



EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

SINCE 1963



DECEMBER 2008

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4

Play-out Schedule

⇒ Thursday, Dec. 18

Ceramic Arts Club—
Rossmoor

6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

⇒ Saturday, Jan. 24

Masonic Crab Feed—
Oakland

6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

⇒ Sunday, Feb. 15

Chateau 1—Pleasant Hill
2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

⇒ Wednesday, Feb. 18

Kensington Place, W.C.
6:45 P.M.—7:45 P.M.

Up-Coming Events

⇒ February 24-26, 2009

Reno Snow Train
Martinez to Harrah's, Reno

⇒ March 1, 2009

Sacramento Banjo Rama
TBD

⇒ June 14, 2009

Summer Jazz Banjo
Festival (see page 6)

For the most current
information visit:

www.eastbaybanjo.org

Or Call:

925-372-0553

East Bay Banjo Club
Meets:

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

Presidents Message



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !!!

What happened to 2008? All gone.

I want to thank **Diane Shaw, Mickey McDonald, and Easter Jestadt** for setting up a beautiful Christmas Party this past week. Thanks also go to the **Management of Round Table Pizza** for providing the venue for the event. The pizza pies and salads were delicious. The service was fantastic and everything ran smoothly.

We had our annual election on December 9th, and the following is the line up for 2009:

President	Jim Blankenship	Immediate Past President	Bud Pearce
Vice President	June Rosploch	Booking Agent	Bob Nelson
Secretary	Tim Perry	Webmaster	John Rosploch
Treasurer	Bill Sullivan	Editor	June Rosploch
Music Director	Bill Cooper		

I would like to thank **Karen Swift** for her work as Treasurer for 2008. Trying to balance the records can be difficult.

During this past year, our Booking Agent **Bob Nelson** kept busy with over 30 play outs on our agenda. This in turn translated into more money for our charities. On the side, Bob was selling our CD's. Thanks Bob

Bill Cooper, our Music Director has been busy arranging and re-arranging our music. I don't know if anyone has tried arranging just one song. I have, it is not easy and very time consuming. I believe that Bill is working on approximately 100 songs. Thank you Bill for your tireless effort.

Vice President **Bud Pearce** got our CD "Hey Mr. Banjo" on the internet through CD Baby. You can now purchase songs individually. This entailed a lot of research of who owns what songs. We are now high tech. Bud also did a great job designing the flyer for our upcoming Jazz Banjo Festival. Thanks Bud.

June and John Rosploch have done an outstanding job as editor and webmaster respectively. We have newsletters coming out several times a year to our membership and to approximately 60 clubs world wide. June has members writing up articles on the play-outs. John has set up a great photo gallery on the website as well as the newsletter. Thanks John and June for your hard work.

On June 14, 2009, we will have a Summer Jazz Band Festival. The coordinators of this event are **Jack Convery** and **Bill Sullivan**. Performing will be 5 Banjo Bands/Clubs and several solo players. The show will take place at St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA. This event is continuing to develop, so more information later.

The Youth Band Project under the direction of **June Rosploch** is a work in progress. June is having youths 14 years old and under, be given free passes to the Summer Jazz Banjo Festival. Scouts in uniform and those working on Music Merit badges be allowed to the Festival free.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the members for making this club fun and a success.

That's the latest from the Oval Office.

Keep on Strumming..... *Jim Blankenship*

October 19, Orchard Nursery / Harvest Festival

Reported by: **Bonnie Miller**

The Orchard Nursery/Harvest Festival playout was held in a remarkable setting. Beneath a beautiful overhang of colorful leaves and surrounded by fall colors and plants of all descriptions, we held our annual Harvest Festival play out on a perfect day with temperatures in the low 70s.

Bill Cooper chose a "around the country" theme so we played songs with mostly state names in the titles. Contributing to the singing were **Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Tim Perry, Mickie McDonald** and **Lynn Deutscher**.

Attending and participating were **Bill Cooper, Dina Melamed, Guy Black, Tim Perry, Rich Boss, Lynne Deutscher, Don Granberg, Bud Pearce, Mickie McDonald, Diane Shaw, Karen Swift, Betty David, Jim Blankenship, Pat Wheaton, Garry May,** and **Bonnie Miller**.

People would come and sit to listen for awhile, or stroll along and stand. A number of people approached **Bob Nelson** to find out more about the group, and some people took a brochure, business card, or purchased a CD. Everyone seemed to have a smile of their face and enjoy the sounds of the East Bay Banjo Club.

October 25, Carnoween, Pleasant Hill Elementary School

Reported by: **Chris Horner**

Well, if you missed the playout at Pleasant Hill Elementary School on Saturday October 25th for the Carnoween celebration, you missed a great one! This is just a block or two from the RTP, our Tuesday night "home" and EBBC has supported this annual fundraiser for many years. **Bill Cooper**, who led the playout, remembers playing for this event for more than 20 years! For **Easter Jestadt** and **Bill Sullivan** it was a First.

It's a costume event for everyone, kids AND banjo players. Our members playing the gig Saturday included: Tim Perry, whose tee shirt promised it WAS his costume, Phantom of the Grandberg, Wizard Bud Pearce, Pat Black Cat Heaton, Sailor-Girl Dina, Sheriff Jim Blankenship, Cowgirl Betty David, Dapper Bill Dowling in his red! tuxedo, Chris Witchy Horner and Sister-Witch Diane Shaw, Easter Munchkin Jestadt, Bill Hippy Sullivan, our fearless leader Haole Bill Hawaiian-Tourist Cooper and the well-decorated General Nuisance Horner on the intricate one-string bass.

The day was also memorable as **Bill Cooper** and **Terry Horner** sang the debut performance of our new song OAKLAND WE'RE FOR YOU, accompanied by the **Dina Melamed, Don Granberg, & Chris Horner** Washboard Trio. And, besides we all got a free lunch!!

November 3, St. Paul's Tower, Oakland Reported by: **Bill Sullivan**

On the eve of the Presidential election the EBBC served to unite the blue and red teams through song. Led by our fearless leader **Bill Cooper**, we toured the United States; from Alabama to Charleston, Saint Louis and San Francisco Bay. The packed house agreed it was a rollicking good time, (no partisan politics here). We also debut a new and exciting song that many in the audience knew; "Oakland We're For You". To hear the original version of the song visit <http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/smallTrack12.mp3>.

Attendees: **Guy Black, Bill Cooper, Don Granberg, Terry Horner, Mickie McDonald, Garry May, Bonnie Miller, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Diane Shaw, Bill Sullivan** and **Bookie Bob Nelson**



November 19, 2008, Kensington Place, Walnut Creek

Due to a flu outbreak at Kensington Place our November performance there was canceled. It is always such a pleasure entertaining the Kensington residence and we look forward to the next event at Kensington Place in Walnut Creek scheduled for February 18th.

Dec. 9, 2008 Club Christmas Party**Reported by: Bonnie Miller**

The 2008 East Bay Banjo Club Christmas Party was held on December 9 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The committee consisted of **Diane Shaw, Mickie McDonald, and Easter Jestadt.**

The back area (banjo playing area) was reserved for our group. This year it was decided to provide vouchers for EBBC members and guests which we then submitted to get a salad and/or pizza plate. We then went through the buffet line with other customers. This worked out well because we did not have to use space in the reserved area for tables for the food. There was also beer and wine available in the reserved area for members and guests.

The party was well attended as evidenced by the fact that at one time there were no available seats left. Everyone seemed to have plenty to eat and drink and were able to visit and chat with friends and acquaintances. There were lots of smiles and people seemed to have a good time.

About 7:30 the banjo playing commenced. Happy Holidays to all!!!





Pulse of the Membership (Music Trivia)

1. What is the minimum number of musicians a band must have to be considered a "big band"?
2. What patriotic song was originally titled "The Defense of Fort McHenry"?
3. What's indicated by the word fine on a piece of sheet music?
4. What three words preceded "land that I love" in a 1938 Irving Berlin tune?
5. What Stephen Foster tune encourages racing enthusiasts to "bet on de bay"?

Answers: 1. Ten, 2. The Star Spangled Banner, 3. The end, 4. "God Bless America, 5. Camptown Races

Newsletter Editor Note:

I want to thank all of those who have helped me work on the 2008 newsletters, by promptly submitting reports, material and pictures. I could not keep doing this without all of your help. I wish all club members a Happy Christmas and Holiday Season.

June Rosploch

Other Banjo Club News:

Frank Rossi wrote:

The Pittsburg Banjo Clubs DVDs including the latest 20th anniversary edition, is on the following site:

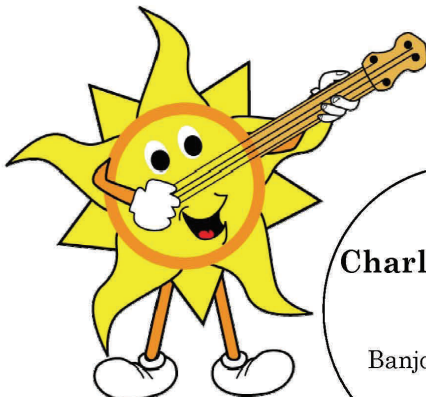
<http://www.vimeo.com/banjoclub>

Talk about memories....

Newsletter Event Reporter	Date	Location
Bob Nelson	January 18, 2009	Rossmoor Ceramic Arts Christmas Party
	January 24, 2009	Masonic Lodge, Oakland
	February 15, 2009	Chateau 1. Pleasant Hill
	February 18, 2009	Kensington, Walnut Creek
Deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is February 15		

Summer Jazz Banjo Festival

Jack Convery
&
Gary Neuman



Tim Weed

Charlie Tagawa
Member
Banjo Hall of Fame

Join the fun at scenic


Saint Mary's College

Moraga, CA 94575

Sunday, June 14, 2009

Noon to 4:00pm

Featuring

 East Bay Banjo Club

 Sacramento Banjo Band

 Peninsula Banjo Band

 San Francisco Banjo Band

 Wineland Banjo Band

Ticket Information

⇒ \$15 Advanced Sales

⇒ Group discounts available

⇒ \$20 for Adults

⇒ Children 14 & under free with an adult

⇒ Email: Tickets@EastBayBanjo.org

⇒ Phone: 925-706-0880

For More Information

Visit: WWW.SummerJazzBanjoFestival.com

Phone: 707-747-1004



Presented by the
East Bay Banjo Club

Proceeds to benefit
local charities