

July, 2026

Picnic in the Park

11:30 am – 2:00 pm PDT,

Sunday, July 26th

Rinconada Park, Palo Alto

777 Embarcadero Road

Sequoia Grove Picnic Area

Please RSVP to info@sfaccordionclub.com



Our **6th annual SFAC Picnic in the Park** will begin Sunday July 26 at 11:30AM until around 2:00PM, although there is no rigid end time. All Club members are wholeheartedly invited!

- ♦ **What to bring:** potluck dish to share or brown bag lunch, and of course, your accordion & jam book!
- ♦ **Where to go:** Same spot as last year, in Palo Alto.

Group photo at about 12:30 PM. We will meet in the Sequoia Grove Group Picnic Area, at 1120 Hopkins Ave, Palo Alto.

This link will help you find our location in this very large city park: <https://g.co/kgs/uh6iWjA>

We will gather in the Sequoia Grove picnic area, near the Girl Scout House and parking lot (circled on the map in red). There is ample parking along Hopkins Road and the area is nicely shaded, so no canopy is necessary.

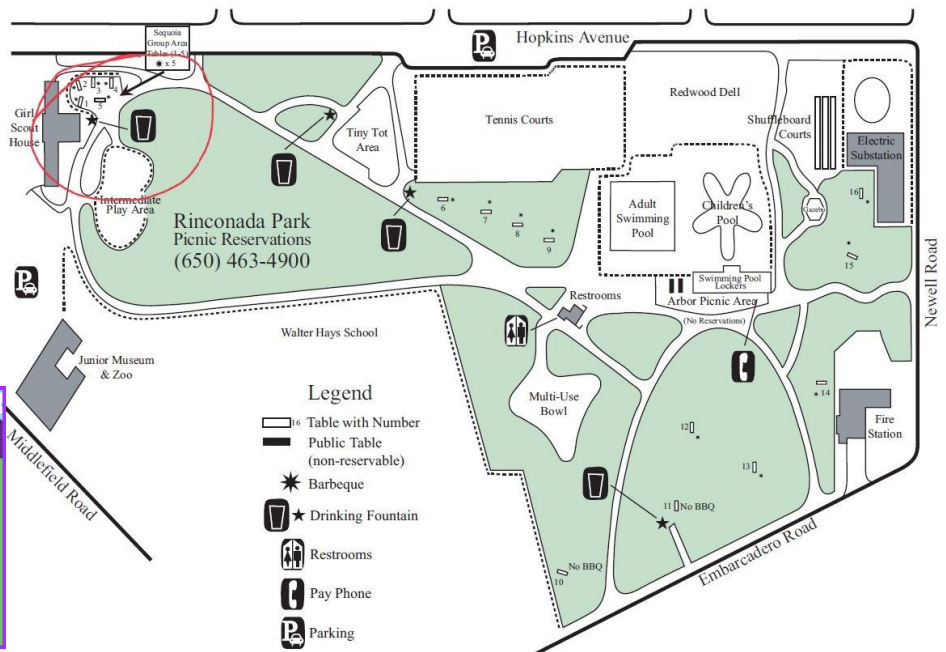
Seating is available at the picnic tables, or you may bring your own folding chair.



Photo: 2025 SFAC picnic

Alcohol & glass of any kind are prohibited.

Kindly RSVP, thanks in advance!



Father's Day Meets Summer Solstice!

Frohen Vatertag!

Ken Schwartz

With our June meeting perfectly timed to coincide with Father's Day and the Summer Solstice, it doesn't get any better than this!

Mike Zampiceni served as the terrific emcee. Thank you, Mike!

The jam session, 13 members strong, was led by **Joseph Martin**, who introduced new songs in ensemble format for multiple parts and even linked multiple songs into one, fluid melody. **Jackie Phillips** distributed the new music scores to those in attendance. It was a success! Joseph has been working extensively with Mike Zampiceni to update our Jam Books (most recently edited by Robert and Elaine Cooperstein, including many pieces originally compiled by the late Lynn Ewing). The jam books will be supplemented with new songs, many in ensemble format. Stay tuned to an announcement in the fall. Thank you, Joseph and Mike!

Intermission was a delicious pause packed with tasty treats, featuring a surprise lemon cake from Nanette Domitrowich and a scrumptious entrée courtesy of Pamela Lister—because every great intermission deserves great food!



Our featured performer, Joe Domitrowich, wowed us with an outstanding performance on his magnificent Concerto and Evo accordions. A true multitasking entertainer, Joe played and sang a variety of favorite tunes in both English and German, adding his own signature flair—including the occasional train whistle and playful rock-style grunt. Every performance was uniquely his own and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Joe opened with *The Blue Danube*, followed by a simple country version of *Czardas* - not the well-known tune, but the country peasant version. Then, Joe raised the notch and performed his virtuoso version of *Czardas* (Monti), beautifully performing on his Concerto Accordion to demonstrate what he called "Left Hand Bifurcation." The Concerto features both acoustic reeds and midi, and Joe ably demonstrated the power of this wonderful (and expensive) instrument!

Next, Joe performed a bouncy *In the Mood*, followed by a reverent *Ave Maria* (Schubert). Forging multiple generations ahead, Joe next performed a lively rock song *Oye Como Va* (Santana), singing the lyrics in Spanish and with organ accompaniment on the Concerto.

Next came one of the audience's favorites: Joe's signature **Train Ride** medley. The performance began with a brilliant arrangement of *Dueling Banjos* from the movie **Deliverance**, showcasing his remarkable ability to recreate both banjo parts simultaneously on the accordion—one with each hand. From there, the musical journey rolled seamlessly through *Oh! Susanna*, the familiar Nestlé jingle ("N-E-S-T-L-E-S, Nestlé makes the very best... chocolate!"), realistic train whistles and locomotive sounds created with expressive bellows shakes, and Johnny Cash's classic *Folsom Prison Blues*,



complete with the unforgettable lyric, "When I hear that whistle blowin', I hang my head and cry." The medley continued with the high-energy *Orange Blossom Special* and concluded with the beloved folk song *Freight Train*, written by Elizabeth Cotten when she was just eleven years old and celebrated decades later with a Grammy Award at age ninety—a remarkable story in its own right!

Only in Joe's hands could an accordion convincingly become two dueling banjos at once. Filled with imaginative arrangements, signature tunes, and audience participation, the medley was a wonderfully creative, entertaining, and unforgettable highlight of his performance.

Next, Joe switched to his Bugari Evo, which is exclusively digital/midi. In keeping with **Holiday 250**, Joe performed a

.... Continued from previous page

lively *Washington Post March* and patriotic repertoire. Joe noted that he'd be spontaneously performing patriotic accordion music from his driveway on Cottonwood Drive to accompany Cupertino's fireworks this year!

Joe's specialty is traditional Alpine Folk music, which he enjoys at festivals and cultural events; expressive of regional identity/dialect, often about nature, mountain life, love for music, dancing, girlfriend, etc. and features vocal harmonies, beer/wine, happy uplifting, and, of course, lots of accordion. In keeping with this, Joe performed a fun version of *Hey! Slavko! Spiel uns eins!* (Slovenian/Oberkrain) with his unique German singing.

Back to modern rock: Joe, indeed, rocked with the Beatles' *I Saw Her Standing There*, with great singing and free bass - well done, Joe! Next was *Für Elise* (Beethoven), which demonstrated Joe's ability to perform free bass solos, followed by *Clarinet Polka*, aka *Ode to Woody*, with terrific walking bass solos. Joe started slowly and built suspense to gradually ratchet up to a spirited, lively polka!

As his set wound down, Joe introduced two lovely women in his life: wife Nanette and daughter Amanda!

Following a standing ovation, Joe performed an encore sung at the end of every day of Oktoberfest, one of his Oktoberfest staples: *Sierra Madre*, sung in German, a song which is a reverent expression of life among the mountain people in the sierras of Mexico, with symbolism reflecting the relationship between nature, tradition and rural life.

Thank you for celebrating Father's Day ("Frohen Vatertag!" In German) with the Club and to all who enabled today's meeting to soar, to the sun and beyond: Mike Zampiceni (emcee); Joseph Martin (jam session); Paul Cain (audiovisual); Randy Hicks (door); Pamela Lister (raffle); Rosemary Busher (jack-of-all trades); and most importantly – our terrific performer, **Joe Domitrowich!**





As usual, the SFAC will not be holding a meeting in August, to not conflict with the Cotati Accordion Festival (CAF), the **Greatest Accordion Show on Earth**, August 15-17. It will take place at La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA. It begins early on Friday evening with a fundraiser for student scholarships, followed by two glorious days of accordion music in the park. Our Club will host our own canopy and we do hope SFAC members and other accordionistas will come by and hang out with us from time to time. We will be announcing a generous donation for the CAF student scholarship fund.

The annual Cotati Accordion Student Stage (CASS) fundraiser concert takes place Friday, August 14, 4-6 PM at the Church of the Oaks Social Hall, 160 W. Sierra @ Page St. Admission is free (donations welcome). A wonderful group of talented accordion artists have volunteered to kick-off the 2026 CAF. The program of accordion artists will include **Mike Zampiceni**, Stas Venglevski, and the **Boris-Cooper Duo (Chris Boris and Dr. Matt Cooper)**. Thanks to Pamela Tom for submitting this fundraiser information just as we go to press. As for the Saturday & Sunday main stages, see the upcoming August newsletter for a full schedule with links.

For ticket information, questions, please see <https://cotatifest.com/>, email info@cotatifest.com, or call 707-664-0444.

- ◆ **One-Day advanced ticket \$23**, at the gate **\$27**
- ◆ **One-Day senior (65+) advanced ticket \$20**, at the gate **\$24**
- ◆ **Two-Day advanced ticket \$35**, at the gate **\$40**
- ◆ **Two-Day senior (65+) advanced ticket \$33**, at the gate **\$39**
- ◆ **Kids 15 and under FREE when accompanied by a paying adult.**

Volunteer!

The CAF non-profit festival is run by volunteers. CAF can never have too many. Sign up with the link below. CAF would need you to commit for a minimum of **3 hours** to receive a free weekend pass, current poster & hospitality meal.

CAF is using SignUp to organize the event.

1. Click this link to see the 2026 Event on SignUp: <https://signup.com/go/DunPbTu>
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
3. Sign up! It's Easy – you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.

Thank You!



Accordion Potluck Lunch Launches Summer Solstice

By Pamela Tom



Tibor Sárkány, Pamela Tom, Joseph Martin, Scott Anderson, Steve Marshall, Ben Li, Colette Ogata and Casey Ogata.
Photograph Pamela Lister

For nearly a decade **Lou Jacklich**'s students and friends banded together multiple times a year to enjoy an afternoon of fun, food and most importantly, accordion music. Last month part of the gang met at **Pamela Lister**'s home in Marin County during the summer solstice weekend. Food was plentiful and the pièce de resistance was **Tibor Sárkány**'s Hungarian goulash. Prior to dining, **Scott Anderson** and **Joseph Martin** entertained with their polished solos.

The alumni of the "Lou Jacklich School of Music" fondly reminisced over some of the stories that Mr. Jacklich shared of his professional accordionist days during their lessons. Mr. Jacklich, who launched his career with vaudeville at 17 years of age, would have been 98 years old next month.

In keeping with tradition, following lunch the group had an all-accordion band jam session; multi-talented **Steve Marshall** had left his tuba and bass at home to refresh his electronic skills on his Roland accordion. The group played a variety of tunes from the SFAC Jam book, including *Boogie Woogie Swing*. A good time was had by all, and we look forward to continued gatherings during the year!

Accordionists and Friends (photo at right):
Joseph Martin, Colette Ogata (only her Petosa accordion is visible), Casey Ogata, Steve Marshall, Ben Li, Tibor Sárkány, Pamela Lister and Scott Anderson.



Festa Italiana 2026

Submitted by Pamela Tom

Accordions and singers were featured as a part of the musical entertainment at the annual Festa Coloniale Italiana Street Festival during June 6-7, 2026 in North Beach (aka Little Italy).

A trio of professional accordionists were on stage. **Ron Borelli** played on his Roland FR-3X accordion. To Ron's right was Tatiana Semichastnaya playing her Roland FR-1x. Steve Albini (seated) performed on his FR-4x. Jonas Juhlin was on drums. The **Wine Country Tenors** were on hand to serenade the audience. Video snippets of the amazing sound of the duo tenors and accordion trio are captured on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgNHxJViuJl>) and especially at Steve Albini's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/steven.albini>).



Membership Report

By Robert Cooperstein

*We are pleased to welcome back **Dmytro Oliinychenko** of Redwood City after an extended hiatus; I last introduced him to the Club in November 2018. Asked for a brief bio, he gave us that and more—and it's easy to see why, given his fascinating musical journey.*

I'm an amateur accordion player, professionally I used to be a theoretical physicist and later switched to data science. I'm originally from Ukraine, now living in Redwood City, CA.

And of course my accordion bio:

1998 - 2003 studied accordion at music school in Rivne, Ukraine

2011 - 2013 played at a music school folk orchestra, Dubna, Russia

2014 - 2015 played at Hedderheimer Akkordeonorchester, Frankfurt, Germany

2014 - 2017 played at Akkordeonorchester Frankfurter Berg, Frankfurt

2014 - 2017 played in a folk band Batutas, Frankfurt

2017 - 2020 jammed at Cal Community Music, Berkeley, US

2020 - 2025 played in a rock band "Бюро хорошего настроения" ("Good mood bureau"), Seattle, US

2020 - 2025 played in a Jazz band "7th floor", Seattle

2022 - 2025 played in a pop band "Dynamik" Seattle

2021 recorded Ukrainian music + some accordion instrumentals album "Lety" (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3952u0st3xewcSx0gKyXzB30B29esldd>)

2021 took the last place in 17-36 year-old category at the international "Accordion Star" online competition (recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwCXg5M7tD4>)

I have a YouTube channel with around 20 subscribers [<https://www.youtube.com/@dmytrooliinychenko9739>], where once in 5 years I post some videos of me playing. I also have an

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/doliiny/>, where I post approximately at the same frequency.

I used to be a member of Accordion Club San Francisco when I lived in Berkeley and through the club became acquainted with a cool composer and accordion player Steve Mobia, and I was lucky to play his "Spareway" (the most complex music I played in my life!) in a trio (the recording is at <http://www.stevemobia.com/>).

From our November 2018 Newsletter:



Dmytro “Dima” Oliinychenko, joined us at the October SFAC meeting, and blew us all away with his wonderful playing! We are so pleased that Dima will perform an opening set for the November meeting!

He describes himself as an amateur accordion player, but all of us would like to be such a wonderful amateur! Dima is a theoretical physicist at Lawrence Berkeley Lab. He was born and raised in Ukraine, studied physics in Moscow, (Russia) and did his PhD in Frankfurt (Germany). He learned to play accordion at a free music school in Rivne (Ukraine). He has also played accordion in a Dubna music school orchestra in Russia, in Akkordeonorchester Frankfurter Berg in Germany, and in a balkan-folk group Batutas, also in Frankfurt. Dima's favorite styles are classical music, European folk music, tango; he is currently trying to learn a little bit of jazz. He is also the newest member of our club, and we are delighted that he has joined us.

SFAC Members at Gr8 Ideas Symposium 5.0

By Pamela Tom

Gr8 Ideas Symposium 5.0, known as a premiere gathering for digital and electronic accordion enthusiasts, convened June 21-24, 2026 at the Grand Resort in Warren, OH.



SFAC members **Anand Joseph** and **Laura Niland** (of Texas) were on hand for this event.

The event was organized by renowned accordionist Joseph Natoli. Elite performing accordion artists and faculty included Joe Augustine (Steinway and jazz artist), Bob Bacha (percussionist), Stan Bann (conductor/composer), Don Gerundo (NYC jazz & digital accordion artist,) **Anand Joseph** (accordionist and AI specialist), Matthias Matzke (digital accordion artist), Eddie Monteiro (NYC jazz and digital accordion artist), Joseph Natoli (composer and digital accordion artist), Cory Pesaturo (digital accordion artist), and Peter Swanson (California 15 year old digital accordion phenom).

The multi-day international event consisted of workshops, concerts, jam sessions and networking. Lectures and performances featuring the world's most popular and widely used digital accordions (including the Roland FR-8x and FR-4x, the Bugari Evo, and the Korg Fisa Suprema) were presented. Anand spoke on the "Use of SUNO AI Tool to Generate New Music and Arrangements."

A poster for the "ACCORDION WORKSHOP CAMP" set against a background of a mountain range and evergreen trees. The title "ACCORDION WORKSHOP CAMP" is in large, bold, red letters. Below it, "ALPINE, CALIFORNIA" is written in a smaller font. The dates "FRIDAY, OCT. 30 - SUNDAY, NOV. 1" are listed next to a calendar icon. A large red and black accordion is shown in the foreground. A circular badge indicates the price is \$119.00. The poster includes a list of "WHAT TO EXPECT" and contact information for Gordon Kohl.

ACCORDION WORKSHOP CAMP
ALPINE, CALIFORNIA

DATES:
FRIDAY, OCT. 30 -
SUNDAY, NOV. 1

Join us for a unique **Accordions Workshop Camp** set in the beautiful Alpine surroundings of Southern California. This immersive experience is perfect for players of all levels who want to deepen their skills, learn new techniques, and enjoy music in a relaxed, inspiring setting.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Hands-on accordion instruction
- Technique, style, and performance tips
- Group playing sessions
- Scenic, peaceful camp atmosphere

PRICE:
\$119.00

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Laura Niland enthusiastically shared that the digital accordion convention "was a WONDERFUL conference... I played in the Symposium Digital Accordion Orchestra on the FR-4x for the first time! This is a digital accordion! YES! Lots of fun and wonderful music, workshops that were SUPER!" Laura (president of the San Antonio Accordion Association and co-founder/co-administrator of Innovative Accordion Music Productions) will be providing a more complete separate writeup for next month's newsletter.

There were two accordion compositions debuted at the Symposium. Stan Bann's new composition, *Terra Incognita*, was performed by Joseph Natoli and accompanied by the W.D. Packard Band. The other work was by Joseph Natoli, who composed and played *Ciao Marco*, a tribute to the late Marco Cinaglia, a giant in the electronic accordion world. The composition can be heard at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM2OI_Qo6Po.



For inquiries about future Gr8 Ideas programs, contact Joe Natoli: thegr8.ideas@gmail.com

🎵 Club Spotlight: Empowering Future Stars!

Scholarship Funds at Work

Did you know the San Francisco Accordion Club reserves specific line-item funds for youth scholarships? Thanks to your ongoing support—by generous donations, participating in the 50/50 Raffle, or simply showing up at club meetings—we are continually investing in the next generation of accordionists.

Cory Pesaturo Student Workshop

In early June, we proudly sponsored an in-person and Zoom workshop with renowned accordion virtuoso Cory Pesaturo. A massive shoutout goes to our brave and talented students **Mackenzie Freschi** and **Colin Kennedy**, for stepping up to the plate and taking such a terrific, intensive lesson!

A special thank you also goes to **Erin Freschi** (Mackenzie's mother) for securing the wonderful venue at the Jackie Flynn Irish Dance Studio in San Mateo. (In addition to her musical talents, Mackenzie is an award-winning Irish dancer!)

Catch Our Stars at Cotati!

We love encouraging young musicians as they master the art of the accordion. You'll get to see our brilliant scholarship recipients in action at the upcoming Cotati Accordion Festival on the Future Stars Student Stage.

Be sure to say hello, give a hearty tip of the hat, and cheer on Mackenzie and Colin at the festival!

Photo below from 6/15/2026

Mackenzie Freschi, Cory Pesaturo and Colin Kennedy



Rose City Accordion Club - Report from the Camp

By Pamela Tom and Pamela Lister



The 2026 Rose City Accordion Club accordion camp took place from May 31 to June 5, 2026 at the Collins Retreat Center in Eagle Creek, OR. Campers from SFAC included **Gail Campanella** and **Pamela Lister**. The orchestra and ensembles were directed and conducted by Joe Natoli and Gail Campanella. Skill building workshops were taught by John Guiliani and Toby Hansen. David Beer (the "Squeezebox Surgeon") gave a session on minor accordion repairs and maintenance. Evening activities included open-play sessions and community "Music Circle."

Based on strongly positive experience and camper feedback, next year's accordion camp will be held August 29 – September 3, 2027, at Collins Retreat Center. Amber Matz will serve as Camp Director. Workshops may be offered throughout the year to complement camp. For camp updates, consult the RCAC home page: <https://rosecityaccordionclub.org/>



Pamela Lister



Gail Campanella (far right)



2026 Rose City Accordion Club Camp Orchestra

🌀 Appreciation for our Donors! 🌀

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. These members have made donations during our current (October 2025 – September 2026) membership year:

Paul Aebersold, Lorna Anderson, Scott Anderson, Anthony Bologna, Ron Borelli, Gail Campanella, George Chavez, Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Edward Crnich, Tony David, Xavier & Candace de la Prade, Sarah Gronquist, Heidi Hansen, Lorraine Inaudi, Arleen Johnson, Jerry Keifer, John Lister, Linda Lonay, Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi, Nora Mazzara, Steve Mobia, Karen Marie Mokrzycki, Sabrina Moyle, Laura Jean Niland, Colette Ogata, David Perry, Robert D. & Dil Pisani, Diana Purucker, Duane Quenzel, Richard Rauschmeier, Cat Reilly, Shirley Roller, Tibor Sárkány, Don & Mary Savant, Kenneth Schwartz, John Sullivan, Georgia Sutherland, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Pamela Tom, Jane & Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter, Carol Whitehead, Andrew Zheng, Roy Zheng.

If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact elainedc@sbcglobal.net. We so appreciate the support and want to be sure you are recognized.

SFAC Board & Key Club Functions

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Roy Zheng roycraft3@gmail.com

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Webmaster & Bookkeeping: Randall Hicks

Newsletter: Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Pamela Tom, Rosemary Busher, Ken Schwartz (*and credited contributors each issue*)

Accordion Rentals: Rosemary Busher

Live Meeting Sound & Amplification: Paul Cain

Live Meeting Zoom Camera & Sound: Ken Schwartz, Roy Zheng

Membership: Robert Cooperstein

Event Photography: Steve Mobia

“You laugh at the dumbest things”

Me: No I don't.

The things I laugh at:



ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

San Francisco

- ◆ **Sam Reider** www.samreidermusic.com
sam@samreidermusic.com

East Bay

- ◆ **Joel Weber**
www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com

Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com

Outside the Bay Area

- ◆ **Bonnie Birch*** www.bonniebirch.com (Seattle)
- ◆ **Gail Campanella*** GailCampanella@gmail.com
(805) 895-0457 (Santa Barbara)
- ◆ **Pamela Tom*** accordionpam@gmail.com (Davis)

* = remote lessons (Zoom, Facetime) available

The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization [EIN 94-3148553] whose purpose is to enhance, promote and stimulate an appreciation for the accordion within the membership and throughout the general public. Donations are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted by using the **Donate** button at www.sfaccordionclub.com

Accordion Happenings

♦ SFAC Annual Picnic

Sunday, July 26, 2026
Sequoia Grove Group Picnic Area
1120 Hopkins Ave, Palo Alto
See Page 1 for further details



♦ The 2026 Accordion Seminars

ONLINE July 31— August 2, 2026
Information & Reservations: Accordionbill@gmail.com
See April 2026 newsletter (p. 4) for additional description

♦ Cotati Accordion Festival

August 15-16, 2026 (Fundraiser concert August 14)
At La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA
See Page 4 & <https://cotatifest.com/>

♦ Gordon Kohl's Accordion Workshop Camp

October 30 - November 1, 2026; See Page 7
Beautiful Alpine, CA - Just 20 miles East of San Diego
Information: gkohl5890@gmail.com, 619-395-0454

Online/Virtual Offerings:

Monthly: 2nd Tuesday 4:30-6:30 PM (free)
Hosted by Laura Niland LauraJNiland@outlook.com

Members -

If you know of an accordion-centric festival or event in 2026 that your fellow SFAC members may be interested in, please contact info@sfacaccordionclub.org



To this day Revolutionary War historians debate whether it was the ferocity of the Continental Army against all odds that defeated the British, or whether it was abject fear of raucous approaching accordion music that did the Brits in.



Ron Borelli
Accordionist

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San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar:

- ♦ **July 26, 2026** SFAC Annual Picnic - Sequoia Grove Group Picnic Area, 1120 Hopkins Ave., Palo Alto
- ♦ **August 14-16** Cotati Accordion Festival (see page 4)—La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA (www.cotatifest.com)
- ♦ **September 27** The Noel-Hubbard Duo: Richard Noel & Janice Hubbard, Chetcuti Community Center!

SFAC Members' Picnic!

Picnic in the Park

Rinconada Park — Palo Alto, CA

Sunday, July 26, 2026

RSVP for details info@sfaccordionclub.com

Join fellow club members for good food, good conversation and good music at the **Sequoia Grove picnic area** at **Rinconada Park**, 777 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto on Sunday, July 26th, from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

<https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoAccordionClub/> 

