



EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

SINCE 1963



JUNE 2008

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

Play-out Schedule

⇒ **Friday, July 4**
City of Orinda – Parade
& Park
10:00A.M. - 1:30P.M

⇒ **Thurs. July 31**
Aegis of Pleasant Hill –
Summer Music Concert
6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

⇒ **Sun, Aug. 3**
Benicia Library –
Benicia
3:00 – 4:00 P.M.

⇒ **San. Aug. 17**
100th Anniversary East-
ern Star – Santa Cruz
12:00 – 4:00 P.M

⇒ **Sun, Aug. 24**
Antioch Masonic Lodge
4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

⇒ **Sat, Oct. 19**
Orchard Nursery
2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

For the most current
information see

www.eastbaybanjo.org/

Or

Call Bob Nelson
925-372-0553

Presidents Message



This is a brief sketch of what our club has experienced the first half of the year.

2008 started off with a bang. During the month of February, we had our second annual Snow Train to Reno, thanks to our host Jack Convery. We had two railroad cars with wall to wall banjos. Charlie Tagawa and several members of the Sacramento Banjo Band joined us.

Also, during the month of February, Gary Kerr arranged to have all star players Sean Moyses, David Frey and Mike Currao, play with us at our Round Table Pizza practice session.

During the later part of February, about 15 players participated in a fun filled day at the Sacramento Banjorama.

In mid May, 20 members drove or flew to the 2nd Annual Arizona Banjo Blast. All I have to say is it was a BLAST.

Our Booking Agent, Bob Nelson, has kept us busy with over 16 play-outs in the first five months. We have had great venues.

Up-Coming Events

⇒ **Sat, Aug. 23, 2008**
Club Picnic
Landers Landing
11:00 A.M. - ???

⇒ **Sept. 7, 2008**
Banjo Jubilee
San Jose
TBA

⇒ **Dec. 9, 2008**
Christmas Party
Round Table
5:30 – 9:30 P.M.

Our latest being a birthday party at a mansion in the Pacific Heights District of San Francisco.

Between the play-outs and sale of our 200 CD's, we are financially solvent.

As your President, my aim is to continue to promote the 4 string Banjo, and the music of the 20's – 30's. The Banjo has a long history, and is part of Americana. The Banjo is the only instrument native to the United States.

Lastly, I would like the Banjo Club to continue to be a learning and fun filled experience.

Jim Blankenship

Tucson Banjo Blast: By Karen DeWeese

On May 15-17th at the Tucson Omni National Resort, approximately 20-25 members and friends of East Bay Banjo Club thoroughly enjoyed the desert, warmth and friendliness of the Southwest. The club gave a mini-concert on Thursday evening and a less formal one, poolside, on Saturday evening. During the days there were a number of workshops with such presenters as our own Jack Convery, Kurt Abell and Dave Frey. Performances included such fine players as Ross Hubbell, Ron Hinkle, Johnny Baier and Arno Hagenaaars. When not visiting the vendor's room, many club members enjoyed such activities as sunbathing by the pool, and visiting such local color as Mission San Xavier, De Grazia's Studio in the Sun and Old Tucson. Friday evening found almost all EBBC Club members enjoying wonderful Mexican food at a dinner at El Charro: a restaurant in existence since 1922 and the reported founding place of the chimichanga. The food was delicious and the portions more than grand- ask Gloria Pierce about her dinner. I think it is safe to say that everyone had a most wonderful and memorable time.

May 15, 16,& 17, 2008-Arizona Banjo Blast: By Bob Nelson

Fifteen members and 4 guests for a total of 19 people attended the 2nd Annual Arizona Banjo Blast at the Omni Resort & Spa in Tucson, Az, on the 15th thru the 17th of May. The accommodations were fabulous, the resort and restaurants here very nice with moderate pricing. The lodging normally goes for \$350.00 and up per night and thanks to Rob Wright for blocking out rooms well in advance to the AZ Blast, the cost was \$99.00 per night. The performance areas were all outside & under cover, but an inside performance would have been much better for acoustics, seating and climate. The best of all was EBBC's two performances, Bill's selection of music was great and the band came through with an outstanding show. Friday evening, May 16th we all enjoyed a great meal and fellowship at the El Charro Café, hosted by Gary Dietz and Karen DeWeese. Special thanks to Ruth-Anne & Steve Bray for traveling from Casper, Wyoming to join us.

13 members participated: Jim Blankenship, Jack Convey, Bill Cooper, Karen DeWeese, Gary Dietz, Don Granberg, Chris Horner, Terry Horner, Gary Kerr, Bob Nelson, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Larry Risner

May 31, 2008-----Ombudsman of Contra Costa ay Viano Winery: By Bob Nelson

A very nice outdoor performance under cover at Viano Winery in Martinez for the 1st Annual fund raising event of the Ombudsman of Contra Costa. Led by Bill Cooper along with 17 members, who were at the top of their games, we received many nice comments on the quality and enjoyment of the performance. After a hard days work, everyone was hosted to exotic hors d'oeuvres and great wine.



16 members participated:
Guy Black, Jim Blankenship,
Jack Convery, Bill Cooper,
Betty David, Lynne Deutscher,
Don Granberg, Terry Horner,
Mickie McDonald, Dina Melamed,
Bob Nelson, Kit Nelson,
Bud Pearce, Tim Perry,
Diane Shaw, Bill Sullivan



June 7, 2008---Private Party at the San Francisco 1905 Italian Mansion:

Bob Nelson

A special Birthday Party for 4 year old Carolyn Considine at her Grandparents 16,000 sq. foot, San Francisco, Italian Style Marble Mansion that was built in 1905 for Marie, queen of Romania. The mansion was just wonderful and open for everyone to explore, the most common comment was "Oh My Gosh, Look At That" The performance was two hours and was led by Bill Cooper, along with 12 members, outstanding vocals from Kit, Bill, Bud, Tim, Jack and Mickie were enjoyed by the 300+ people in attendance. We performed on a balcony of the Grand staircase, under a 19th century Tiffany skylight. The selection of music was very San Franciscan and complimented the setting. Bookie Bob was informed that since there are many high profile fund raising events at the mansion and since the owners thoroughly enjoyed our performance, that EBBC will be invited back later in the year. The fitting conclusion to this great afternoon, was a great selection of food and drink that everyone enjoyed and appreciated.



14 Members participated:

- Guy Black,**
- Jim Blankenship,**
- Jack Convery,**
- Bill Cooper,**
- Betty David,**
- Barbara Findlay,**
- Don Granberg,**
- Terry Horner,**
- Mickie McDonald,**
- Dina Melamed,**
- Kit Nelson,**
- Bud Pearce,**
- Tim Perry,**
- Diane Shaw**





Jan. 12 2008 Stonebrook Healthcare Center

15 members participated: **Guy Black, Jim Blankenship, Jack Convery, Bill Cooper, Betty David, Barbara Findlay, Don Granberg, Terry Horner, Mickie McDonald, Dina Melamed, Bob Nelson, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Tim Perry, Diane Shaw**



Jan. 18 Concord Senior Club

15 members participated: **Guy Black, Jim Blankenship, Bill Cooper, Betty David, Bill Dowling, Don Granberg, Garry May, Mickie McDonald, Dina Melamed, Bonnie Miller, Bob Nelson, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Diane Shaw, Karen Swift, Pat Wheaton**



Feb. 2 The Heritage Pointe

11 members participated:

Guy Black, Chuck Cook, Betty David, Don Granberg, Mickie McDonald, Bonnie Miller, Bob Nelson, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Tim Perry, Diane Shaw, Diana Starr, Bill Sullivan



Mar. 1 Atria Valley View

15 members participated:

Guy Black, Bill Cooper, Betty David, Lynne Deutscher, Don Granberg Terry Horner, Garry May, Mickie McDonald, Dina Melamed, Bonnie Miller, Bob Nelson, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Tim Perry, Diane Shaw, Bill Sullivan



Mar. 14 Walnut Creek Manor St. Patrick's Day—15 members participated: **Guy Black, Jim Blankenship, Bill Cooper, Betty David, Don Granberg, Terry Horner, Garry May, Mickie McDonald, Dina Melamed, Bonnie Miller, Bud Pearce, Tim Perry**



April 11 Lake Park— 15 members participated: **Guy Black, Rich Boss, Bill Cooper, Don Granberg, Terry Horner, Mickie McDonald, Bob Nelson, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Tim Perry, Pat Wheaton**

PLAY-OUT PHOTOS CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

February 2, 2008—Snow Train



February 24, 2008 —Banjo Rama

14 Members participated: Guy Black, Jack Convery, Chuck Cook, Bill Cooper, Betty David, Lynne Deutscher, Chris Horner, Terry Horner, Fredy Kinadeter, Mickie McDonald, Dina Melamed, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, and Larry Risner



Wallace Alfred Granberg

Oct. 16, 1916 - May 31, 2008 Former Resident of Orinda Wallace Alfred Granberg "Wally" died at the age of 91 at a Sonora Care Home. Wally was born in 1916, during the Great War, and the year Einstein completed his theory of Relativity. He was born in St. Paul, Minnesota to Alfred and Anna (née Carlson) Granberg. Following his dad's tragic death in a street car accident, Wally, then aged 4 yrs, moved with his mother to Oakland to be with his aunts. Wally went to Oakland schools, and while he enjoyed learning, his calling was music. He played his violin in the Oakland Schools group symphony, and in a local newspaper marching band. Wally also played with banjo bands after retirement, with East Bay Banjo Club and also with The Sonora Railriders. He also played the clarinet and spoons, and was a whiz at the harmonica. He delivered newspapers on a Harley Davidson bike to Moraga before the Caldecott Tunnel cut even existed to support himself through Pharmacy school at UCSF. Following his graduation with a BS in Accounting and a B.S. in pharmacy, he married Elsie Helen Granberg and moved to Sacramento. They returned to the East Bay after a few years and resided in Orinda for over 40 years, until they retired to Sonora. They enjoyed traveling allover the world. Wally owned the College Avenue Pharmacy in Berkeley at College and Ashby for 16 years. Selling the pharmacy, he worked part time for a few years until signing on at Rossmoor Pharmacy. He was a computer pioneer, being the first pharmacist online in Contra Costa County at Rossmoor, Walnut Creek, CA. The computer was linked to an overhead satellite and would shut down when the satellite was not directly overhead. Wally achieved the Worlds Record for A-Class Stock Hydroplane boat racing in 1956 at Devil's Lake, Oregon. After winning this ultimate, he switched to ski boats and never raced again. A highlight of Wally's life was restoring the pharmacy in Jos, Nigeria as a missionary with SIM in 1981. Survived by his wife of 66 years, Elsie Granberg; and his children Don Granberg of Walnut Creek, and Karen Granberg of Martinez; grandchildren Colby Spatz, Shane Granberg, Alyssa Trop; and great-granddaughter Zoe Spatz (Published in the Contra Costa Times on 6/10/2008.)

Pulse of the Membership

What is it about playing the banjo that keeps you coming back for more?

- ⇒ Gary Dietz - "Playing the banjo is fun and we play "My Era" of music.
- ⇒ Kit Nelson - My answer is because the BANJO produces "UPBEAT" music that can be enjoyed by any age group! AND because of the people in the Banjo Club. I feel we are like "Family"; we have a common bond; we play music weekly, we travel together to music functions, (out of state, too), and we respect one another's talents and each other. I'm happy to keep coming back because of the "FUN" we all have, telling our jokes, and spending social times together outside our weekly practices and I hope I can "keep coming back" as long as the good Lord allows....
- ⇒ Diane Shaw – I enjoy playing the banjo and it is mentally good for me. I especially enjoy the people.
- ⇒ Mickie McDonald – It is cheap therapy and it is up lifting, happy, and stimulating music.
- ⇒ Lynn Deutscher – I enjoy the people most of all.
- ⇒ Bill Cooper – I like the challenge and the opportunity to play with other people.
- ⇒ John Rosploch - I enjoy visiting with some of the banjo players and others that attend the weekly practice.
- ⇒ Jim Blankenship— The pay.



April 13 Chateau Pleasant Hill

12 members participated:

Rich Boss, Bill Cooper, Betty David, Lynne Deutscher, Terry Horner, Mickie McDonald, Bob Nelson, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Tim Perry, Diane Shaw, Pat Wheaton



May 3 Atria Valley View.

15 members participated:

Guy Black, Jim Blankenship, Bill Cooper, Betty David, Lynne Deutscher, Don Granberg, Garry May, Mickie McDonald, Bonnie Miller, Bob Nelson, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Tim Perry, Diana Starr, Pat Wheaton

CLUB NEWS (CONTINUED)

Newsletter Event Reporter	Date	Location
Bill Sullivan	June 27, 2008	Aegis of Concord
Bud Pearce	July 4, 2008	City of Orinda – Parade & Park
Lynne Deutscher	July 31, 2008	Aegis of Pleasant Hill Summer Music Concert
Diane Shaw	Aug. 3, 2008	Benicia Library – Benicia
Volunteer Needed	Aug. 17, 2008	100 th Anniversary Eastern Star Santa Cruz
Volunteer Needed	Aug. 23, 2008	Club Picnic at Landers Landing
Volunteer Needed	Aug. 24, 2008	Antioch Masonic Lodge

Web Site Report For EASTBAYBANJO.ORG

Monthly Report

The Monthly Report identifies activity for each month in the report time frame. Remember that each page hit can result in several server requests as the images for each page are loaded.

Note: Depending on the report time frame, the first and last months may not represent a complete month's worth of data, resulting in lower hits.

	Month	Number of requests	Number of page requests
1.	January 2008	4,731	1,167
2.	February 2008	1,900	416
3.	March 2008	4,539	966
4.	April 2008	3,993	948
5.	May 2008	3,926	912
6.	June 2008	3,688	1,061

Monthly average: 788 pages sent. 4,278 requests handled.

EBBC Board

President	Jim Blankenship
Vice President	Bud Pearce
Secretary	Tim Perry
Treasurer	Karen Swift
Music Director	Bill Cooper
Member at Large	Kit Nelson
Booking Agent	Bob Nelson



Assistant Music Directors	Betty David, Larry Risner
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Web Master	John Rosploch
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Newsletter Editor/Publisher	June Rosploch
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Librarian	Bob Nelson
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