



# EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

## SINCE 1963



OCTOBER 2008

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

### Play-out Schedule

⇒ Saturday, Oct. 19

Orchard Nursery / Harvest Festival

2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

⇒ Saturday, Oct. 25

Carnoween, Pleasant Hill Elementary

11:30 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

⇒ Monday, Nov. 3

St. Paul's Tower, Oakland

7:15 P.M. – 8:15 P.M.

⇒ Wednesday, Nov. 19,  
Feb. 18, 2009, & April  
15, 2009

Kensington Place, Walnut Creek

6:45 P.M. – 7:45 P.M.

⇒ Saturday, April 18,  
2009

First Congregational Church, Alameda

2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

⇒ Friday, June 19, 2009

Walnut Creek Senior Club

12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

**For the most current  
information see**

**www.eastbaybanjo.org**

Or

**Call Bob Nelson**

**925-372-0553**

### Presidents Message



Greetings. With the closing of the summer season, our club has been very active. On August 23rd., we had our annual Bar-B-Que at **Bobby Lander's** home on the Delta. We had hair raising motor boat rides as well as plenty of food, drinks and banjo music. Bobby Landers became an Honorary Member of the East Bay Banjo Club. Bobby and her family received our monogrammed blue polo shirts. Thanks Bobby for being such a great hostess.

The Peninsula Banjo Band had their 36th Annual Jubilee on September 6th- 7th at the Holiday Inn, San Jose. I arrived there on Saturday afternoon and attended a seminar on how to improve banjo techniques, conducted by John Wilder. At 5:30, there was a no host cocktail party and a banquet at 6:30. About 80 people attended the dinner.

The food was good, and it was a chance to meet new folks and renew acquaintances.

After dinner, we had a jam session conducted by Charlie Tagawa. Fortunately, I sat next to the President of the Peninsula Banjo Band, Jim Strickland. He loaned me his music book and he saved the day for me.

**Jack Convery** and I represented the East Bay Banjo Club. I highly recommend the Saturday Night Banquet, good food and great company. (**Don Granberg** will cover the Sunday Program of the Jubilee)

I want to welcome four new members who joined the E.B.B.C. during the month of September. **Karen Frankhouser, Steve Ferguson, Easter Jestadt and Manny Montoya.**

At the September Board Meeting, **June Rosploch** made a proposal for the formation of a Youth Band. It was well received. The proposal was passed and June was given the go ahead. Assisting her are **Mickie McDonald, Angelina Blankenship and myself.** Other members expressed interest also in being involved with this project. June has been consulting with Buddy Griffin of the Houston Banjo Band. Buddy has a 60 member Youth Band.

### Up-Coming Events

⇒ Dec. 9, 2008

Christmas Party

Round Table

5:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

⇒ February 24/26, 2009

Reno Snow Train

Martinez to Harrah's, Reno

⇒ March 1, 2009

Sacramento Banjo Rama

TBD

Unfortunately, during the month of September, **Marlow Hicks**, former Captain of the River Queen (our river boat float ), passed away. I would like to add that Marlow was a Pearl Harbor survivor. **Gary Dietz**, a faithful player also passed away. In spite of his physical problems, he and his wife, **Karen DeWeese**, traveled with the East Bay Banjo Club to Czech Republic in 2005, and also to the Arizona Banjo Blast this past May. Both Karen and Gary set us up with some good food in Tucson.

**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**

### August 17, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Eastern Star, Santa Cruz

Reported By: Don Granberg



Finding the picnic grounds at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Eastern Star Picnic proved to be easier than Bud's wife doing her kudo. The 5 of us – **Betty David, Lynne Deutscher, Mickie McDonald, Jim Sullivan and Don Granberg**, arrived in Don's truck amongst sun dappled redwood trees with fog filtering between the dizzying heights of the gently swaying trees.

Setting up the sound system was a joy in the firewood smoke scented air and the excited conversation echoing from the trunks of the hugh trees. We were greeted by calliope music drifting over the rock strewn encampment. Clowns drew laughs from children and adults. We even heard the shrill whistle of a northbound train.



We played for nearly 4 hours with a lunch break of BBQ'd brisquet, salad, fruits and ice cream. We were honored to be 2<sup>nd</sup> in line for the food directly behind the Poobas. Between expulsions of salvia, **Chuck Cook** favored us with wonderful tuba music and witty comments.

We sadly packed up around 4 PM and were wished a safe trip home by Chuck who could not find his wife. We were invited back to play at the next Anniversary in 100 years and look forward to it. A great adventure and thanks to Chuck Cook for the invitation.

### August 23, EBBC Club Picnic

Reported by: June Rosploch

Yes, it was "Just Another Day in Paradise", with calm water, a gentle breeze and abundant flowers everywhere you looked. The local delta waterways' consisting of 1,000 miles was the back drop for the clubs annual picnic at **Bobbie Landers** waterfront home. The day's festivities included ski boat cruising, kayaking, paddle boating along with the clubs two favorite activities, eating and playing ragtime banjo music.

A plaque was presented to Bobbie, for her never ending club support, awarding her East Bay Banjo Club Honorary Lifetime Membership status along with blue club shirts for her family.

Picnic participants were: **Guy & Mary Black, Jim & Angie Blankenship, Rich Boss, Bill Cooper, Lynne Deutscher, Don Granberg, Terry & Chris Horner, Garry Kerr, Mickie McDonald, Bob & Kit Nelson, Tim Perry, Larry & Dea Risner, John & June Rosploch, Diane Shaw, Pat Wheaton, Bobbie Landers & Family (Holly, Merrily, Daniel, and Summit & Cortina)**



**August 24, Masonic Lodge, Antioch**

It is daylight on the delta, just one block away from the Masonic Lodge, Antioch where we are playing today, Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Getting the sound equipment up two flights of stairs was taxing, however little did we know that a difference in starting time would bring about time to rest, relax and enjoy the company of one another.

So it was still daylight on the delta after our starting time was agreeably negotiated by our Booking Agent, **Bob Nelson** and the Event Organizer.

And start we did to the delight of our audience who came together this day to recognize the young people of this organization with a Spirit Awards Celebration.

Banjo By: **Bill Cooper, Tim Perry, Mickie McDonald, Kit Nelson, Betty David, Jim Blankenship**

Vocals By: **Kit Nelson, Tim Perry, Mickie McDonald**

Bass/Washboard By: **Terry Horner, Dina Melamed, Fredy Kinadeter, Guy Black**

The gig is finished now, time to pack up and go home. I'm feeling really good having played music with the East Bay Banjo Club. I'm backing my car out of its parking space. I catch sight of the delta, just one block away and it's still daylight.

Reported By: **Betty David**

**September 7, Banjo Jubilee, San Jose**

Reported by: **Don Granberg**

The Peninsula Banjo Band's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Jubilee-Bayou to Broadway was a success. EBBC played second on the stage to a crowded room. **Bill Copper**, one of our 3 Bills, lined us up behind the stage for seating and amongst nervous chatter, we occupied the platform. With initial stage jitters behind us, we played superbly. Our selection and playing of Give My Regards to Broadway, Mississippi Sandman, You're A Grand Old Flag, Do You Know What It Means, Darkness On The Delta, Caravan, and Oklahoma were delightfully enjoyed. **Jack Convery** started our great Caravan production with great gusto and the minor chords rang severely. We were treated to the accompaniment of our two fabulous Tubbiest – **Fredy Kinadeter** and **Chuck Cook**. We were lucky not to be interrupted by the toddler and mom wandering across the stage. An unsung contributor, **Terry Horner**, kept the heart to a good rate with his gut bucket. Bill Copper's banter and quips were entertaining. Singers **Kit Nelson** **Karen Swift** and **Tim Perry** were very well received. We were and are great. We even got a standing ovation. We stood and they ovated! Players were in order of signup: **Bill Copper, Kit Nelson, Jim Blankenship, Mickie McDonald, Lynne Duetscher, Bill Sullivan, Betty David, Larry Risner, Fredy Kinadeter, Jack Convery, Tim Perry, Terry Horner, Don Granberg, Dina Melamed, Karen Swift, Chuck Cook, Bud Pearce, Diane Shaw**. Also there were **Clyde Dedmon** and **Bookie Bob Nelson**. **Rich Boss** forgot his vest and was unable to contribute.



## September 21, St. Anne's Society, Rossmoor      Reported by: Mickey McDonald

On Sunday, September 21st, 2008 the East Bay Banjo Club was privileged to be a part of the Sister Anne Society Annual Summer Social held out on the patio and lawn of the Stanley Dollar Club House located in the Rossmoor Retirement / Leisure Community in Walnut Creek.

This was our second consecutive year performing for this occasion and organization. We performed outdoors on tall, lush, deep green grass with a beautiful blue sky, and a nice large audience of around 200 to 300 guests.

**Bill Cooper**, our esteemed musical director, presented the audience with a short introduction and proceeded to introduce a music selection of state songs and we all followed his direction. The audience seemed to truly enjoy the musical presentation of the past, theirs and ours, "Good Old Songs".

Those of us in attendance were **Bill Cooper, Kit Nelson, Bud Pierce, Jack Convery, Tim Perry, Betty David, Don Grandberg, Chris Horner, Terry Horner, Pat Wheaton, Diane Shaw, Marilyn Young, Dina Melamed, Bonnie Miller and Gerry May, Guy Black**, yours truly **Mickie McDonald** and **Dominic Borchers** who successfully made it through his second performance and earning his official Club Blue Polo shirt as our first "Jr." Club Member under our newly Board Approved "Jr." Membership Program reaching out to the community.

As we were entertaining the members of the Sister Anne's Society our usually calm and relaxed "Bookie" **Bob Nelson** was kept busy maintaining tranquility while trying to manage the party crashers so the show could go smoothly.

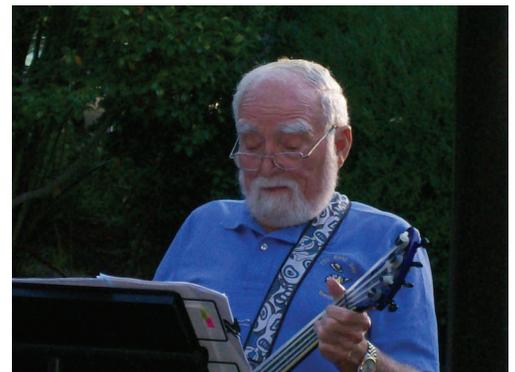
Three of these uninvited who came in on a wing and a prayer tried pecking a coble of tunes, but **Bob Nelson** unceremoniously herded them away because he heard them using foul language. They could be heard squawking all the way out, but I am sure that they will be cheerfully welcomed back by the end of November (Thanksgiving). The other intruders (deer) roomed at their leisure. One found it impossible to locate a parking space.

**Jack Convery** introduced a medley of songs and when he began "Alabama Bound" **Don Granberg** was given his opportunity to toot his train whistle. **Bud Pearce, Kit Nelson, and Tim Perry** belted out some of their vocal specialties, as did **Bill Cooper**.

There was pleasure experienced by all.....for us as the remaining attentive and listening, tapping their hands or feet or getting up and dancing or signing along to the music. We even made it all the way through "Okalahoma" stated one of the participants.

After the performance, as the club was dispersing, many members of the audience voiced adulation and appreciation for our performance.

There was a suggestion made to **Bill Cooper** after the performance outdoors that the club might consider purchasing blue matching jackets so that members could blend in with the rest of the club as the temperature fluctuates.





### Dietz, Gary John

**Gary John Dietz Dec. 17, 1940 - Aug. 30, 2008**  
 Resident of Pleasant Hill, CA and previously Boise, ID and Concord, CA. Carpenter and woodworker for 39 years. Loved the banjo and was a member of the East Bay Banjo Club. Gary served honorably in the U.S. Navy. Predeceased by his first wife, Helen Shaw Dietz and his parents John and Lillian Dietz. Survived by his 2nd wife, Karen DeWeese, son and daughter-in-law Keyes and Heather Dietz and sister, Terri Dietz. The memorial service was Friday, September 5th at Shell Ridge Community Church, 200 La Casa Via, Walnut Creek, CA

Excerpt from Contra Costa Times on 9/4/2008

### Thank You from Karen DeWeese

Dear Members and Friends of East Bay Banjo Club,

Many, many thanks for the lovely flower arrangement for Gary's memorial service. An especial thanks for all of you whom participated in the service – it made it so special & I know Gary would have (& was) enjoying it. All your support & friendship has meant so much & enriched his life. Always, Karen

### Hicks, William Marlow

**William Marlow Hicks, September 2, 1918 – September 5, 2008** Resident of Concord, CA. He was born in Decorah, Iowa. In 1940 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was serving aboard the USS Montgomery, which was in port at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when the infamous Japanese attack occurred December 7, 1941. Marlow and Ophelia were married in San Francisco on July 7, 1945 - 63 years ago. At the beginning of the Korean War he moved to California to work at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. He retired after 32 years of civilian service. Even though Marlow was tone deaf and could not carry a tune he loved the lively banjo music and was one of the East Bay Banjo clubs dedicated followers. He was always willing to pitch in when he could by driving the club riverboat float in parades, or help work on the float. For years he faithfully carried Ophelia's banjo to practices and play-outs. Marlow is survived by his wife, Ophelia, daughters June Rosploch (husband John) and Mary Hicks, Two Grandchildren Christine Cruz (husband Freddie) and John, also two Great-Grandchildren Melissa and Matthew Rosploch.



Excerpt from Contra Costa Times on 9/7/2008

### Thank You from Ophelia Hicks

A thank you note was received for the flower arrangement for Marlow's funeral service and all the support showed to the family.

## Traveling Tip

By June Rosploch



Before setting out for a trip outside your area, I would suggest checking to see if there are any banjo clubs meeting in the area you will be visiting. The website I found very useful is [www.theresonator.com](http://www.theresonator.com).

Before heading out on a recent business trip I found, to my surprise, the Pittsburgh Banjo Club meets every Wednesday evening at the Allegheny Elks Lodge right in Pittsburgh near where John and I were to stay for a week. I sent an email to the club asking what the protocol was to come to one of their weekly practices and was delighted at the response I received from Frank Rossi, founder of the club, "Come On Down!" There was even an offer to have two of Norm's banjos waiting for us so we could join in. That was just the beginning of a wonderful adventure. From the minute we arrived till we left more than three

hours later everyone was very gracious in welcoming us and making us feel right home. It was like we had known many of them for years.

The club is primarily tenor banjo players with a few plectrum players along with trumpets, tubas, and bass players. The practice (program) consists of sing-a-longs, vocals, banjo solos, music from the '20s and '30s, polkas and Dixieland music. The club boasts banjo music is the happiest sound in the world, putting a smile on your face, a tap in your toe and a song in your heart! They certainly made a believer out of us. Okay, maybe we were bias to begin with.

The Pittsburgh Banjo Club (<http://www.thepittsburghbanjoclub.com>) is dedicated to keeping the music of the Golden Age (1920-1930) of the Banjo alive. Frank Rossi was inducted into the National Four-String Banjo Hall of Fame on May 24, 2001, at Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Thank you goes out to the Pittsburgh Banjo Club for making what could have been "Just another business trip" into a memorable adventure!

Check out the promo video entitled: Meet The Pittsburgh Banjo Club at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MouGOQJEK3E>



## Meeting Locations Not Open to the Public

Provided by Garry Kerr

Here are some statistics that might be of interest to you. I went through the membership roster of banjo clubs in Banjos Unlimited, which represents most of the banjo bands/clubs in the country, to determine where they regularly meet or perform. The categories and numbers appear below:

Service clubs (Elks, etc)	12	Publicly owned rec halls	5
No fixed location	9	Senior activity centers and living facilities	4
Church	9	Miscellaneous businesses	3
Restaurant or bar	8	Total number of reported bands/clubs	56
Pizza parlor	6		

It is significant to note that all of the pizza parlor venues are on the West coast. Also, since there is some disappointment among some banjo enthusiasts over the decline in popularity of the banjo, one can see only 14 venues are where the public might accidentally encounter a banjo band, public playouts aside. All the others require that the public be notified of the band's location.

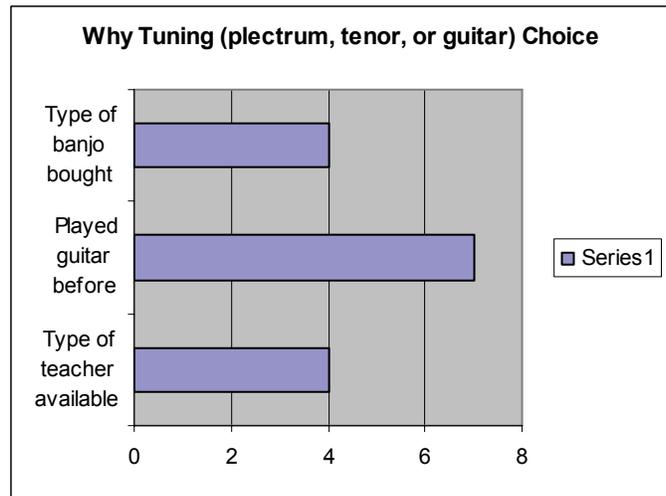
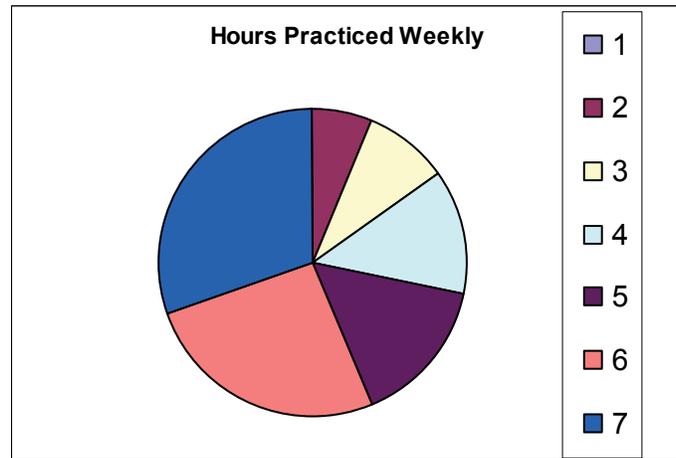
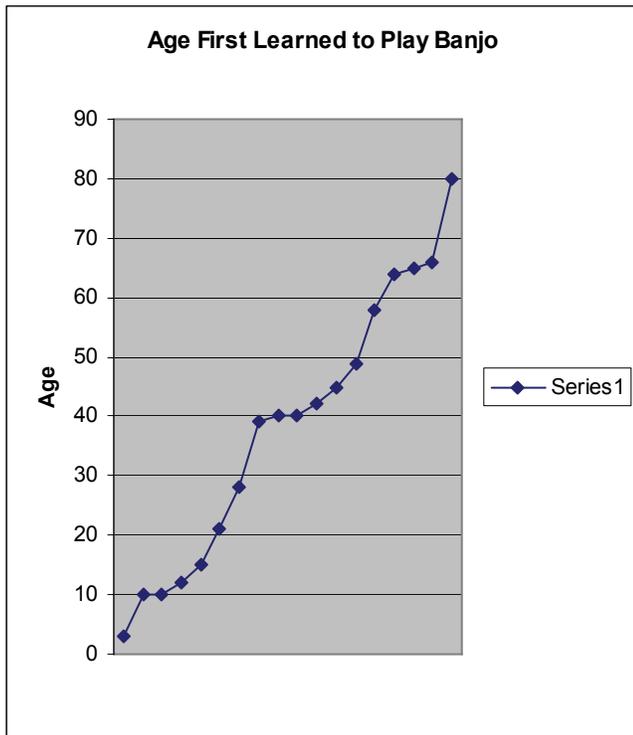
The raw information comes from BU's 2008 membership roster found on their website.

<http://home.earthlink.net/~theresonator/>

## Pulse of the Membership

### Survey Questions:

1. At what age did you start playing the banjo?
2. How many hours a week do you practice playing your banjo?
3. How did you decide the banjo tuning (Plectrum, Tenor, or Guitar) you would learn?



Newsletter Event Reporter	Date	Location
Bonnie Miller	Oct. 19, 2008	Orchard Nursery / Harvest Festival
Chris Horner	Oct. 25, 2008	Carnoween, Pleasant Hill Elementary
Kit Nelson	Nov. 3, 2008	St. Paul's Tower, Oakland
Bill Sullivan	Nov, 19, 2008	Kensington Place, Walnut Creek
Bonnie Miller	Dec. 19, 2008	Club Christmas Party
<b>Deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is December 15</b>		

## Web Site Report For eastbaybanjo.org

### Yearly Report

The Yearly Report shows total activity on the EBBC site for each calendar year and each page hit can result in several server requests as the images for each page are loaded. Most active year 2007 : 12,189 pages sent. **75,207 requests handled.** Yearly average: 7,672 pages sent. **45,289 requests handled.**

	Year	Number of requests	Number of page requests
1.	2004	88	60
2.	2005	28,613	6,550
3.	2006	57,280	9,657
4.	2007	75,207	12,189
5.	2008	65,259	9,906

### Monthly Report

The Monthly Report identifies activity for each month in the report time frame and each page hit can result in several server requests as the images for each page are loaded. Most active month June 2008: 1,358 pages sent. **12,664 requests handled.** Monthly average: 816 pages sent. **4,818 requests handled.**

	Month	Number of page requests	Number of page requests
1.	June 2008	5,736	1,358
2.	July 2008	10,198	1,275
3.	August 2008	11,447	1,116
4.	September 2008	12,664	1,095
5.	October 2008	6,125	653

**Thanks to: Bob Nelson, Bud Pearce, Jim Blankenship, John Rosploch, and Mickie McDonald 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, Larry Risner
Web Master	John Rosploch
Newsletter Editor/Publisher	June Rosploch
Librarian	Bob Nelson