



EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

SINCE 1963



AUGUST 2008

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

Play-out

Schedule

⇒ Sunday, Aug. 17

100th Anniversary Eastern Star – Santa Cruz

12:00 – 4:00 P.M.

⇒ Saturday, Aug. 24

Antioch Masonic Lodge

4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

⇒ Sunday, Sept. 21

St. Anne's Society @ Rossmoor

5:30 PM – 6:30 P.M.

⇒ Saturday, Oct. 19

Orchard Nursery / Harvest Festival

2:00 PM – 4:00 P.M.

⇒ Saturday, Oct. 25

Carnoween, Pleasant Hill Elementary

11:30 PM – 1:00 P.M.

⇒ Monday, Nov. 3

St. Paul's Tower, Oakland

7:015PM – 8:15 P.M.

For the most current information see

www.eastbaybanjo.org

Or

Call Bob Nelson

925-372-0553

Presidents Message



The Fourth of July Parade started off with a BANG. The Banjo Club participants met at the BART parking lot at 8:30 AM. Peets Coffee, orange juice, pastries and bagels were available to fill that early morning void.

The truck for the float showed up late and then the driver disappeared for awhile. But with our teamwork, we persevered. We got the 16 bales of hay on board, decorated the float and got the show on the road.

When the parade got going, we started playing our songs. Our director **Bill Cooper** managed to keep our various tempos together. I think everyone enjoyed our upbeat music. **John and June Rosploch** provided two gross of Mardi Gras beads which were thrown along the parade route to the excited crowd.

After the parade, we all gathered at the Orinda Plaza and played for an additional hour. Our music was well received. We even had a few of the spectators dancing.

I want to thank all the club members who provided the shuttle service between the plaza and the BART parking lot.

After the Orinda event, we went to **Lynne Deutcher's** home for a Bar-B-Que. **Bud Pearce** was the head chef of the burgers and hot dogs. We had more than enough food and beverages to take care of the exhausted players. It was really a great day for all involved.

Up-Coming Events

⇒ Sat, Aug. 23, 2008

Club Picnic
Landers Landing
11:00 A.M. - ???

⇒ Sept. 7, 2008

Banjo Jubilee
San Jose
12:15 P.M.—12:45 P.M.

⇒ Dec. 9, 2008

Christmas Party
Round Table
5:30 – 9:30 P.M.

Our Booking Agent **Bob Nelson** has got us hopping for the month of August. We are scheduled to perform at Aegis Retirement Home, Masonic Lodge in Santa Cruz, as well as the Masonic Lodge in Antioch.

Don't forget our annual BBQ at Landers Landing on August 23rd.

Put September 7th down on your calendar. **Charlie Tagawa** and the Peninsula Banjo Band is having their annual Jubilee. They have a great line-up of bands including us and performers like **Jack Convery**. There is also a seminar and banquet the night before. Take advantage of this great event. It will be alot of fun.

I'll see you next Tuesday and keep on strumming.....
Jim Blankenship

East Bay Banjo Club Meets:

**Every Tuesday
7:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Round Table Pizza, 1938 Oak Park Blvd.,
Pleasant Hill, California**

Dateline June 27, 2008

By Bill Sullivan

Nothing could be finer... than a lazy summer afternoon with the sweet melodies of George M. Cohen, Walter Donaldson and Woody Guthrie filling the air. Led by our fearless leader **Bill Cooper**, 10 members of the EBBC club performed before a packed house at Aegis of Concord during their Friday afternoon happy hour. It was a great opportunity for all to celebrate and honor our countries 232nd birthday. From "This Land Is Your Land", "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" to "Anchors Aweigh" a great time was had by all. **Kit Nelson** was in fine form singing America the Beautiful to close the show.

PS: It was this same time and place during the summer of 2007 I first heard the club in action...Little did I know a year later I would be playing (trying) the banjo with such wonderful people. Hats off to all.



Participants were:

Guy Black

Jim Blankenship

Bill Cooper

Betty David

Bill Dowling

Don Granberg

Garry May

Mickie McDonald

Bob Nelson

Kit Nelson

Bill Sullivan



EBBC Celebrates the 4th of July in Orinda

By Bud Pearce

It all began on a cold and empty parking lot in Orinda. **Jim Blankenship** had dutifully provided the coffee and an abundance of breakfast rolls and beagles for everyone who arrived to decorate the float. The truck was scheduled to arrive at 8:00 A.M. No one was in the staging area, and we began to wonder if the parade start time had been moved to a later time. A quick phone call to **Bobbie Landers** assured us that our times were accurate, and there was no need to be concerned. The coffee and baked goods were a lifesaver, as we awaited the arrival of the truck, wondering whether to wait in our cars or chat with others around the portable table.

When the truck arrived at 9:00 A.M., everyone jump into action and began to ready the truck for its short trip through both the City and the Village of Orinda. The “younger males” in the club, **Bill Sullivan**, **Dominic Borchers**, and **Bud Pearce** loaded the straw bales. Others, including the “Queen of Duck Tape”, **Lynne Deutscher**, decorated with bunting, flags, and signs. By 9:30 A.M., everyone had climbed onto the float, being careful not to “step on the pink thing” to avoid serious injury. A quick warm-up rendition of “Bye Bye Blues” and we were all ready to join the parade. However, there was one small problem. Our driver had disappeared to help Orinda’s “finest” place cones for traffic control, and was nowhere to be seen. Club members began to wonder if perhaps our own **John Rosploch** could jump behind the wheel and get us rolling toward the parade staging area. Finally, just minutes before the parade was to begin, our driver arrived mumbling something about not knowing the whereabouts of the keys to the truck. Fortunately, they were in the ignition!

We held position #11 in the parade, just behind “Shriners on Horses” and ahead of a group of “candy throwing” Cub Scouts. Fortunately, the Shriners were closely followed by a “pooper scooper”, who conscientiously did her job. It was rumored that she got the job from Craig’s List, which gives you an idea of just how hard times are these days.

4th of July Report Continued on Page 4



Participants were: **Bill Cooper and Sue Horn**, **Bob and Kit Nelson**, **Jim Blankenship**, **Guy Black**, **John and June Rosploch**, **Bill Sullivan**, **Betty David**, **Karen Swift**, **Diane Shaw**, **Mickie MacDonald**, **Dominic Borchers**, **Tim Perry**, **Don Granberg**, **Terry and Chris Horner**, **Lynn Deutscher**, and **Bud Pearce**.

(4th of July Report Continued from Page 3)

Our parade route provided lots of smiling and waving spectators that welcomed us with great enthusiasm. Of course, the beads that **John and June Rosploch, Diane Shaw, and Mary Chatton Brown** threw into the crowd certainly added to the festivities, and the little ones loved use thanks to the candy throwing Cub Scouts. Orinda is the perfect place to celebrate the 4th, for those who love a “small town” atmosphere, where kids decorate their bikes and everyone in the family sits together on the curb to watch an entry by almost every organization in town march by in the parade. We were joined by our sponsor, **Mary Chatton Brown**, who sported a red, white, and blue outfit as she waved to the crowd. Thanks Mary! We do appreciate your support!

The transition from the parade’s end to our gig in front of the Orinda library was a little bit challenging. It started by **Betty David** “stepping on the pink thing” to the horror of those assisting her with her dismount from the float. She quickly recovered from her mistake, and safely began her trek to the gig. Others struggled to find their banjo cases, music stands, and other necessities for the gig. Fortunately, after several cell phone calls and trips to the equipment vans, we were ready for our gig in front of the Orinda library.

The crowd loved us! Some danced, some cheered, some clapped loudly, and everyone left the gig with a smile on their face. What a great way to start the 4th!

A very special thanks to **Lynne Deutscher** for hosting a party for the EBBC strummers at her home in Pleasant Hill just after the Orinda event. Lots of hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, beverages, and other “goodies” to make the perfect 4th of July party! It was great fun, and provided the perfect opportunity to



Aegis of Pleasant Hill / Summer Music Concert, July 31

Reported by: Lynn Deutscher

On July 31st, the East Bay Banjo Club played at the Aegis of Pleasant Hill for the opening of their Summer Music Festival.

It was one of those perfect evenings. We were in a very large patio area with huge trees that provided generous shade. The temperature was comfortable. There were tables with cloths of bright colors and floral displays.

Jack Convery lead our band in a fun, engaging evening that was a pleasure for everyone, members and audience alike.

It was great to hear **Betty David** on the base guitar! **Don Granberg** and **Dina Melamed** did a great stint on their washboards, and **Kit Nelson, Karen Swift, Tim Perry, Lynne Deutscher** and **Mickey McDonald** all helped entertain with their unique voices.

During the break, we have free wine and beer, and a host of wonderful hors d'oeuvres including fried zucchini, shrimp cocktail, spinach dip, egg rolls and tasty desserts.

It was a great play out! I think we always have more fun than the audience!



Participants were:

Betty David
Don Granberg
Dina Melamed
Clyde Dedmon
Bob Nelson
Kit Nelson
Karen DeWeese
Karen Swift
Tim Perry
Lynne Deutscher
Mickey McDonald
Guy Black
Jim Blankenship
Garry Kerr
Pat Wheaton
Diane Shaw
Jack Convery



Sponsored by Friends of the Benicia Public Library, August 3rd

Reported by: Diane Shaw

What a time was had by all--by our most skilled musicians and talented vocalists plus a most enthusiastic audience! All this followed by an equally enthusiastic dinner party extravaganza attended by 21 club members.

Music selections by our members plus great leading by **Jack Convery** proved to really connect with a most appreciative audience who lingered long after our program, displaying much interest in our club. We may have recruited some new players! (One lady told me that the only thing missing from our presentation was a "spoon player" and she promised to bring her set to our next practice).

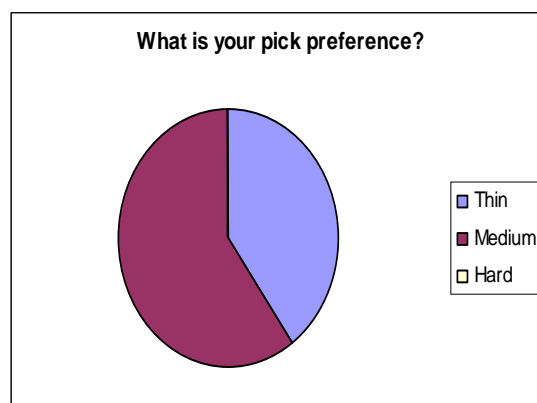
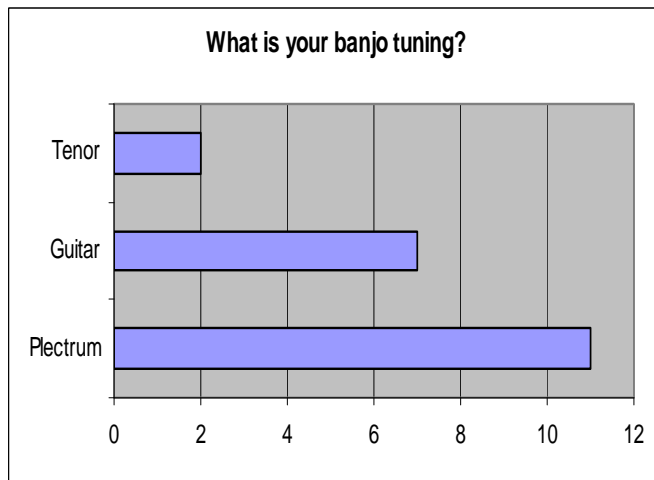
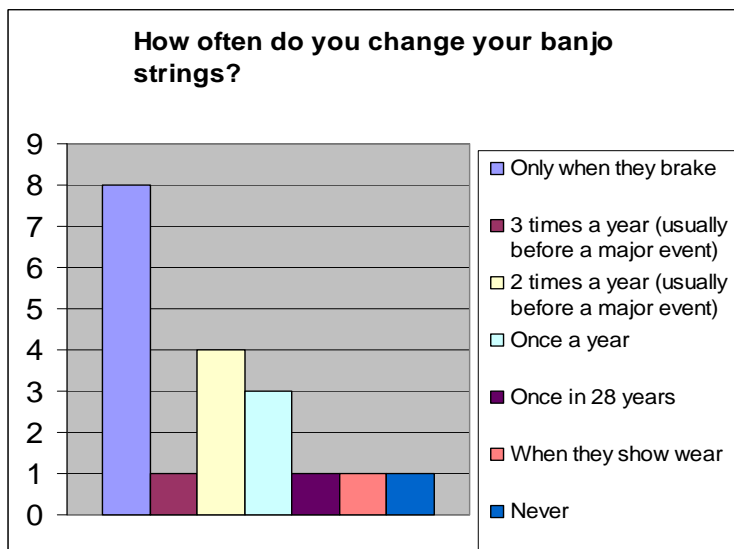
Following this performance was a most entertaining and extended dinner party at Venticellos Restorante in Benicia. It was much enjoyed by our party-going members (don't miss the next one).

What a fun way to end a fun gig.

Our outstanding group of players included: **Jack Convery, Kit Nelson, Mickie McDonald, Guy Black, Betty David, Garry Kerr, Diane Shaw, Bill Dowling, Chris Horner, Terry Horner, Bud Pearce, Karen DeWeese, Tim Perry, Don Granberg, Pat Wheaton, Dina Melamed, Karen Swift, Jim Blankenship, and Lynne Deutscher.**



Pulse of the Membership



Youth Show Banjo Interest

By Garry Kerr

Here is a shot of **Jack Convery** and the boys from last night that might be useful for the NL. Sorry for the busy background, you know how crowded it is at the pizza parlor. I blurred the background which helps a bit.

On Jack's right is **Dominic Borchers**. In addition to taking up the banjo, Dominic also plays clarinet and saxophone. On Jack's left, **Shane Louis**, in addition to clarinet and saxophone, also plays guitar and piano. Both boys are 14 and play in their school band. Dominic plays plectrum banjo and Shane plays tenor banjo.

I hope we can hold on to these guys (all 3).



Newsletter Event Reporter	Date	Location
Don Granberg	Aug. 17, 2008	100 th Anniversary Eastern Star Santa Cruz
June Rosploch	Aug. 23, 2008	Club Picnic at Landers Landing
Betty David	Aug. 24, 2008	Antioch Masonic Lodge
Volunteer Needed	Sept. 7, 2008	Banjo Jubilee, San Jose
Mickie McDonald	Sept. 21, 2008	St. Anne's Society @ Rossmoor
Deadline for Inclusion in October Newsletter is October 15		

“Practice DOES NOT Make Perfect ... Perfect Practice Makes Perfect!” By June Rosploch

It was a Tuesday night - **Jim Blankenship, John Rosploch, June Rosploch, Mickie McDonald, and Lynn Deutscher** rolled up their sleeves and were ready for the challenge at hand. We all have a certain comfort level when playing our banjo. If you are ready for the next level, come on down to the weekly practice an hour early, 6:30 PM. The long term goal is to learn the cord melody for all the parade songs, starting with Bill Bailey. John, Jim and June confirmed the figuring needed for the first 18 notes of the song and proceeded to work on playing clean cords while picking up speed. Unfortunately, Mickie and Lynn were not so lucky since there was no one available to arrange the music to guitar melody cords. These weekly pre-practice sessions are informal and open to all members, so feel free to join us. This is not limited to those learning, so perhaps you would like to share some of your knowledge. It would be helpful and appreciated, if someone could document the guitar tuning fingering positions needed to play the cord melody for our version of Bill Bailey. It is planned, in the near future, to move some of the practice sessions to John and June’s home in Antioch. Please contact Jim, John or June for updates.

Web Site Report For EASTBAYBANJO.ORG By John Rosploch

The Search Word Report is a summary of words that our visitors have asked search engines for that brought them to the site. This report shows the first 30 results by number of requests. This report is sorted by number of requests.

1	banjo	486
2	club	340
3	bay	321
4	east	317
5	sheet	40
6	gig	37
7	hill, pleasant	33
8	Starr	24
9	pizza	20

10	Pearce, Bud	19
11	Sacramento, CA	18
12	Diana, creek, park	17
13	Table, Jack, the, round, newsletter	16
14	walnut	15
15	In, Kerr,	14
16	Larky, playing, California, Cooper	13
17	[not listed: 407]	407
	Total	1,020

Thanks to: Frank Thornburgh, Bill Sullivan, Bud Pearce, and Garry Kerr for providing the photographs for this issue of the newsletter.

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



Non-Board Positions	
Assistant Music Directors	Betty David,
Web Master	John Rosploch
Newsletter Editor/Publisher	June Rosploch
Librarian	Bob Nelson