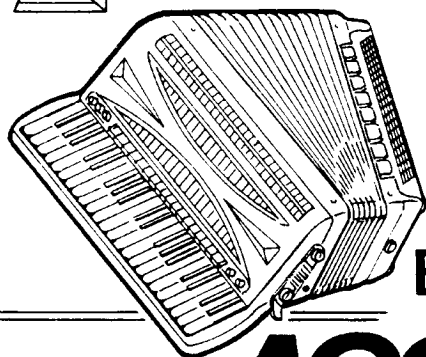


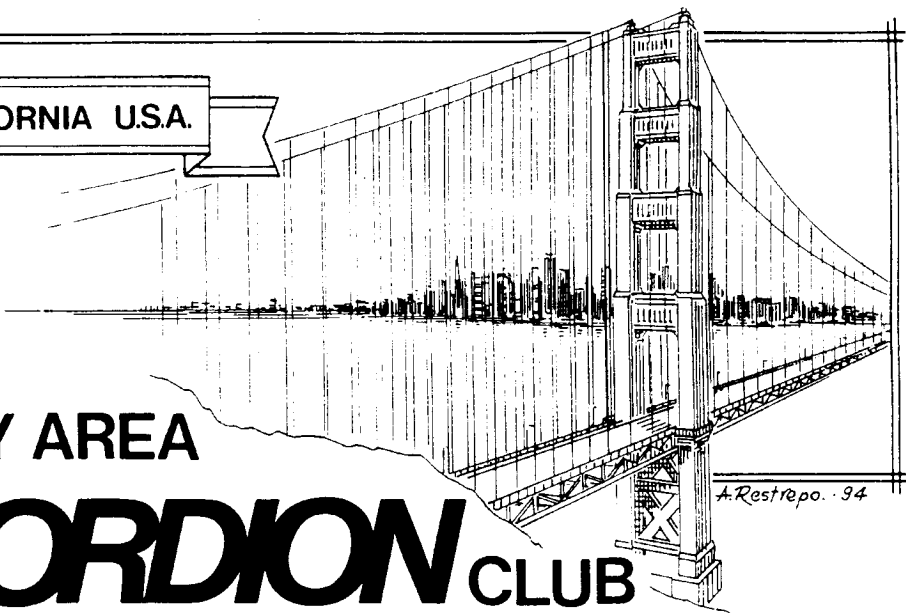
Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB



September, 1999

Serendipity In San Francisco

by Dick Schiller

Hello everyone! Well, I have to admit that since I'm a "dyed in the wool" piano accordion type, proud of my heritage and all that, the thought of coming to a concert performed on a "chromatic" left me questioning what I could possibly hear, see and come away with that would move me. I had seen Peter Soave at Cotati a few years ago, and while I certainly recognized his talent (in spite of the much to be desired playing conditions and a sound system that was very unfriendly to the nuances of accordion playing), I came away feeling I had heard a great player, but that was about it. So, the question in my mind was, as great as he is, would it be worth the 10 bucks we all were paying on this occasion?

Well it didn't take long to find out! The first thing that tipped me off that this

was going to be a special night when our own masters Lou Jacklich and Ken Chambers entered the hall. Peter then entered with his chromatic in one hand and his bandoneon in the other. I think he may have sensed that most of us are of the piano accordion persuasion and right away put us all at ease with a folksy, personal

approach saying how much of the music he was playing could be duplicated on a PA (piano accordion), and that his choice of the chromatic came as a desire to be accepted more in classical settings. He then described the differences between the PA and Chromatic, and the value of the free bass which he plays.

He drew the first gasp from the audience by running up and down the treble and bass keyboards lightning fast singly at first and then together, 3 plus octaves. Peter then took off his coat and together we embarked on a trip to "never, never land", one of beautiful melodies, counterpoint, and one avante garde piece. It's very difficult to put into words the quality of his playing and most importantly the effect on his audience. I saw people

ATTENTION PLEASE, EVERYBODY!!

You won't be able to just wander into our November general meeting, because it's very special. You'll need to plan ahead. It will be a DINNER MEETING, our ANNUAL DINNER, in fact, to honor both outgoing and incoming Officers and Board. It will be in the usual place at the usual time, but you'll enjoy a memorable PRIME RIB dinner with all the fixins. The Verdi Club will provide all the food; BAAC will provide all the music for listening and for dancing.

We'll need to know ahead of time whether you're coming, because Verdi must know how much food to prepare, so fill out the coupon on p.6 and send it in right away. We're asking you to send it to our new treasurer, Mike Zampiceni, because no one will be at our Club address to accept mail during October.

Bottom line here is that admission to our November meeting is \$25., but ooh, la, la...what you get for that \$25!!!

to p. 2

ELECTION RESULTS

Here are the results of the election of officers and board which we have just held:

- President: Lou Soper
- Vice-President: Vacant*
- Treasurer: Mike Zampiceni
- Secretary: Val Kieser
- Board Members: Vince Cirelli
Jim Firpo.

Board members from the prior year whose term is not complete and who will continue to serve are Dominic Palmisano and Kimric Smythe.

*Lou Jacklich, whose name was on the ballot with Lou Soper's, has unfortunately decided that he is unable to be our V-P. He submitted a letter to that effect at the September meeting. Then the members attending were given the opportunity to either accept the election results without a V-P or to ask that the election be declared null and void and repeated. They chose overwhelmingly to accept the results.

Sept. meeting, cont.

lean back and close their eyes in enjoyment. Comments of "unbelievable" were heard among others in praise, and Lou Soper rose in salute to this amazing artistry. Was it his talent? his Pagini? the free bass system?. Obviously Peter Soave and his accordion are "one".

Among the many selections were "Cavatina" from the film The Deer Hunter, "A la Francaise", by French composer Claude Bolling, two Scarlatti sonatas, "Ave Maria" by Astor Piazzolla, "Chorale" from Gothic Suite by Leon Boellman, "Danse Insolite" by Andre Astier and a rousing finish on the bandoneon with "Oblivion" by Astor Piazzolla. A tapestry of beauty woven between the treble and bass keyboards, certainly a master in our midst. I don't think there one one of us that didn't come away with a sense of a quality of music and feeling

along with a sense of pride of what our beloved accordion is capable of. Certainly our own personal playing has been enhanced. Bravo, Peter!

**To join BAAC send check for \$25 (thru Sept. 30, '00) to:
Bay Area Accordion Club
31 Aliso Way
Portola Valley, CA 94028**

Hey everyone! Do you have suggestions, and interesting information regarding the accordion that would be of interest to all of us? All it takes is a 33 cent stamp to help mold our newsletter the way we want it. Send your comments toDick Schiller, 2827 Richmond Ave., Oakland, CA 94611!



BAAC's PICNIC.....

Again, Marian and her able helpers, Peter Adler and Ernst Angst made it happen at beautiful Nature Friends facility in the Oakland hills. About 80 attended and were treated to an afternoon of good food and impromptu accordions. With dancing on the main deck courtesy of Bob Berta, Vince Cerelli, Jim Firpo, Lee Woodall and the small gatherings of players throughout the picnic grounds made strolling around a lotta fun. Jeremy Jeans, Lou Jacklich's student, wowed the group with a number of fine selections complete with single, double and triple bellow shakes! Our next Contino? Thanks to the nice people at Nature Friends for allowing us to be there.

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Mark Your Calendars

- Sept. 29 to Oct. 3. Coupe Mondiale International Accordion Competition**, Orense, Spain.
- October 3 and 17th. Big Lou's polka combo** at New George's in San Rafael. 5 to 8 PM. 842 4th St. (415) 457-1515.
- October 3 (Sunday)** (and every first Sunday). (See announcement on p. 5.) BAAC San Jose meeting. Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave. 3P to 6P. Admission \$3.00. Bring your accordion!
- October 5th (Tuesday)** BAAC General Membership Meeting at *Verdi Club in San Francisco*, 2424 Mariposa at Potrero. 7:00 - 9:30pm+. Featuring Neil Wahlgren, Ezra Gale, Henri Ducharme, Alex Yaskin, Bob Smith, and Renate Bixby.
- October 6th - 10th, International accordion competitions and Astor Piazzolla prizes.** Castelfidardo, Ancona, Italy. 39-071-7829349.
- October 11 (Monday)**. (and every second Monday). *The Good Time Accordion Club*. At the Escalon Methodist Church 7:00pm. Info about joining from Jana Maas at 8001 Beckwith Rd., Modesto. \$15 membership fee includes newsletter called "Accordion News".
- October 12 (Tuesday)**. (and every second Tuesday). Meeting of the Golden State Accordion-Aires. 7:00pm. Pietro's No.2. 679 Merchant St. Vacaville.
- October 14th (Thursday)** (and every second Thursday). Accordion Circle of the East Bay Music Meeting. 7:30pm, 1542 Grant St., Berkeley, in the cottage behind the main house.
- October 18 (Monday)**. (and every third Monday). Meeting of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods. 7:00pm. Volpi's in Petaluma.
- October 19 (Tuesday)**. (and every third Tuesday). Accordion Circle Band in East Bay. Call 510-548-2822 for location and more info.

November 2 (Tuesday) BAAC Annual Dinner being held this year at the Verdi Club during our regular meeting. For \$25, you receive a prime rib dinner including salad, pasta, vegetables, dessert, and wine. Plus accordion entertainment and dancing. Plan to attend!

November 28th. Art Van Damme at Garden City, Saratoga Ave., San Jose

January 14-17th, 2000. Accordion workshop & jammin'cruise to Ensenada, Mexico aboard the Carnival Fun Ship Holiday. Doubles \$345 and \$405 include 3-nights, 4-days from Port of LA, all meals, entertainment, and workshops. Final pmt due Nov 19th. Call Michelle Nicola (in Pleasant Hill) 800-889-4795.

August 6 - 10, 2000 National Accordion Convention in Las Vegas being organized by Paul Pasquali. (801) 486-1695.

BAAC Ensemble: Contact Frank Montoro (650)574-4757 for additional information.

BAAC Fun Band Contact Tom Cordoni (415) 333-5625.

Please send Calendar Information to your Editor, using the address on the last page.



President's Message

Dear Members and Friends:

It's September, which is the end of BAAC's fiscal year. New officers and board members will be in place as of October first. That means this column is my final one in my current capacity; Lou will have this space for himself beginning with the next newsletter.

These two years have given me a great variety of experiences and impressions, mostly very positive, but a few not quite so positive. I've modified my ideas about what an accordion club can and should be, why we have accordion clubs, what we can expect from them. I've become, I think, wiser and a bit more philosophical, and perhaps more practical too. I've greatly enjoyed getting much better acquainted with many of you – kind of a perk that this role encourages. I've also been able to broaden my contacts with other clubs and other folks connected with the accordion both in the US and abroad.

I've had a great deal of support and encouragement from several people, whom I would like to thank here. First, I want you all to know how much Bob Berta has done for you, me, and us during the past two years. Without him, I'm not sure how I would have managed at all. He has been, far and away, the most loyal, efficient, and dedicated worker for BAAC in the entire organization. Somehow, he manages to be always there when we've needed him, even though he holds a responsible job with PG & E; is a brand new father (Brian, August 23rd); is also a grandfather, by the way; and spends time at so many activities that I've lost count. Some examples, though, are professional photography, astronomy, restoring old cars, and, obviously computers, MIDI, sound systems, etc. So far as I recall, he has not missed a meeting in two years. He's there with the sound system and his trusty camera every single month, helping however he can. Officially he's been the Newsletter Editor and the Program Chairman. (Please stop and consider the time

these things take. Somebody told me that the Program is easy—that people phone you and say they want to play. To that, I say “HAH! We wish!”) Unofficially he handles sound wherever and whenever we need it and makes himself available for whatever we need. And did I mention that all this is without his being an official board member or officer?

Another loyal, hard-working, dedicated helper is Val Kieser. Officially, she has been our secretary (for a VERY long time now); unofficially she is always willing to host visiting guests, to entertain accordionists for dinner at her home, to handle a large number of jobs that nobody else wants to do. And have you ever seen her with anything but a big smile on her face? Thank you, Val... I hope we haven't taken too much of advantage of your endless willingness to help!

And how about your Treasurer, Josephine Hornbrook? You don't see or hear much from her, but she has been guarding your monies so Responsibly that I've accused her of acting as if she was working for General Motors. I've used that capital “R” above because it fits her so well. “No tickee, no washee” – that's her motto. She's learned to use Quicken on her computer to help keep our books, since that is probably a program easily passed from one Treasurer to another, even though her vision challenges make the computer difficult for her. Mrs. H.....we'll all miss you, especially me.

Ed Massolo has managed to wiggle off the Board this year, but he has been a tremendous help to me and to the Club for many years. He's another guy who will do almost anything, but I'm especially grateful for his and Isabel's kindness in hosting the Board meetings for so many years and in his almost unflinching willingness to sit at the door at meetings, to welcome everyone, and to collect our door fee.

I've appreciated Gwyn Lister's wise counsel many times and I hope our incoming board will use better than I have

her offer to help us with fund raising. Special thanks to our MC's... Lynn Ewing, Herb Meier, Domenic Saso, and Peter Di Bono. Lynn has also been handling our mailing list for the past two years...thank you so much, Lynn! And many, many thanks to BAAC's Board, including Peter Adler, who handled the Cotati booth last year and the picnic this year, and Dominic Palmisano and Sharon Walters. And then there's Glenn McClelland. What a guy! You don't see him at work, but he's the fellow who picks up the printed newsletters, applies stamps and labels, and sends them on their way to you, usually in the space of a very few hours.

Many other members, whose names I have not mentioned here, have been very helpful, and I want every one of them to know how much we all appreciate each of you. We couldn't manage nearly so well without such marvelous cooperation; thank you all!

And to Lou... hearty congratulations on your election! You had made it clear to us all that you wanted to be our President; I know you'll have a wonderful time and do a fantastic job, Lou. Ask these good folks to help you make the Bay Area Accordion Club even better!

Dear Bay Area Accordion Club,

Art and I extend a deep and sincere thank you to all the fine accordion club members who made every aspect of our visit an absolutely delight. San Francisco is indeed fortunate to have such a talented, friendly, and fun-loving accordion group!

I want to thank you for the beautiful corsage which you presented to me that Tuesday evening. It and the many other niceities made the evening a great pleasure.

A most sincere “thank you” to all of you.

Art Van Damme
and Lory Lawry

Cotati '99

This year the festival was its usual pleasant self with nice weather and noteworthy performances chalked up by our members. Our "Accordion Master" Lou Jacklich put in an appearance with his new Bugari complete with chin switches. "I'm scheduled for surgery" he told the crowd, "chin surgery so I can reach these darn chin switches". His performance was superlative as always, his special offering being his own 7 page arrangement of Carnival Of Venice.

Other great performances were by Steve Albini, Henry Ducharme, Frank Lima (always in his "natty" attire, Roberto Rosa (I heard he was a real crowd pleaser), Alex Yaskin, our "fearsome foursome", Ron Borelli, Peter DiBono, Jim Hillman, and Don Nurisso in their tribute to Art Van Damme (who didn't make it this year), and of course The Internationals who have "blown the doors" off our club in past performances.

Great supporting workshops were provided by Sev Garcia once again on *Stage Fright*, and on *Chords; the Foundation of Music*, by our new president, Lou Soper.

The dance floor could have been the most popular place at the festival with Steve Balich and group providing the "betcha ya can't not dance" challenge, along with offerings from the Golden State Fun Band. I also saw Vince Cirelli sitting by the band stand tapping both feet so I imagine the dance tent had his blessing.

Our own BAAC Jam Tent was also in full swing never lacking accordion lovers that just had to "get it on!", and an ever appreciative audience. The booths had plenty of interesting stuff to offer as always. Boaz Accordions, Henning's Accordion Broker, Accordion Circle Of the East Bay, Arnie & Roberto's ROAR Technologies, Redwood and Golden State Accordion Clubs as well as our own BAAC booth. A fine time was had by all!

Dick Schiller

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South Bay Meetings

An enthusiastic group of accordion lovers has been gathering monthly for more than a year now at the Germania Restaurant in San Jose for listening, playing, schmoozing, and good fun. So they were all a bit shocked to learn that in August, just after your trusty BAAC newsletter went to press, there was a big fire at the Germania, doing a great deal of damage, both to the building and to the South Bay group's meeting plans. That's the Bad News.

Now for the GOOD NEWS! Norma Parsons, well known among both North and South Bay accordionists, has taken charge of finding an alternate location, and has been quite successful!

For the next six months, you're all invited to join the South Bay Group on the First Sunday of each month from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at:

Harry's Hofbrau

390 Saratoga Ave. - San Jose

Located on Saratoga Ave.

Between 280 & Stevens Creek Blvd.

This location is easily accessible, in a good area, and has plenty of parking available. In order to pay for the room we will be asking for a donation of \$3.00 at the door. As many of you know the food and drink at Harry's Hofbrau is varied, very good, and reasonably priced. For more info call Dick Cruickshank at (408) 258-1258.

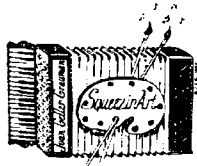
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An Unusual Sighting At Cotati!

If what Bob Berta reports is true, Arnie Krenn is entitled to either the "Knight In Shining Armor" award or the "when I turn around, please kick me.....HARD" award. The story goes like this: Arnie and Roberto Rosa were busy in their booth, ROAR Technologies, when a gentleman approached Arnie and offered to sell him his accordion for \$500.

"What kind of accordion do you have?", asked Arnie? "An old Hohner" was the reply, an accordion he had acquired while in the service. The model? "It's a Gola", the man continued, "in very good condition, but just too heavy for me to play anymore, will you buy it?"

"Yes, I certainly will!", Arnie replied, "We'll give you \$5000. SIGHT UNSEEN!" After the man picked himself off the ground, Arnie instructed him to search out Vince Cirelli to have his "treasure" checked out. At that, a very thankful gentleman was seen hopping and skipping across the lawn singing "What A Wonderful Day Is Today"! Arnie's musing? "Sometimes I get angry at the way my Mom and Dad brought me up".

SPECIAL DINNER MEETING IN NOVEMBER!

We always hold a dinner meeting to honor outgoing and incoming Board and Officers, as most of you know. Previously, this dinner has been separate from our regular meeting; this year, since we're holding our meetings at a place that serves dinners all the time, we thought we'd give Verdi a chance to show off those gourmet chefs that Jim Hillman brags about.

So our dinner meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 2nd, at the Verdi Club, in place of our regular meeting.

The menu for that night consists of: hors d'oeuvres, Prime Rib, vegetables, potato, pasta, salad, wine, and dessert, all for \$25.00 per person including tax and tip.

Our new President, Lou, is planning the music for the evening, so we'd all be very surprised if he didn't set aside a lot of time for dancing. He's also planning the entertainment; something about plank walking has been mentioned, but it's only a rumor!

So please plan to join us. We won't be able to accommodate you if you just appear at the door that evening, so why don't you sit down now, fill in the form below, and mail it in right away! See you there!

OF COURSE... I plan to attend BAAC's November 2nd Dinner Party! Wouldn't miss it!

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ Number of Persons Coming: _____

I'm enclosing payment of \$25.00 per person; check made payable to BAAC

Please send check AND Payment Coupon to:

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Our Leader Finally Gets What's Coming To Her!

Well it's about time! Who always works so hard for our club and the cause of the accordion? Why, our own president Marian Kelly, that's who. Her energy never waning, she has never backed off in giving her "all" to us "all" and very fittingly was officially recognized by our "accordion community" with being named Honorary Director Of The 1999 Cotati Accordion Festival. Her friendliness and warmth belies her accomplishments listed in her accordion biography. Congrats Marian, and in spite of all this fame, Marian was out there as always, leading the congregation assembled for the traditional Lady Of Spain Ring! And there go those doves.....cover your heads! Thanks Marian, what would we do without you? D.S.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ED SUTERKO from Reno, for generously donating an accordion to the Club at the Cotati Festival!

Frank Panacci

Our long time friend and hard worker for our club, Frank suffered a heart attack in July. Frank has given unselfishly of himself through the years securing our hall, making sure everything was ready for us to have an enjoyable evening. A lot of his personal time was spent on our behalf. Frank is recuperating nicely, "thank the Lord". Frank we look forward to seeing you again soon, and to having you "wow" us with your Magnante arrangements!

New Kids On The Block

BAAC welcomes new members Linda & Paul Henning of San Ramon. They are a young family that includes two "sparkling youngsters". The item here is that both Linda & Paul have an accordion heritage and are accomplished accordionists from this area. Paul studied with the famed Ernst Gloe at Hayward State College and with other teachers including Al Capelli and Tony Cervone. He has always played Excelsior accordions because "I love the sound", and so he and Linda decided to "buy the store", so to speak. Linda & Paul now offer to BAAC members and the general public a complete line of Excelsior accordions from the student line to the revamped Magnante Professional model. The Accordion Broker wants everyone to know, Excelsior is Back! See their business card just below! D.S.

Scoop...Scoop...Scoop..

Art Van Damme the "living legend" who resides in our backyard in Roseville, Ca. is sneaking out of retirement on November 28th to perform at Garden City in San Jose. Mark this date on your calendar. How many people can say they've seen this "artist for the ages" in performance?

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