

Oktoberfest



Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO



ACCORDION CLUB
October 2008

Official Instrument of San Francisco
1912 🎵 *The World's First Accordion Club* 🎵 2008

DON'T MISS . . .

A pair of dancers from the **ALMENRAUSCH SCHUHPLATTLERS**
in honor of Oktoberfest

"Russian Kaleidoscope" with SFAC member **GRIGORIY KRUMIK**
on Bayan, **KLARK WELSH** on balalaika and **VLADIMIR ZAGATSKY**, Tenor
And our good friend and peerless entertainer
MARIO PEDONE, back to wow us again

President's Message

Well, it's time to send in your dues if you haven't already.

I thought I would bring you up to date about how we are doing with our finances at this, the end of our membership year. Thanks to our very capable Treasurer, Maryanne Romanowski, working with our equally capable membership chair, Valerie Kieser, they can report that the state of our club is sound. Our latest bank balance (Sept. 30) is \$10,432.

Our 2007-2008 proposed budget was based on a projection of \$11,889 income and \$14,064 expenses. Not exactly balanced, was it? This was our first try since we didn't have much to go on at the time we planned the year.

As it came out, we did better on our income, \$14,612, and our expenses were \$15,410. So what does it look like when we list the various items that make up our annual budget for the year? On the income side, 43% came from dues, and 32% came from admissions. The rest was divided between donations, the picnic and scholarship income.

On the expense side, 31% was the cost of producing our newsletter; 14% was for rent; 13% was for food; and 4% was

for scholarship awards. The remainder was spread over 14 other items.

We have 209 paid-up members (through 2008) which accounts for our most important source of income; and along with attendance at our monthly musical afternoons, these are what keep us going. That is why we depend on you to get your dues to us soon so we can plan the next fiscal year. (See Val's item elsewhere in this newsletter.)

We are grateful to the many members from outside our area who join our club just to receive our newsletter. Their interest and support is very important to the health of the club, and we are deeply indebted to them for their interest and support.

Incidentally, you are welcome to sit in on our Executive Board meetings, which are scheduled usually for the third Monday of the month at 2:00 at the Yacht Club. Every third month we schedule our meeting in the evening, so be sure to let us know if you are coming so we can inform you of our location, day and time.

Frank Montoro

Directions to Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd., South San Francisco

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

Our Website is again active and growing—check it out! www.sfaccordionclub.com

September Music

How fortunate we are to have such a wide variety of musicians and musical styles available to us. Every month our musical program features something entirely different from the previous month. September was no exception!

For pre-meeting music, **Bob Smith** filled in pending the arrival of **Sheri Mignano** and **Xavier de la Prade**, who were stuck in traffic coming from Marin County. Bob always has something beautiful that he has worked on, that few of us would be able to master. Sheri and Xavier played some enchanting traditional and familiar French music. They play so well together, each one complementing the other for a complete and lovely sound.



Bob Smith

September is always **election month**, and the election was simple: the proposed slate was unanimously elected by those present at the meeting. **President: Frank Montoro; Vice President: Lynn Ewing; Secretary: Lore Warren; Treasurer: Maryanne Romanowski; Director and newsletter editor: Valerie Kieser; Directors-at-large: Aldo Argenti, Gus Greyhosky, and Sharon Walters-Greyhosky.**



Sheri Mignano and Xavier de la Prade

The first musical presentation of the day was by **Skyler Fell**, showing off the new Hohner accordion she has available in her shop, "Accordion Apocalypse." Skyler's brief performance consisted of a sad song followed by a faster, upbeat piece. I didn't get the names of the pieces, but Skyler is always entertaining and fun.

The next musical presentation was by three members of "Culann's Hounds," a partly offbeat, partly traditional group very



Skyler Fell

popular in the Bay Area. Entertaining us today were **Renée de la Prade, Mike Kelleher, and Scott Marshall**. They specialize in Irish (both traditional and modern) and Zydeco, as well as French Canadian music. Renée played *Cairdin* button accordion while flinging her head and stomping her foot in a wild dance, and wearing a colorful costume. Mike Kelleher played acoustic guitar but also sometimes plays Irish system accordion; and Scott Marshall played the *Bodhrán* (very interesting percussion instrument).



Culann's Hounds: Scott Marshall, Mike Kelleher, Renée de la Prade

They started off with a medley of Irish reels (*The Silver Spear, Toss the Feathers, and Rakish Paddy*). Next was *La Porte En Arrière* ("The Back Door"), a traditional Zydeco number. *High Roller*, the next piece, is a Culann's Hounds original, with vocal by Renée and Mike. *La Bastringue* (sp?) is a Québécois traditional number, with vocal by Renée, in Canadian French. They played 3 more numbers: *Irish Hornpipes* (Irish traditional), *Try and Try*, a Zydeco piece written by Renée for Culann's Hounds; and *Whiskey, You're the Devil* (traditional Irish). Terrific show! Be sure to "Google" Culann's Hounds to learn more about where and what they play!

Renée reminded me to remind everyone that the "Bay Area Accordion Ladies Pinup Calendar" is due out in November—stay tuned!

And next—get ready—**The Great Morgani!**—Frank Lima sported his latest of countless costumes he made himself all by hand. Besides Frank's amazing costumes, he is also an amazing player! He plays entirely by ear—doesn't even read music—and never misses a note, even playing with gloves and mask on! He wows me all over again every time I see/hear him. This time his costume was all black with small accordion-pleated strips of paper attached all over—see photo. It's impossible to describe!



The Great Morgani!

Frank started out playing a mini-accordion, while wearing a mask and gloves. Then he took off the mask and switched to his regular accordion and continued—still wearing the gloves. After thanking **Vince Rinaldi** for the emergency accordion repair, Frank played *Autumn Leaves* (a song for fall). He told several amusing anecdotes and then played *Libertango*, which he learned

entirely by listening to it over and over and over. A very difficult piece even if you *do* read music!

Frank then played a funny *Chicken Dance* variation. Then more anecdotes and a variety of "Yellow" songs; and a lively version of *Padam-Padam*. Frank has published a beautiful colorful book all about Morgani, available for \$15, which helps defray his many expenses. It is worth every penny and more.

After the break, including Tuti's wonderful spread of food, Pres. **Frank Montoro** surprised Val with a big Happy Birthday from the club, which included a beautiful



Frank Montoro, Val Kieser, Telmo Echeverría, Anne Métais—Happy Birthday to Val

bouquet of flowers, a huge musical card showing hens and playing "The Chicken Dance." Hilarious! Add to that two sheet cakes for all to enjoy, and Val was bowled over. Thanks to all!

The drawings were held, and winners included Lou Casalnuovo, Amil Samayoa, and Vinny Rinaldi (cash prize).

The second half of the musical show featured SFAC member **Sev García** who came from Porterville to entertain and educate us. I say "educate" because, in between the pieces he played, Sev offered us some



Sev García

very useful tips about "performance anxiety" (formerly called "stage fright"). Sev passed out sheets of paper for everyone to keep and learn from, summarizing his tips on dealing with performance anxiety. There are 8 points on the sheet. My favorite—the one I find the most useful (since I don't have space to give them all)—is No. 6: "Pay the Dues" with SLOW/PATIENT/DELIBERATE practice... "UNBEARABLY slow!" That's the most difficult part of practicing for me. Taking it SLOW!

Sev played for us, using a combination of amplified acoustic accordion and pre-recorded MIDI accompaniment: *A Big Band Medley; Anema e Core; Cavaquinho; Night Train; Jolly Caballero; Forgotten Dreams; Tico-Tico; Just Because;* and, as a closing number, *Happy Trails*. A very skillful and impressive use of the accordion and MIDI accompaniment, for a full and beautiful sound. Thanks so much, Sev! You always manage both to entertain and to educate us in a most pleasant way!

Val



Renée de la Prade dances with Mike Kelleher (note the Culann's Hounds T-shirt!)



Skyler Fell and Renée de la Prade



Frank Schlotter presents Barbara Corsiglia with well-earned Certificate of Appreciation from the Fun Band at the Fun Band Banquet



Angels Explained by Children:

"It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes." *Matthew, Age 9*

Dues! Dues! Dues!

We enclosed a self-addressed envelope and small form in the September issue of the newsletter. However, the tape didn't hold very well, with the result that several envelopes fell out and were returned to me unused. In spite of this, we received over 100 responses with renewals, where the envelopes did *not* fall out!

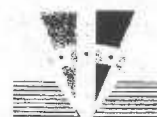
So, if you haven't already done it, and you didn't receive the form and self-addressed envelope, **please send your check for \$30, made out to "S.F.A.C.,"** to Valerie Kieser, 3437 Crane Way, Oakland, CA 94602-2638. Call or e-mail Val (510) 531-4836; vtkacc@ifn.net if you aren't sure whether you paid already. Be sure to indicate any fields (i.e. phone number, e-mail, etc.) you do not want to show up in a printed version of the list. Many thanks!

Club founders and honorary members have lifetime memberships and do not pay.

Our thanks also to the large number of people who included donations to the club with their dues!

Val

ITALIAN AMERICAN
SOCIAL CLUB OF
SAN FRANCISCO
25 Russia Ave., SF 94112
Open for lunch and dinner
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
Also specializing in catered parties,
large & small
In three nicely decorated halls
See our Website
www.iascsf.com
Phone (415) 585-8059
Richard Guaraldi, Mgr.



Sunday Afternoon News Flash

The Fun Band had a blast representing the club in the Columbus Day Parade in SF this afternoon. We're hoping for a first place this year! The crowds loved us! And ZERO cost to the club! More about the parade next month.

About our Performers For October

The Almenrausch Schuhplattlers are well known in the San Francisco area. The *Almenrausch* is a reddish-pink wildflower that grows in the Bavarian Alps. *Schuhplattler* literally means "shoe-slapping" and refers to the knee-slapping, foot-stomping Bavarian dances most of us are familiar with. The Almenrausch Schuhplattlers were formed as a group in 1971 with just a handful of dancers in colorful, authentic Bavarian costumes. The group is much larger now, and they perform for numerous festivals, Oktoberfests, parades, weddings and other events. There are around 75 such groups across the US. We are fortunate to have two of the Almenrausch Schuhplattlers dancers perform for us at the October 19 meeting.

The Russian Kaleidoscope consists of SFAC member Grigoriy Krumik on Bayan, Klark Welsh on balalaika and Vladimir Zagatsky singing tenor. All three have extensive formal musical training, far more than can be discussed here. Grigoriy and Klark had their training in Ukraine and Russia, and Klark is a native of—Wow!—Marin County! We surely will be enchanted with this colorful group.

Mario Pedone hardly needs introduction, as our club has enjoyed his spectacular performances twice already. You may recall that Mario was born in Southern Italy, moved with his family to Venezuela while he was still quite young, married a beautiful Venezuelan lady, "Marbella," and they currently reside in Sugar Land, Texas. On top of his stellar musical education, Mario has founded music schools and orchestras, taught in music schools, recorded at least 100 CD's, published numerous accordion method books. He is an expert in countless musical genres and styles. He has a killer travel schedule that takes him all over the world performing for appreciative audiences. If you missed Mario before, don't miss him this time!

Your Club Newsletter

Well, friends, it is time to pass on the torch. I have been doing the newsletter for over 7 years, since January 2002 when the job was dropped into my lap without warning, just at the same time as I was starting out as the club's president. I had no training whatsoever, and my early issues were cut-&-paste-&-photocopy. The newsletter—and all you wonderful friends—stayed with me through two hip replacements, the death of my husband, and 18 months of chemotherapy. It has been a wonderful learning experience, and my inevitable embarrassing mistakes have been sometimes hilarious and other times humiliating. I've had lots of fun and joy along the way, but my life has become too cluttered, and I need to pass along this wonderful endeavor and permit myself a little time to enjoy my two aging horses, visit my many non-accordion friends, and practice more accordion. And the newsletter surely can use some new ideas and concepts!

I am setting a "last issue by Val" date of March 2009, leaving plenty of time to make an orderly transition. I can and will help in any way possible to ensure such an orderly transition—I wouldn't wish on anyone the shock of instant sink-or-swim that I had!

Anyone with a computer can handle this job. The program I use is Microsoft Publisher, which has served me well. There are other great publishing programs out there as well. Stay tuned for more info—and meanwhile, please consider taking on this job, which amounts to only about half of the jobs I do for the club. Contact any board member (see last page of the newsletter). Thanks!

Val

Word Has It . . .

. . . That the **S.F. Accordion Band** (a.k.a. "The Fun Band") is going to have the best float ever in the S.F. Italian Heritage Day parade this Sunday. Last year we won second prize in our category—this year we're going for First Prize! The Fun Band will also perform at the SFAC Christmas party December 21. Oh yes, we also held our annual Fun Band Banquet in September—always a great evening!

. . . That Val had a most wonderful time playing for the **Oyster Point Yacht Club's** Oktoberfest party! I was flattered to be asked, and everyone was so warm and welcoming. Thank you, OPYC!

. . . That the **San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble** (ACE) is hard at work preparing for several upcoming performances, including a concert at Zion Lutheran Church in Piedmont on November 30, and for the Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meeting December 7. The ACE Ensemble will also be performing for the "Fun After Fifty" club on the Peninsula on November 11 and for our own SFAC Christmas party on December 21. A busy season!

Enjoy this fun piece, one of our Fun Band favorites.

In order to keep it to one page, we had to do some condensing. Note that the intro to the piece is written in bass clef—to be played with the left hand (very simple). The names of the notes are also provided.

The long note in the second line has only the names of the notes indicated, but they, too, are played in the left hand (also very simple).

The same notes as the introduction are repeated in the third line, indicated here by just the names of the notes. The same notes are repeated again in the last line, but notice that this line has both treble and bass clef—and this time the notes are written *as notes in the bass clef*.

Confusing? Not at all! Try it and you'll see how simple it is.

C'E La Luna Mezzo Mare ("Lazy Mary")

B.S. /C /G /C /G/A/B /C /G /C Treble Clef C

The musical score consists of eight staves. The first staff is in bass clef with notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The second staff is in treble clef with notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G. The third staff is in treble clef with notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The fourth staff is in treble clef with notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The fifth staff is in treble clef with notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The sixth staff is in treble clef with notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The seventh staff is in treble clef with notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The eighth staff is in bass clef with notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G.

Oct. 9, 2008

Press Release

from Ohio State University Medical Center

Submitted by Peter Di Bono

The pumping action of the human heart, and how it subsequently pushes blood throughout the body, is similar to how music is made by playing an accordion, according to clinicians at the Ohio State University Medical Center. . . .

In addition to having the properties of a suction pump, the heart functions as a sort of twisting bellows pump that is similar to the accordion. . . . Continued study of a theory that the human heart mimics the action of an accordion will lead to improved medical and surgical therapies to address heart failure.

The accordion is able to generate the maximum intensity of

sound energy when it is most expanded before the musician compresses it to generate the sound. Similarly, the heart tends to generate the highest output when contracting from its most relaxed stated. When the heart is not maximally relaxed, it is more likely to generate lesser cardiac output, which could result in symptoms of heart failure.

This theory is based upon findings from animal studies where the investigations found an accordion-like thickening of the ventricular wall, resulting in reduced pumping effectiveness. Improved magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) resolution may allow investigators to identify ventricular wall thickening in the left ventricles of human hearts.

(Not sure I agree with all the assumptions about the accordion—Editor)



Venturi
HOUSE OF MUSIC
(559) 674-0071
www.accordionexchange.com
1706 Howard Road
Madera, CA 93637

Castiglione
Accordion and Distributing Co. LLC.
JOHN CASTIGLIONE Director
13300 E. 11 Mile Rd. Suite A
Warren Mi. 48089-1367
Tel: 586 755 6050
Fax 586 755 6339
EEmail johncast@bignet.net
internet www.castiglioneaccordions.com



When Do Our Fellow Accordion Clubs in the Bay Area (and slightly beyond) Meet?

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) regularly meets on the third Monday of the month, Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Contact: Kris Nelson krisnelson@aol.com or (707) 795-4860.

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, 1:30 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd. and Stevens Creek Blvd. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC) has three chapters: The Vacaville club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30, at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main street, Vacaville. The Humboldt Club meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551. The Sacramento group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Contact for all the GSAC Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. in the Music Auditorium, Escalon High School, Escalon (just east of the Community Center). Contact: (209) 545-3603.

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas Blvd, off Highway 80 in Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041.



ACCORDION APOCALYPSE
REPAIR SHOP
★★★★★
SKYLER FELL
Accordion Repairwoman
Performer
by appointment
2626 Jennings Street
San Francisco, CA 94124
415-596-5952
accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com
www.accordionapocalypse.com

"Where is my friend playing?" Contact:

- * Steve Balich North Bay (707) 874-3494 * Ron Borelli Peninsula (650) 574-5707 rborelli@aol.com
- * Richard Denier in Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net * Peter Di Bono San Francisco peterdsf@gmail.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 * Don Nurisso nurisso@mindspring.com
- * Mike Zampiceni South Bay eclecticguy@comcast.net * Renée de la Prade Culann's Hounds, San Francisco www.sfhounds.com *
- * Zighi Baci San Francisco (Sheri Mignano) www.zighibaci.com or e-mail zighi@sonic.net

SF Accordion Band Practice

Wed., Oct. 8 and 22, 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's Home in Oakland
CALL AHEAD!! Please join us!
Info: call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163
or Val (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

Our Sincere Thanks

To those who generously donate to the Club.

Each year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you donate and your name doesn't show up in this column, please call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net and let me know. We want to be sure you are recognized! Thanks! These donations are very much appreciated. So far this

year your Editor has learned of donations from:

Ray Abinanti, Leo Aquino, Barbara Ann Barnett, Thelma Bartoli (mem. Lou Soper), Lawrence Caserza, Gene & Judy Dale, Peter Di Bono, Lynn Ewing, Lou Fabbri, John Graziano, John Gullmes (2), Don Haga (mem. Lou Soper), Randall Hicks, Sue & Mike Hirigoyen (2), Val Kieser (2: mem. Lou Soper & Mem. Lee Woodall), Bruce Kirschner, Carley Koliha, Gwyn Lister (2), Herb Meier, James Monfredini (2), Herb Meier, Frank Montoro (2), Ken Nimmo, Sundi O'Mara (2), Larry & Paula Re, Vincent Rinaldi, Maryanne Romanowski, Amil Samayoa (mem. Lou Soper), Michael Sanossian, Paul Thiel (2), Louis Traverso, Walter Traverso (lots of music and accordion accessories and memorabilia); Lore Warren (2: mem. Kevin McCarthy); Scott Williamson, Barbara Winter, Lee & Walt Woodall, Richard Yaus (2), Mark Zhagel (4)—and unnamed people who made cash donations for Walter Traverso's donated items at the April meeting

PLEASE REMEMBER TO
LEAVE THE BEAUTIFUL YACHT CLUB
MEETING HALL CLEAN
AND FREE OF FOOD, PAPER PLATES,
NAPKINS, CUPS, ETC. !!!!

Dr. Bob's

Accordion Tuning and Repair

R_x for sick accordions

Tel: (925) 294-9659
Livermore, CA

Smythe's Accordion Center

Since 1997

New & Used Instruments
Repairs & Restoration
Accessories & Sheet Music

416 25th St. Oakland, CA
510-268-4084



petosa accordions
CUSTOMCRAFTED - SINCE 1922



313 NE 45th Street • Seattle, WA 98105
(206) 632-2700 phone
(206) 632-2733 fax
www.petosa.com



Thomas Bruno, Owner
accordiontom@yahoo.com
724-339-1507
932 Seventh Street
New Kensington, PA 15068

Expert Tuning & Repair
Visit us at www.brunoaccordions.com

Buy, Sell, Trade



Accordions International

"Home of the Concerto"
Simply the Best—Accordions & Service!
Offering the finest Italian artisan accordions!
Straps, Cases, Music - Accordions New & Used
New Modern Showroom & State of the art Repair facility

Piermaria, Scandalli, Burini, Pigini

NEW ADDRESS

1760 South 450 West,
Salt Lake City, UT 84115

Tel: 801-485-5840 Fax 801-487-7707
Website — AccordionInfo.com
Email - paul@accordioninfo.com



Smythe's Accordion Center

Since 1997

New & Used Instruments
Repairs & Restoration
Accessories & Sheet Music

416 25th St. Oakland, CA
510-268-4084



BRUCE KIRSCHNER, M.D.
OPHTHALMOLOGY
LASER VISION CORRECTION



1828
EL CAMINO REAL
SUITE 404
BURLINGAME CA 94010

PH 650-692-8788
FX 650-692-8798



E: KIRSCHNER@AOL.COM

SFAC MEMBERSHIP
\$30 per year, individual or family
Mail check to S.F.A.C.
C/O Valerie Kieser
3437 Crane Way
Oakland, CA 94602
Admission to Meetings: \$5 for members
\$7 for each guest

SFAC Officers
President: *Frank Montoro*
(650) 574-4757 akordn@earthlink.net
Vice President: *Lynn Ewing* (650) 365-1700
ewinglynn@sbcglobal.net
Secretary: *Lore Warren*
(510) 783-2072; lorewarren@earthlink.net
Treasurer: *Maryanne Romanowski*
maromanowski@yahoo.com
SFAC Directors
Aldo Argenti (650) 368-8791
aldosjazz@netzero.net
Gus Greyhosky (415) 621-8284
gusgrey@mac.com
Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (415) 621-8284
swaltersgrey@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor and Director: *Valerie Kieser*
(510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

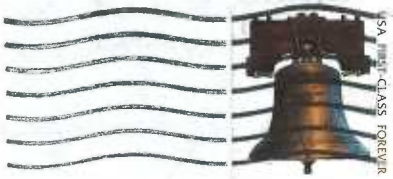
SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy
Members may place one small ad for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue. A business-card-size ad costs \$6 per issue or \$60 per year for members; a quarter-page ad costs \$15.00 for members; a half-page ad costs \$25 for members. A full-page ad costs \$50.00 for members. Discount available for ongoing ads. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

NEXT MEETING:
Sunday, October 19, 2008
2:00 Oyster Point Yacht Club



**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

P.O. Box 318175
San Francisco, CA 94131-8175
www.sfaccordionclub.com



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Columbus Day

9461181221 0031

