



# EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

Since 1963



January/February 2012

Membership Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 1

## 2012 Play-out Schedule

⇒ **February 24**

Orinda Masonic Lodge  
9 Altarinda Road,  
7:00p-8:00p

⇒ **April 13—15**

Sacramento Banjo-Rama  
Red Lion Inn,  
1401 Arden Way, Sac CA

⇒ **May 17—19,**

Arizona Banjo Blast  
Omni Tuscon Nat'l Golf Resort  
2727 W .Club Dr, Tuscon, AZ

**East Bay Banjo Club  
Meets:**

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

**For the most current play-out information visit:**

**[www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org)**

**or Contact**

**John Rosploch,  
Booking Agent, email:**

**bookingagent  
@eastbaybanjo.org**

**or**

**Call 925-864-3692**



## Presidents Message:

I would like to start by thanking everyone that has contributed to the club in any way; whether you attended the weekly meetings or one or more play outs. The East Bay Banjo club would not be what it is without the combined efforts, big and small, of everyone in the club. I am excited about keeping all of our officers engaged in their projects. It is the officers that keep the club running smoothly and keep things in a free-flow of information to the club members.

Everyone is invited to attend one or more Board of Directors Meetings. Come and see how well we work together and the fun we have, so that you may want to participate as an officer in this WONDERFUL club. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month (except July 4<sup>th</sup>) we will meet on July 11<sup>th</sup>. All meetings begin at 6:00 PM sharp! If you would like to present anything to the Board of Directors for consideration please write it down and get it to a Board member. You will be added to the next agenda and asked to attend to present your request.

There seems to be some confusion about the Newsletter. In order to keep our mailing and printing costs down, only people without email will receive a printed newsletter. Also, we must keep the page count where it is now in order to mail it at the current postage rate. This is why we don't accept advertisements from our members. If there is enough interest in doing advertisements, consideration can be given to raising the dues to cover these costs. As a club, it is up to all of us how we conduct our business. Announcements and fliers from Club members regarding Banjo related topics are encouraged.

I would like to encourage those of you who do not attend play outs to think about joining one or more this year. They are great fun and make a lot of people very happy! You also get the added bonus of meeting some very nice people at the play outs.

It is wonderful to see that everyone attending Wednesday meetings encourages our youngsters. As we all know, they are the future of Four String Banjo.

I look forward to serving as your President. I will try and keep things interesting and business not to boring (it has to be done).

Keep Strummin,  
Sheila



## From the Music Director's Chair . . .

### *Buying A Banjo*



By Bill Cooper

So you want to buy a banjo? Great!

In the last month, I have been asked by a number of members, both beginning and old timers, about buying banjos, so I thought I'd ramble a bit on the subject.

If you are a beginner, then there are some things to watch out for. The old joke in real estate is "The three most important considerations? Location, location, and location." For a beginner, the three most important considerations are playability, playability and playability. If a banjo is not easy to play, then it is unlikely that you'll put in the time necessary to learn. Come to think of it, playability should be the first thing anyone thinks of. Pick it up and try strumming it. If it doesn't feel good, then it's the wrong instrument. Keep in mind, though, that many aspects of a banjo's playability and tone can be adjusted. The **Action**, which is the distance between the strings and the fretboard is adjustable within certain limits on most banjos. Also, the **Tone** can be affected by changing the strings, the bridge, or simply by tightening the head. Finally, the **Weight** of the instrument is an aspect that I never thought of until I began to notice that many of our members were going to lighter instruments because the weight of the banjo was uncomfortable. Generally, with few exceptions, lighter banjos are of lower quality. Weight can be mitigated by using a shoulder strap, which will take the weight off your legs.

You should sight down the peghead along the strings to look for any sign of neck warping. A very little warping is acceptable, but too much will render the instrument unplayable. It affects the action and even tuning the instrument might be impossible. Gibson invented the adjustable steel rod in the neck, which meant that Gibson necks are much slimmer than other vintage banjos. Virtually all modern banjos other than the very poorest quality now have steel rods. Even if an instrument has a steel rod, adjusting a warped neck should be done by a luthier, and this might affect the price of the instrument.

The looks of the banjo are also important. I have often said that you don't pick out a banjo, the banjo picks you. I have seen this at work many times. Probably the most extreme example is Chris Horner, who didn't even want to play banjo until she saw her Orpheum, with its beautiful inlay, purfling, and mother of pearl fretmarks. In my opinion, all of the William Lange designed instruments, Orpheums and Paramounts, are the best examples of banjo decoration.

This brings me to the subject of brand. There have been hundreds of brands of banjos through the years, and most have their advocates. In vintage banjos, you can't go too far astray by sticking to the best known brands, such as Bacon, Vega, Gibson and Paramount. However, all of these brands made some poorer quality banjos, especially toward the end of their original existence. I would not be afraid of some of the lesser-known manufacturers, such as Slingerland, Leedy and Hollender, and even Ludwig. However, some of them used odd-sized heads which might be difficult to find.

In my opinion, there are some excellent modern manufacturers of high quality instruments. These would include Richelieu (which just ended production), Ome, and Wildwood. Even Gold Tone, Aida, and Deering have good banjos in their higher ends. And, there are small banjo makers all over, such as Hendricks (see Jerry Reeves' banjo) that make quality instruments. Finally, there is Renée Karnes, who makes the very best.

**Welcome to our  
NEW MEMBERS!**



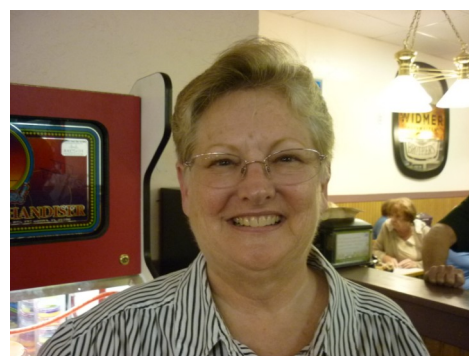
Grant Young



Phil & Linda Myers



Rex Bell



Pat Warnick

**Have you paid your dues? If not, you have until March 1st to remain active!**



East Bay Banjo Club  
2012 Membership Form



**Dues are now payable in the amount of \$20.00 per member.  
Youth, under 18 are Free**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell number optional: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday Month and Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make \$20/member checks payable to: East Bay Banjo Club. Money can be sent to EBBC, P.O. Box 5414, Concord, CA 94524 or personally given to Mary Black, Membership Chairperson.

**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 7, 2011  
Round Table Pizza, Pleasant Hill, CA**

**ATTENDANCE:** **President:** June Rosploch; **Vice President:** Betty David; **Secretary:** Sheila Welt; **Treasurer:** Robin Reeves; **Music Director:** Bill Cooper; **Booking Agent:** John Rosploch; **Guests:** Bob Nelson, Kit Nelson.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:01pm – June Rosploch

**Board Reports:**

**Secretary:** Sheila Welt – The minutes were approved as corrected. 3/0/1

**Treasurer's Report:** Robin Reeves – The report was filed for audit.

**Book Agent:** John Rosploch – Everything is good. There are no new bookings.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Sheila Welt – Membership is holding at 70.

**Newsletter:** Ardie Jarrett – Sorry for errors.

**Hospitality:** Mickie McDonald – Everything is good.

**Web Master:** John Rosploch – Nothing to report.

**Club Holiday Party:** Mickie McDonald – attending count is 64 members and 37 guests.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Assistant Music Directors:** June Rosploch reported that she contacted Jack Convery and he understands that he is still an assistant music director.

**By-Laws:** Sheila Welt – Copies of the proposed By Laws will be available at the business meeting portion of the Holiday Party.

**New Business:**

**Membership Forms:** Sheila Welt – Forms will be available at the business meeting portion of the Holiday Party.

**Annual Club Donations:** June Rosploch

We have donated \$2,250.00 this year, \$750.00 each to:

Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Los Trampas, and We Care Center

It was moved by June Rosploch, Seconded by Sheila Welt that we delete Meals on Wheels as one of our Charities and use that money for Student Scholarships to Sacramento Jazz Camp. 5/0/0

It was moved by June Rosploch, Seconded by Sheila Welt that the club donate 2 banjos to Middle Schools, one banjo each to Pleasant Hill Middle and Randy Viers Middle School. 5/0/0

Moved by June Rosploch and seconded by Sheila Welt to ear-mark 750.00 for Sacramento Jazz Camp with intent of sending a local student to camp and cover some incidentals.

Action: Bill Cooper will check with the Music Teacher at Pleasant Hill Middle School regarding banjo lessons and club participation.

**President Message:** June has business as outgoing president for the general meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 6:59pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Welt, Secretary



**East Bay Banjo Club Annual Business Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 14, 2011  
Round Table Pizza, Pleasant Hill, CA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President – June Rosploch – 7:06PM

**WELCOME AND THANK YOU'S:** June Rosploch welcomed everyone. Thanked Mickie McDonald and her Holiday Party Committee.

**BY LAWS:** June Rosploch - We will be voting by a show of hands for or against the proposed By Laws.

Moved: Bill Dowling Seconded: Mickie McDonald Approved by membership.

June Rosploch called for a motion to approve the updated by laws as presented.

Moved: Bill Dowling Seconded: Mickie McDonald

Yes to approve: 16 members

No to not approve: 9 members

The motion was approved.

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS/GIFT:** June Rosploch

Honorary Membership presented to: Harry Higgins.

Life Memberships presented to: Betty David and Bob Nelson.

Plaques were given to these members.

Gifts for all members: Every member will receive coffee mug in appreciation of their contributions. The Mugs have our Name, Logo, and Website printed on them.

**ELECTION OF 2012 SLATE OF OFFICERS**

**President** - Sheila Welt

**Vice President** – Betty David

**Secretary** – Ardie Jarrett

**Treasurer** – Robin Reeves

**Music Director** – Bill Cooper

Each slated officer was voted upon and unanimously elected by the membership to serve for the 2012 year.

**WRAP-UP** – June Rosploch thanked her 2011 Board Members for their dedication and service.

June Rosploch welcomed the new 2012 Board members.

June Rosploch then turned the meeting over to Sheila Welt 2012 president and passed the gavel to her.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Around 7:30PM (I was busy closing the meeting and didn't note the time).

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Welt, Secretary





**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directs Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 4, 2012  
Round Table Pizza, Pleasant Hill, CA**

**Board Members Present:** Sheila Welt, President; Betty David, Vice President; Ardie Jarrett, Secretary; Robin Reeves, Treasurer; Bill Cooper, Music Director; John Rosploch, Booking Agent; June Rosploch, Past President.

**Appointed Officers Present:** Mickie McDonald, Hospitality; Mary Black, Membership; June Rosploch, Scholarship; John Rosploch, Web Master.

**Those Absent:** Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Kasey Torres, Newsletter.

**Call to Order:** 6:03PM by Sheila Welt, President

**Immediate Action:**

John Rosploch was reaffirmed as booking Agent. 5/0/0. Also, the following appointments were approved: Mickie McDonald, Hospitality; Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Mary Black, Membership; John Rosploch, Web Master. 4/1/0. June Rosploch was appointed Scholarship Officer, a new position. 5/0/0.

**OFFICERS REPORTS:**

**Secretary:** Ardie Jarrett – The December 7th minutes were approved as corrected and the Annual Meeting minutes were approved as read.

**Treasurer:** Robin Reeves presented her report and it will be filed for audit. The proposed budget for 2012 was presented and amended. Motion passed 5/0/0.

**Vice President:** Betty David would like to see us stress to our members to stay for the entire practice and stop leaving at the break.

**Past President:** June Rosploch had no report.

**Booking Agent:** John Rosploch presented his report to the board in writing. Everyone was very impressed.

**Music Director:** Bill Cooper had no report.

**OTHER OFFICERS REPORTS:**

There were no official reports from Hospitality, Librarian, Membership, Newsletter, Scholarship, or Web Master. It was re-clarified that the newsletter deadline would be the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12<sup>th</sup> months.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Bill Cooper is working with the Pleasant Hill Middle School Music Teacher on a Banjo Program for the school, and the donation of one banjo to them.

The EBBC Music Book will not be put on a diet yet.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Summer Event:** We are looking into holding it in the park in Martinez. Bill Cooper has agreed to be the Committee Chair for this event, which will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

**Meals on Wheels:** June Rosploch moved that we send a \$750 donation to 'Meals On Wheels', which was seconded and passed. 5/0/0.

**ADJOURNMENT: 7:04 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Ardie Jarrett, Secretary



*Celebrating Our Birthdays...*



**JANUARY**

Lynn Deutscher	1
Don Granberg	1
Pat Wheaton	1
Patti Patton	10
Gerald Reeves	16
Clyde Dedmon	18
Mary Black	26
Sheila Welt	27

**FEBRUARY**

Betty Purchase	2
Bud Pearce	8
Ken Purchase	10
Georgette DeTorres	16
Guy Black	21
Terry Horner	27

**Don Granberg is passing his legacy to his beautiful grand daughter!**

2012 EBBC Board	
<b>President</b> <a href="mailto:president@eastbaybanjo.org">president@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	<b>Sheila Welt</b>
<b>Vice President</b> 925-938-0126	<b>Betty David</b>
<b>Secretary</b> <a href="mailto:secretary@eastbaybanjo.org">secretary@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	<b>Ardie Jarrett</b>
<b>Treasurer</b> 925-685-0673	<b>Robin Reeves</b>
<b>Music Director</b> <a href="mailto:wcooper2480@comcast.net">wcooper2480@comcast.net</a>	<b>Bill Cooper</b>
<b>Immediate Past President</b> <a href="mailto:pastpresident@eastbaybanjo.org">pastpresident@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	<b>June Rosploch</b>
<b>Booking Agent</b> <a href="mailto:bookingagent@eastbaybanjo.org">bookingagent@eastbaybanjo.org</a> 925-864-3692	<b>John Rosploch</b>

Non-Board Positions	
<b>Assistant Music Directors</b> 925-938-0126 <a href="mailto:entline@mac.com">entline@mac.com</a>	<b>Betty David</b> <b>Jack Convery</b>
<b>Web Master</b> <a href="mailto:webmaster@eastbaybanjo.org">webmaster@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	<b>John Rosploch</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor/Publisher</b> <a href="mailto:editor@eastbaybanjo.org">editor@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	<b>Kasey Torres</b>
<b>Membership</b> <a href="mailto:membership@eastbaybanjo.org">membership@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	<b>Mary Black</b>
<b>Hospitality</b> 925-831-6922	<b>Mickie McDonald</b>
<b>Librarian</b> <a href="mailto:jblankenship@att.net">jblankenship@att.net</a>	<b>Jim Blankenship</b>

Concord, CA 94524

P.O. Box 5414

[WWW.EASTBAYBANJO.ORG](http://WWW.EASTBAYBANJO.ORG)



**EAST BAY BANJO CLUB**



# East Bay Banjo Club

**Meets every Wednesday  
From 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**

At

**Round Table Pizza**

**1938 Oak Park Blvd.**

**Pleasant Hill, CA**