

Accordion Talk

May 2026 + RCAC Camp Update!



Upcoming club meetings

No club meeting in June!

See you July 18!

Milwaukie Police
Community
3200 SE Harrison St
Milwaukie, OR

RCAC Board

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Marlene Meissner

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Delette Huffman

Camp Director

Sue Schwab

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Don Devlaeminck

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President's Message

Greetings RCAC! I have returned from a successful and wonderful experience at our **Rose City Accordion Club Camp!** It was so positive that I resolved to convene the Camp Committee and the Board to reverse a consensus-based decision we made at the May 4 Board Meeting to pause camp in 2027. A new decision was made to hold camp next year, and we are saving the dates of **August 29–September 3, 2027**. More info about this decision and how it was reached is on *Page 3*.

Please note that there will be **NO CLUB MEETING IN JUNE**. Instead, many of us will be playing at the **Astoria Scandinavian Festival, June 19-21**. Details and schedules follow.

A special shout-out for **Mark and Helena Greathouse's** upcoming performance to benefit Mercy Corps for Ukraine on **June 28, at 3:00 pm** in Tigard. See *Page 4!*

I have reached out to Doris Osgood about the possibility of an ensemble from RCAC playing at the Fall Forest Grove Accordion Social. I will update you when I hear back. Start thinking of a theme or songs we can practice during Music Circle! A medley of Western or Country tunes, perhaps?

Accordionly yours, Amber Matz

May Meeting Recap

May 16, 2026
Special guest:
Andy Mirkovich



Andy Mirkovich was our featured performer at the **May 16th** club meeting. He was joined by **John Guiliani** on upright bass.

The event was open to the public. About 35 people attended this RCAC sponsored event. Andy treated us to a wonderful performance! It was such a pleasure to hear his music and heartfelt stories.



News & Updates

May 4 Board Meeting Highlights + Camp Update

At our **May 4 board meeting**, we covered club business ranging from finances to meeting logistics — and we made an important decision about the **future of camp that we've since revisited**. Here's a summary of where things landed, including an update we're excited to share.

May 4, 2026 Board Meeting Summary

- **Finances:** The board accepted the treasurer's reports. The checkbook balance as of May 4 was \$46,883.30. Plans are moving forward to invest \$5,000 in a money market fund and \$5,000 in a 6-month CD. (This has since been done.)
- **Dues:** A proposed increase in annual dues (from \$25 to \$35) was tabled until the next meeting, pending work on defining the value of membership as part of a broader club growth strategy.
- **Meeting location:** The board agreed to research alternate locations for monthly meetings, as scheduling at the current location is limited.
- **Andy Mirkovich performance (May 16):** Details were finalized, including a Scandinavian Festival band practice, a brief club meeting, Andy's performance, and a social hour.
- **Google Workspace:** Amber continues working to set up a nonprofit Google Workspace account for the club.

RCAC Camp Decision

- At the May 4 meeting, the board reached a consensus to pause camp in 2027, citing a significant decline in 2026 attendance, an anticipated financial loss, and the absence of a camp director going forward.
- Following the 2026 camp (May 31–June 5), the **strongly positive experience and camper feedback prompted the board to reconsider**.
- After a June 9 camp committee meeting and follow-up discussion among board members, the decision was reversed: **camp will continue in 2027 (Aug 29–Sep 3 at Collins Retreat Center)**.
- **Key points:** Amber Matz will serve as camp director; the club will focus on stronger marketing and outreach to clubs around the U.S.; some elements will be simplified (like discontinuing professional video recording which eliminates the need to write a grant and decreases stress on performance night); and workshops may be offered throughout the year to complement camp.

News & Updates

Upcoming RCAC member gigs!

You're Invited to a **Mark and Helena Greathouse Performance** of accordion solos and vocals with accordion accompaniment for the benefit of **Mercy Corps for Ukraine!**

What: Mostly Accordion Variety Concert #2

When: Sunday, June 28, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Where: Summerfield Clubhouse Lake Room
10650 SW Summerfield Dr., Tigard, OR 97224



Astoria Scandinavian Festival (astoriascanfest.com)

- **Astoria Scandinavian Nordic Accordion Band:** Saturday, June 20, 1:45–3:15 pm in the Festival Hall
- **Beer Babes** (RCAC group): Friday, June 19, 4–6 pm & Saturday, June 20, 4–6pm & 9–10 pm in the Beer Garden
- **Coreen Bergholm and the Scandinavian Country Band:** Friday, June 19, 8:15 – 10:00 pm in the Exhibit Hall

Courtney Von Drehle

- Friday June 29th — Michelle Alany & the Mystics, 6 - 8pm, The Laurelthirst Public House, 2958 NE Glisan St, Portland, OR

Get Ready for Mt. Angel Oktoberfest!

Marlene Meissner is coordinating groups for Mt. Angel Oktoberfest. Contact Marlene (marlenem26@msn.com) if you are interested in playing or joining a group!



**Want to play at
Mt. Angel?
Contact Marlene!**



Astoria Scan Festy

June 19-21, 2026

**Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival
Clatsop County Fairgrounds
Full schedule at astoriascanfest.com**

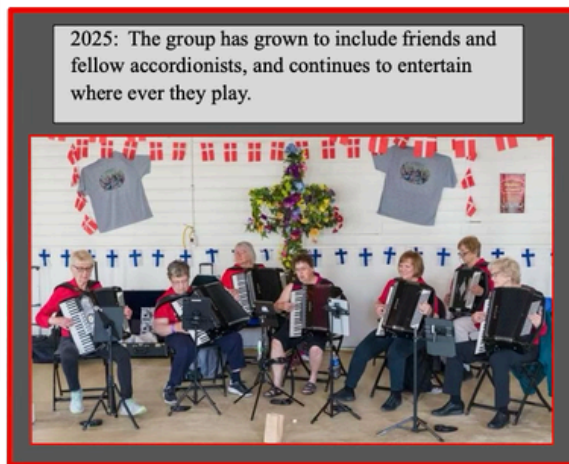


"HEY!" Coreen Bergholm leads the **Astoria Scandinavian Nordic Accordion Band**.
One performance only at **Saturday, June 20, 1:45-3:15 pm** in the Festival Hall.



2023: Original Members: Susan Schwab, Bobbie Ferrero, and Lisa Roeder.

Photos from astoriascanfest.com



2025: The group has grown to include friends and fellow accordionists, and continues to entertain where ever they play.

The **Beer Babes** are all members of RCAC and started as an informal group in the beer garden at the 2023 festival. In 2023, they played in Coreen's accordion band and had so much fun they volunteered to perform again in 2024. Since then, they have become one of the festival's annual entertainment groups.

Friday, June 19, 4-6 pm & Saturday, June 20, 4-6pm & 9-10 pm
All performances in the Beer Garden!

Astoria Scan Festy



June 19-21, 2026

Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival

Clatsop County Fairgrounds

Full schedule at astoriascanfest.com



**Coreen Bergholm and the
Scandinavian Country Band**
Playing for the Queen's Ball in
the Exhibit Hall on Friday evening
after the Coronation
Friday, June 19
8:15 - 10:00 pm

Photos from astoriascanfest.com

Smilin' Scandinavians with Toby Hansen

Friday, June 19

4:30 - 5:15pm

Exhibit Hall

Saturday, June 20

9:00 - 9:45 am

Arena

7:30 - 9:30 pm

Exhibit Hall

Sunday, June 21

11:15 - 12:00 pm

Arena



2026 RCAC Camp



Not everyone, but most of the group.

Photo courtesy of Elaine Huber

Accordionists from around the country gathered for the 2026 Rose City Accordion Camp at Alton Collins Retreat Center in Eagle Creek, Oregon, in the scenic foothills of Mt. Hood. From morning till late evening, campers rehearsed songs with large and small accordion orchestras conducted by Joe Natoli and Gail Campanella, learned new techniques in workshops led by Toby Hanson and John Guiliani, played during "Open Play" as soloists or in small groups, and jammed until quiet hours in "Music Circle" led by Camp Director, Susan Schwab, before retiring to rooms in the adjacent lodge. Friends were reunited, new friendships formed, memories shared, and new memories made. The excitement for gathering with other accordionists was palpable. Everyone so glad to be able to play accordion with others in a variety of settings and to grow in their skills as musicians.

2026 RCAC Camp



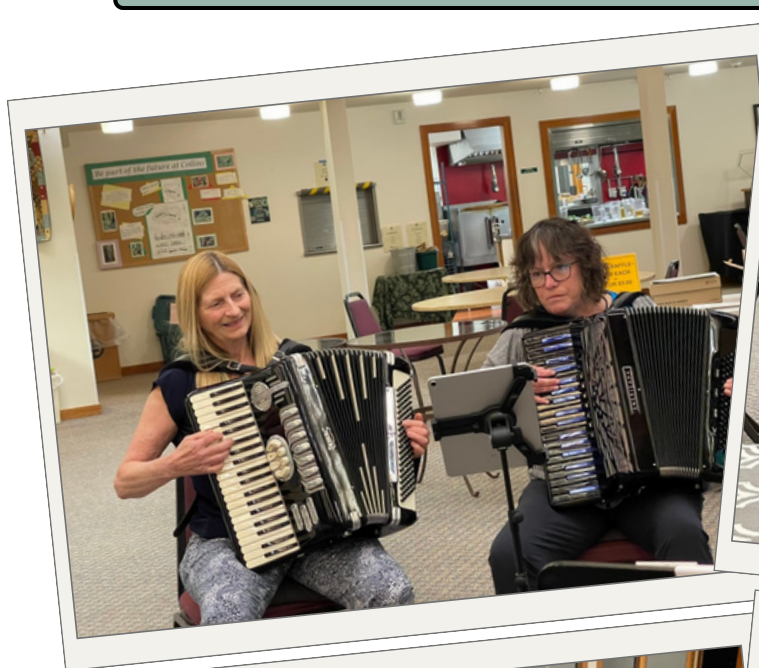
2026 RCAC Camp



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2026 RCAC Camp



David Beer, the Squeezebox Surgeon, joined us at Camp for a day to support campers by offering minor accordion repairs. David is a trusted provider of accordion repair and restoration in Portland, Oregon. Learn more about his services and how to contact him at squeezeboxsurgeon.com

Save the date!

Join us **August 29 – September 3, 2027** for the next Rose City Accordion Club Camp at Alton Collins Retreat Center in Eagle Creek, Oregon!



Do you have feedback or ideas about camp? Want to join the camp committee or help with specific tasks like marketing or outreach?

Contact 2027 Camp Director, **Amber Matz** at accordionamber@gmail.com