

# February, 2016



**Next Music Program:**  
**Sunday, February 21, 2016**  
**Oyster Point Yacht Club**

## **Featured for February: Steve and Michael Trucco**

Steve Trucco and his son Michael are an accordion duo from Stockton, CA. They have been playing together for over 18 years.

The duo plays mostly Italian waltzes and polkas but also music from the forties and fifties with Michael adding vocals. Their unique style of playing duets has been honed to what most would consider an art form. Even though they are two separate accordionists, when playing together they seem to meld into a single accordion. Maybe being father and son has something to do with it!

Steve began taking accordion lessons at the age of ten from John Pisacco who was trained by the Pezzolo Brothers of San Francisco. Good timing and articulate touch on both keyboard and basses were a hallmark of his training. After six years of lessons and practice, Steve began playing professionally with a small, four-piece group in the Stockton area. That was 60 years ago, and Steve, at age 70 now, continues playing with the same four-piece group which is available for weddings, parties or wherever they can play.

Steve's son Michael has been playing the accordion for 24 years, since he began lessons at nine years



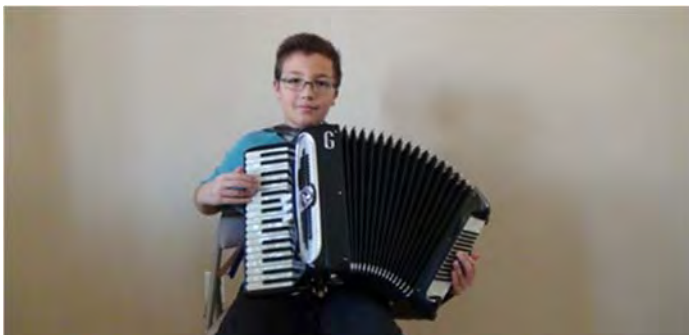
old. He studied under Pam Turbetti of Stockton and, after five years of lessons, began playing professionally with his father's group and on his own. Through high school and college, even 3000 miles away from home, Michael never thought about giving up the accordion. He is a father too now and continues to devote time to improving his accordion-playing skills and getting into the studio with his father to record a few more CD's.

To learn more about Steve and Michael or order some of their CD's like "Our Italian Favorites", visit their website at <http://www.accordionsrock.com/index.html>. ■



## Welcome Student Players for February

We are so thrilled that three students of Dave Chelini will open our program in February.



**Joe Matella, Jr. (Joey)** has been taking accordion lessons from Dave for three years. He is 10 years old and a fifth grader at Our Lady of Grace School in West Sacramento. He enjoys playing his accordion regularly at two local senior care centers to entertain the residents. Joey is also a member of the West Sacramento swim team and enjoys riding his dirt bike when he has free time.



**Jonathan Lathrop**, son of David and Suzanne Lathrop, is 17 and a junior in high school. He has played the accordion for over two years, and he also plays the piano. He loves to sing and has been involved with a Sacramento home school choir for two and a half years. Some of his other interests include card tricks, knife throwing, playing

volleyball and listening to a cappella singers. Jonathan has been invited to be the accordionist for a production of *"Fiddler on the Roof."*



**Nicholas Plasichuk**, son of Anatoly and Noni Plasichuk, will be 10 on February 10 and has been taking accordion lessons for one year. He is a great student who loves to read. His favorite subject in school is math. His favorite outside-of-school activities include playing the Accordion, soccer and martial arts. He is also actively involved with his Church. He has many friends and is always willing to help others.

## Sit In with the Jam Band

Our informal jam band is open to everyone, regardless of experience. Learn new riffs, meet crazy new accordion friends and have WAY TOO MUCH FUN! We meet regularly before the monthly Sunday music program.

1:15-2:00 pm for a traditional jam session

COME ON DOWN! We're waiting for YOU!



# January Meeting Report

By Barbara Bruxvoort

[This is an *abridged* version of Barbara's beautifully written article that unfortunately cannot fit here in its entirety. The full piece is available on the SFAC website, in our blog [www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)]

Happy New Year! What a great way to spend the third Sunday of 2016 listening to live music and seeing friends. It was certainly good to see everyone. Our program was introduced by our president, Lynn Ewing, who urged members to consider all the ways they could come to the aid of the club; see Lynn's column in this newsletter for details.



Our first guest was Jared Eldon Johnson, who taught himself the accordion, inspired by his Grandmother, Mary Alice. He has been performing at various venues as well as honing his crowd-pleasing skills as a

street performer. He started out with "The Merry Go Round of Life" by Joe Hisaishi, from the movie Howl's Moving Castle with a vibrato that suits the wistful song and played beautifully on his vintage accordion. Then he segued into "Guilty" by Russ Columbo. Jared sang the lyrics in a vintage style much like the 1931 recording by Al Bowlly and featured in the movie Amélie.

Jared asked and received our permission to step out into a song he loves but is still making mistakes on, a charming Swing Valse by Gus Viseur. He transitioned to the traditional Edith Piaf song "Under Paris Skies" and showed us his street performer skills of wooing and maintaining an audience. To finish he shared "I Melt With You" by Modern English -- I joined in with a covert audience sing-along so perhaps you can identify my generation now...



The next set was presented by Don Savant who was very happy to also introduce his teacher Mike Zampiceni, both long time members of the club. The accordion club has been very important in Don's

musical life and he also mentioned that he acquired his accordion through the club from Paul Cain.

Don began his set with a nice mellow rendition of "Moonglow" and shifted into "These Foolish Things" (I could almost hear Doris Day singing) and then a segue into "Serenade in Blue." Completing the mid-century modern nightclub atmosphere was a jazzy, smoky rendition of "Misty." Next Don gave us a real treat saying "I Thought I Would Do Something to Wake You Up" - "Chewing the Rag" composed by his teacher's father, Joseph Zampacini. It was new for me to hear a ragtime number on the accordion--lively and complex. He double-timed the last measures, saying afterwards "that was supposed to make you laugh." "Thanks for the Memories" goes out to everyone having memory problems, says Don, but also continues the theme of his set relating to the good memories created by the club. Fittingly, he ended with "What a Wonderful Club" (What a Wonderful World).



After the break we settled down to listen to Tangonero, which comprises Alex Roitman on bandoneon, Amy Zanrosso on piano, guest artist Sascha Jacobsen on bass and featuring Claudio Ortega on vocals. Their music starts with an

explosive passion that cannot be captured by a meeting recorder - something that happens in the moment between the performer and the audience

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Amy Zanrosso

which can never be fully captured or exactly repeated.

Alex opened the show with a bandoneon solo playing his arrangement of Amurado, with fascinating percussive

accents created by dramatic bellow closures.

I was very happy to hear Claudio Ortega again on the Accordion Club stage. He withholds nothing when he sings. With Como dos Extraños ("I am afraid of dying away from you. My heart begs for you.") we could observe an amiable handing off of the lead among the band members followed by a rendition of the song "Sur." Next we heard "Mal de Amores" which achieved an exciting synchronicity between piano and bandoneon moving up and down the octaves.

Claudio returned with "Naranja en flor" in which the momentary harmonica-like quality of Alex's bandoneon complemented his wistful singing of this paradoxical song...."eterna de vieja juventud...pajaro sin voz" (eternity of old youth...mute songbird...). Moving forward, "Silueta Porteña," (Porteña Silhouette) Claudio and the band pressing forward with the beat, crowding each beat against the next without rushing. Alex treated us to a bandoneon solo tango waltz and then while he introduced a new milonga, Sascha broke in saying "when you say new, you mean 1960s, right?" Alex laughed, "yeah, yeah" and warned us that there were a lot of "notes per minute." Indeed it did have a Pink Panther Henry Mancini fun quality. "Milongas are the polkas of Tango and this next one (Los Mareados or the Topsy Ones) has that feel," was Alex's introduction to a song with the looseness of a drunken proposal--grandiosity provided with Amy's full keyboard use of the piano.

Claudio brought to us "Romance de barrio" ("Neighborhood Romance") by Homero Manzi, a tango waltz full of regret; its "message is to let things go, they don't always go on forever..." Moving into another by Homero Manzi, "Milonga

Sentimental" ".....I sing so as not to cry....." the bass and the piano move under the melody like an underground river of sorrow.

Tangonero introduced "Ausencias" by Piazzola, so beautiful with an exquisite transition to the slower movement. Here is the quality of almost falling apart recklessness I remember from their previous Accordion Club performance. Like that last moment of lift and fall before the elevator stops. Alex gives the bandoneon a clarinet quality in "Quejas de bandoneon"--a piece played at almost every dance. And to finish Claudio re-joins the group for a happy "Milonga 900."

Thank you so much Tangonero for a wonderful afternoon! Find these talented musicians' recordings and performance dates online:

Claudio Ortega (<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/claudioortega>)

Alex Roitman & Tangonero (<http://www.tangonero.com> ; <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/tangonero2>).

Sascha Jacobsen (<http://www.saschajacobsen.com/music.html>)

Amy Zanrosso (<http://www.amyzanrosso.com/>) ■



## **President's Message**

Since I have announced that this will be my last year as President of SFAC, I know that you are all asking: "What can I do to assure the future of SFAC?" Well - there are tasks both large and small which would be of inestimable help to us.



Many can be done at the meetings, and many can be done outside of meetings. If you are willing to do any of these, please let me know by email at [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com) or by phone [650-867-2633](tel:650-867-2633), and leave a message.

A big priority is - Come to our monthly programs regularly and bring your friends! Bring your accordion and join the jam band! Show up for meetings even if you don't recognize the performers - you might just be surprised at discovering something totally new that you really enjoy.

### **Things to do if you are coming to a meeting anyway - pick a month!**

1) Greet and welcome people who are new to the club. Introduce yourself to people you don't know, and make the club a friendly and welcoming place. Let the performers (and the Board) know if you especially enjoyed a performance.

2) Players - Volunteer to play at meetings - even just one or two songs. All levels welcome. We would love to have a list of 30 or more people who would be willing to prepare and present a song or two during the first half of the meeting or at intermission.

3) Snack team - Barbara Winter graciously prepares coffee and brings cookies most months. We would like to have something (like cheese and crackers) which someone else could bring and set out.

4) Meeting Reporter Team - We have several people

who are willing to write an article describing the most recent program a couple of times a year: Barbara Bruxvoort, Shirley Brim, Ken Schwartz and Robert Cooperstein. However, if we had a few more people, it would not be too big a burden on anyone.

5) Emcee Team - introduce the performers and run the raffle drawing. We could use at least 6 people on this team.

6) We have regular folks who do routine tasks. BUT - we need BACKUP! Not everyone can be at every meeting. These are: set up - (Don & Mary Savant) Photographer ( Steve Mobia) Entry table ( Elaine Cooperstein and Dominic Palmisano).

Sound ( Paul Cain, Steve Mobia, Vinny Rinaldi) Make coffee and bring cookies, (Barbara Winter) Sell Raffle tickets (Nora Mazzara).

### **THINGS TO DO OUTSIDE OF MEETINGS**

1) Volunteer coordinator for meetings - schedule people from the list of teams to do the tasks above. Preferably one person, but it could be a team. (Note - this is not a very hard job!)

2) Email the performers for the month to confirm in advance, and send them a thank you note afterward.

3) Tell people about the club! Keep a supply of SFAC cards with you, and hand them out when you talk to somebody who says - I LOVE the accordion! or, get the names of people that play the accordion if you run into people when you are out, or that you might hear about who might play at one of our meetings.

4) Give us suggestions about who you would like to hear play at meetings. Find out availability, etc. and let us know! Send out confirmation and Thank you emails to our performers.

### **Newsletter Team - These are all things that can be done completely remotely.**

1) Writing Team - Get information on our upcoming monthly performers, and write up the information for the newsletter. This information is available on the web, in previous newsletters, or from the performers themselves.

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- ▶▶ 2) Write up brief biographies in memoriam and short "get well" items for the newsletter (with permission from members or families). Make contact with the newsletter editor or writing team.
- 3) Find articles about the accordion (get permission if from another source) and submit them to the newsletter. Or, write an article yourself about something you've seen or heard, or done ( like attending an event ) or know. Everyone who has a computer now has access to our back newsletter articles from our website - if you see something on there you would like to have repeated, let us know! Also, there are many accordion websites and Facebook pages now with articles which would be of interest. Let us know about those!
- 4) Newsletter Layout - probably using "Microsoft Publisher" or possibly "In Design".
- 5) Newsletter Editor - keeps track of what needs to go in the newsletter, collects it, and sends it to the layout person.
- 6) Proof reader team for newsletter - also can be done completely remotely

**Board Member** - We have positions available as Secretary and an at-large position available. Somebody with good organizational skills to help the Treasurer, or someone with experience in nonprofit budgeting and financial management, accounting, Quicken or Quickbooks to consider helping our current Treasurer, with the idea of possibly moving into the Treasurer position.

**Facebook** - someone to help maintain the SFAC Facebook page and seek other web-based promotional opportunities for the club.

Send out invitations to your friends on your Facebook page about upcoming meetings. ■





*The Polka Cowboys*  
**Featuring Art Peterson**  
 Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm  
 Hornbill Burmese Cuisine, El Sobrante

## In Memoriam

James John Firpo died peacefully on January 12, 2016 in San Francisco, California, at the age of 89. After his retirement, Jim became one of the early members of the Bay Area Accordion Club (now SFAC) and began a second career playing the accordion at Veterans' hospitals, family functions, Senior Centers, and picnics. He also played in a band at many private and community events.

Jim honored his 50 years of marriage to his wife Barbara in 2008 with a celebration which included his entire family. Jim is survived by Barbara and his children - Steve Firpo (Sandra), Theresa Andreoli (Sam), Christina Leal (John), Michael Firpo (Mary), and Gina Reardon (Tim), as well as several grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister and nieces and nephews.

Jim was born on December 8, 1926, in San Francisco, California, to Pietro and Mary Firpo. He graduated from Mission High School and served in the U.S. Army during WWII. Upon his honorable discharge he worked for Golden Gate Disposal Company. He married Barbara Dindia in 1958 and purchased a home in San Francisco. Jim retired after 42 years of service with the same company.

## SFAC Scholarships

The SFAC awards two scholarships a year to accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact Mike Zampiceni for a scholarship application.

Mike Zampiceni  
 eclecticguy@comcast.net  
 408-569-2579

# Upcoming Accordion Events



*A four-star event in a four-star hotel!*

**2016 National Accordion Convention**  
 March 10-12, 2016  
 Hyatt Regency Hotel (Richardson, Texas)



**2016 Convention Focus:**  
**Lifelong Learning for Accordionists!**

It is with great pleasure we announce the 29th Annual National Accordion Convention that is sponsored by the National Accordion Association, Incorporated (NAA). This convention is the result of NAA officials studying and developing an innovative musical program featuring the accordion.

*2016 National Accordion Convention*  
*March 10-12, 2016 in Texas*

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 JUNE 16 - 19, 2016  
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*26th Annual*  
*Cotati Accordion Festival*  
 will be held  
 August 20 & 21, 2016.

**American Accordionists' Association**  
**July 6-10, 2016 - Buffalo, NY -**  
 AAA Festival - Workshops, hands-on sessions,  
 spectacular concerts, world premiere  
<http://www.ameraccord.com/index.html> for more information.

Accordionists & Teachers Guild, International (ATG)  
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# Bay Area Accordion Clubs

## **Accordion Club of the Redwoods**

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm. — \$3 admission donation  
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma  
Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474  
[dcdacapo@gmail.com](mailto:dcdacapo@gmail.com)

## **Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)**

President/CEO for all three chapters:  
Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359  
[gsaccordionclub@netfirms.com](http://gsaccordionclub@netfirms.com)

### *Vacaville Chapter*

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm.  
Pietro's No. 2,  
679 Merchant Street, Vacaville

### *Humboldt Chapter*

3rd Tuesday at 7pm.  
Humboldt Swiss Club  
5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta

### *Sacramento Chapter*

4th Wednesday at 7 pm.  
Old Spaghetti Factory,  
12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova

## **Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)**

2nd Wednesday at 7 pm. Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon  
Contact: Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603

## **Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)**

1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay  
Contact: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

## **Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)**

1st Sunday at 1pm. Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Kiely), San Jose  
<http://www.svasociety.org>  
\$5 for adults, no charge under 16

## **Performing Around the Bay**

RON BORELLI *San Mateo*  
[RonBorelli@aol.com](mailto:RonBorelli@aol.com) [www.ronborelli.com](http://www.ronborelli.com)

RICHARD DENIER *Carmel*  
[rid.denier@gmail.com](mailto:rid.denier@gmail.com)

PETER DI BONO *San Francisco*  
[www.peterdibono.com](http://www.peterdibono.com)

RENO DI BONO *South Bay*  
[ourhike@aol.com](mailto:ourhike@aol.com) [www.italianaccordion.com](http://www.italianaccordion.com)

WILLIAM DE MICHELIS *South Bay*  
[accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net](mailto:accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net)

JOE DOMITROWICH *South Bay*  
[www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com) or  
[www.alpinersusa.com](http://www.alpinersusa.com)

ED GORZYNSKI, JR. *East Bay*  
[edspolkas@yahoo.com](mailto:edspolkas@yahoo.com)

GLENN HARTMAN *San Francisco*  
[glennhartman@gmail.com](mailto:glennhartman@gmail.com)

BRUCE KIRSCHNER & THE KLEZMAKERS  
[kirschner@aol.com](mailto:kirschner@aol.com) [www.klezmakers.com](http://www.klezmakers.com)

NADA LEWIS *East Bay & San Francisco*  
[folkloric@value.net](mailto:folkloric@value.net) [www.folkloric.net](http://www.folkloric.net)

BIG LOU, aka LINDA SEEKINS *San Francisco*  
[www.accordionprincess.com](http://www.accordionprincess.com)

ROB REICH *East Bay & San Francisco*  
[robbyreichmusic@gmail.com](mailto:robbyreichmusic@gmail.com) [www.robreich.com](http://www.robreich.com)

RENE SEVIERI *East Bay & San Francisco*  
[Sevieri1955@gmail.com](mailto:Sevieri1955@gmail.com)  
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[www.youtube.com/user/sevieri55](http://www.youtube.com/user/sevieri55)

TANGONERO  
[tangonero.com](http://tangonero.com)

MIKE ZAMPICINI *Sunnyvale and Sacramento*  
[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)



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## Please Remember...

Help us leave our meeting space at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Wipe up food or drink spills and recycle all trash. *THANK YOU!*

### ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

BART BENINCO (707) 769-8744  
RON BORELLI (650) 574-5707  
DAVID CHELINI (916) 428-8764  
MYRLE DAHL (415) 897-2283  
PETER DI BONO (415) 753-1502  
LYNN EWING (650) 453-3391  
LOU JACKLICH (510) 317-9510  
MARIAN KELLY (650) 954-3711  
NADA LEWIS (510) 243-1122  
VINCENT RINALDI (415) 824-7609  
BIG LOU (LINDA SEEKINS) (415) 468-5986  
JOE SIMONI (650) 867-1122  
RICHARD YAUS (650) 832-1740  
MIKE ZAMPICENI (408) 569-2579  
NORMA ZONAY-PARSONS (408) 246-3073



### SFAC Officers

**Lynn Ewing**, President 650-867-2633  
ewinglynn@gmail.com

**Dominic Palmisano**, Vice President (415) 587-4423  
accord47@gmail.com

**Elaine Cooperstein**, Treasurer (510) 921-9323  
elainedc@sbcglobal.net

**Secretary**, (Open position)

### SFAC Directors

**Robert Cooperstein** (510) 207-6009  
drrcoop@sbcglobal.net

**Ken Schwartz** (650) 344-6116  
kenschwar@yahoo.com

**2 Open Positions**, volunteers welcome

### Webmaster

**Randall Hicks** (510) 750-6858  
hickr01@sprintmail.com

### Newsletter

(Position open)

### Scholarship

**Mike Zampiceni** (408) 734-1565  
eclecticguy@comcast.net

### SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10 per issue or \$100 per year.

Monthly ad prices for members:

Quarter-page: \$25; Half-page: \$50;  
Full-page: \$100.

Non-member rates are doubled.





## Accordion Lovers — Plan the Trip of a Lifetime May 17-21, 2016

Trips Depart London Heathrow

This is a bucket-list trip for all true accordion aficionados! Come to Castelfidardo, Italy—the spiritual home of the accordion—and renew your love affair with this amazing instrument. Wander the streets and sample the culture of Castelfidardo. Learn more about the artistry of accordion design and manufacture. Revel in the company of accordion lovers from all over the world. Enjoy jam sessions with your fellow travelers. There's still room! We currently have 30 people confirmed (including four Americans), and there are still places for a few more. Travel options, costs and trip highlights are included below.

For More Information Contact:

Peter Le Geyt

- Member, Guildford Accordion Club
- PLG Marketing Associates, London

Tel: + 44 (0)20 8977 6680

Fax: + 44 (0)20 8943 4455

Email: [plg@plgmarketing.com](mailto:plg@plgmarketing.com)



### PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break for our Sunday music program is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Our scheduled performers are drawn from professional players and groups, and from talented amateurs as well. Call us—we're happy to add you to the schedule to play a 10-15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs.

Contact:

**Dominic Palmisano**

(415) 587-4423 [accord47@gmail.com](mailto:accord47@gmail.com) OR

**Lynn Ewing**

(650) 453-3391 [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)

### Join In the Fun!

Helping with the monthly music programs is a great way to meet new people and help make the program run smoothly. We welcome people to help emcee the program, take photos or write a lively report about the music program. You don't need experience—just a willingness to help while you have fun with the group.

Discover your inner entertainer, photographer or writer and help us host our monthly events.

Contact Lynn Ewing, [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com), 650-867-2633, and find out how to get in on the action!



Join us the third Sunday of each month at the  
Oyster Point Yacht Club • 911 Marina Blvd • South San Francisco

**MONTHLY SUNDAY MUSIC PROGRAM**

Come for fun and great music!!

**February 21 at 2pm**

Admission: \$6 for members, \$8 for guests

The jam band will play from 1:15-2:00

Visit us online at [www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)



**Amp Up the FUN!**

**SFAC Membership** is \$35 per year for individual or family (\$5 discount for taking the newsletter online). Join or renew using PayPal or a credit card at: [www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)

**DIRECTIONS:**

Traveling either north or south on Highway 101 in South San Francisco, take the Oyster Point Blvd exit and follow it to Marina Blvd. Be careful not to turn right onto Gull Drive, the right turn immediately before Marina Blvd.

Turn right onto Marina Blvd and continue 0.7 mile, past the Oyster Point Marina gatehouse to the Oyster Point Yacht Club sign on the left. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

**San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter**

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