

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

January 2011

SVAS NEXT MEETING:
February 6, 2010 at Harry's Hofbrau



Joe Domitrowich

Joe Domitrowich began playing the accordion in eastern PA around the age of 8. From the start, he developed a liking for technically challenging arrangements. In the late 1960s, Joe performed steadily six nights a week as a soloist or with his band near Phoenix, AZ.

After a long hiatus from professional playing – except for a brief period from 1982-83 when he played at the Fault Line Restaurant in San Juan Bautista, CA - in 1987 Joe resumed playing in the SFO Bay Area and gradually formed his current band *Alpiners^{USA}*, a premiere Oktoberfest Band that has performed – including some TV appearances - throughout northern California as well as Oregon, Texas and Pennsylvania. In the off-season, *Alpiners^{USA}* appears as a trio, performing Euro-ethnic, ballroom and 50s/60s dance music.

In the mid-1990s, Joe's interest in accordion was broadened by the great potential he saw in the modern digital accordion, and he developed a passion to arrange and perform technically challenging selections that deploy the unique architecture of the accordion in new and creative ways. Today, as a self-described "*technician of the accordion*," Joe continually strives for excellence in his mission to arrange,

record, and perform live on the accordion, diverse genres of music both old and new – sometimes reminiscent of a band or full orchestra. His act, derived from these efforts, is dubbed "Capricious Accordion", and has been well-received by audiences at the Cotati Accordion festival and the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention, and can be heard at several Bay Area venues.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT SVASociety.org

SVAS December 5, 2010 MEETING



Bill Tapogna, President
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy New Year !

Hi, everyone! Hope your holidays were Merry and Bright, and the New Year is a happy and healthy one for you!

Years ago, a singer by the name of Mack Davis recorded a tune called "*Lord, it's hard to be humble.*" Well, I found myself thinking of that tune last Sunday, January 2, at our monthly music meeting! No, nothing to do with ego or anything like that, but...WOW ! What a great organization SVAS is! A great turn-out, especially considering the weather, and some fabulous entertainment! Of course, Sue Douglas is doing her usual superb job of writing up the program portion of the Newsletter, but I want to thank all the warm-up ("Pre-Program" players, and the "First Half" players. Great job, everyone! And then there was Richard Noel! WOW! This was his second visit to SVAS, and it won't be his last, for sure. Actually, I have a call into him as I am writing this, and hopefully we will have the pleasure of seeing him and his wife Mary at our August meeting. Stay tuned. For the benefit of those of you who missed him at the last meeting, Richard has spent HOURS programming his Roland accordion, and his presentation included many comments on the intricacies of the instrument, and what it takes to make it sound as great as his does. And it DOES sound great!

Your Board of Directors met this week, and discussed plans for the year, and as Bob Stanfield said: "Boy, what an active group we have become!". And it's true. We have an impressive line-up of entertainment coming up, as well as our Picnic in May. As you see on the cover, Joe Domitrowich is coming in February, and Louis Rodriguez is scheduled (and confirmed!) for March. Don Nurisso is scheduled for April, May is the picnic, and I have just confirmed Sheri Mignano and Michael Van Why for June! What a treat to see them back again! And, Art Maggio and Ivan Klitgaard are working diligently to set up our involvement in the Italian-American Heritage Foundation's annual Festa. Ken Caple is working with the folks in Campbell to determine if we will be playing at the Oktoberfest again this year. So, that's what's going on so far.

I want to say a special thanks to all of our SVAS *members* who have supported us with your membership, and several of you with additional financial support. If not for all of you, SVAS simply would not exist. And our membership is growing, with three new members at the last meeting. A great big welcome to you, and thanks for supporting our organization.

Ken Caple has begun a new group which he named the "SVAS Jamboree Band". Read all about it in his write-up. This should be fun! and Educational, too!

Val Kieser, our dear friend and most active supporter of all things accordion (!) has sent out flyers informing us of "A Musical Orchestral Learning Event" to be held on Saturday, February 5, 2011, at the Oyster Point Yacht Club (the usual meeting place for the San Francisco Accordion Club) in South San Francisco. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. It's being directed by none other than Joe Smiel, with the assist of his son Joseph E. Smiell, both conservatory-trained musicians and arrangers, as well as conductors of music groups. It is free, and should be a great learning experience for intermediate level (+) players who have some sight-reading skills. If interested, contact Val at <<vtkacc@ifn.net>> or by phone at (510) 531-4836.

As I mentioned in my last column, we are interested in receiving biographical write-ups on our members. We all have stories to tell, and nobody can do it better than the individuals themselves. So, get writin'. Turn them in at the meetings or mail them to any Director (call the director for address). Seriously, I know many of you personally, and I know that you have fascinating histories and backgrounds, so PLEASE SHARE THEM WITH US!!

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER: I wish to thank all of our Members and Readers for their gracious comments about the SVAS News letter. I am very happy that all our hard work is appreciated. Without a team effort this Newsletter would not be possible. I wish to thank Bill for his Great President Messages, Sue Douglas for her detailed meeting Write-UP and Victor Kolesnichenko for all of his great digital photography. In addition to these folks Bob Stanfield is my reliable editor. He finds the smallest spelling and grammatical errors. Bob has also contributed articles to be published. In addition Bob and his son Scott do the mailing which is a time consuming chore. Collectively I would say there are at least 20 or more hours of work that we all contribute. In addition there are many hours behind the scenes by the Board of Directors coming up with Biographies and related information that may be included in the Newsletter. Thank You for the great feedback we all appreciate it.

COMING EVENTS

Coming event at SVAS: February 6 Meeting

PREPROGRAM @ 1:15 pm the Program will be Friday Night Live.

(Contact Ken Caple for future play opportunities in the Pre-Program (408) 892-2760)

FIRST HALF PLAYERS @ 2:00 pm : Garland Cheatham , Julio Tosto and Ron Harris
Contact Ivan Klitgaard for future Play Opportunities)

FEATURED PLAYER @ 3:00 PM
Joe Domitrowich

SVAS BOARD of Directors / Officers

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♪ **Who's Playing???** ♪

William DeMichelis—Music with an accent, 408-375-0001, midi4music@gmail.com

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

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

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

Friday Night Live: Schedule Concerts with Ken Caple (408) 892-2760

Local Festivals

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

1. **BOOGIE ON THE BAYOU**, Downtown Campbell, CA Sat. & Sun. May , 2011 in the Beer Garden Venue.
2. **COTATI ACCORDION FESTIVAL** August, 2011 , Tickets available from SVAS at the August meeting.
3. **ITALIAN FESTIVAL** in San Jose, CA August, 2011.
4. **OKTOBERFEST** in Downtown Campbell, CA October , 2011, join us in the Beer Garden Venue.
5. **SAN FRANCISCO FESTA COLONIALE ITALIANA** - San Francisco Italian Athletic Club

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 Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM, Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main Street, Vacaville, CA 95688
2. **The Humboldt Club** meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 PM., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tampkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551.
3. **The Sacramento Club** meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95825. 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 7:00 PM 6395 Douglas Blvd., Granite Bay, CA 95746. Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

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 Frank Montoro (650) 574-4757.

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.



Sue Douglas, SVAS Reporter

Our first pre-program player, Ken Caple, our newsletter publisher, played Edelweiss, Jalisco, Just Because, Beyond the Reef, St. Paul Waltz, and more. He created a very warm and inviting atmosphere for our January gathering. His IORIO "H" model accordion has many registers on the treble side and they offer him several instrument sound options. There are so many buttons and switches that the smaller ones have blinking lights to show what is on. When he conducts the Friday Night Live group, he usually plays the vibraphone very well, but it's also good to hear him play the accordion.

After Ken played, I played some sing-along songs and I was delighted to see and hear people sing-along! I really like it when the audience participates!

President, Bill asked if there were any new people at the meeting and there were three who were enjoying a meal at the restaurant and heard the accordion music and came in to enjoy it. Sandie Stut and her friend, Laretta brought Louis and Edna. Welcome, all!



Further announcements by Vice President, John Brane were that the Silicon Valley Organ Club will meet at the Hofbrau on January 16th at 2pm and there will be a \$4.00 entry fee. He read some details regarding the Organist Rose Marie Baily. Also it was mentioned that people who are new players are encouraged to call Director, Ivan Klitgaard to set up opportunities to play in the months to come.

Our next player, Hubert Kallabis, played Aloha Oe, Give Back My Heart, Just A Closer Walk With Thee, Moonlight And Roses, Missouri Waltz and a super polka called Wirn Bleibt Wien. I would love to learn that one!

Hubert told us the story of his Zupan Accordion. The fellow who started Zupan came from Slovenia. The man has since died and his family tried to continue the business but it eventually failed. His was probably the last accordion available for sale as it came off the display.. It has the most beautiful wood work and the sound is rich with its tone chamber.



Happy we are to see Don and Mary Savant back! And Don played Oh Marie, Deep Purple, Walking In A Winter Wonderland, What a Difference A Day Makes, What A Wonderful World and Return To Sorrento. He uses interesting chords at the ends of some of the songs that give them a really jazzy sound.

Raffle time: Sheri won the \$35.00, Laretta won the Hofbrau Ticket and Mary Savant won the Richard Noel CD.



Bob Stanfield presenting winnings to Sherry Xie



Bob and Laretta with meal ticket



Mary Savant with CD



Bill Tapogna giving Sue Bubbles In a Bottle.

Welcome New Members: Art & Margie Brown ; Sandie Stut



Our featured player, Richard Noel, honored Don and Mary Savant's 50th wedding anniversary by playing the Anniversary Waltz and Don and Mary danced. Then he played Once In A While with great fingering on the last notes! Next he played the Clarinet Polka. That one's a challenge. Try it sometime. Arpeggiate the chords at a mile-a-minute, and he did! He played the Godfather Waltz, a Tarantella, and then with a banjo sound some of the songs that give them a really jazzy feeling. When he played Turkey In The Straw, people wanted to hear more banjo sound, but Richard had 21 more pieces to play, so he went on to In The Mood. Since he was playing a Roland accordion, he could produce a sleigh bell sound as he played The Sleigh Ride and a saxophone sound for Harlem Nocturne. Many in the audience inquired as to how the accordion could make the banjo and jingle bell sounds, and Richard answered quite specifically. He played the Accordion Boogie Song, Phantom Of The Opera, Mademoiselle de Paris, Pink Panther, Tico Tico, Five Foot Two and Ain't She Sweet. When he played Besame Mucho, Bill and Gloria danced. Richard stood up and said, "I enjoy standing up more than sitting down." Then he played two old-time southern songs. Some of us sang to I've Been Working On The Railroad, Chattanooga Choo Choo and It's A Small World. So motivated was the audience that requests started. The first one was from Ted Christensen for Ja Da. The next request was from Ken Caple for 76 Trombones. The third request was for The Pennsylvania Polka and Richard played all those and the Beer Barrel Polka and we all clapped to the rhythm of that one! There was a stand up applause for that! One piece that he played called The Swan demonstrated that the Roland accordion could go from quiet to dramatic volume without the bellows being pulled out much at all. Interesting technology involved there. His finale was Granada, demonstrating, again phenomenally fast fingering. It was a wonderfully varied repertoire and it was nice to have Richard's wife with us also. A great time was had by all.



Richard and Garland Cheatham, both Roland owners chatting and comparing notes. Richard has spent untold hours learning how to program his Roland Accordion. He also said he has the ability to program the sound of the individual instruments to the point they sound better than they come from the factory. This amazing computer Accordion is completely versatile and can be customized in many ways. The sounds of each instrument was the best I have heard any Roland sound.

Richard is an amazing guy. I asked his wife what she feeds him that he can memorize 600 songs already and he is still doing it. She said it has been years of playing chords and he has developed an ear for music that assists him in remembering songs. KC



JAMBOREE BAND



SVAS is forming a Jamboree Band. The purpose of the Band is to give players the opportunity to play together as a group. Many of us over the years have only played solo. Because we will be inviting musicians who are beginners and experienced we will be playing from Lead Sheets primarily. It will be simple easy to follow music. As this program continues to develop I will be asking the participants to find music that they would like to include in our song list for the group to practice. There is no cost, the music is provided. When ready we will play together at the SVAS meeting.

We will meet every second Wednesday of the month at Harrys Hofbrau from 5:00 to 8:00 pm in the back room. I will email Band members a confirmation about a week before practice. Ken Caple

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Musical Biography of **Kenneth Caple**

Born in America's beer Capital, Milwaukee, he was raised in a German / Bohemian Wisconsin family. Most members of this family played instruments: piano, accordion, trumpet, coronet and so on. As a teenager Ken took Organ lessons on a Lowrey Organ. He also played a keyboard and his aunts Hohner accordion every chance he could. He bought his first accordion while in the US Navy from a Blue Angles Pilot at NAS Pensacola. It was a red and white Scandalli. After leaving the Navy he went to live and work in Micronesia which lies between Hawaii and Australia. While there, he found time to play a large Wurlitzer organ at the YOKWE YUK Club on Kwajalien Island. Later, during the time of his career building life, the accordion eventually went into the closet. After marriage to Sharon and the purchase of a home, he bought an Organ and Piano; then two Organs, Drums and Concert Vibes. Due to a lower back injury he had to give up playing the Organ completely. He eventually donated two Organs, Drums and Vibes to schools and Senior homes. The accordion remained in the closet. Around 1985 Sharon bought Ken the IORIO Accordion that he still has today. The Scandalli was traded in but there was little time to play anything while dealing with his multi-faceted career of starting up new Companies. In addition to the Accordion Ken still plays the Piano and Vibraphone (smaller size than before).

At Oktoberfest in Campbell in 2007 he heard the Band leader Joe Domitrowich introduce the President of the Silicon Valley Accordion Society, Bill Tapogna. It was there he found out about SVAS and dragged his Accordion out of the closet forever. Ken has been a Member of SVAS approximately 3 years.



Joe Smiel's Ensemble Learning Event

I hope everyone has heard about Joe Smiel's Ensemble Learning Event on Feb. 5 (actually put on by the SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble Association). It's FREE TO ALL, intermediate players and up, who can read at least a little music. To sign up, one can either , e-mail me, or just phone. Since there's no charge, all I have to do is keep a list.

It's a shame to miss any of Joe's teaching, he has so much to offer, and he's very excited about introducing people to ensemble playing, as well as offering additional musical knowledge to everyone, including those who already play in a group. There is so much to learn!

I hope YOU might attend, and please PASS THE WORD on to others!

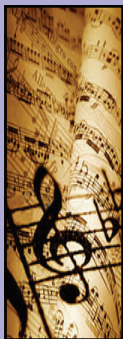
Thank you so much !

Val Kieser

The SILICON VALLEY ACCORDION SOCIETY

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Victor Kolesnichenko, Director, PR Officer: Photos & Website; **Sue Douglas**, Reporter; **Bill Tapogna**, Director, President, Featured Player Organizer; **Bob Stanfield**, Director, Treasurer; **Ivan Klitgaard**, Director & First Half Program Organizer, **Dick Siudzinski**, Director, **Ken Caple**, Director, Publisher, Pre-Program Organizer; **John Brane**, Director, Vice President; **Art Maggio**, Director, Secretary.



NEWSLETTER OF THE

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

P.O. Box 1513
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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.