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Website:

www.sloveneamericanclub.com

Facebook Group Site:

SAC Slovene American
Club (Multi-Cultural) Club 2011

President:

Herb Schroeder 313-522-8398

Vice-President:

Mike Masten 734-368-2240

Recording Secretary:

Bonnie Weber 734-770-4075

Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary:

Gayle Chase 734-775-3874
gjchase0425@yahoo.com

Trustees:

Paul Perko 248-330-5396
Diana Lewsick, 810-335-2639

Sergeant-at-arms:

Diana Lewsick 810-335-2639

Newsletter Editor:

Mary Lou Downs 519-360-5214

S.A.C. NEWSLETTER— APRIL 2024

SLOVENE AMERICAN CLUB

Home of the SAC Button Box/Accordion Club

P.O. Box 517, Allen Park, MI 48101 (734-368-2240)

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TRIBUTE TO EDDIE ADAMIC

1930—2023



Edward Anthony Adamic died on December 15th, 2023 after a long illness, and after a very long and successful career as a musician and polka promoter. He was born in Windsor Ontario on November 4, 1930, and as a child learned to love Slovenian folk music from his Slovenian parents. As a very talented accordion player, by the age of 14 he was performing in Slovenian, Croatian, and German ensembles. He bought Cleveland-style music records and listened to Slovenian radio shows, and he often visited Cleveland where he met and became friends with all the polka legends: Frankie Yankovic, Johnny Pecon, Johnny Vadnal, Eddie Habat, Kenny Bass, and many more. One of his great friends, Art Perko wrote Adamic's Polka in his honor. To add to his musical expertise, he also learned to play the button box at the behest of wife Fran's uncle. In the 1940s, he became Detroit and Windsor's best-known performer of Cleveland style polka music, and he entertained at events and festivals throughout the Great Lakes area.

Continued on page 2

Eddie's first big break in his music career came in 1948 when he joined the Stan Krainz Band. He took over as bandleader from 1952 to 1965, the heyday of polka music, playing for Windsor's lively Slovenian community and Slovenian Homes in Detroit. After he moved to Detroit, he played with bands led by Ronnie Dodich and Dennis Tatomir, but in 1975 he started his own band again. He appeared on television and radio shows; he performed in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Canada. He also hosted tours to Slovenia, the Caribbean, Hawaii, and Spain. He has made five music recordings with various performers, such as an album in 1981 with Klancnik Brothers.


Eddie was a lifelong member of the Slovene National Benefit Society (SNPJ). He was inducted into the Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame in 1982, and he was a founding member of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum. This information was taken from the page in the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame book when Eddie received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

Upon the death of Frank Feil, Eddie was asked to join the Good Times Band and he played with them for about four years. For over twenty years, Eddie served as President of the Slovene American Club (SAC) of Michigan. He was very proud of his Slovenian heritage, and was dedicated to preserving the Slovenian music. He was always on hand as a leader/member of the SAC Button Box/Accordion club, joining in on the Thursday night practice and jam sessions. He encouraged others to join as well, and was always very welcoming to new members. Eddie was a true gentleman.

He was predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Frances, who was always by his side helping him during his duties as President of the SAC. He was also predeceased by his beautiful daughter Barbara, for whom he wrote the lovely Barbara Ann Waltz. He is survived by Barb's husband Bruce Baloh and their children, B.J. and Brandy; and his son Robert (Karen) Adamic and their children Nicole, Michelle, and Steven, and one great-granddaughter. He was also predeceased by one brother, William Adamic. As a tribute to Eddie at his private funeral, the current President of the Slovene American Club, Herb Schroeder, was asked to play Adamic's Polka and the Barbara Ann Waltz.

To honor Eddie Adamic, a man who was loved by so many musicians, friends, and polka family, the Slovene American Club is holding a Celebration of Life music event, and all are invited to come and share in this tribute. Be sure to RSVP to Ken or Mike so that we have an accurate food count.





please join the Slovene American Club for a

celebration
OF LIFE

in honor of

Eddie Adamic

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, AT 12 PM to 6 PM

PRESTIGE HALL

6600 Allen Road, Allen Park, MI 48101

PLEASE COME AND SHARE YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES

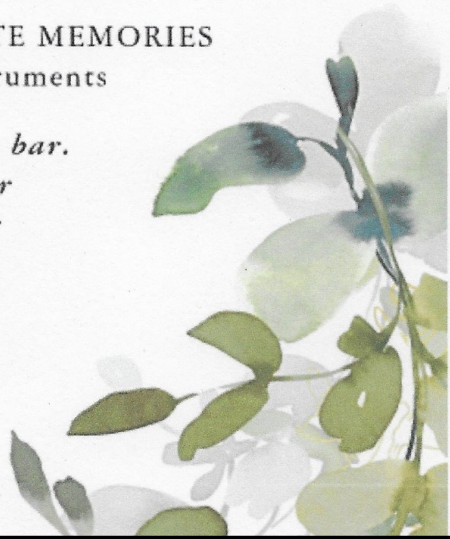
Musicians are invited to bring their instruments

A luncheon will be served with a cash bar.

Please rsvp by April 13th to either

Ken Dowling (517-518-4228) or

Mike Masten (734-368-2240)



PAST POLKA EVENTS

ILLINOIS POLKAFEST - FEBRUARY 2—4, 2024

The 35th annual Illinois Polkafest was a great success again this year. The original founder, Bob Doszak, passed away last October, and his son and daughter are carrying on with organizing this very popular event. Some of the musicians who entertained: Klancnik & Friends with special guest Alex Meixner, Eddie Rodick Band and special guest Lynn Marie, Garrett Tatano Band, Joey Miskulin & Jeff Winard, and the Steve Meisner Tribute Band. As per usual, several SAC members attended and did some jamming with other musicians. It's always a nice break from winter in February to have a great polkafest, so for next year get the 2025 information when it is posted on their website: illinoispolkafest.com



Klancnik & Friends Band— and also featuring Alex Meixner and TJ

Andy Caruso's Michigan Accordion Music Social

The second Wednesday of every month, Andy Caruso, a well-known jazz accordionist, organizes a music social event at the Mangia Pizza & Catering Restaurant on Joy Road in Westland MI. Music starts at 6PM and features piano accordion players playing many different styles of music, and includes some of our SAC musicians playing polka/waltz music. There is a lovely menu, specializing in pizza of course, so if you would like a nice meal and accordion entertainment while you dine, call Ken Dowling for more information at 517-518-4228.



Florida Snowbird Happenings

Several Slovene American Club members were able to entertain polka enthusiasts in the sunshine state this winter. The Florida Snowbird Polka Band consisting of John Gerl, Kathy Paulenich, Tom Borris, Mary Lou Downs, Karl Lukitsch, Pete Oberson, and Pat Bryan plays every Tuesday in February and March at the Paradise Tiki Hut in Cape Coral. Featured guest musicians play during the band's intermission. During their 2-week vacation, Ken Dowling and Mike Masten played not only at the Tiki Hut, but also at private parties, with the Frank Moravcik Band in St. Petersburg, and at the Sarasota Accordion Club. Lots of accordion music!



Florida Snowbird Polka Band
at the Paradise Tiki Hut



Chuck Rote, Mike Masten
& Ken Dowling at the Tiki



Mike, Mary Lou, Ken, Tony Klepec
and Mirko Rundek playing at the
Sarasota Accordion Club

MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2024

The next membership meeting of the Slovene American Club will be held on Friday, July 19th at 6PM. There will be FREE PIZZA and salad, and as we always do, we have a draw for the attendance award of \$50. Everyone in attendance who has paid their 2024 dues is eligible to win. Dues are \$15 per year for single membership, and \$25 per year for a couple. Members receive our quarterly newsletter either emailed or by regular mail, and members get a \$2 discount off the cost of a ticket to our dances. Dues are payable January 1st every year. Gayle Chase, treasurer, is available to accept your dues at most of the Friday night jam sessions at the American Legion, and also at the dances. Or you can make your check payable to the Slovene American Club and mail to PO Box 517, Allen Park, MI 48101

Andy Machcinski has resigned as a Trustee of the club. His wife Shirley recently passed away and Andy has moved to Florida to be near family. Andy and Shirley were regular attendees at our dances and club events and they will be missed. This leaves an opening for someone to step into the position of Trustee. If anyone would be interested in helping the club by offering to serve as a Trustee, please call Ken Dowling at 517-518-4228.

We are always open to accepting new members into the club and we are pleased to welcome our newest members - Jerry and Ann Kuderik from Flat Rock, MI.



Board of Directors

Left to Right: Sergeant at arms Diana Lewsick, & Paul Perko, Trustees; Bonnie Weber, Recording Secretary; Herb Schroeder, President; Gayle Chase, Treasurer/ Corresponding Secretary; Mike Masten, Vice President.



Bonnie Weber won the \$50 attendance award at the January membership meeting!



SLOVENE AMERICAN CLUB **SPRING FLING**



Featuring music by the GOOD TIMES ORCHESTRA

Where: The American Legion Post 364, 3001 Telegraph Rd, Dearborn

When: Sunday, June 2, 2024; Doors open at 1 PM; Music & dancing 2 - 6 PM

Admission price - \$15 per person; \$2 discount for current members



Ken, Mike, Herb and Jason

Free pizza and salad; Cash bar - No BYOB

Donations of baked goods and prizes are appreciated

Come and enjoy the music, the dancing, the fun, the friends;

For more information: Mike Masten 734-368-2240

Support your SAC club and the American Legion!

DONATIONS TO THE CLUB

The SAC Board members have very graciously chosen to donate their quarterly salaries (a total of \$1,260) back to the club. A big **THANK YOU** to the board members for the work that they do on behalf of the club and **THANK YOU** to everyone who gives generously to the club. Your donations are very much appreciated.

The following donations have come to the Slovene American Club *in memory of Eddie Adamic:*

Donna & Jim Ignagni - \$50

Gerald Stachowiak & Darlene Goodwin - \$25

Vince & Josie Rezler - \$20

An anonymous donation - \$100

Gary Helisek - \$100; Gary also made a general donation of \$50, and \$35 for band drinks during the Friday jams.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CLUB WITH HEALTH ISSUES

The SAC has a number of members and friends of the club who are dealing with health issues at this time. We would ask that you keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers.

Bill Bernocco

Mary Ann McNulty

Gerry Stachowiak

Liz Kiss

Bill Romanski

Rita Zdeb

Bob Kiss

Frank Sabo

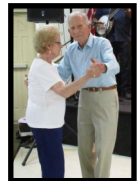
Viktor Zakrajsek

Kurt Schroeder

DECEASED MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF THE CLUB

Anna Marie Bauer - Died on January 18, 2024, at the age of 98. Annie was a long-time SAC member. She was predeceased by her husband Wendell Bauer, who was an accomplished accordion player, bandleader, and polka promoter for many years.

Annie & Wendell Bauer dancing at the SAC



Sue Tehovnik - Died on January 19, 2024, at the age of 82. Sue was a member of the SAC and is predeceased by her husband, long-time member and former manager of the club, Bill Tehovnic.

Harold Stecker - Died on February 11, 2024, at the age of 90. Harold was a member of the SAC, and loved going on bus trips to polka music events. He was an uncle of members Peggy and Rick Stecker, a SAC musician.

JAM SESSIONS

In addition to our own SAC jam sessions, there is a jam session at Milan MI on the third Tuesday of every month all year round. Music is played from 7pm to 9pm and they feature Czech/Slovak music. The address is 44 Wabash Street, Milan MI 48160. All are welcome, so bring your accordion, your flat-box buttonbox and join in. For more information contact Bonnie Weber at 734-770-4075.

There is an open jam session on the first Wednesday of every month at the Monroe Senior Center, 15275 South Dixie Highway, Monroe MI. Lunch is available at 11am, the music session is from 12pm to 1pm. This jam session has been going on for fourteen years. The music includes polka, country, and folk—a wide variety. Musicians are invited to join “Bonnie and Friends” for a fun session. For more information call Bonnie Weber at 734-770-4075.

A jam session is organized by John Puhl in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry in Essex, Ontario. It is held on the fourth Friday of each month at the Holy Name of Jesus Church Hall, 146 Talbot St. East, Essex Ontario. Delicious fish dinners are available from 4:30pm to 7pm, and music goes from about 6pm till 9pm. This does not run during the summer months. For more information contact John Puhl at 519-982-0926.

SLOVENE AMERICAN CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2024

NOTICE: We schedule our Friday night jam sessions every other Friday. In many cases it will include the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Fridays of each month. The following dates will be used for the jam sessions unless changed due to conflicts of scheduling. Please watch our Facebook page for any changes to the schedule. For more information you can also contact Mike Masten at 734-368-2240

All Friday night jam sessions will be held from 7pm to 10pm at the American Legion
Fort Dearborn Post 364, 3001 South Telegraph Road, Dearborn, Michigan

Friday, March 15	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session—American Legion, Dearborn
Friday, March 29	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session— CANCELLED DUE TO GOOD FRIDAY
Friday, April 5	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session—American Legion, Dearborn
Friday, April 19	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session—American Legion, Dearborn
Saturday, April 28	Eddie Adamic Celebration of Life, Prestige Hall, 6600 Allen Rd, Allen Park 12pm to 6pm - see page 3 of this newsletter for more information
Friday, May 3	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session—American Legion, Dearborn
Friday, May 17	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session—American Legion, Dearborn
Friday, May 31	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session—American Legion, Dearborn
Sunday, June 2	Slovene American Club Spring Fling Dance—American Legion, Dearborn; See information on page 5 for details
Friday, June 7	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session—American Legion, Dearborn
Friday, June 21	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session—American Legion, Dearborn
Friday, July 5	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session—American Legion, Dearborn
Friday, July 12—14	Slovenefest 40th Anniversary; SNPJ Rec Center, Enon Valley, PA; more information about this event in our next newsletter and on their website: www.slovenefest.com
Friday, July 19	SAC MEMBERSHIP MEETING - American Legion, Dearborn; 6pm to 6:30pm SAC Button Box Accordion jam session - 6:30pm to 10pm; Food Provided.
Friday, August 2	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session—American Legion, Dearborn
Friday, August 16	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session—American Legion, Dearborn
Friday, August 30	SAC Button Box/Accordion jam session—American Legion, Dearborn

Let's all come out and support the SAC musicians on Friday nights. It's good music, good friends—and it's FREE!



Keep in mind that our SAC Accordion Club Friday night jam sessions and our dances are a great place to celebrate family occasions. The family of SAC members Bob and Liz Kiss had a wonderful family get-together at our October 2023 dance. Eighteen members of their family came from near and far to be together.

POLKA EVENTS AND NOTES

Our Slovene American Club is noted for the very many musicians who are SAC members. These musicians entertain regularly at our club events, and some of them are members of other bands.

Many of our SAC musicians are available for hire for weddings, dances, private parties and events - solo or as a band. Please support our members and their bands at polka dances and festivals.

The Good Times Band: Herb Schroeder, Ken Dowling, Mike Masten, and Jason Hejl

Our “house band” at the Slovene American Club functions, and very much in demand. They play a wide variety of music: German, Czech, Slovenian, and American dance music. For bookings contact Ken Dowling at 517-518-4228

Sunday, May 5 Bavarian House, 3814 State Rte 18, Deshler, OH 3 - 7 PM
Sunday, June 2 **Slovene American Club SPRING FLING**, American Legion, 3001 Telegraph Rd. 2 - 6 PM
Saturday, July 20 Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 Warren, Dearborn MI; Indoor hall 2 - 6 PM
Saturday, Aug 10 Sokol Camp, 11633 Sokol Camp Dr., South Lyon, MI; 4 - 8 PM
Monday, Sept 2 Ohio Polka Booster Club, Kalida KofC Hall, 718 Napoleon, Kalida OH 3 - 7 PM
Sunday, Sept 15 Czech Dancers Polka Club Dance, 8890 OH 120, Lyons, OH 2 - 6 PM
Saturday, Sept 21 Rivers Edge Brewing Co. Oktoberfest, 125 S. Main St, Milford, MI 4 - 8 PM
Sunday, Oct 13 MI State Polka Music Hall of Fame Induction & dinner/dance; Z Hall Owasso MI 12 - 6 PM

Ken Dowling & Friends:

Sunday, July 21 Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 Warren, Dearborn MI; Beer Tent;

Rob Deblander Band: Rob Deblander, David Hall, Chuck Rote

Rob is a multi-faceted musician, playing piano accordion, half-chromatic accordion, button box, and keyboards. He specializes in Cleveland-style polka music but is versatile and can play any style. You can call Rob at 734-536-0037

Bonnie & the Boys: Bonnie Weber, David Hejl, Frank Sabo

A long-time member of Millie’s Polka Band, Bonnie is a talented button accordion player, knows Czech, German, Slovenian, and American dance standards. To book her for your event call Bonnie at 734-770-4075

Saturday, July 20 Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W. Warren, Dearborn, MI; Beer tent; 5:30 - 8:30 PM

New Brass Express: SAC member Ed Siwec

June 21, 22, 23 American Polka Festival, www.americanpolkafestival.com; Friday, Saturday, Sunday
33204 Maple Lane, Sterling Heights, MI;

July 3 - 6 Polka Fireworks; Seven Springs Resort, Champion, PA

Polish-style polka music. For more information call Darrell Welton at 989-658-8280

Polka Booster Club of America: www.polkaboosterclubamerica.com

April 21—E-Z Tones from Michigan City, Indiana

July 28—Member Appreciation Dance at Heritage Park Pavilion, Taylor, MI

September 29—Band to be announced

October 2024—Oktoberfest to be announced

Cleveland-style Polka Hall of Fame events in 2024:

40th Super Button Box Bash - Sunday, April 21; 12pm to 6pm

Mothers’ Day Ball - Stanger Band - Friday, May 10; 6pm to 10pm

20th Slovenian Sausagefest - Wednesday, September 11; 12pm to 8pm

Harvest Ball - Zolka Family Band - Friday, October 18; 6pm to 10pm

60th Thanksgiving Polka Party - Friday, Nov. 29 & Saturday Nov. 30



SNPJ Farm - 10946 Heath Rd, Kirtland, Ohio

This is a wonderful outdoor/indoor venue with a nice dance floor, kitchen and cash bar. Dances are held every Sunday from June to September, featuring all the best of Cleveland-style polka and waltz music. Some of the bands scheduled to play this summer are: Frank Stanger, Don Wojtila, Eddie Rodick, Chardon Polka Band, Klancnik & Friends, Bob Zolka, Joe Novak, Patty C & the Guys, Bill Bevec, and Tony Fortuna. In addition to the regular Sunday dances all summer, the following events are schedule for 2024;

Annual Festival & Craft Show - Saturday, May 18; 16 Bands - Music all day long

Val Pawlowski Memorial Day Holiday Dance - Monday, May 27; Frank Stanger Band & Don Wojtila Band

Val Pawlowski July 4th Holiday Dance - Thursday, July 4; Frank Stanger Band & Klancnik & Friends

Val Pawlowski Labor Day Holiday Dance - Monday, September 2; Frank Stanger Band & Eddie Rodick Band

Polka Hall of Fame Sausagefest - Saturday, September 14; Many polka bands - all day long

SNPJ Lodge 142 Picnic & Clambake - Saturday, September 28; Music to be announced

For more information go to their website: www.snpjfarmkirtland.com or call 440-256-3423

A BLAST FROM THE PAST



Balina players 2000: John Barich, Tony Glazar; Louie Skamperle, Frank Cernic, Joe Marker, Frank Tehovnik



Button Box Night 1999: Mollie Hribar, Cecilia Urbanec, Ann Stromar; Back: John Smoltz and a young Mike Masten



German Night 2008



THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE SLOVENE AMERICAN CLUB FOUR TIMES A YEAR:
JANUARY—APRIL—JULY—OCTOBER

Our mission is to keep all members informed of our SAC events and to promote “polka” music.
If any SAC members want their music events listed in our newsletter, please send the information to:

polkapromotionsplus@hotmail.com