



August • 2011

The World's First
Accordion Club
since 1912

San Francisco Accordion Club

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING Sept. 18 @ 2 p.m.

**No August meeting!
See you at the Cotati Festival!
schedule on pg. 4**



Accordion Apocalypse Workshop with Daddy Squeeze

**Saturday, August 6 • 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
at the The Accordion Apocalypse Repair Shop
in San Francisco • \$20**

Piano Accordion Workshop with Daddy Squeeze
Improvisation and Playing By Ear & Arranging and
Embellishing: How to make the most of your tunes

Dan Newton / Elizabeth Rowan
Daddy Squeeze Music
PO Box 50622 Mpls, MN 55405
651-488-1174 www.daddysqueeze.com/
daddysqueeze@yahoo.com

Intro to Piano Accordion Workshop Class
every Saturday at 4 p.m. \$20.
The Accordion Apocalypse Repair Shop
in San Francisco
255 10th St., San Francisco, CA



The Mad Maggies perform Friday Evening
in front of the Rohnert Park Library — pg. 4

**Contact Val Kieser for your
Cotati Tickets
\$15 for one day,
\$25 each for both days.**

(510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

2011 LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL ACCORDION CONVENTION Oct. 31 — Nov. 3

It is not too late to register for the Las Vegas Intl. Convention. Masquerade attire for the first evening, which begins on Halloween! Join us for the 12th year of this event—workshops, concerts, jam sessions and the final performance which includes the *International Accordion Orchestra* led by Joan Sommers. www.accordioninfo.com/convention/



Bob Smith

July News & Music

President Lynn Ewing announced that the Accordions for Japan project has been a huge success, due largely to a wonderful article in the SF Chronicle by Leah Garchik. (see pg. 3 for more details)

The meeting began with **Open Mike**. First the Club's **Jam Band** played several pieces followed by Robert Doerr playing 2 pieces and then Bob Smith who played *La Cumparsita* and *Song of the Vagabonds*. Caroline Grannan and Jean Moshofsky performed together: a German *Ländler* and a French tune (translated roughly *Waltz of the Old Bones*; Ilya Kreymer played a Balkan tune; and Don Savant played *Serenade In Blue* and *Laura*; Val Kieser played *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes* and *Wunderbar*; and Skyler Fell played and sang *House Of The Rising*

Sun, on her Dallapé "Black Pearl" accordion. Lynn Ewing and Don Nurisso played several pieces, with Don performing the embellishment while Lynn played the melodies. These included *With a Song In My Heart*, *Indifférence* (with the second part arranged by Jana Maas), and *Je Te Veux* (Eric Satie ca.1902.) *cont.* >



Vinny Rinaldi



Don Savant



Caroline Grannan & Jean Mashofsky



Ilya Kreymer

Joe Domitrovich, our main performer for the day played using a “Concerto” MIDI accordion made by Paul Pasquali of Accordions International in Salt Lake City.

His performance included: *A Medley for Two Guitars, Stenka Razin; Kalinka* and *Dark Eyes*; the *Blue Danube Waltz* à la André Previn; *Molindo Café* (jazz/salsa); his signature piece entitled *Train Ride*, with special effects and snatches of tunes from *Dueling Banjo & Fiddle, I’m a Yankee Doodle Dandy, Folsom Prison Blues*, and *Orange Blossom Special*. Joe played a Swiss Schottische, *Steiner Chilbi*, played at Polka speed, incorporating other instrumentals voices; and the famous Big Band piece *In The Mood*. The MIDI he plays is capable of producing vocal harmony, which we heard in a duet with **Joe and the Beatles**—*Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da!* Switching to his strolling accordion, we heard the theme from *Godfather, Come Back to Sorrento*, and *La Vie En Rose*. Joe’s ambitious schedule may be found on his websites, listed on pg. 6 under **Performing Around the Bay**. He also plays monthly at *Esther’s Café* in Los Altos and at *Lugano’s Swiss Bistro* in Carmel.



Joe Domitrovich



www.thegreatmorgani.com

The Great Morgani, aka **Frank Lima** will be performing both days at the **Cotati Accordion Festival!** He was recently featured in the *Chronicle*. He is an amazing performer with extremely amazing costumes!

Our Annual Meeting in September . . .

will be held in conjunction with the September musical program, September 18th at 2:00 pm. The order of business will be to vote on the members of the new Executive Board. The nominating committee has identified the following nominees: Lynn Ewing, Skyler Fell, Randall Hicks, Dominic Palmisano, Maryanne Romanowski, Don Nurisso, Scotty Williamson and Mike Zampiceni.

A detailed list of the office each nominee is running for will be presented in the September Newsletter. We thank the nominating committee of Frank Montoro, Gus Greyhosky, John Fiore and Vinny Rinaldi and Maryanne Romanowski for their hard work in recruiting the nominees.

Thank you, Randall Hicks, Secretary

Accordions for Japan Project Update

Thanks to the generosity of members and others outside of our accordion community, we have had a great response with donations of accordions and funds to defray the shipping costs and we will be able to help out more accordionists than we had originally hoped for. We are presently in the process of packing the accordions for shipment, with the assistance of Skyler Fell of Accordion Apocalypse and will be shipping them off soon. We are no longer looking for accordions, but tax deductible donations to cover the cost of shipping and other incidental expenses can still be sent to Richard Yaus at: 23 Cove Lane, Redwood Shores, CA 94065. Checks can be made payable to the San Francisco Accordion Club, with a note that the check is for the Accordions for Japan project. We would like to thank all who have donated and offered such generous support. Stay tuned for a final report!

The SFAC Executive Board



The Cotati Accordion Festival

NON-PROFIT - MULTI-GENERATIONAL - MULTI-CULTURAL - MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA - BENEFITS LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS

FRIDAY—AUGUST 19, 2011

Festival Kickoff in front of Oliver's Markets
approximately 12:00 to 5:00 pm

All 3 Oliver's Market locations:
COTATI 546 E. Cotati Ave.
Cotati, CA 94931

STONY POINT 461 Stony Point Rd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

MONTECITO CENTER 560 Montecito
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

The Mad Maggies perform
5:00-8:00 p.m.

at the Rohnert Park Farmer's Market
in front of the Rohnert Park Library



Murl Allen Sanders



Nada Lewis

SATURDAY—AUGUST 20, 2011

9:45—10:15 The Golden State Accordion Club Band
10:20—10:50 Tangonero
10:55—11:25 Ramon Trujillo & Mariachi Los Caporales
11:30—12:00 Amber Lee & the Anomalies
12:05—12:40 Alicia Baker (*sponsored by Roland*)
12:45—1:00 The Great Morgani
1:05—1:45 Limpopo
1:50—2:15 Lady of Spain-A-Ring
Audience Participation

2:15—2:55 Guy Klucevsek BIO
3:00—3:40 The Georges Lammam Ensemble
3:45—4:00 The Great Morgani
4:05—4:45 Ginny Mac
4:50—5:10 Cory Pesaturo
5:15—5:55 The Mad Maggies
6:00—6:15 Nada Lewis
6:20—7:20 Polkacide

12:00—5:00 **Cajun/Zydeco Dance Party**
Friar Tucks, 8201 Redwood Hwy.
Dance Lessons 12—1 p.m.
Mark St. Mary 1—5

9:30-5:00 **Polka Dance Party**
Both Days
in the Polka
Tent on site
9:30—11 Jim Gilman
11—12 Chuck Berger
1—5 Steve Balich Sr. Polka Band

5:05-6:30 **Zydeco Dance Party**
in the Polka
Tent on site
The Creole Belles

SUNDAY AUGUST 21, 2011

9:45—10:15 The Golden State Accordion Club Band
10:20-10:50 Sweet Penny Royals
10:55-11:25 The Accordion Babes Pagent
with Hubbub Club Marching Band
11:30-12:10 Cory Pesaturo BIO
12:15-12:45 Simka
12:50-1:05 The Great Morgani
1:10-1:45 Bella Ciao
1:50-2:15 Lady of Spain-A-Ring
Audience Participation

2:20-3:00 Mary Tokarski
3:05-3:50 Murl Allen Sanders
3:55-4:10 The Great Morgani
4:15-4:55 Limpopo
5:00-5:15 Amber Lee Baker
5:20-5:55 Culann's Hounds
6:00-6:10 Duckmandu
6:15-7:00 Those Darn Accordions

12:00-5:00 **Cajun/Zydeco Dance Party**
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in the Polka
Tent on site
Courtableu

Scholarship Awards

Twice a year, in April and October, our club awards scholarships to accordion students demonstrating promise to further their study and knowledge of the accordion. Scholarship Guidelines and Application forms are available at the monthly meetings or can be obtained from the club secretary, Randy Hicks—by emailing: hickr01@sprintmail.com. Completed applications are to be returned to: **Frank Montoro, 1448 Tarrytown St., San Mateo, CA 94402** by the end of either March or September to be considered for an award the following month.

Please Remember!

To leave our meeting hall at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Clean up food or drink spills and recycle all trash.

Receive Your Newsletter On-Line! Help our Club SAVE MONEY!

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and read it
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and postage fees, and
you will have less
paper lying around your house to re-
cycle.**

to sign up for this service
send an email to:
sfacnewsletter@earthlink.net

Accordion Band News

Band Practice is the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, monthly @ 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's home in Oakland. Please CALL AHEAD in case there is a change. Everyone is welcome to join. For more information, contact Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net

SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, President
(650) 365-1700 ewinglynn@gmail.com

Frank Montoro, Vice President
(650) 574-4757 frankmontoro@gmail.com

Randall Hicks, Secretary
(510)583-1581 hickr01@sprintmail.com

Marian Kelly, Treasurer
(650) 854-1896 kelly.marian@gmail.com

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swaltersgrey@comcast.net

Newsletter

Christina Knapp,
Content Manager / Graphic Design
snapp.chris@gmail.com

JAM session Before the Sept. meeting, from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m..

Anyone who plays accordion is invited to come and join in the fun. All you need to bring is an accordion and a music stand.

We encourage performers of all levels to participate and if you don't play accordion, please come anyway and be our audience.



Nearby Club Meetings

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Hermann Sons Hall • 860 Western, Petaluma, CA

\$2 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—

President (707) 318-0474;dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com

The Vacaville Chapter meets monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main Street, Vacaville.

The Humboldt Chapter meets monthly on the third Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta.

The Sacramento Chapter meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. Contact for all three Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

meets monthly on the first Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas, Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

meets 1st Sun. of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely. 1 p.m. \$5, under 16 - no charge.

Welcome new members

Patricia Brown of Burlingame is a student of Marian Kelly, plays piano accordion, likes modern/jazz, European, Latin, Tex/Mex and Cajun/Zydeco music.

She also plays guitar.

Robert Monticelli of South San Francisco. Plays piano accordion and "FR7x digital" —likes "Oldies," European, Latin music and standards.

Performing Around the Bay

Steve Balich • North Bay
(707) 874-3494

Ron Borelli • San Mateo
(650) 574-5707
rborelli@aol.com

Renée de la Prade
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco
www.sfhounds.com

Richard Denier • Carmel
rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono • San Francisco
www.peterdibono.com

Reno Di Bono • South Bay
ourhike@aol.com

William De Michelis • South Bay
wdd777@comcast.net

Joe Domitrowich • South Bay
www.capricious-accordion.com or
www.alpinersusa.com

Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano)
San Francisco
www.eurocafemusic.com or
zighi@sonic.net

Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobbelins
Oakland
www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins

Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

Don Nurisso • Pacifica
nurisso@mindspring.com

Mike Zampiceni • South Bay
eclecticguy@comcast.net

Ed Gorzynski, Jr. • East Bay
edspolkas@yahoo.com

Play at our Meeting!

We are always grateful and accepting of anyone who wishes to play for warm up, intermission, or the first part of the meeting. Share your talent and hone your performance skills! Contact Val Kieser to sign up.

**Umbria Sunset:
Just another accordion story
by Algis Ratnikas**

I am not a professional musician, but I do enjoy composing and have written a few simple tunes for our local San Francisco Café Babar Jug Band. Early this year I began composing a tune for my daughter's wedding. She had met her fiance two years ago in Italy at the wedding of a mutual friend. They were both living in Manhattan at the time, but had not yet met. Last fall he gallantly asked me for her hand.

Their wedding was scheduled for June 11, 2011, at Passignano sul Trasimeno, Umbria, Italy, the hometown of the groom's parents. This was clearly going to be a major adventure for all involved.

In 217BC Carthaginian forces led by Hannibal destroyed a Roman army under consul Gaius Flaminius in a battle at Lake Trasimeno in central Italy.



For the music I ignored Hannibal and focused on the first name initials of the bride and groom. The tune thus centered on the keys of A and D: A for Aldo, the groom, and D for Dalia, our daughter. Over the next few months the tune developed into something presentable and I introduced it to a musical group with whom I regularly meet. As I presented early versions the piece came to meet with some approval and suggestions. As an aside I cannot overemphasize how important it is to play together with others to help focus and develop personal skills.

As June approached the tune became pretty well integrated into my very soul. I needed this level

of attachment just to make sure I would not embarrass my daughter and her guests in the precious moments of her special afternoon.

Months before this I had begun searching for a "new" used accordion. My trusty red student squeeze, an old present from my wife who gave up on it 50 years ago, was losing high notes and weakening at its very seams. I logged on to Craig's List every day in search of a new "ax" reasonably priced, and traveled up and down the Bay Area looking for an appropriate breastplate. In March I made contact with the owner of an accordion that seemed to match my needs. We made a deal and I thus became the owner of lovely white, Settimo Soprani, Contino accordion.

The deal was negotiated at the Java Hut on the San Francisco waterfront. I immediately liked the seller, a young man who came in from Novato to strike the deal. The accordion came in a new looking, soft green carrying case. As I tested all the notes we talked of how he came to have it. Turns out his father, an old friend of Jim Boggio, had acquired it as a present for his efforts in helping organize the early Cotati Accordion festivals. This really connected us. I told him of knowing Jim through the SF Accordion Club and playing at one of the early festivals. When I explained my need for the accordion, the deal was sealed.


A day or so later I checked my phone messages and saw one that I did not immediately recognize. Caller ID said it was from Monroe Grisman. The last name rang a bell, and only then did I realize that the accordion I had purchased was from the son of David Grisman, renowned Bluegrass mandolin player and compatriot of Jerry Garcia, founding member of the Grateful Dead. I then christened my new "box" with "Dawgs Waltz," a tune made popular by Garcia and Grisman.

to be continued . . .

Accordion Instruction

- Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744
- Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707
- David Chelini (916) 428-8764
- Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502
- Lynn Ewing (650) 365-1700
- Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952
- Lou Jacklich (510) 317-9510
- Marjorie Konrad (707) 539-5308
- Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896
- Vincent Rinaldi (415) 824-7609
- Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (415) 621-8284
- Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740
- Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579
- Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

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SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card-size) for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$10 per issue or \$100 per year. **Monthly ad prices for members:** quarter-page ad \$25.00; half-page ad \$50, and a full-page ad \$100. Non-member rates are double the member rates. A flyer (no larger than 5" x 8") advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members.

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\$30.00 per year for individual
or family membership.
Meeting admission
is \$6.00 for members
and \$8.00 for guests.

For membership renewal,
please send a check to: S.F.A.C.,
c/o Valerie Kieser,
3437 Crane Way,
Oakland, CA 94602.

For new members,
please include your name
and address along with your check,
as well as a phone number
and email address, if you want.

**Our Annual Club Meeting & Musical Meeting • Sept. 18 @ 2 p.m.
No meeting in AUGUST—see you at Cotati!**

*Join us (almost every) third sunday of the month at the Oyster Point Yacht Club,
911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco*

DIRECTIONS:

From 101 traveling either North or South, take the Oyster Point exit. Turn right onto Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right onto Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.) Continue past the gate house to the sign Oyster Point Yacht Club. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

Visit us online @ www.sfaccordionclub.com

NOTICE

Parking behind the Oyster Point Yacht Club will be disrupted through September 2011, while a ferry boat terminal is being built. We can no longer park behind the building and there is limited parking in the lot alongside the OPYC. PLEASE do not park in the Commodore's designated space in the front of this lot! Overflow parking must go to the next lot down the line, where the \$10 parking fee is being waived.

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

www.sfaccordionclub.com



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