

# WHAT'S SHAKIN'

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Delaware Accordion Club Newsletter  
*WHAT'S SHAKIN'*

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



## EDITOR'S SOLO

- Beginning with this issue the newsletter is getting a new look. I discovered an enormous batch of software on a recently inherited computer so I thought I would use it. Among other things I found the above cartoon figure sitting at a computer. Except for the fact that there is no beard, no eye glasses, no hair on the side of the head and, apparently, no clothes, it reminded me a lot of myself. So, I thought, why not use it? (I also had the choice of using a cartoon figure of a plant, which also bore a striking resemblance to me, but there was no computer in the picture).
- Our July, 2005 newsletter is now out on the DAC web site. I hope to have future issues out there, as well, thanks to Lenn Feldmann who maintains the site for us.
- Included with this mailing of the newsletter you will find the latest membership list. If any changes in your information are needed please let me know. I'm also including the annual treasurer's report for those on our membership list (but not those on the "associate and honorary" list).
- Many of our members enjoy the pop standards of

the 1920's through the 1950's. Radio station WVUD (FM 91.3) has two programs on Sunday nights that are dedicated to that era. From 7:00 to 8:00 is 'Scratchy Grooves' followed by "In A Mist" from 8:00 to 11:00.

- Charles and Jeanne Mariani have restocked the club promotional pens. We're going to save them to pass out at accordion events (other than our own club sessions) in order to let others know who we are. Thank you Charles and Jeanne.
- Tony Cristofich and daughter Lisa went to Kansas City, Kansas in August, where they stayed with Betty Jo Simon and her husband Wolfgang. Lisa arranged to have Betty Jo perform here in Delaware last March as part of Lisa's Accordicats Concert series. While in Kansas City, they also visited Don Lipovac ([www.polkas.com](http://www.polkas.com)), who was playing at a Croatian church festival.
- Pat Kerrigan took her big band, the Rhythm Doctors, to play at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City on October 22, 2005. She has been the director and vocalist with the band for the past fifteen years. The band has been playing in and around Delaware for sixty-three years. Although accordion is not part of the band's instrumentation, prior to joining the Rhythm Doctors Pat played accordion for three different Philadelphia mummies string bands. A full page article about the band can be found in the News Journal (Wilmington, Delaware) of October 20, 2005 ([www.delawareonline.com](http://www.delawareonline.com)).
- In the July, 2005 newsletter I listed the Carrefour mondial de l'accordion de Montmagny festival in the "future events" column. It was held this past labor day weekend in Canada. Recently I was paging through an old German newspaper called "Intermusik", a publication for harmonica and accordion musicians and events. In it there was a review of the festival by accordionist Roman Jbanov when it was held in September, 2003. Although my German isn't what it used to be I learned that two years ago there were no vacant hotel rooms to be found within 40 kilometers

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(about 25 miles) and that about 45,000 people came to the event, many of them camping out. I have been to the city of Montmagny (not during the festival, but to visit the accordion museum there) and can verify that it is not a large town. In any case, if you consider going in the future book accommodations early and take your sleeping bag just in case.



## PAST EVENTS

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

### July, 2005 Kimberley Old Time Accordion Championships

Each summer the city of Kimberley, British Columbia, Canada hosts an accordion festival which apparently is getting larger each year. How large is it? This year they entered the Guinness Book of World Records for having the largest accordion ensemble: 644 accordion players met in the Kimberley Civic Center and played for 29 minutes and 30 seconds! The old record stood for five years and was held by 566 players in The Netherlands who played for 22 minutes.

However, this was just a small part of the festival which was held for five days and had too many events to list here. Next year's event will be held July 10 - 15, 2006. In the meantime, if you have access to the internet you can check [www.kiotac.ac](http://www.kiotac.ac).

NEWS FLASH - This just in: the "News of the Weird" column written by Chuck Shepherd ([www.newsoftheweird.com](http://www.newsoftheweird.com)) has reported that the above record has already been eclipsed by another group in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada where a group of 989 accordionists gathered at the Folk Arts Festival.

*(Editor's*

*Note - given the reports from Montmagny, Kimberley and St. John's: is there a connection between Canadian bacon and the apparent desire to gather large quantities of accordions in one*

*spot?)*

### September 16, 2005 St. Hedwig's Polish-American Festival

This year the festival was moved from the neighborhood immediately surrounding the parish to the Wilmington Riverfront a few blocks away. There was plenty of parking, two huge tents with food and music, and a very large midway with rides and additional food items. Here are just a few of the bands that played: Walt Wagner Serenaders, Jolly Rich and the Polka Stars, Ray Jay and the Carousels, and John Stevens' Double Shot (featuring two, count 'em - 2, accordions...yikes!).

### September 16, 2005 Delaware Saengerbund Octoberfest

DAC President Joe Oberly watched member Steve Armstrong play his excellent accordion accompaniment for the Saengerbund dancers as they performed during the annual German festival in Ogletown, Delaware.

### October 8/9 2005 Dick Contino at Three Little Bakers Dinner Theatre

Members who attended the Dick Contino performances said he is a master performer and superb entertainer. Richard Diblassio and John Maiorano arranged for our club members to meet the star and have dinner with him following his Sunday performance. The dinner was held at the Italian Bistro and turned out to be a very nice affair with about twenty attending. Richard said it was like a dream come true because Dick Contino was a major influence in Richard's decision to get involved with the accordion, specifically, and music, in general. Richard thanks everyone who turned out. Readers can find out more about Dick Contino at [www.dickcontino.com](http://www.dickcontino.com).

*(Editor's Note - on behalf of the club members I'd like to thank Richard for taking the initiative in organizing this event.)*

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## Special Report

Dinner with Dick Contino: 10-9-2005

by Joe Alexander

Sunday Evening at seven we had dinner with our guest Dick Contino at the Italian Bistro Restuarant on the Kirkwood Highway. There were eighteen of us. We had the big table in the back room all to ourselves. We were all dressed nicely but in relaxed clothes, no one wore a coat. Seated alongside Dick were Richard DiBlassio and John Maiorano and their wives.

As powerful an accordionist as Dick is, he is personally a very gentle, quiet, soft spoken, humble man, a delightful dinner guest, and a deeply religious person. He classifies himself an introvert. While he was young he was painted an idol but he never felt he was. Having read much and obviously thought a great deal about religion, he has developed a unique, personal faith in God and Jesus Christ.

Dick Contino performed at the Three Little Bakers Dinner Theatre Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. John Maiorano's wife Thelma works at the Three Little Bakers and gets to know all the celebrities that perform there. John became Dick's bagman.

Dick personally knew most of the celebrities, most of the big names like such as Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Myron Floren, Art Van Damme, Larry Laravella, etc. They never considered themselves competitors. Obviously their techniques are so different.

Dick told us that on occasions when someone wanted to pay him for arrangements he replied, "You don't want to be like me or anyone else; find your own self and bring it out."

The dinner was conceived and arranged by Richard DiBlassio. Richard called John Maiorano and said the accordion club should do something. John contacted Dick Contino suggesting dinner to which Dick agreed gratefully. Dick had nothing scheduled after the

concert. He enjoyed being with the group rather than being by himself in the hotel room. This time he had traveled by himself. He was returning to Las Vegas where he lives. He has a show in Cleveland in a couple of weeks and he has other shows scheduled.

He has three accordions. He gave one to his son and one is always in the shop. His son is a full time musician.

Dick was born in Fresno, California early in 1930. He is now 75 and lives in Las Vegas. At seven Dick was allowed to follow his strongest desire; to play the accordion. While Dick was attending Fresno College a talent scout for the Horace Heidt Show discovered Dick and arranged to have him perform on the show. After that Dick was established as a top performer for the rest of his life.

*(Editor's Note - in 1998 Joe Alexander was the founding organizer of the Delaware Accordion Club and still contributes greatly to its activities.)*

## Past DAC Open Mic Sessions

August 21, 2005

Not many people played solo today as a series of small jam sessions began the day. First Joe Ragan, Dave Kupsis and Gary Robinson started as a trio, then Joe and Dave were joined by Ed Tafelski and Bob Shoemaker for an informal quartet. Bob was playing a Philharmonic accordion brought to the meeting by Louis Xiarhos. Louis wanted Bob to play it so he could see how it is "supposed to sound".

The Marianis and Dottie Soviech did some dancing during this part.

Phyllis Edamatsu joined the group late and also performed a few classical pieces solo.

September 18, 2005

Joe Ragan brought his guitar and accompanied everyone who played today, including Jack Chrustowski. Jack is getting more playing time at home lately and it really shows when he comes to the open mic sessions.

Dave Kupsis played a beautiful midi-equipped

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Excelsior. Dave and Gary Robinson joined forces and did a few moldie oldies (Bird Dog, Bye-Bye Love, Chantilly Lace, Since I Don't Have You). Was this 1958 or what?

Continuing the mood was Jeff Anderson who sang "Mustang Sally", joined by the peanut gallery for the chorus (once learned, who could ever forget the immortal three word chorus, actually two words since one is repeated, "ride..Sally..ride").

Joe Alexander performed a number of oldies, also, but the pop standard variety from the 1940's.

Noticeably absent at some of the open mic sessions this quarter was DAC President Joe Oberly. Besides accordions, Joe is heavily

involved in antique autos and regularly attends shows and competitions. However, if you see him at a show with his 1950's police car you're very likely to see his accordion on the back seat since it goes just about everywhere he goes. Here is a picture of Joe's car so you'll know what to look for:



October 16, 2005

Joe Ragan played guitar with Dave Kupsis, followed by Susan Shertok and then Ed Tafelski. Although Susan has been attending our open mic sessions she took a break from performing for us the past couple of months due to hand surgery. However, today she seemed as good as new. As she said, "I'm baaaaaacckkk".

## FUTURE EVENTS



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

### A Concert of Hope

November 5, 2005 7:30 pm

Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center

260 South Broad Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

All proceeds benefit the ALS Hope Foundation. Tickets are \$45 and \$55. Contact: ALS Hope Foundation 215-551-0967 or [www.alshopefoundation.org](http://www.alshopefoundation.org)  
Kimmel Center 215-893-1999

Featuring Daniel Desiderio's Accordion Pops Orchestra, including DAC members Jeff Anderson, Lenn Feldmann and Dave Kupsis, as well as the K Trio.

### Christkindl Markt

November 12, 2005 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Delaware Saengerbund  
49 Salem Church Road  
Ogletown, Delaware

German food, music, folk dancing, crafts and gifts.

Contact: 302-366-9454

### Quartetto Gelato

December 1, 2005 8:00 pm

Grand Opera House  
818 N. Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

Contact: 302-652-5577 or [www.grandopera.org](http://www.grandopera.org)

### Irish Rovers

December 3, 2005 8:00 pm

Grand Opera House (see Quartetto Gelato entry)

### Christmas Dance with Al Meixner

December 4, 2005 1:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Copeechan Fish and Game Club  
Schnecksville, Pennsylvania

Music from 2:30 pm to 7:00 pm.  
Buffet about 5:00 pm.

For tickets contact Al or JoAnn Meixner:  
610-261-3881 or [al@almeixner.com](mailto:al@almeixner.com)

### AAMS Symposium and Festival

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March 3 - 5, 2006

Wyndham Valley Forge Suites  
Wayne, Pennsylvania

Contact: ACME Accordion School  
856-854-6628

## Future DAC Open Mic Sessions

To be held at the  
Bear Diner & Restaurant  
Route 40 at School Bell Road  
Bear, Delaware 19701

11-20-2005	Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm	12-18-
2005	Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm	01-15-
2006	Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm	02-19-
2006	Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm	03-19-2006
	Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm	04-16-
2006	Sunday	NO MEETING

## 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.

## Wanted: Accordion Grill

Full size Covella needs treble grill fixture, 7 switches. Contact Joe Oberly at 302-388-0471 (cell) or 302-658-2684 (home).

## NEW MEMBERS, ASSOCIATES



The club welcomes the following members and supporters:

Dave Williston                      Newark,  
Delaware

## SHOW OVER - LATCH THE BELLOWS

