The BAAC Page





#### President's Message

Well, the ACCORDION SEASON is in full swing, with June being Accordion Awareness Month, including the Day of the Accordion at the Cannery in SF, the Silver Falls Accordion Camp which I hear was a smashing success, the Leavenworth International Accordion Festival in Leavenworth, WA (where Joe Smiell was an adjudicator,

along with Gary Blair), the Las Vegas Accordion Convention, and countless other accordion events all over the country, all in the month of June. The fun continues in July and beyond with the AAA and ATG festivals, the Galla-Rini Accordion Camp, the accordion festival at Kimberley, B.C., the Cotati Accordion Festival, the various accordion club picnics, numerous polka fests, and on and on. I hope everyone is taking advantage of all these wonderful opportunities and participating to the max. Remember, every accordion activity and event is helping the accordion!

Anne Métais and I were pleased to be asked to play a couple of duets at the Silicon Valley Accordion Society at their June 1 meeting. Wow, they really pack 'em in! If you like jazz, that was the place to be! The featured performer was Jim Hillman and his quintet, which included our own Ron Borelli on keyboard. Dennis Stoscher and Dominic Palmisano also played some great stuff together. (It's great to see Dominic back in action!)

Our June meeting was terrific, featuring Hillebrand van der Veen, president of *Forzando* (the accordion club of Amsterdam) and Gary Blair, virtuoso from Scotland. Frosting on the cake was our "surprise" segment featuring John Fiore and Jim Firpo playing again what they played at an accordion picnic in 1939!! Wow! ACE played a few numbers as well.

Remember the BAAC PICNIC July 12! Send in your reservations and check to Frances Benedetto as per the flyer enclosed with last month's BAAC page.

THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR MEETING IN JULY — ONLY THE PICNIC!!!

No promises, but I hope to see you there!

Val

# AUGUST 14 BAAC MEETING WILL FEATURE ABSOLUTACCORD

A great Bay Area accordion ensemble
We will also hear Harry Rudnick,
Harmonica virtuoso
And we will have
nominations for
Club officers and directors
For the year Oct. 2003 through Sept. 2004

#### BAAC PICNIC

Saturday 12 July 2003
Nature Friends Park
in Oakland
Lots of music, dancing,
great food
Catered by our very own
Frances and Domenic Benedetto
Questions: call Val (510) 531-4836

No Meeting in July! Picnic Saturday, July 12 Nature Friends Oakland

#### Around the World Like Never Before!

We knew it was going to be an interesting meeting, but we sure didn't expect a barn burner!!

Val had a number of announcements, culminating in the awarding of Certificates of Honorary Membership to Vince Cirelli and Joe Smiell, who were both present, and to Gordon Piatanesi who was unable to join us for the presentation (but promises to come to one of our meetings in the near future).

First, Hillebrand Van der Veen, President of Forzando, the accordion club of Amsterdam, regaled us with descriptions of the music scene in Holland, in which the accordion is a major player, with lots of clubs and orchestras. He then gave a mini concert using Val's Pigini accordion, playing classical pieces, some of which sounded like an organ playing, with great bass lines, along with a series of five of pieces that are mandatory pieces to be learned for consideration of entry into university training on the accordion. It's another fine example that our accordion is alive and well in the world.

The advertised "surprise" act was special indeed! John Fiore whom we have wanted to hear for years, and Jim Firpo teamed up for a bit of nostalgia: they played again the piece they played together at an accordion picnic in 1939!! That piece was Armoniosa Polka (for the rest of the story see item elsewhere on this page).

Gary Blair, on tour in California from his native Scotland, demonstrated the fastest triple arpeggios and thumbrolls in the west as he reeled off jigs and reels mixed with accordion classics and tender moments with amazing flair. As with The Sundance Kid who asked, "Who is this guy ?," Gary had the audience on its feet and rushing to buy his CDs. Peter DiBono jumped on the train, and the steam kept building with the duet magic of Steven Novoyowski's arrangement of Indifférence and also Cavaquinho. Fast, furious and spellbinding. Gary Blair is like a race car that idles at 4000 rpm, captivating his audience with lively foot stomping melodies and great personality. Gary played Hens March to the Midden, King Robert the Bruce, A Man Shouldn't Cry, Casatchok/Minka (Russian), Hillingar/Ci-Sara (Icelandic/Italian), Fisarmonica Impazzita (Italian), Laughing Polka, Estonian Waltz/Rowan Davies/Kelly Ann McLeod (medley of 3 waltzes), and brought down the house with American Express, a lively medley of American folk songs.

If you've never heard of this great artist before, you have now — catch him when you can or rush to buy his CDs, you won't be sorry! What a wonderful discovery for many of us in our ever surprising accordion world!

Our ACE Ensemble checked in with Joe Smiell giving a very entertaining background description of the pieces being offered, with an instrument demonstration on how an arrangement fits together. Their offerings included a Mozart exercise variation and an American medley of Shenandoah, Billy Boy, and Skip to my Lou. Tough arrangements by our resident musical giant, and nicely done by the dedicated ensemble consisting of Peter Di Bono, Reno Di Bono, Mary-Alice Eldon, Val Kieser, Grigoriy

Krumik, Nora Mazzara, Anne Métais, Frank Montoro, Bob Smith and Sharon Walters.

The cash drawing was won by none other than **George** Alves (again??). That'll keep him coming to our meetings!

Our gourmet chefs **Frances and Domenic Benedetto** gave their last meeting performance of wonderful food that they took hours to prepare and present. What a loving contribution from an ever so special couple. We will certainly miss you both and never forget your dedication and sacrifice that has made our club the great place it is to come to. *RS* 



A Word About our
Very Special BAAC Member Performers
At the June Meeting

## John Fiore and Jim Firpo And a bit of History

As you may recall, it is difficult to get either one of these accordionists to play for the BAAC membership (although we have succeeded in getting Jim to play a couple of times), so this was a special occasion indeed.

I talked with John Fiore about the history behind their "historic" performance. There were four Pezzolo brothers. John and Jim studied with Caesar Pezzolo. Caesar, Theodore and Ralph Pezzolo held an accordion picnic every year at California Park in San Rafael. (The fourth brother, John Pezzolo, held a separate picnic in Fairfax.) John and Jim were third on the program at the Theodore/Ralph/Caesar Pezzolo picnic in San Rafael June 11, 1939. What a nice gesture on their part, to play again for us, on June 12, 2003, the same piece they played together at that picnic in 1939: Armoniosa Polka! They also played, for BAAC on June 12, Treasure Island Grand March, Cesarina Mazurka and Beer Barrel Polka., and the crowd absolutely loved it! Let's hope those two beautiful people will get together to play for us again!

By the way, I have known John Fiore since the mid-60's when he played several times for our French organization in San Francisco, and we never lost touch. Since then he has played for several of our French events in the East Bay and is extremely popular. I met Jim Firpo through BAAC—one of the many great things that has happened to me through BAAC. Jim is one of our most tireless workers, always cheerful and always willing, and there has never existed a person who loves the accordion more than Jim!

Val

(See program cover next page)

Do you have something accordion-related or music-related to sell?
Bring it to the BAAC Picnic July 12
We will have a sales table available for this purpose

#### Word Has It ...

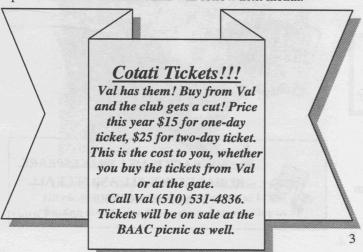
... that **Frank Marocco** can be heard playing music that he wrote himself, in the new movie *Finding Nemo*. His music is the French music of the French crab. Frank also plays in the orchestra of the same movie. Not only that, but he also plays in the orchestra of the upcoming movie *Seabiscuit. Plus.*.. Frank will be playing for our **November BAAC Meeting!!!** Visit Frank's website at **www.frankmarocco.com**.

ton of work and a ton of fun, and Gary Blair (who played at our June meeting), Joe Morelli, Father Joe Baccellieri, John Simkus and other instructors were immensely popular. Everyone is looking forward already to next year's camp. BAAC camp participants were Gwyn Lister, Frank Schlotter and Sharon Walters, each of whom had a moment of stardom. The organizers, Geoff and Joyce Levear of the Rose City Accordion Club, attended the June BAAC meeting and we all enjoyed getting to know them and Gary Blair. Special thanks goes to Geoff Levear for taking over as BAAC's Stage Manager at the June Meeting. (We tried in vain to get to keep him for future meetings!)

... That the BAAC Picnic July 12 will feature the BAAC Fun Band, Harry Gay, Lou Soper and the Cabletones, Mike Zampiceni, the Eurotones and much, much more . . .

... Bob Smith reports that there is a derogatory and gratuitous remark about accordions in the July 2003 issue of Scientific American, to the effect that having the right and left hands "working against each other" is disturbing and happens to explain "the average person's aversion to accordion music." Do they think there are no other instruments with a right hand and left hand doing different things? (The article's context otherwise had nothing to do with music in any way.)

... That the fabulous K Trio will give a concert at Moose Lodge Monday evening, August 25, following their weekend performance at Cotati. Details will follow next month.



# COMING TO BAAC THIS NOVEMBER!!!

#### FRANK MAROCCO

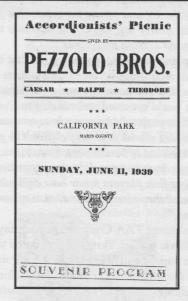
Stay Tuned for Details

\_\_ In Future Issues

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Program cover, Pezzolo Bros. Picnic Sunday, June 11, 1939 Courtesy John Fiore

#### This is the Second of Two Items on the Subject of Frank Marocco, by Ron Pivovar

#### "Evergreens" Review/Interview (April 2003)

- 1. At what point in your life did you realize you could make a living playing the accordion? (Answer) At about the age of 19.
- 2. What is it about the Piano accordion that attracted you? (Answer) I started lessons at age 7, and it wasn't an instrument of my choosing but of my parents' choice. It just turned out that I seemed to take to it quite easily and continued to play it.
- 3. The purpose of Evergreens was to "show that the accordion can be a solo instrument in a jazz setting as well as classic or folk music." Looking back, do you think the project was successful? (Answer) Yes, I always liked that CD mostly because I recorded some of the songs of the golden age of music, songs I still love to play.
- 4. The liner notes indicate you did the entire recording in one day, July 18, 1992. How much time did you actually spend in the studio that day? (Answer) About 6 hours.
- 5. One of your own compositions, a tune called "A Night in Morocco," is included in *Evergreens*. Has Marocco been to Morocco? Other than Plano, Texas, for the 2003 Texas Accordion Association Convention, to what other exotic and interesting places has music taken you? (Answer) Never to Morocco, but many of the other countries around the world. Most all the European countries, Russia, Brazil, etc.
- 6. It has been almost eleven years since Evergreens was released. Do you have any desire or plans for a similar acoustic solo project? (Answer) I've always tried to do something different with each CD; however, a similar recording is probably something I should do again.
- 7. How did you develop your relationship with the Hollywood film sound track business? (Answer) Just being in Hollywood and playing and meeting musicians connected with the TV and movie business. One job leads to another, and slowly you work your way into this small clique of studio session musicians.
- 8. Solo piano jazz recordings are not that hard to find, but solo jazz recordings on other instruments are much more scarce. Do you have any notion of how the mainstream jazz world received and reacted to Evergreens as a solo accordion project? (Answer) It never reached the mainstream jazz world. It is very difficult to get widespread distribution of instrumental music into the mainstream. It has done quite well in the accordion world, though. Accordion players know how difficult this kind of playing is, and they also like the choice of songs, "Evergreens."
- 9. At the recent TAA Convention you played several Frank Yankovic polkas. How did you come to know Yankovic's music? (Answer) My first band was a polka band when I was just 15. We played at the local Slovenian hall for weddings and the Polish hall for their dances. I loved Frankie Yankovic's music.

- 10. Did you ever have the occasion to meet and play music with Frank Yankovic? (Answer) Yes, once I was invited to play a polka festival in Chisholm, Minnesota. Frank was working there too, and he asked me to sit in with him and play 2nd accordion, which is the obbligato part or improvised part (right up my alley). It was great fun. I was glad that I had that opportunity to play with this polka legend whom I had admired since childhood.
- 11. From your perspective how do you view the current position of the accordion as a musical instrument in today's world? (Answer) The accordion is still popular all over the world. We just need more young people playing it to continue the tradition. I think the more it is used in popular music, the more its popularity will grow.
- 12. You have developed an unusual technique with the left hand. This includes playing the bass note and chord together. You use this combination in a variety of innovative ways. What style of jazz, or who were some of the musicians that led to this development? (Answer) I always liked some of the great jazz piano players. My left hand style is influenced by Errol Garner, I think.
- 13. What kind of music and which musical artists do you listen to for your own enjoyment? (Answer) All kinds of music that is played really well. Classical, folk, Latin, jazz, I have favorites in all of the categories. The latest surprise favorite is your rendition of "Over the Rainbow" on a diatonic button box. It knocked me out!
- 14. Do you have a funny or interesting story you can recall about your involvement as a professional musician with the accordion? (Answer) Hundreds of stories through the years, but one of the more unusual periods was when I was with the Les Brown band, accompanying Bob Hope entertaining the troops. We landed on Christmas Day, 1972, on Diego Garcia, a little Seabee island base in the middle of the Indian Ocean. These men had not seen a girl in a year, and we showed up with Ann Margret and a bevy of beauty queens. There was so much whistling and hollering that I don't think they heard one note of music. There are so many others, but those times were definitely unusual. Landing on the aircraft carrier Midway in a helicopter to do a concert was another. There were so many stories ....







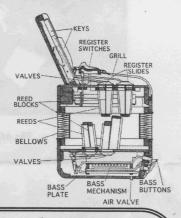
FOR ME, BACH IS LIKE SHAKESPEARE. HE HAS KNOWN ALL AND FELT ALL. HE IS EVERYTHING.

Pablo Casals



Dick Contino surrounded by fans in earlier days From the <u>San Francisco News</u>, July 1951 Photo submitted by Clifton Buck-Kauffman

Cutaway image courtesy of Smythe Accordion Center



Alto Saxophonist
Seeking to join a
music performing group
American, Italian, French, German
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PSR530
61 keys, no amp. Required
Has rhythm section
Asking \$295.00
Call Lou Casalnuovo
(650) 756-4670

#### Your Executive Board Met . . .

... On Tuesday, June 10. We have a total of \$12,709.28 in all accounts as of June 9 (this includes the money donated for the benefit of the ACE Ensemble last December). Our budget is on target. There will be no board meeting in July. We will have a card table and some chairs and literature to hand out at the Cotati festival but will not sell anything. Frank Marocco has asked if he can put on a program for us, so we're working on setting it up for the November meeting.

WELCOME new member Saul Fenster. Saul came to our last meeting and we're so happy to have him! Also WELCOME BACK to returning member Joe Nanut.



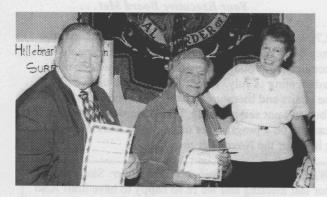
- We do not tear your clothing with machinery. We do it carefully by hand.
- Three-year-old teacher needed for preschool. Experience preferred.
- Tired of cleaning yourself? Let me do it.
- Vacation special: have your home exterminated. Get rid of aunts. Zap does the job in 24 hours.
- Dog for sale. Eats anything and is fond of children.
- Girl wanted to assist magician in cutting off head illusion. Blue Cross and salary.

#### **BIG BAND MUSIC AND DANCE PARTY!**

At the 13th Annual Cotati Accordion Festival Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 23 and 24 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. At the Cotati Polka Tent

Come dance or just listen to the Big Band music of Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Tommy & Jimmy Dorsey, Harry James, Benny Goodman, Lawrence Welk and many m ore.

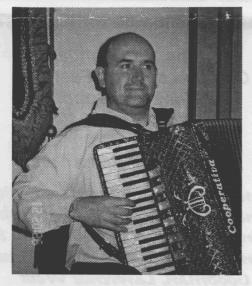
Played by BAAC member
SEV GARCIA
on acoustic accordion accompanied
by the Big Band sounds produced by
MIDI (musical instrument
digital interface)



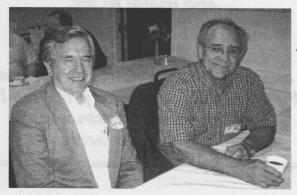
Congratulations Joe and Vince



Johnny Fiore and Jim Firpo



Gary Blair





Hillebrand van der Veen from Amsterdam



The ACE Ensemble



Gary Blair and Peter Di Bono

Don Pandori and George Alves from the Silicon Valley club

Let's get youngsters interested in the most beautiful, most versatile instrument!



#### Who Is Playing Where

Reno Di Bono and the Blue Moon Trio
play for dancing every second Friday
of the month
at Montavalle in Scotts Valley, CA
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
For info call Reno (408) 252-3808
Joe Domitrowich and the Alpiners USA

Every Sunday evening 5-9 p.m. At Tyrolean Inn, 9600 Highway 9 in Ben Lomond

in Ben Lomond Phone (831) 336-5188

Music played outdoors, weather permitting For more info call Joe (408) 255-1259

The Internationals

26 July 6:30-11:30 p.m. Teske's Germania, 255 N. First St., San Jose (408) 292-0291

Mike Zampiceni plays on Friday and Saturday nights At Di Cicco's Italian Restaurant 2509 Bascom Ave., San Jose For reservations call (408) 377-5850

William DeMichelis plays on
Friday and Saturday nights
At the Elbe German and European restaurant
117 University Avenue, Palo Alto
Call (650) 321-3319
or visit www.elbe-restaurant.com

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#### More Church Bulletin Bloopers

"Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get."
"Mrs. Stuart is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor John's sermons."

"During the absence of our Pastor we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J. F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit."

"Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance."

"Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community."



Dina Bray, Cobi van der Veen, Val, Tom Bray and Hillebrand van der Veen (the Brays, from Idaho, were hosting the van der Veens while house-sitting in SF))

Accordion Teacher Listings
San Francisco/North Peninsula

Peter Di Bono

Theory/Technique/Performance (415) 753-1502

Lou Soper

Every Tuesday 3:00-6:30 p.m. Moose Club, Colma/Daly City (510) 841-6745

**Sharon Walters** 

All levels (415) 621-8284

North Bay

Steve Albini

Marin/Sonoma Private (415) 897-4131

**Bart Beninco** 

Accordion and Piano Petaluma (707) 769-8744

**Marjorie Konrad** 

Button Box, Piano Accordion & Chromatic Santa Rosa (707) 539-5308

East Bay

Valarie Morris Group & Private; Theory, Technique,

Composition; all levels/ages (510) 222-8442

Lou Jacklich

Private Lessons; Technique, Arranging & Chords (510) 317-9510

Peninsula & South Bay

Lynn Ewing All levels/ages

(650) 365-1700

**Marian Kelly** 

Lessons structured to your Individual need (650) 854-1896

Ron Borelli

Theory, Technique, and Performance (650) 574-5707

Mike Zampiceni

Beginner to Advanced BA and MA in music (408) 734-1565

(Additional teacher listings available at www.boazaccordions.com)



MY IDEA OF HEAVEN IS TO BE ABLE TO SIT AND LISTEN TO ALL THE MUSIC BY VICTOR HERBERT THAT I WANT TO.

Andrew Carnegie





### OF ALL NOISES I THINK MUSIC IS THE LEAST DISAGREEABLE

Samuel Johnson

### Come and join in ... Bay Area Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the second Thursday of the month Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma For information call Val (510) 531-4836

Website: www.baaccordionclub.org

**East Bay Accordion Circle** 

Meets the THIRD TUESDAY of the month beginning July 15

(Please note that this is a change)
This means that the BAAC meetings and the EBAC meetings no longer conflict—so let's support our East Bay club!

1540 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Bring your accordion! For information call (510) 548-2822

#### **Accordion Club of the Redwoods**

Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma For information call Harry (707) 838-2859

#### **Golden State Accordion Club**

Meets 7 PM the second Tuesday of the month At Pietro's #2, 679 Merchant St. in *Vacaville* And 7 PM the fourth Wednesday at Sheepherders Inn, 11275 Folsom Blvd. in *Rancho Cordova* 

For information call (707) 864-2359

#### **Northern California Accordion Society**

Meets 7 PM the third Thursday of the month Polish American Community Hall 327 Main Street, Roseville Info: Call Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

#### **Good Time Accordion Club**

Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month Community Center 1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon For information call (209) 545-3603

#### **South Bay Accordion Jam**

Third Sunday of the month 2:00 p.m. Theatre Room of Sunny View Manor, 22445 Cupertino Road

(Off N. Foothill Blvd.) in Cupertino (Note change of venue from Campbell to Cupertino)

#### **Silicon Valley Accordion Society**

Meets on the first Sunday of the Month Seventh Day Adventist church 5265 Carter Ave., near Camden & Kooser For Info Phone (408) 570-5003 Website: www.SVASociety.com

#### **BAAC Ensemble Practice**

Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Moose Lodge

7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City For information call Frank (650) 574-4757

#### **BAAC "Fun Band" Practice**

First and Third Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge
7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City
For information call Frank (510) 339-1163



A Great Big THANKS To Frances and Domenic Benedetto from a grateful BAAC membership

André Paris and Bill and Naomi Drude were among those who enjoyed the great goodies provided by the Benedettos





"Are we having fun yet?"
One big, happy family





#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sunday, June 29, 2003 11:00-4:00
Golden State Accordion Club Annual Picnic

Pippo's Ranch, Vacaville Info: call (707) 864-2359

July 9-13, 2003
American Accordionists' Association
AAA Festival

Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia International Airport Info: AAA, 580 Kearny Ave., Kearny, NJ 07032 (201) 991-2233; FAX (201) 991-1944; e-mail isoleyreed@aol.com Or see Val who has the form

July 7-13, 2003
Kimberley International Old Time Accordion
Championships (KIOTAC), Kimberley, B.C.
Info: KIOTAC, Box 473, Kimberley, B.C., VIA 3B9,
Canada (250) 427-4547 or (800) 4-KIOTAC

KIOTAC@monarch.net Saturday, July 12

BAAC Annual Picnic
Nature Friends Park, Oakland
Call Val (510) 531-4836

Saturday, July 19 10 a.m. on Accordion Club of the Redwoods Picnic

Penngrove Park Info call John Pordon (707) 935-7334 July 27-Aug. 1, 2003

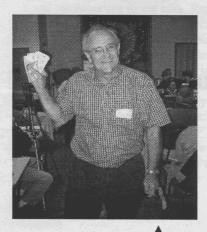
14th Annual Galla-Rini Accordion Camp Held at the University of San Diego campus Info: see Val, or call Kjell Holmes (858) 453-5486

Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 23 & 24

13th Annual COTATI ACCORDION FESTIVAL

Visit www.cotatifest.com or call (707) 664-0444 Lots of fabulous, big-name entertainment

Sunday, September 7
Good Time Accordion Club picnic
Escalon Community Center, Escalon
Info call (209) 545-3603



Again, George??

Bruce Metras, Hillebrand van der Veen, Gary Blair, Geoff Levear

#### **BAAC Honorary Members**

Vince Cirelli Dick Contino Myron Floren Anthony Galla-Rini Gordon Piatanesi Art Van Damme Joe Smiell

#### BAAC Past Presidents

Lou Soper
Dominic Palmisano
Peter di Bono
Frank Montoro
Bob Berta
Marian Kelly

#### **BAAC Officers**

President: Valerie T. Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@value.net Vice President: Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163 Treasurer: Bob Pisani (650) 347-2559 grnduster@aol.com

Secretary: Richard Schiller (510) 832-3002 richards38@aol.com

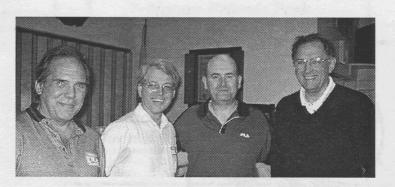
Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208 James Firpo (415) 648-3674 Ed Massolo (650) 589-8409 Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

#### BAAC MEMBERSHIP

\$25 per year for individual; \$30 per year for a family Mail check to B.A.A.C. P.O. Box 318175 San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

#### Ad Policy

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue; a business-card-size ad will cost \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; a quarter-page ad will cost \$10.00; a half-page ad will cost \$20.00; and a full-page ad will cost \$35.00. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$10. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-quoted prices





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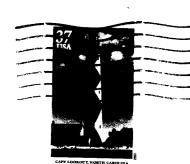
(206) 632-2700



### THE BAAC PAGE

Newsletter of the San Francisco BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB P.O. Box 318175 San Francisco, CA 94131-8175 www.BAACcordionclub.org





#### FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

