



EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

SINCE 1963



JUNE 2009

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

Play-out Schedule

- ⇒ **Friday, June 19**
Walnut Creek Senior Club,
Walnut Creek
Noon. – 1:00 P.M.
- ⇒ **Friday, July 3**
Aegis of Concord,
Concord
3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M
- ⇒ **Sunday, Sept. 20**
St. Anne's Society,
Rossmoor
TBD
- ⇒ **Thursday, Sept. 24**
Aegis of Concord,
Summer Music Concert
Concord
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
- ⇒ **Saturday, Oct. 24**
Pleasant Hill Elem.
"Carnoween"
Pleasant Hill
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

**For the most current
information visit:
www.eastbaybanjo.org
Or
Call Bob Nelson
925-372-0553**

Presidents Message



Our Club turned a page in the history of the EBBC. On June 14th, we held our first Annual Summer Jazz Banjo Festival at the scenic Saint Mary's College in Moraga, CA.

Our solo players were Jack Convery and Gary Neuman, Hall of Famer Charlie Tagawa and Classical Banjoist Tim Weed. The event featured the East Bay Banjo Club, Peninsula Banjo Band, Sacramento Banjo Band, San Francisco Banjo Band, and the Original Red Garter Band. During the interludes, we were entertained by the Smalltimers, a five piece band, playing their favorite Ragtime arrangements. They were a big hit.

Rene Karnes, Banjo Hall of Fame inductee and luthier, performed her magic by repairing banjos, selling parts and giving sound advise on the care and maintenance of banjos.

In the vendors area, banjo design jewelries were available as well as old time sheet music. There were also some beautiful banjos for sale.

We had a Youth Activity organized by June Rosploch, in which children made gut buckets, marachas and whistles. Jack Convery taught the kids a couple of songs. Later on, the kids joined all the banjo players in the main auditorium and played Goofus.

California Lt. Gov. John Garamendi made an appearance during the Festival and said that he truly enjoyed our music and wished that he could stay for the whole show.

The grand finale included all of the banjo players, all the guests and the kids playing the Bells of St. Mary's.

We had a raffle at the entrance of the auditorium in which over 40 gifts were given away.

It should be noted that our Club Members worked hard at putting the program together, and did a fantastic job. Thanks to coordinators Jack Convery and Bill Sullivan for setting up this event. Thank you Bill Cooper for being outstanding M.C. and Director of our club.

Up-Coming Events

- ⇒ **July 4**
City of Orinda / Parade & Patio
9:00 A.M. — 2:00 P.M
- ⇒ **August 15**
Club Picnic @ Lander's Landing
10:30 A.M. — ??.
- ⇒ **September 13**
Annual Banjo Jubilee
San Jose
TBD

A special thanks to Bud Pearce and his stage crew for keeping the event running smoothly. John and June Rosploch with their crew did a wonderful job handling ticket sales, raffle, sale of CD's and printing the program. Mickie McDonald did a great job being in charge of the vendors area.

All in all, we had great company, music and food. The Summer Jazz Banjo Festival was a huge success and I think that we'll be working on Festival # 2 very soon. Keep Strummin, Jim

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

Kensington Place, April 15**Reported By: Easter Jestadt**

This was the third visit this year at Kensington Place in Walnut Creek and in eager anticipation many of the residents were already seated while Bill Cooper, our musical director and Bob Nelson (our cohesive force) set up equipment. Kudos to you—Bill and Bob for your consistent great work.

The selected music brought happy smiles to our first floor audience as well as the happy faces overlooking the balcony (second floor). Our singers, Bill Cooper, Kit Nelson, Mickie McDonald and Bud Pierce were all in great form. Upon completing our music for the evening, I spoke with Rosaleen Egan, a resident who is on the activities committee. She said that the residents enjoyed our repeated visits so much that they changed their eating hour to obtain a front row seat. Wow! What fans! Also she said, 'the warm and relaxing repertoire appeals to all of us.' So nice to be appreciated!

Those members in attendance were: Bill Cooper, Kit Nelson, Betty David, Terry Horner, Guy Black, Mickie McDonald, Bill Sullivan, Don Granberg, Bob Malucelli (his first play out), Bud Pierce, Easter Jestadt, Garry May, Bonnie Miller, Diane Shaw and Barbara Findlay.

As an anecdote, Bob Nelson brought me a new polo shirt which I tried on in the bathroom. Two sweet little ladies loved the color and embroidery. They wanted to know if they could buy them so they could feel as if they were part of our group when we return another day.

Now-that's appreciation!

John Muir Medical Center, April 20**Reported By: Dorothy Cahill**

Take Me Out To The Ball Game! Was the theme for April 20th's gig at John Muir Hospital to honor their volunteers. Dan Ashley, ABC/Ch. 7, was the Master of Ceremonies for this auspicious occasion. Just under 200 volunteers were recognized for their diligent efforts in supporting the hospital staff. Jack Convery led our group of 19 banjo players through many old favorites. When told requests would be taken, the enthusiastic crowd came up with several goodies, including "Has Anybody See My Gal" and Jack then invited the audience to come out and dance the Charleston!! Another oldie, but goodie, requested was "Dark Town Strutters Ball." Of course "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" was enthusiastically enjoyed by all and was a fun sign-along.

EBBC was honored to have been invited to John Muir, and was particularly thrilled when they heard they were invited to join in for the buffet that included "tube-steak sandwiches"....can't go to a ball game without having the all America hotdog! There was plenty of fresh fruit and veggies; delicious deserts, and of course, bags of popcorn!

After lunch our "washboard greats" Terry and Chris Horner, Diana Melamed, and Don Granberg played "Coney Island Washboard." Kit Nelson belted our those favorites..."California Here I Come," "Okalahoma" and a couple more to the delight of the audience. Bob Nelson did his usual great job coordinating with the hospital staff. A few changes did occur as the time schedule was adjusted more than once. The EBBC was very flexible and responded on que! Lynne Deutscher and Mickie McDonald teamed up for "Carolina in the Morning" and were ably accompanied by Karen DeWeese, Garry May, Pat Wheaton, John and June Rosploch, Bill Dowling, Bob Malucelli, Garry Kerr, President Jim Blankenship, Ken Fogarty, Guy Black and Jack Convery who wowed the audience with "Alabamee Bound." A good time was had by all!

Atria Valley View, May 9**Reported By: Don Granberg**

Wow—another payout at Atria Valley View. We are extremely popular there. One lady was even over heard to say although she prefers the opera, she'll settle for our banjos. Music started a few minutes early led by Bill Cooper and accompanied by Bud Pearce (singer extraordinaire), Mickie McDonald (she writes her name to small), Guy Black (with the deep voice, I mean bass), Lynne Deutscher (still spending her mornings in Carolina), Don Granberg (still trying to remember which song), Bonnie Miller (attractive Blondie who needs to be seen in front row), Gary May (carrier of equipment), Diane Shaw (looking for chauffeur job), Pat Wheaton (a little late with no excuse), Betty David (always smiling at what? And always ready for a break), finally Kit Nelson (her singing puts Brenda Lee to shame).

We had some technical difficulties experienced by Bookie Bob Nelson. He apparently had trouble with his camera, it kept blinking. He needs to brush up on his Japanese interpreting. We missed Tim Perry and hope he is improving quickly. Our hearts are out to him.

Quite an interesting payout. A bird in a cage in the front room suggested A Bird in the Glided Cage, but we missed that song. One woman sang brilliantly. Unfortunately, she sang a different song than we were playing. As always, the clunk of the air conditioner kept us in the beat and attentive to our endeavors. Lots of fun. Almost time to put away our vests and don our blue shirts for the summer.

Diablo Lodge, May 16**Reported By: Pat Wheaton**

We had a "hot time" at the Diablo Lodge in Danville (95 degrees at 6:00 p.m.). Actually it was quite pleasant inside the lodge, and we played for a very receptive audience.

Our theme, California: Banjo Picker's Ball, (to start out having a ball), San Francisco Bay Blues, I Left My Heart in San Francisco, San Francisco, Chinatown —But we have a song for Oakland—Oakland, We're for You (getting better every time we play it); Clementine (Kit Nelson signing the verses and the audience joining in on the chorus —easy to play and fun to sing), By the Sea, Avalon, Darkness on the Delta, Angry (on the California highways) and audience requests: Bourbon Street Parade, Five Foot Two and Four Leaf Clover.

We were so good that a few people (who could rise by themselves) gave us a standing ovation!!

Club members participating besides our leader Bill Cooper, and our booking agent, Bob Nelson, were Kit Nelson, Betty David, Diane Shaw, Mickie McDonald, Lynne Deutscher, Don Granberg, Gerry and Robin Reeves, Bill Sullivan, Dina Melamed, Guy Black, Garry May and I (Pat Wheaton).

Travels With Garry Kerr – The Great Lakes International Banjo (GLIB) Convention.

GLIB is a three day event put on by a coalition of five banjo clubs in the Detroit area. This year the weather in Dearborn was uncharacteristically warm, a pleasant change from the usual cold. I arrived at the Doubletree Hotel late Thursday afternoon and as usual could barely hear the check-in clerk due to the loud jam going on in the lobby/atrium. The next day the two vendor rooms opened, and there were workshops, off-site payouts, and the evening show. Saturday schedule was similar with an added afternoon matinee. All 3 shows were packed. Like most banjo conventions the shows take place in the hotel ballroom, like Peninsula only larger. Since two shows occur in the evenings, lighting and sound are professional quality. Both evening shows ran past midnight, which kind of put the kibosh on the post show jams this year, in fact I don't know if the Sat. night jam ever really got started. Post show jams are by far the largest, typically begin about 11:30 pm and continue through the wee hours. In years past I have given up at 2:00 am leaving 60 – 70 players banging away. Eastern banjoists take their hobbies seriously! The range of talent on the stage runs from mediocre to exciting and the shows always have some top shelf talent who perform and present workshops for free. There are always a few West coasters at the show, this year including a small consist of the Wineland BB. Eastern banjo shows typically take place on Friday and Saturday, leaving Sunday for travel. Unfortunately this was the twentieth and final GLIB. The show committee has grown weary and has not been able to attract sufficient new blood. The final note is a sad one, a popular banjoist in Mike Kuehn's band complained of chest pain as he exited the stage, moments later he collapsed and died backstage. A comment was heard that he died doing what he loved, playing banjo. He was 59.

Summer Jazz Banjo Festival, June 14 Reported By: Bill Sullivan**The consensus is in...it was a hit!**

The First Annual Summer Jazz Banjo Festival at Saint Mary's College on June 14, 2009 (Flag Day no less!) was a sell out. The audience was enthusiastic; singing, clapping and tapping their feet to the amazing music that filled the air. After months of planning and preparation (we began this journey in October 2008), we did it!

The show of shows featured 2 stages, BBQ, and plenty of toe tapping fun for all. The second stage in Claeys Lounge, was an intimate setting for the headliners "second" sets, and also served as the children's workshop location. The kids took part in the grand finale playing the gutbuckets they had built earlier, along with kazoos and penny whistles.

The show on the main stage opened with the Sacramento Banjo Band who played their hearts out, and included a wandering clarinet player. Not to be outdone, Banjo Hall-of-Famer Harry Higgins and the Red Garter Band- a true original, and special treat for many, followed and thrilled us with their banjo, tuba and trombone playing, so much so that folks began dancing in front of the stage. We were then charmed by the newly formed, and fabulous, Wineland Banjo Band with members from throughout Northern California. The interludes between sets offer a special treat for all was the "Smalltimers" a ragtime quintet. They were a unanimous hit with all.

Next up, Jack Convery & Friends. The highlight of their set was twelve-year-old soloist Natalie Taut, who had the poise of one twice her age. She sang many standards but her version of the Beatles "Honey Pie" stole the show. The San Francisco Banjo Band followed with an enthusiastic set that has us all on our feet. The four-string banjo never sounded better. Having not played out in many years they were keenly watch by all the banjo players in attendance. We look forward to their playing in next years festival. Banjo Hall-of-Famer Charlie Tagawa & Friends were up next, their music was so amazing that if you closed your eyes you'd swear he was playing anything but a Banjo! The Peninsula Banjo Band followed, lead by Charlie Tagawa. They delivered a lively and fun filled set.

Headliner Tim Weed, a five-string banjo player-beyond the constraint of traditional bluegrass held the hall spellbound with his extraordinary style and heart felt emotion. You guessed it, the home team; The East Bay Banjo Club, brought the show home and really delivered the goods. We had the crowd all singing along to the songs of our youth-and we looked pretty snazzy, gold vests and tiny American flags waving from our banjos. We brought the house to their feet when our special guest, nine-year-old Natalia Cortez, sang Take Me Out To The Ballgame dressed appropriately in her baseball uniform. The big finish, with all banjo players in the house playing, was a sweet and moving rendition of the "Bells Of Saint Mary's". A fitting way to say thank you to our festival home.



Music Revisions

Bill Cooper continues to review and revise the clubs music book. He has provided the following list of revisions made to the club music book since September 2008. Please contact our new librarian, Jim Blankenship if you need specific copies to replace the old sheets of music.

Distributed 9/30/08

TITLE	LIST	KEY	REV
Oakland, We're For You	OAKL	F	9/30/08
It's a Small World	ITSA	G	9/30/08
Clementine	CLEM	G	9/30/08
Colonel Bogey/ Happy Wanderer	COLO	C	9/30/08
Darkness on the Delta	DARK	F	9/30/08
Doctor Jazz	DOCT	F	9/30/08
Georgia on my Mind	GEOR	F	9/30/08
Give My Regards to Broadway	GIVE	Bb	9/30/08

Distributed 11/18/08

TITLE	LIST	KEY	REV
Chinatown (w/ verse)	CHIN	C	1/21/09
Black and Blue	BLAC	C	1/21/09
I Want a Girl	IWAN	C	1/21/09
I Get the Blues When it Rains	IGET	G	1/21/09
I Ain't got Nobody	IAIN	G	1/21/09
His Eye is on the Sparrow	HISE	Bb	1/21/09
Here Comes the Showboat	HERE	F	1/21/09
I'll See You in my Dreams	ILLS	F	1/21/09

Distributed 1/21/09

TITLE	LIST	KEY	REV
Chinatown (w/ verse)	CHIN	C	1/21/09
Black and Blue	BLAC	C	1/21/09
I Want a Girl	IWAN	C	1/21/09
I Get the Blues When it Rains	IGET	G	1/21/09
I Ain't got Nobody	IAIN	G	1/21/09
His Eye is on the Sparrow	HISE	Bb	1/21/09
Here Comes the Showboat	HERE	F	1/21/09
I'll See You in my Dreams	ILLS	F	1/21/09

Distributed 2/3/09

TITLE	LIST	KEY	REV
Chinatown (w/ verse)	CHIN	C	2/2/09
Roll On, Mississippi (w/verse)	ROLL	G	2/2/09

Distributed 3/3/09

TITLE	LIST	KEY	REV
Indiana (w/ verse)	INDI	F	3/3/09
I'm Gonna Sit Right Down AWMAL	IMGO	C	3/3/09
In the Good Old Summertime	INTH	Bb	3/3/09
Is it True What They Say About Dix	ISIT	Bb	3/3/09
Ja-Da	JADA	F	3/3/09
Jungletown	JUNG	C	3/3/09
Just Because	JUST	C	3/3/09
Let Me Call You Sweetheart	LETM	Bb	3/3/09
Liebenstraum	LIEB	F	3/3/09
Liechtensteiner Polka	LIEC	F,C	3/3/09
Lies	LIES	F	3/3/09

EBBC Board		
President	Jim Blankenship	president@eastbaybanjo.org
Vice President	June Rosploch	vicepresident@eastbaybanjolorg
Secretary	Tim Perry	secretary@eastbaybanjo.org
Treasurer	Bill Sullivan	treasureer@eastbaybanjolorg
Music Director	Bill Cooper	wcooper2480@comcast.net
Immediate Past President	Bud Pearce	bud.pearce@pearcechriss.com
Booking Agent	Bob Nelson	bookingagent@eastbaybanjo.org

Non-Board Positions	
Assistant Music Directors	Betty David, Larry Risner
Web Master	John Rosploch
Newsletter Editor/Publisher	June Rosploch
Librarian	Jim Blankenship
Membership Chairman	Karen DeWeese

Thank You EBBC

From: Bill Sullivan & Jack Convery

A special message from the Summer Jazz Banjo Festival core committee co-chairs.

Yes we can, yes we did. Congratulation to all for putting on a wildly successful show of shows.

We began this process with whispered conversations during last years Banjo Jubilee. Comments ranged from; great idea-we can never pull it off, do you know how much work this will take?, are you crazy, and one voice that said ye-lets do it. Thus was born a labor of love-the chance to fulfill a dream and spread the gospel of four string banjos. We took it to the Board of Directors-who embraced the enthusiasm and vision we brought to the idea. A committee was formed; Jim Blankenship, Tim Perry, Bill Cooper, Bob Nelson, and Bud Pierce. From that initial meeting we know we needed more help, John & June Rosploch were added and later Mickie McDonald joined us. Our goals; spread the joy of the four string banjo, bring in the kids, and have FUN. We hit the bull's eye on all counts. We have raised the bar when comes to banjo festivals. The refrain we heard over and over again was, WOW you got it right-we need to do that!

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of so many; the traffic control crew-guiding folks to the show. The hospitality crew-making sure everyone got in, the raffle, and cd sales force, the green room generals, security and stage crews. To all the members, family, and friends our heartfelt thank you.

Can't wait for the 2nd annual!

