

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

JULY 2012

SVAS NEXT MEETING:
August 5, 2012



Mike Marotta Jr.

Makucho Bonilla

Dave Dally



Erasmio Aiello

Monterey International have entertained at hundreds of events on the Central Coast. You will see them playing at car shows, wineries, weddings, theme parties and special show performances featuring various singers on the Monterey Peninsula. This show will feature Italian tenor Erasmio Aiello. Steven Hansen has also been added on bass.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT SVASociety.org



Ken Caple
President

A hearty welcome to everyone. We are so glad to see such a good attendance during a summer holiday period. It was good to hear the National songs played for our Fourth of July meeting and the saluting of the flag. Anchors Away, of course is one of my favorites having been a white hat for some time in my youth.

Thanks to Scott Stanfield for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I first heard Jana Maas play about three years ago when I first joined this club. I remembered the Hippopotamus Song but didn't remember what a great accordionist she was. Thank you ,Jana, for performing for us all.

Ivan Klitgaard is putting together the ingredients for another Great Italian Festival in the Guadalupe River Park in downtown San Jose. He has been scheduling players and taking care of the many details of a festival program. This is not quick easy work. Ivan tells me that there are still a few slots for performers available for the August 25 &26 event. He would also like to see more groups playing if possible. This year our stage will be closer to the food and drink area so we should have more of an audience than in the past.

If you come to the festival, bring a shady hat. There will be a lot of sunshine on the green.

Before taking up all the announcement air-time Bill was finally allowed to speak, as he does so well, welcoming all new comers and our two new members.

Thank you ,all, who work so hard to keep SVAS a fun place to participate . —Ken Caple



Bill Tapogna,
Master of Ceremonies



Ivan Klitgaard



Sue Douglas
SVAS Reporter

Bob Stanfield's Sunday 7 Band made our settle-in time very enjoyable with Harbor Lights, Five Foot Two, It's A Small World, Ain't She Sweet, Jalisco Polka, Julida Polka, Beer Barrel Polka, Iupali Iupala, Chamarrita, Never On Sunday, Oregon Waltz, San Antonio Rose, Your Cheatin' Heart, Andy's Jolly Hop Polka and a Military Medley. And our featured player, Jana Maas played along with them.



120 Bass Accordion. 40 inch Keyboard contact
Ivan Klitgaard to show. Price \$ 650.00

ADVERTISEMENTS :

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- Lynn Ewing: San Carlos (650) 365-1700
- Sharon Walters Greyhosky:
Daly City (650) 731-6010
- Lou Jacklich: San Lorenzo (510) 317-9510
- Marian Kelly: Portola Valley (650) 854-1896
- Richard Yaus: San Bruno (650) 832-1740
- Mike Zampiceni: Sunnyvale (408) 734-1565
- Norma Zonay-Parsons: San Jose (408) 246-3073
- Aaron Wayne: Santa Cruz (831) 332-0589
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ACCORDION REPAIR SHOP



Reno Di Bono

President, Ken Caple, and first-half player director, Ivan Klitgaard, announced that the Italian festival will be on August 25th and 26th. And M.C., Bill Tapogna, announced that the Cotati accordion event will be on August 17th and 18th and that the tickets will cost \$15.00 for one day or \$23.00 for two days. Ken Caple said that the Oktoberfest will be in Campbell in mid-October and he recommended that we search for more details on the internet. Bill Tapogna introduced us to Maggie McGlaughlin, who is willing to play accordion with anyone, so hopefully we'll hear her play in the near future.

Ivan Klitgaard drew our attention to our first first-half player, Reno Di Bono. Reno played very expressively the Motor Cycle Polka and Musetta Waltz. He played Moon River and Lara's Theme. During Ciri Biri Bin he sang and moved his right hand. With Volare, he had us sing. We participated!



Bob Stanfield and Bill Tapogna

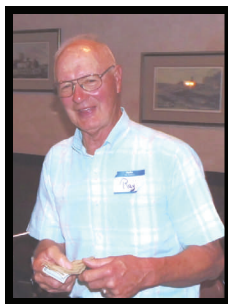
Our next first-half player, Bob Stanfield, played Lordags Walzen and then, one of his Scott Joplin favorites called Bethena Waltz. His next was God Bless America and his finales were Swing Low Sweet Chariot and then Bill Tapogna joined him in playing La Compagnola. Well done!

Our third first-half player, Max Tarmann, played and sang Blue Skirt Waltz. Then he asked us, "What time is it? POLKA TIME!" So he played and sang Too Fat Polka and we sang with him. Next came Twilight Time, You Can't Be True, Dear and Du Du Liegst Mir Im Herzen, and he had us sing the "ja, ja, ja, ja" part. Another singable list was My Wild Irish Rose, Peg o' My Heart and Oh Marie. He played Stardust and Red Roses for a Blue Lady. His finale was God Bless America and he had the audience stand and sing. Again, participation is fun.



Max Tarmann

After the first half Bill introduced Mark Stevens from the Santa Clara Organ Club. The Organ Club will have Stan Koyama on July 15 and Rosemary Bailey will play on August 19. They are both great organists so be sure to see them.



Ray



Julio



Julia

Bob



Maggie

Raffle-time and Ray won the \$40.00, Julio won \$20.00 Hofbrau meal ticket, Julia won the Reno DiBono CD and Maggie won the second Reno Di Bono CD.

Please invite your friends to join our SVAS Musical Event
The more the Merrier
We all love music, especially Accordion Music

Bob Stanfield got our featured player, **Jana Maas**, to come and play for us, and he mentioned that Jana originated and organized the Good Time Accordion Club and has been it's president for 13 years! Jana smiled as she played Bionna, Hay-ride Polka, White Ribbon, Never On Sunday, That's Amore, a polka, Black and White Rag, Iupali Iupala, Crazy Polka, Oblivia and Tick Tock Polka. Her finale was called Hippo and she sang that very amusing child style song with a well imitated child's voice, letting us know that she likes hippopotamuses! Thank you, Jana. You know how to make it a good time.



The Gola Accordion

By: Louis Rodriguez

The Gola 459 concert Hohner accordion was number 459th to be made by Giovanni Gola, in 1968. Signore Gola was born in 1907 in Stradella, Italy and learned his craft at the Dallape Accordion Factory. He worked from 1952 to 1972 for Hohner in Trossingen, Germany. After his retirement he returned to Stradella where he died in 1978.

While at Hohner, he designed and built a prototype for an instrument destined to become the best in the world. Specially trained technicians working with only the finest materials were used to accomplish this goal. The building of the Gola line began in 1954. These instruments are designed and built to customer specifications; therefore no two models are identical. A Gola concert accordion weighs over 32 pounds and is currently priced above \$50,000.00.

To pinpoint the differences between a Gola and other accordions, we should look at the construction of this instrument, its bass system, keyboard, custom shifts and reeds.

Continued to Page 7

Mardi Gras in Vegas!
September 24-27, 2012
Gold Coast Hotel

STARRING
Dick Contino
Jeff Lisenby
Stas Vengierowski
Mary Takasaka
The Accordion Kings!

FEATURING
Amy Jo Sawyer
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Mario Pedone, Gordon Kohl,
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The SVAS Passion Play Contest

This contest was conceived of earlier in the year to bring attention to a musician's skill in conveying the feeling of a song to the audience as he or she feels it. To play a musical piece with passion. At the beginning there wasn't a lot of interest, however, as people thought about it they began to sign up for this special opportunity. We have had a sign up sheet and have made announcements on a regular basis since the beginning of the year and now I can say the contest is filled.

We have a brave group of people who will be performing for us during the first half of our November 4th meeting. One song will be played to be judged. The audience will be the judges and will have a rating sheet to record their opinion of who is performing their song with the greatest passion.

For the first time in the club's history a trophy will be presented to the winner.

COMING EVENTS

Coming Events at SVAS: August 5 Meeting

Doors open at 1:00 pm

1:15-2:00 pm Preprogram: Jamboree Band2:00-2:15pm Presidents Message & Master of Ceremonies Introductions2:15-3:00pm First Half Program : Jerry Choate, Ivan Klitgaard, John Jelesko3:00-3:15pm Break & Drawing3:15-4:15pm Featured Player: Marotta's - Monterey InternationalSeptember Feature- Big LouOctober Feature- Steve & Mike Trucco BandNovember Feature - Mario Pedone

SVAS BOARD of Directors / Officers

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♪ **Who's Playing???** ♪

William DeMichelis—Music with an accent, 408-375-0001, accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net

Reno di Bono plays the second Friday of each month at **Montavalle** in Scotts Valley, dancing to the **Blue Moon Trio**.

Joe Domitrowich/Alpiners: see www.alpinersusa.com or www.capricious-accordion.com or call 408-255-1259

Mike Zampiceni - Accordionist 408 734-1565

AbsolutAccord: Schedule Concerts with Norma Parsons (408) 246-3073, www.absolutaccord.com

Sunday 7 : Schedule Concerts with Bob Stanfield (650) 888-3701

Happy Days Band: Schedule Concerts with Ken Caple (408) 892-2760

Due Zighi Baci— Schedule Performances with Sheri Mignano @ sfmignano@yahoo.com

Local Festivals

Musicians from the Silicon Valley Accordion Society may be playing at the following festivals. Come out to join us .

1. COTATI ACCORDION FESTIVAL , Cotati, CA August 18 & 19 , 2012
2. ITALIAN FESTA, San Jose , CA August 25 & 26 2012
3. OKTOBERFEST in Downtown Campbell, CA , October 13 & 14, 2012

WHEN THE ACCORDION CLUBS IN THE BAY AREA MEET?

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) meets on the third Monday of the month. Herman & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma CA 94952. Contact: (707) 795-4060.

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC) has three divisions:

1. **The Vacaville Club** meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM, Pietro's N.2, 679 Merchant St, Vacaville, CA 95687, Starting July 12, 2012 , Except for June and December.
2. **The Humboldt Club** meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 PM., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551.
3. **The Sacramento Club** meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Rd., Rancho Cordova CA ,95742. Contact for all the GSAC: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM, Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave., Escalon, CA 95320. Contact Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603.

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets on the first Wednesday of the month 6:30 PM 6365 Douglas Blvd., Lutheran Church Social Hall, Granite Bay, CA 95746. Contact: Jerry Choate, President (530) 570-7318

San Francisco Accordion Club (SFAC) meets on the third Sunday of the month 2:00 PM . Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd. South San Francisco, CA 94080. Contact Lynn Ewing 650-453-3391.

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, 1:00 PM at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, CA 95129. (between Kiely Blvd. and Stevens Creek Blvd. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.



SEE YOU AUGUST 18 & 19, 2012 Tickets Available through SVAS at a discount.

Continued from page 5, The **Gola Accordion**

There is no assembly line procedure for these instruments. Each is built by a small team of master craftsmen who work exclusively on that instrument. It takes nine months to build and every Gola is made out of more than five thousand pieces. The interior is crafted with clockwork precision. I have owned a number of accordions in my lifetime, all of which could take apart with a screwdriver and a pair of pliers. Not this one. The interior shows incredible precision. Every part looks like a work of art. Exquisite craftsmanship and incredible attention to detail are the norm for these instruments. Only an expert technician could disassemble and accordion such as this.

In 1968 when I submitted my specifications for the instrument, I ordered the Gola with the standard bass system but without the Dominant Seventh chords. The Dominant Seventh chords can be accomplished by combining two chords; as an example C-major together with G-diminished. It's cumbersome at the beginning, but one gets used to it very soon. In addition to the standard bass and chords, I wanted the German Bariton Bass System (Free Bass). Bariton Bass consist of three rows of 58 buttons with a range of more than three and a half octaves of single notes.

The keyboard has 44 keys, ranging from E to the C three octaves higher. In order to fit those keys without extending the size of the instrument, the keys are narrower than the keys of a standard keyboard.

The instrument has seven shifts for the left hand, plus one slide shift operating the master and upper octaves and an extra shift allowing me to add a piccolo octave to any combination in the left hand.

I wanted an instrument with the customary eleven shifts for the right hand plus three slide shifts: two located at the border of the keyboard and one underneath, and also two chin shifts. With these devices, I can have quicker access to accomplish timbre changes on the instrument.

At the end of 1st year, the third octave F sharp stuck on the keyboard. I sent the instrument to the Hohner representatives in the USA, located in Glen Allen, Virginia. Free Reed Service Department. The instrument was repaired, new leather valves were installed on some the basses, small glitches in the shift mechanism were fixed and the instrument was tuned.

The Gola models are tuned using a different procedure from that of other instruments. No files or sharp instruments are used on these Italian reeds. Instead, a so called "sandpaper file" is utilized. The procedure consists of slightly touching the reeds, rather than filing them. The Gola accordion does not lose its tuning. All it requires is a preparation (minute sandpaper file adjustments) rather than a tuning.

In my opinion, if this instrument was a violin, it would be a Stradivarius. If it was a piano it would be a Steinway concert grand.

As a performer I was fortunate to have found SVAS which provides the greatest audience one could wish for. I have been inspired by the dedication and love its members have for the accordion. All I can say is thanks SVAS for everything.... and keep on squeezing!

- Louis Rodriguez

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE 🎵

MEETING PARTICIPANTS



Silicon Valley Accordion Society meetings held first Sunday of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely. Doors open at 1:00, Music begins at 1:15, Meeting begins at 2:00 p.m. door fee \$5, under 16 no charge.