

ACCORDION TALK

Milwaukie Public Safety Bldg. | 3200 SE Harrison St. | Milwaukie, OR

Announcements

- **January 18 -
12:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
- **Music Circle - 12:15 for
1 Hr**
- **The club meets the third
Saturday of each month
unless noted.**

Special Features

***** 2020*****

- Jan - John Mohny**
- Feb - Education - Wayne N**
- Mar - Susan Schwab**
- April - Doug Stickler**

Refreshments

- **THANK YOU – To those
that provided the
desserts for the Holiday
Social**
- Jan - Bev S.**
- Feb - Delette H.**

John Mohny

I started taking accordion lessons in 1952 and continued for 4 years until I entered High school where I played a baritone horn in the band and orchestra. In the late 70's my son was taking lessons from Eileen Hagen and since I had to drive him there, I decided to get the accordion out and take some lessons myself. So, I took from Eileen for four years, enough time to finish the Palmer-Hughes series. After my son lost interest and I got busier with my career I put the accordion aside again.

After I retired in 2012, I got the accordion out again and played sporadically until about four years ago. In 2017 I met Marlene Meissner at the Mt Angel Oktoberfest and she introduced the Rose City accordion club to me. That has encouraged me to practice more so I can play something at club meetings each month.

The last two summers I have attended the Silver Falls Accordion Camp. That has been a fabulous experience in learning as well as meeting some wonderful people. One of them was Courtney Von Drehle who I have had the privilege of taking lessons from for the past two years. Courtney introduced me to blues, zydeco and Cajun music which I will play at the January meeting. Along with others from the accordion club I just finished the second in a series of workshops with Doug Stickler. Doug is helping us learn how to improvise, play with other instruments and play by ear.

So join us at our next meeting and listen to John's hidden talents. Please join us on Saturday, January 18.



Stirrings of the Heart



Be Gone January Blues

The January winter days are slowly turning into spring days.

Heat bill is due. Icy roads!

Achy joints!

How do you cure the blues?

Just play your accordion and

ignore all of your adult problems.

Accordion Events - 2020

**RCAC Accordion Camp -
June 7-11, 2020 -
Eagle Creek, OR**

**Leavenworth International -
June 18-21, 2020.
Leavenworth, WA**

REMINDER ----

**Annual Dues need to be
paid by the end of February,
2020**

President's Corner

Hello my fellow accordionists and friends:

Wow did we not have some fun and hear lots of good holiday music at our RCAC 2nd Annual Holiday Season Social on Sunday, December 15? Thank you Mark Greathouse for hosting this event in your community Summerfield Clubhouse. It was wonderful to see some of our friends from the Forest Grove Club.

The next board meeting will be February 17.

The elected Board values and respects our club members' contributions to the music world. If you would like to attend please email me for details.

Please consider donating to our adult scholarship or out of town performers fund. The donations will help to offset the costs to offer a camp workshop and promote goodwill to our fellow accordionists.

Please send or email me your suggestions on how to;
Promote and improve the Rose City Accordion Club.

Happy New Year - 2020

Thank you

Bev Spurgeon, RCAC President

bevo925@comcast.net



1956 - "John's Hometown" Michigan - John performing on the Accordion Float!

December Club Meeting

This year the December Club meeting was held at the Summerfield Clubhouse, Tigard, Oregon.

We had approximately 45 club members and friends attend the event. Our featured players were Toby Hanson from the Seattle area and Joe Szabo, Portland, OR.

Lots of food and desserts was available for everyone. Plus there were plates of yummy fudge on the tables.



Toby Hanson played some western swing, Scandinavian and French music for our enjoyment. Very talented young man.



After a break, Joe Szabo with his beautiful **red** accordion strolled through the crowd.

Many raised their voices with the sounds of old favorite Christmas music to Joe's impeccable playing. What a wonderful afternoon!

We appreciate those that come out every month to support our fellow accordionists and participate in the music circle. Music enriches one's life.



An adventure in **Club** hopping.....

Recently I visited family around the Atlanta, GA area. I have an old clunker accordion (enhanced with duct tape) there for practice. I was curious.....did Atlanta have an accordion club. So hopped on Facebook and found an accordion group there. I introduced myself on their site and asked when the next meeting was. No way..... the very weekend that I was there. I was invited to join them and play a tune or two. The reception was very inviting, the music was enjoyable, the Asian tacos were delightful at the restaurant where they meet. Their club is like a traditional American melting pot - - - age and ethnic and music style diversity.



Yes, there was a man playing Slovenian music on a button box!!

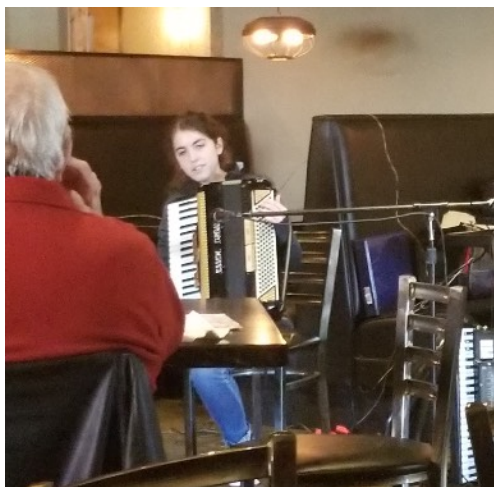


They were curious how our meetings were conducted. Turns out that we, both like to hear a couple of tunes from the members.

I'm now hooked. I want to find as many accordion clubs to visit as my travels unfold.

Try it, you'll like it!

*By Bobbie Ferrero
On the Road*



Welcome - RCAC Club Member - Sue Schwab

Well, if you want to have someone pay your way through college, marry an accordion player. That's what Sue Schwab did. Most of you have met Sue's mom, Bev, at the club meetings. Sue's husband, Pat, was influenced by Bev's blindness to pursue a profession working with the blind. Sue is very active also in a chapter for the blind.

Sue Schwab is an Oregon accordionist through and through, beginning in Coos Bay to Portland to Salem. She started accordion lessons at age 7 in Coos Bay. Since her mom was a pianist and dad played guitar, she was destined to play an instrument. When they told her that she was going to take accordion lessons she had no clue what they were talking about, but her parents had a friend who played accordion so it was decided. When she was 8, the family moved to Portland where Sue took up lessons with a new teacher, Eileen Hagen. Sue claims that Eileen was the best thing that happened to keep her interested in music.



Eileen's accordion band played in the Rose Festival Junior Parade which is where Sue started performing. At 14 years old Eileen was lining up jobs for Sue, playing at the July 4th celebration at Jantzen Beach and a law firm party near her studio to name a few. This led to a monthly Pioneer Dance Band job. Sue played with the most enthusiastic honky-tonk piano player she had ever met. They played old time music where Sue sat next to her piano bench and read the music over her shoulder. These dance jobs were once a month on a Saturday night. Since she couldn't drive yet, her parents drove her to the hall. They got the biggest kick out of seeing the old folks come into the dance hall on their canes, but when the music started the canes were left while they were kicking up their heels on the dance floor.

A fun gig that turned strange was a job for one week at Morgan's Alley in downtown Portland. Sue would stroll up and down the alley playing anything she wished for about 2-3 hours. During breaks, to kill time, she looked in the shops. At the end of the gig when it came time to get paid, the shop owners paid her with items that had been admired in the store. Eileen was furious when she found this out. She gathered up the gifts, took them back to the stores and collected the cash they owed Sue.

At 16 years old, Eileen told her that she wanted Sue to interview for a job at the Rheinlander. What was unusual was the lecture she gave Sue before the interview. She said Horst Mager, the owner, is going to be very resistance to a female accordion player. And she was right. He asked about experience, then asked her to play. He ran around like a crazy bus boy trying to rattle her. Then said, "But you won't be able to stand up and play all night like the guys." Sue then said what Eileen prompted, "Yes I can. Just give me a try". Once the tips kept rolling in she was totally motivated to outlast those guys!

This was the beginning of many years (11) of restaurant work with the Rheinlander and then his second restaurant, The Little Blarney Castle. Sue met her future husband, when she was first hired at the Rheinlander, their bus boy. Several years later they started dating and then married at 19 years old.

Sue retired from the restaurant work in 1979 when they moved to Salem for Pat's work. Her parents followed. Sue's dad and she started putting together programs in the senior living park club house. They gathered other park residents who played instruments and sang and had a nice little band. She cherished all the time she had working with her dad on these programs. These programs lasted for over 25 years.

And as they say, when one door closes, another opens. Sue now plays with the Alpine Echoes Polka Band.

Rose City Accordion Club

C/O Bev Spurgeon

2127 SE Silver Springs

Milwaukie, OR 97222



Let's Explore the World of Jazz/Blues For The January Meeting

RCAC Contacts / Business Information - <http://www.rosecityaccordionclub.org/>

Current Officers

President - Bev Spurgeon

Vice President - Bobbie Ferrero

Secretary - Marlene Meissner

Treasurer - Fran Maddox

Website - Steve Knapke

Board Members

Wayne Tiusanen

Wayne Nelson

Mark Greathouse

B. Ferrero - Camp Director

Newsletter - Bev Spurgeon - bevo925@comcast.net

Susan Schwab

Bob Wachter

Delette Huffman - Camp

Rose City Accordion Club is open to all accordion players, from beginners to professionals, their friends and families, and the public. Meetings are held monthly on the third Saturday from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Milwaukie Public Safety Bldg., SE 32nd and SE Harrison, Milwaukie, OR unless noted otherwise.

Ad Policy: Any current member can place a business card or four-line ad in the newsletter free of charge for three months. After 3 months, the fee is \$5 for two additional months. 2x3.5 ad \$5, 1/4 page ad \$10, 1/2 page ad \$20 and full page ad \$35.

Annual Dues are \$25 - Please send check to the RCAC Treasurer Fran Maddox: Rose City Accordion Club, 3429 SE 162nd Ave. Portland, OR 97236-1912