded the sole \$1000 instrumental music scholarship at St. Thomas More Prep School in Magnolia, Delaware. It was the first time they had an accordion audition and Ronnie played a flawless rendition of "La Mariposita". Ronnie's mother, Ann, said it's also a credit to "his music teacher, Ed Tafelski, also a member of the accordion club, whom Ronnie has been taking lessons from for six years".
- WVUD (91.3 FM, www.wvud.org) recently held their annual pledge drive, but you can still send a contribution to them. The University of Delaware public radio station has a number of DJ's who regularly mention the DAC. Brian Lee has had Richard DiBlassio perform live and also hosted an interview with Dick Contino (see below). If you would like to support the station send a check made out to "WVUD/University of Delaware" and mail to: University of Delaware, WVUD, P.O. Box 6003, Newark, DE 19714-9984.
- Did you ever wonder.....why is there an expiration date on sour cream?



PAST EVENTS

If anyone attends an accordion event and would like to report it, please let the editor know.

** LENNY FELDMANN AT MAROCCO-BALLARINI ACCORDION CAMP (January 24 - 27, 2007)

Lenny reports he had a great time participating at the event held in Mesa, Arizona. He presented a workshop entitled: "Introduction to Jazz Improvisation - the Basics to Getting Started". Some of the other workshops were: "Basics and Musicianship for the Accordionist" (Nick Ballarini), "Duets and Don'ts - Much More Than Just Playing Together" (Stella Allison and Joan Grauman), "Left Hand Accompaniment Ideas for Improv Playing" (Frank Marocco), "Accordion 911 - Emergency Accordion Repair and Maintenance" (Dale Wise). And of course there were numerous concerts and performances throughout the four days.

Lenny also enjoyed the weather (about 70 degrees). Upon landing at the Newark, New Jersey airport on his return flight, it was a "balmy 26 degrees".

Lenny's website is www.cordeenman.com.

** DICK CONTINO ON WVUD (February 18, 2007)

Radio DJ Brian Lee created a one hour program about Dick Contino which was aired during the "Scratchy Grooves" time slot at 7:00 PM. The show featured telephone interviews between Brian and accordionist Richard DiBlassio on one end and world renowned recording artist and performer Dick Contino on the other end. The conversations were interspersed with many pieces previously recorded by the artist. You can find out more about him at www.dickcontino.com or call 702-732-4364. *Editor's note: many DAC supporters took Dick Contino to dinner about a year and half ago after a performance he did locally (see*

the October, 2005 newsletter). They found him to be very easy to talk with. This comes across also in this excellent program that Brian produced.

** AAMS SYMPOSIUM AND FESTIVAL (March 2 - 4, 2007)

The AAMS festival was a very busy weekend where Lenn Feldmann and Stanley Darrow were presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Saturday night banquet.

Friday evening featured Dee Langley with "Orkestar Bez Ime", the Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra, Lidia Kaminska and a cajun/zydeco concert with "The Crowdaddies" (accordionist Kraig Greff).

Daytime Saturday included competitions and workshops (Lenn did a workshop on the music of Astor Piazzolla). Richard DiBlassio presented his workshop "Pathos of Music - In an Independent Style"; fellow DAC supporter Bob Shoemaker was in attendance.

Saturday night and Sunday included performances by the WPAO, Joanna and Stan Darrow, Dee Langley with "Orkestar Bez Ime", Dr. Robert McMahan, Mary Tokarski, Vitaly Pirog, Tony Lovello, Jim Vandelly, Ron Onda and Bobby Raye. *Editor's note: I thank Lenny Feldmann for the above info on the festival, as I was unable to attend this year. Sounds like I missed a good one!*

** RICHARD DIBLASSIO EVENTS

Richard has been busy the past three months. Besides participating in the AAMS Festival, he also has performed at the Mona Lisa Restaurant in Wilmington, Delaware and the Masonic Home. He had an audience of about 700 people at the Delaware Senior Showcase. And the Da Vinci Society invited him to play at the Delaware Art Museum, where he was surprised at how great the acoustics were. He also played at the Catherine Hand Wright Center in Wilmington, where he was joined by Joe Oberly for a couple of duets.



**** JOE OBERLY AT THE PILOT SCHOOL
(March, 2007)**

Joe Oberly took his accordion to the Pilot School (an elementary school) in Wilmington, Delaware. He presented his "Show, Tell and Play" show. Some questions the kids asked were: What colors do accordions come in? What do those different buttons do? How old is that accordion?

**** CARMEN VITANZA IN FLORIDA (March, 2007)**

Carmen had some fun at an outdoor concert in Lake Worth, Florida with a five piece swing/jazz group. They had a male vocalist very reminiscent of Sinatra and Como.

**** RALPH DELVECCHIO CONCERT (March 25, 2007)**

Lisa Cristofich brought Ralph DelVecchio to the Hunter's Den Restaurant in Stanton, Delaware. He entertained the gathering of accordion enthusiasts while they enjoyed some great food on a Sunday afternoon. He played a new SEM reedless, midi instrument as well as a more traditional Bell accordion. Just some of the tunes performed were "Pennies From Heaven", theme from the movie "The Godfather" and "Funiculi, Funicula". He also performed "Misty" in the midi's "sax" mode: this instrument has a very wide range as this tune demonstrated. As a surprise, he brought Ralph Romano along. Ralph had been one of Lisa's musicians in her Accordicats Series a couple of years ago. He did a few solo numbers including "Accordion Boogie" and "Under Paris Skies". Then both accordionists got together for some duets that sounded great. *Editor's note: Lisa has presented some great accordionists to us over the past several years at very reasonable prices. They are helping us keep the accordion before the public in a way that demonstrates the great versatility of our instrument.*

**** ACCORDION POPS ORCHESTRA AT THE
KIMMEL CENTER (April 21, 2007)**

Under the direction of Dan Desiderio, the orchestra

presented a "Concert of Hope" in Philadelphia for the ALS Hope Foundation. Lenny Feldmann plays with the APO and reports that a wide variety of music was presented. Check www.cordeenman.com/apo for additional info. Other DAC supporters in the APO are Dave Kupsis and Jeff Anderson.

PAST DAC OPEN MIC SESSIONS

**** February 18, 2007**

There was a pretty good turnout today, in spite of an ice storm a few days earlier and snow flurries today. Gary Robinson started things by playing a couple of French tunes. Then he did an about face and delved into the American "moldie oldies" to play "Since I Don't Have You". He finished by playing and singing a rendition of the Everly Brothers "Bird Dog". *Editor's note: Now, if he could only sing the parts of both Don and Phil Everly at the same time!!*

Jack Chrustowski then played his great Sano accordion, followed by Susan Shertok who did numerous pieces including "Hello Dolly".

Dave Kupsis brought his Titano and Joe Oberly brought his Excelsiola. They played a variety of tunes (separately) including "Under the Bridges of Paris" by Joe.

Charles Mariani then performed several pieces and got everyone singing with "Heart of My Heart". Bob Shoemaker did a medley of tunes from "The Eddie Duchin Story". It is apparent these two accordionists have had experience playing in front of people; they are very entertaining.

Matt Hedson made the trip from Philadelphia and played many beautiful selections, including "Charade" and "Talk of the Town". It's evident that Matt has really been pursuing his accordion interests since retiring. Whenever he comes he shares stories of accordion shopping, repair people and events he's been to.

Phyllis Edamatsu made the trip from Dover, Delaware and, as always, entertained with very intricate and difficult pieces. She finished with the



highly recognizable passage from "The William Tell Overture", which had everyone cheering.

** March 18, 2007

Darlene Laird was already playing when people started coming in. She played several tunes including a boogie woogie and was joined by her four year old grandson, Daniel, on his little red accordion!

John Jolli and Richard Trasferini made the trip from New Jersey to attend today. John and Gary Robinson together did "Talk of the Town" and "The Clarinet Polka". Richard, recovering from an arm injury, didn't play.

John Papili made a too rare appearance at the open mic and, as is always the case, he played an excellent selection of standards.

Dave Kupsis followed by playing some beautiful Irish tunes and Joe Oberly took the customers to France with several French tunes.

John Jolli played "Til There Was You", solo, and then joined Richard DiBlassio on a rousing duet of "The Pennsylvania Polka". They were great together.

Richard went on to play numerous solo pieces, but also encouraged Daniel, the four year old, to play along with him. Daniel was not bashful about getting into the act!

Richard performed "Nights in White Satin", a tune originally done by the Moody Blues. *Editor's note: I believe the Moody Blues first performed this with the London Symphony Orchestra in 1967. It's amazing that Richard was able to capture so much of that full instrumentation with an acoustic, non-midi, accordion. Yikes - our open mic sessions always surprise me!*

** April 15, 2007

The group that turned out today should be congratulated: they made it through a five inch deluge and some flooding conditions to get to the First State Diner. Dave Kupsis, John Maiorano, Bob Shoemaker and Ed Tafelski all played individually. Then all four

of them started jamming, with Bob even doing a little singing. Daniel, Darlene Laird's little grandson, also joined the group. Although he wasn't exactly playing what the other guys were playing, he got some experience in front of people!

Joe Oberly then followed, playing "The Beer Barrel Polka", "Jambalaya", "O Sole Mio", and "Can't Help Falling in Love", among others.

Lester Rittle made the 80 mile trek from Lewes, Delaware, and played a couple of tunes to finish the day.



FUTURE EVENTS

If anyone knows of an accordion event coming up, please let the editor know.

** SPRING DANCE

May 20, 2007 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Featuring Meixner Music (formerly the Al Meixner Trio)

Copeechan Fish & Game Club
Brook Street
Pennsylvania

Schnecksville,

Call 610-261-3881 for tickets (\$12.00).
www.alexmeixner.com

** NATIONAL BUTTON ACCORDION FESTIVAL

May 25 - 27, 2007

Sponsored by the Yukon Czech Hall and the National Accordion Association.

"Come and play your music! YOU ARE THE ENTERTAINMENT!" : music, dancing, food, jamming , concerts, performances.

Yukon Czech Hall
N. Czech Hall Road
850456
Oklahoma 73058
8073 www.czechhall.com

205
P.O. Box
Yukon,
405-324-



WHAT'S SHAKIN'



For info contact: Dick
 Albreski at 405-721-0564 Ron
 Pivovar at rpivovar@verizon.net

** ST. ANTHONY'S ITALIAN FESTIVAL

The week of June 11, 2007.

A large festival surrounding St. Anthony of Padua Church in Wilmington, Delaware. Bands, music and food are everywhere on the surrounding church grounds and neighborhood.

Call 302-421-3700.

** POLKA FIREWORKS

June 29 - July 3, 2007

A couple of dozen bands will be playing.

Seven Springs Mountain Resort
 Champion, Pennsylvania

Room reservations: 814-352-7777
 (Champion is southeast of Pittsburgh)

For info, contact: Bel-Aire
 Enterprises Eddie
 Blazonczyk 7208 S.
 Harlem Avenue Bridgeview,
 Illinois 60455 Phone: 708-594-
 5182 Fax: 708-448-5494 BelAire7208@aol.com
 www.polkafireworks.com

** LISA CRISTOFICH'S ACCORDICATS SERIES

June 17, 2007

Lisa will be presenting a show from 1:30 - 5:30 PM
 at: The Charcoal Pit

Kirkwood Highway (route 2)
 (about 5 miles west of Wilmington, Delaware)

Call Lisa at 302-993-0374 for details.

** CARMEN VITANZA EVENTS

At Cape May, New Jersey Convention Center:

June 30 through Labor Day, 2007

Saturday nights from 7 - 10 PM

Playing with the Al Raymond Group

At Rose Tree Park, near Media, Pennsylvania (off
 Providence Road, Route 252):

June and July, 2007 (exact dates not known yet)

Playing with a swing/jazz group

** KIOTAC (Kimberly Old Time Accordion Championships)

July 9 - 14, 2007

Contact:

KIOTAC
 PO Box 473
 Kimberley, BC V1A 3B9 Canada
 888-454-6822 (toll free)
 250-427-4547 www.kiotac.ca

Competitions will be held and many, many bands will
 be performing: among others will be the Al Meixner
 Trio, the Softones, the Western Senators and the
 Kawa Family Band.

FUTURE DAC OPEN MIC SESSIONS

Open to the public:

First State Diner & Restaurant
 at I-95 Exit 1, Route 896 North
 Newark, Delaware 19713

302-733-0442 302-733-0429 (fax)
 www.firststatediner.com

05-20-2007 Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm 06-17-2007
 Sunday ***** (No Session) 07-15-2007
 Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm 08-19-2007 Sunday
 2:00 - 5:00 pm 09-16-2007 Sunday 2:00 -
 5:00 pm 10-21-2007 Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm

FOR SALE OR WANTED



Looking for a particular piece of music or
 instrument repair? Found an old instrument
 you want to sell or give away? Tell the editor
 and it will go in the next newsletter.

For Sale: new book by Carmen Vitanza titled "My
 Accordion, the Music of My Life"; send \$23.95



WHAT'S SHAKIN'



(\$26.95 in Canada) to Carmen Vitanza, 3842
 Berkley Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026; price
 includes postage (allow 4-6 weeweeks for delivery);
 SPECIAL PRICE for DAC members - \$17.00.
 610-626-3644 Carmaccord@aol.com



ACCORDION REPAIRS

New/used instruments/equipment may be
 available, as well as musical instruction.

ACCORDION CONNECTION LLC Arthur
 and Sue Welch 136 Route
 106, Unit 1 Gilmanton, New
 Hampshire 03237 603-267-8600 800-328-5227
 FAX 603-267-8667 www.accordionconnection.com

ACME ACCORDION SCHOOL
 Stanley Darrow 322
 Haddon Avenue Westmont,
 New Jersey 18108 856-854-6628

CINTIOLI'S MUSIC CENTER
 5359 Oxford Avenue Philadelphia,
 Pennsylvania 19124 215-533-2050 215-533-
 2053 www.cintiolimusic.com

KUKLEWICZ, BILL Wilkes-
 Barre, Pennsylvania 18706-3006 570-
 823-4957

MODERN ACCORDION SCHOOL II
 John Jolli 226
 Cedar Avenue Richland,
 New Jersey 08350 856-691-9273
 jl66redcpe@comcast.net

SORCSEK, MARTIN R. Lebanon,
 Pennsylvania 17042-9032 717-273-5944

TAFELSKI, ED New
 Castle, Delaware 19720 302-655-3529

WELL-TEMPERED MUSIC David
 Cottrell 293
 Lewisville Road Elkton,
 Maryland 21921 410-392-2279



NEW DAC SUPPORTERS

The club welcomes the following supporters:

Frank Bramble	Nottingham, Pennsylvania
John Jolli	Richland, New Jersey
Richard Trasferini	Vineland, New Jersey

SHOW OVER - LATCH THE BELLOWS

