



# EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

## SINCE 1963



March/April 2012

Membership Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 2

### 2012 Play-out Schedule

⇒ **April 28**

Camille Barnes Birthday  
Novato CA

7:00p—8:00p

⇒ **May 17—19**

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

⇒ **June 15**

Stoneman Village  
Pittsburg, CA  
2:00p—3:00p

**East Bay Banjo Club  
Meets:**

**Every Tuesday  
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
Bambino's Pizza  
1895 Farm Bureau Rd.  
Concord, 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](mailto:bookingagent@eastbaybanjo.org)**



### Presidents Message:

I want to thank everyone for a smooth transition to our new home at BAM-BINO'S PIZZA. The management and staff are wonderful to work with and give us great service. Your positive input and suggestions have been greatly appreciated. We have tried several configurations for our seating arrangement, and are getting closer to having it so that our supporters can see us, as well as hear us. The new time slot of 7 to 9pm seems to agree with everyone. Everyone needs to stay and play until 9pm to show our respect to our Music Director/Assistant Directors. Name badges have been ordered for those who wanted them. There are forms for ordering shirts and jackets available from me. We can also order tote bags with our logo. I used my white logo polo shirt at Banjo Rama in Sacramento under my vest with my bow tie

and it looked great. After we performed I just took the vest and bow tie off and had on my logo polo shirt. It was very easy and looked good. The Sacramento Banjo Rama was a wonderful experience. Things were well organized and everyone did their volunteer positions with a smile. The workshops were very informative. I was able to attend four in two days and each one had something to offer me that I hadn't thought of before. I encourage everyone to try and attend at least one of these Banjo Events in the area. The featured entertainers were outstanding as usual. The Banjo Bands just seem to be getting better and better. The East Bay Banjo Club had 18 players. What a nice turn out. **THANK YOU TO ALL THAT SUPPORTED US!** All of our vocalists did a very nice jobs, as did those Banjo players that took the "breaks". I think that we sometimes forget to thank our Music Director, Bill Cooper, Assistant Directors, Betty David and Jack Convery and our Lead Players, Harry Higgins and Larry Risner. It takes all of us to put on a quality show. Our next Board of Directors Meeting will be held at Bambino's on May 1st at 6pm. Everyone is welcome to come and listen. Time is always provided for member input. Whenever you have suggestions, questions or concerns please let me, or one of your Board of Directors know in writing. That way it will be sure to get on the agenda.



Keep Strummin,  
Sheila

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

### *Movin' Movin' Movin' Though They're Disapprovin'*



By Bill Cooper

So we've moved! A lot of people have asked me why we had to find new digs. The short answer is because Round Table wanted us to. The long answer requires some history. We came to the Pleasant Hill location when it was called "Western Pizza" back in (about) 1980. Within a couple of years, Western Pizza was sold and became a Round Table. We started having problems with the Round Table corporate offices in approximately 1988. It turns out that while the restaurants could allow community organizations to meet therein, the franchise agreement has a clause that required that the franchisee have no live music. As it was explained to me by Round Table, this was because they wanted to promote the restaurant as a family friendly place, and live music was not conducive to a family friendly atmosphere. I thought this made no sense, but arguing with them was like arguing with the Queen of Hearts. It felt like I was down the rabbit hole with Alice. Of course we said that we were not really performing, just meeting for practice, not even facing the audience. Further, we are a community service organization, so our meetings were supposed to be allowed. All to no avail. At the last minute, we were saved by Len Shapiro, who was part of a consortium that bought more than half of the Round Table Pizzas. Len liked us and said he would keep the franchise people off our backs. And he did for years. The consortium broke up a few years ago, and Len bowed out. At that point, I was afraid that the franchise police would come back at us. Fortunately, Bob and Kit Nelson knew Kathy, who was a force in the Round Table Corporate offices, and she kept on protecting us. During this time, she set up the percentage sharing agreement which kept some money coming in from people who made purchases at Round Table during our meeting nights. A couple of years ago, Kathy left Round Table, so we were again exposed. And, as you know, a new franchise owner bought all the Round Tables in our area a couple of months ago.

Now the plot thickens. During our entire existence, ASCAP and BMI have been occasional pains in our sides. It turns out that any place where live music is performed, one of these two licensing agencies try to collect a yearly fee, usually relatively small (\$200-\$500) for permission to perform music that they license, which is basically all music. This is one of the reasons that I make sure that I arrange all of our music, so we don't run into these licensing problems for songs that are in the public domain. And, we have to be careful that our music only be available to members, so we are not "publishing". In the past we or the owner/managers of the places we meet have finessed this licensing by arguing at various times that we are a nonprofit corporation, not playing to an audience, and besides we are such small potatoes that we should be overlooked. ASCAP and BMI, having larger fish to fry, always eventually left us alone in the past. Shortly before we were asked to leave Round Table, an ASCAP representative saw our banner at the Round Table. ASCAP approached the newest owner of the Pleasant Hill franchise and demanded \$500 for a yearly fee for playing live music in public. He had no connection to us and had a franchise agreement that said we shouldn't be there in the first place, and so we were swept out to the curb. What galls me is that no one talked to us, and they gave us virtually no notice. We had to leave immediately. For future reference, it is virtually assured that at some point Bambino's will be approached by ASCAP or BMI for the yearly fee they demand. As ASCAP usually covers older music, I suspect that it will be ASCAP. When this happens, we may want to consider assuming that payment ourselves to protect us from any more hassles like this. We can talk about this if and when it comes up in the future. Meanwhile, I am loving Bambino's! It's the fifth place we have met, and the food is the best. They seem to want our business. Again, I want to thank Bob Malucelli for suggesting it.

### The New Home of EBBC!

Bambino's Pizza has proven to be a great place for us. The owner and staff are spectacular and have accommodated us beyond our expectations. The service is exceptional and the food fantastic. We're proud to call it our new home! Thanks to Bob Malucelli for finding our new location!



Owner, Ismael Palacio and servers Teresa & Emily



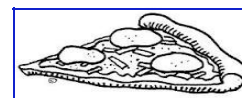
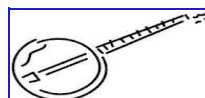
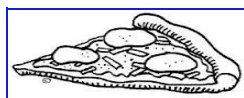
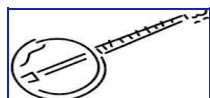
Our First Night



Bob Malucelli receiving his Certificate of Appreciation



Trying out a new configuration



**Welcome to our  
NEW MEMBERS!**



Fred Finn & Cathy Reilly  
*Honorary Members*

Mary Ann Spicer



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.

### Orinda Crab Feed

February 24, 2012

By: Ardie Jarrett

Those attending: Bill Cooper, Betty David, Kermit Collins, Sheila Welt, Ardie Jarrett, Guy Black, Chris Lardge, Kit Nelson, Don Granberg, Tom Brunetti, Bob Malucelli, Terry Horner, Harry Higgins, Danielle Torres. (Red didn't show) Support group included: Bob Nelson, Red Higgins, Kasey and Roque Torres and Jim Abele.

Playing for the Orinda Crab Feed, held at the Orinda Masonic Lodge, is always a very fun gig. The crowd is so receptive and appreciative of our playing for them. We sit up on a stage, which can become crowded, but that doesn't matter. We, too, were having lots of fun. Since this function was so close to Mardi Gras, Bill Cooper chose many appropriate songs. We always love playing 'Bill Bailey', 'Five Foot Two', and 'Bourbon Street', to name a few. Kit Nelson and Bill Cooper were our featured singers for the evening, and Don Granberg and Terry Horner were our featured wash-boarders on Coney Island Washboard. Terry Horner also did a great job, as usual, on his Gut Bucket. One of the Masonic Lodge members even played on his ukulele as a guest with our band.

One of our newest members, Danielle Torres, did a great job singing Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da, as well as playing her banjo beside her Grandfather, Harry Higgins. For our last song, Sheila Welt and Danielle Torres danced through the crowd while we played "When the Saints Go Marching In".



### Sacramento Banjo Rama!

April 13-15

By: Bob Nelson

Sunday's Banjo Rama's theme was **"A Touch of Jazz"** and that's exactly what the East Bay Banjo Club brought to the Red Lion Inn in Sacramento. They didn't bring a touch they brought a full load of Jazz. Music Director Bill Cooper had a great program planned. EBBC's theme was "That's what I like about the South". The first tune was an instrumental, "Is it True What They Say About Dixie" followed by five jazz tunes that were supported by vocalists, starting with Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Jesse De Torres and finishing the show was 8 year old Danielle Torres singing "South".

The East Bay Banjo Club was invited to the first Banjo Rama in 1967 and has been invited each year there after (45 yrs.). East Bay Banjo members on stage were, Tom Brunetti, Guy Black, Jack Convery, Bill Cooper, Betty David, Bill Dowling, Jesse De Torres, Barbara Findlay, Don Granberg, Harry Higgins, Terry Horner, Ardie Jarrett, Chris Lardge, Mickie McDonald, Phil Meyers, Herb Moore, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Tim Perry, Gerry Reeves, Larry Risner, Danielle Torres and President Sheila Welt along with 9 members in the audience for a total of 33 East Bay Banjo members in support of the 2012 Banjo Rama. A special thanks to the great audience who were so generous with their acknowledgement of our musicians, it really means a lot and is appreciated.



# Sacramento Banjo Rama!

April 13-15





## Jazz Sea Cruise

By Bob Malucelli

Last year four club members went on a Jazz Sea Cruise through the Panama Canal. This year Diane and I went on an 11 day Jazz Sea Cruise to the Caribbean. Tom Ligouri and his wife Jeannie from our church joined us for the cruise. Tony is a retired music teacher who plays trumpet and led a group of musical performers. We met Tim Allan, a hall of fame banjo player, who directed the Banjo Aweigh jam sessions. When we came into practice, some of the players asked Diane if the banjo “shrunk”? Diane told them it was a Banjo Ukulele and that seemed to please the group. Tim asked some of the players to sing, play harmonica and one member played a saw with a violin bow. The banjo group played two one-hour shows. Tim played two one-hour concerts, which we all enjoyed. The cruise was a lot of fun and next year it will be their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cruise. If anyone is interested in hearing Dixieland Jazz Bands, check out [jazzsea@aol.com](mailto:jazzsea@aol.com).

## Techniques for Playing in a Group or Band

(Some of my thoughts that might be helpful for musicians)

By Larry Risner

It is most important that every player in a group consider their individual role in the overall "sound" of the group. Not to say that one's role in a song can't change from chorus to chorus. With that in mind the following is a basic guideline for group or band players:

### Melody:

The melody should be played by just one or two players predominately unless a singer is performing then all accompaniment should be either harmony and/or rhythm because multiple sources of melody tend to confuse the overall "voice" of a song - accompaniment melody should not be played unless it re-enforces the vocalist or the melody player in a positive manner. If you play the melody (lead) for one chorus you should play either harmony or rhythm on the chorus' when another player is playing the melody.

### Harmony:

This is an alternative to the melody and rhythm and should not compete with the melody. It is usually chords or notes played in a different end of the octave as the melody notes - it should backup

the melody but not duplicate it. It should also not duplicate the rhythm chords. The objective is to play "around" the melody notes and/or rhythm chords filling in along with the rhythm players. However, care should be taken not to over power the melody or rhythm players.

### Rhythm:

Besides the melody this is the most important part of music. It holds the beat and also provides a foundation for the melody. Rhythm is usually best played up to but not beyond the 10<sup>th</sup> fret on a plectrum banjo. It does best with a "heavier" deep tonal quality. There is no limit to the number of players that can play rhythm at any one time as rhythm duplication is not a problem and adds "strength".

I hope that this is useful and it is, at best, just a guideline.





*Celebrating Our Birthdays...*



**MARCH**

Garry Kerr  
 Dick Neuman 1  
 Dina Melamed 14  
 Jim Blankenship 15

**APRIL**

Bobby Landers  
 Marilyn Spenst 11  
 Kasey Torres 15  
 Jim Abele 18  
 Harry Higgins 28  
 Jack Hurley 29



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:jplankenship@att.net">jplankenship@att.net</a>	<b>Jim Blankenship</b>

# EAST BAY BANJO CLUB SUMMER EVENT



Come join banjo bands and players for an old fashioned picnic and jam session

It's Summer and time for fun in the Park



Date: June 10, 2012

Time: 2 to 6 P.M.

Location: Susana Street Park

Susana St & Estudillo St.

Martinez, CA

Admission: Free

Parking: Free

Bring: Picnic lunch, drinks, chairs, banjo, etc.



Come early to picnic  
No Bam-B-Que pits available  
Alcohol is not allowed in the park



Groups and individuals that would like to perform may sign up at the event.

For the latest information - [www.summerjazzbanjofestival.com](http://www.summerjazzbanjofestival.com)

**EBBC Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 1, 2012**  
**Round Table Pizza, Pleasant Hill, CA**

**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 1, 2012

**Place:** 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 Chairs Present:** Mickie McDonald, Hospitality; June Rosploch, Scholarship; John Rosploch, Web Master.

**Other Guest:** Bob Malucelli

**Call to Order:** 6:08 by Sheila Welt, President

**Immediate Action:** Sheila Welt clarified that only elected board members and booking agent can make motions, second motions, and vote on motions.

**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:**

**Secretary:** Ardie Jarrett distributed written copies of minutes, Bill Cooper moved that the minutes be approved with minor spelling corrections, June Rosploch seconded, motion passed 5/0/0

**Treasurer:** Robin Reeves reported. The report was filed for audit.

**Vice President:** Betty David, no report

**Past President:** June Rosploch, no report

**Booking Agent:** John Rosploch reported that we had 22 paid gigs for the year, 3 cancelled gigs, 1 donated gig, and 3 banjo events, sold 8 CD's and 15 DVD's. All money was submitted to the treasurer as of Dec. 21, 2011.

**Music Director:** Bill Cooper reported that we need more people to sign up for AZ, Emil Patton is forming a Dixie Land Band at the Pleasant Hill Middle School, we have sold 2 plectrum banjos but still have 2 tenor banjos and 2 plectrum banjos left in inventor.

**Other Appointed Chair Reports:** No reports from Librarian, Membership, Newsletter, or Web Master. June Rosploch reported that plans are still in the thinking stage for Scholarships, and Mickie McDonald says all is well with Hospitality.

**Summer Event:** Bill Cooper reported a tentative date of June 10, at a park in Martinez that has a band stand. It will cost \$150 to rent the park and \$2/chair. It will have to be an afternoon affair as the park doesn't have lighting. Food and beverages will have to be catered. We will need to design a flyer for advertising and invite other bands to participate. Bob Malucelli reminded the board that the past board had agreed that the focus would be an Old Fashion Picnic theme with no frills. The intent was to have no food or drinks, no paid performers, and no admission charge.

**Outside Event:** We will need 10 or more participants for Sacramento Banjo Rama and at least 5 or more for AZ, which is May 16-19.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Donations:** Sheila Welt reported that a check was sent to Meals on Wheels and Bill Cooper reported a tenor banjo was donated to Pleasant Hill Middle School and a plectrum banjo to Randy.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Members staying until 9:30:** It was suggested that the President remind the members to stay until 9:30 or we might consider starting earlier and taking a shorter break. We need to discuss options with the members and this issue will be discussed further at our next board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Ardie Jarrett, Secretary



**EBBC Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 6, 2012**  
**Sheila Welt's Home, Concord, CA**

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

**Appointed Chairs Present:** John Rosploch, Web Master; June Rosploch, Scholarship

**Other Guest:** Terry Horner

**Call to Order:** 7:02 by Sheila Welt, President

**Immediate Action:** We had a discussion about our new home at Bambino's on Farm Bureau Road in Concord. Seating shouldn't be a problem and hopefully there will be adequate parking. The Menu has many offerings plus beer, wine, and other beverages.

**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:**

**Secretary:** June Rosploch made several additions, then moved that the minutes be approved as corrected. Betty David seconded, and motion passed 5/0/0

**Treasurer:** Robin Reeves reported. The report was filed for audit.

**Correspondence:** Sheila Welt shared a letter from Dominic Borchers saying he would no longer be attending since he would be going away to college.

**Vice President:** Betty David reported that the new members are doing good with their banjo lessons.

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

**Booking Agent:** John Rosploch is working on a play-out for a 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday party in Novato.

**Music Director:** No report due to absent

**Scholarship:** June Rosploch reported that the Youth Music Camp would be Aug. 6-12 and the Adult Camp would July 29-Aug. 3. It was agreed that June would put together a fact sheet on the camps to hand out to our membership.

**Web Master:** John Rosploch, no report.

**COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Summer Event:** The event was discussed and it is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>. It was decided to go ahead with the event but it should be kept simple, no outside catering, chairs, etc. We want this to be a fun event.

**Other topics discussed:** Want to encourage members to stay for the entire evening. We will play for 45 minutes, take a 30 minute break, and then play the last 45 minute session.

**Name Badges:** Jim Blankenship will order name badges for members that want them. Members pay for their own badge.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Current Email Addresses:** Need to check with members to make sure their email addresses are correct.

**Weekly Practice:** Members are requesting that we spend more time working on technique and do it at a slower pace. Sound equipment needs to be turned down in volume. Need a song list for Sacramento and Arizona.

**Children's Vest and Shirts:** President requested that club pay for the polo shirts and gold vest since the children grow so fast. We can then pass them on to new youngsters as they join the club.

**Phone Tree:** We might need to create a phone tree which could be used to get information to our members faster than by email.

**Honorary Membership:** A motion was made, seconded and passed that we award honorary memberships to Fred "Mickey" Finn and Cathy Reilly as a thank you for all that they did for us last year.

**Meeting was Adjourned at 8:30pm**

**Respectfully Submitted:** Ardie Jarrett, Secretary



Concord, CA 94524

P.O. Box 5414



# East Bay Banjo Club

Meets every Tuesday

From 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

At

**Bambino's Pizza**

1895 Farm Bureau Road.

Concord, CA