



# EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

SINCE 1963



May/June 2012

Membership Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 3

## 2012 Play-out Schedule

### ⇒ July 1

Clayton Valley Presbyterian  
Concord CA

10:30am—12:00pm

### ⇒ July 4

Orinda Parade

10:00am-11:00am

### ⇒ August 25

EBBC Picnic

Landers Landing

10:00am—Open



**East Bay Banjo  
Club Meets:  
Every Tuesday  
7:00 pm- 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)**



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## Presidents Message:

It hardly seems possible that half of my term as your President has passed. It has been a great experience and I have learned a lot and expect to learn even more. The Board has been helpful and easy to work with and I look forward to the next six month. Everyone has been doing a good job of playing more softly when we have vocalists. I know that the vocalists appreciate our efforts. It seems that more people have been leaving at the break. Please plan your evening so that you are able to stay until 9:00pm. We all understand our children need to leave at 8:00pm. Play Outs have been well attended and everyone has shown a lot of energy and smiled a lot. We really do make a good looking group! Thank you everyone for follow-



ing the dress code for events. Our Summer Picnic was very RELAXING and GREAT FUN!! We had a nice audience and a few participants from other bands, we all played together. It was nice to have time to chat with other EBBC members and their guests. We don't often get to do that. We have learned a lot with this 1<sup>st</sup> summer picnic that can help us with next summer's. Thank you everyone who attended, played and enjoyed a beautiful summer afternoon. One of the neighbors had part of her birthday celebration with us. She thought it was very nice of us to have our picnic on her birthday. Our next BIG event is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. We need to be at the staging area by 8:30am – come get your coffee and donut. Then we start preparing our flatbed for the parade. There will be goodies with our name and web address on them to pass out. Please be sure to wear your patriotic hats. Our uniform of the day is the Blue Polo. This is a fun event. Remember to keep practicing your parade music – Bill wants us to be able to play the songs without the use of music. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be at BAMBINO'S on July 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm sharp. Everyone is invited to attend and participate during the FROM THE FLOOR PORTION of the meeting. Please feel free to contact me or any other Board Member with questions and concerns.

Keep Strummin,

Sheila

**Welcome to our  
NEW MEMBERS!**



Karen Hefter



Edith Sandberg



**East Bay Banjo Club  
2012 Membership Form**

**Dues are \$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.**

## Camille Barne's Birthday Party

April 28, 2012

By: June Rosploch

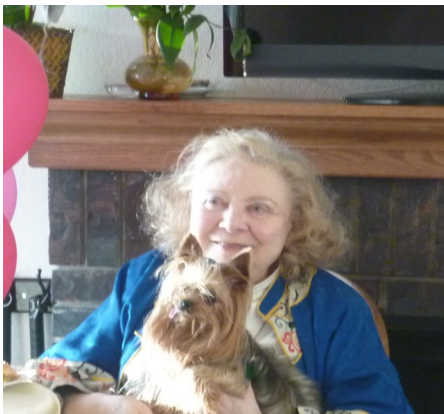
**QUESTION:** How many banjo players and equipment can you get in a phone booth?

Well, let me set the scene for you: It was a beautiful sunny spring day in April, early evening, gentle breeze, water-front backyard, in a 12'x14' sunken living room. The occasion was a special birthday celebration for Camille Barnes. Ms. Barnes contributed to the movie industry as a well-known publicist.

The living room was to serve as the area we would be set up in to perform, along with seating for the party participants. As I said, the room was 12'x14'. Shortly after our arrival, the coffee table was removed, coaches moved against opposite walls in anticipation of the guest of honor and dear friends. We also rearranged the remaining seven chairs, music stands, six banjos, one bass and stool for our lead player, all the sound equipment including speakers, not to mention the piano and other end tables. Later, guests would also fill the foyer, second floor balcony and the stairwell. I think you're getting my point: this was a private residence not a big banquet room and it promised to be a cozy event.

We were welcomed not only as the entertainment for the evening, but we quickly became part of the party itself along with family members, close friends and Rebel & Mouse (special 4 legged friends) in all the evening birthday party festivities. Party festivities started with appetizers, followed by the breaking of a piñata and visiting on the backyard patio, and barbequed hot dogs and hamburgers with a complete spread in the dining room. After dinner, the highlight of the evening's entertainment was a dance number led by the hostesses, LynAnn King and Diane Vetterlein. Bill Cooper led our portion of the entertainment while the guests danced and sang along to some familiar tunes. Others manned in true EBBC style were Betty David on bass, Sheila Welt, John Rosploch, Mickie McDonald, Tom Brunetti, Don Granberg, and I, June Rosploch on banjos.

**ANSWER:** 8 EBBC Members



## Black Diamond Mine

May 12, 2012

By: Ardie Jarrett

East Bay Banjo Club players, along with a four-member support staff, helped make the dedication of the new Greathouse Visitor Center Portal and the official re-opening of the Visitor Center at the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve a successful event. The Greathouse Visitor Center is located in an underground sand mine excavated in the 1920's. Due to storm damage to the portal in 2007, the Visitor Center became inaccessible and was closed. Today the portal is finished and offers an impressive entrance to this famous underground Visitor Center. The Greathouse Visitor Center features new exhibits that interpret the sand mine and coal mining history of the area.

Members present were: Bill Cooper, Betty David, Guy Black, June Rosploch, Herb Moore, Don Granberg, Mickie McDonald, Jim Blankenship, Phil and Linda Meyers, Pat Warnick and Ardie Jarrett. The support staff included: Mary Black, Chris Allen and Delores Moore. Actually we were pleased to have John Rosploch substitute for June and played with the band.



### Arizona Banjo Blast!

May 17-19, 2012

By: Sheila Welt

The Arizona Banjo Blast was a great experience! EBBC played on Saturday at 2:00pm. Those in attendance were Bill Cooper, Don Granberg, Sue Horn, Dick Neuman and Sly on the tuba. Sly was a wonderful tuba player and was in high demand. We were thrilled to have him play with us! There were plenty of wonderful workshops too. I participated in the Orphan Band workshop and thoroughly enjoyed it. I learned some great new techniques. Comments were made about how beautiful the accommodations were, however it was the hosts that always had a big smile and welcoming attitude that made this event so enjoyable. Thank you Arizona Banjo Blast organizers for your efforts!



## Montecito Assisted Living Memorial Day

May 28, 2012

By: Chris Lardge

This year's Memorial Day payout took place at Montecito Assisted Living in Concord. The performance was held outside in a sunny corner of the courtyard and our players were challenged by gusts of wind that seemed determined to blow our music away. Apart from that, it was a good payout. Under Bill Cooper's musical leadership we performed songs from our America's Heritage playlist which included "Take me out to the Ball Game", "America the Beautiful", "Battle Hymn of the Republic", "Dixie" and the George M Cohan trilogy. Then we did a number of WWI songs including "How Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm" and "Roses of Picardy". Following that, we played all the branches of the military service marches. EBBC members who attended were Bill Cooper, Guy Black, Tom Brunetti, Betty David, Clyde Dedmon, Don Granberg, Ardie Jarrett, Chris Lardge, Mickie McDonald, Bob Malucelli, Dianne Malucelli, Dina Melamed, Kit Nelson, Bob Nelson and Bud Pearce.

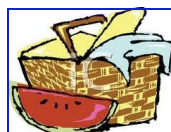
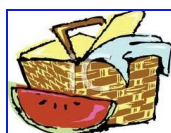


### 4th Annual Summer Jazz Banjo Festival

June 10, 2012

By: June Rosploch

What a great day for an old fashioned picnic at Susana Street Park in Martinez. At first glance, Susana Street Park seems somehow misplaced: A small, shaded park, with several benches, lighted walkways, a stage at the far end, surrounded by apartments and homes. To really appreciate this park you have to look back at its history. Before it was a park, it was the site of the 1859 Masonic Hall. When the Masons built a new hall, the City purchased the land and turned it into a park naming it after Don Ignacio Nicanor Martinez's twin daughter, Susana. (The town of Martinez, part of which included the Rancho el Pinole owned by Don Martinez, was named after Don.) With the park's large grass area and mature trees it was an ideal location to set up lawn chairs, blankets, and coolers in anticipation of the free 4+ hours of banjo jamming. All were welcome to join in. Two familiar faces that came out and braved the heat were Larry and Donna Caputo from the Peninsula Banjo Band. This relaxing fun filled day was lead by Bill Cooper the chairman of the event and East Bay Banjo Club Music Director. As the day progressed the 75 rented chairs were soon filled with club members, their families and friends and those from the neighborhood that came out and become part of the festival. Jennifer (I may have this name wrong) who lives directly across the street from the park, thanked us for helping celebrate her birthday. Yes, to her delight we did sing Happy Birthday to her. What a great idea, sharing our love for banjo music with the community. I hope you will plan to joins us next year! Those members that signed up as participants were: Sheila Welt, Bob Malucelli, Guy Black, Mary Black, John Rosploch, June Rosploch, Ardie Jarrett, Betty David, Herb Moore, Jim Blankenship, Angie Blankenship, Chris Lardge, Kit Nelson, Bob Nelson, Don Granberg, Bill Dowling, Dorothy Cahill, Dina Melamed and Clyde Dedmon.



## Banjo Myths and Warnings From the Arizona Banjo Blast

### *All the Important Info on How to Fit In at a Banjo Show*

*Submitted by Bill Cooper*

*Article reprinted from the AZ Banjo Blast webpage*

#### Tuning your banjo

Musicians make a very big deal about "getting in tune." Fortunately, you're a banjo player, and therefore need not be so hung up. There are three basic ways to tune a banjo:

1. With a tuning fork: Tap the fork on a hard surface. Listen to the clear bell-like tone. Make sure none of your strings duplicate this tone.
2. With an electric tuner: Tap the tuner on a hard surface. Continue as with method (1).
3. With a fiddle: Tap the fiddle on a hard surface. Continue as above.

#### Playing with Musicians

Playing with musicians is always scary for the beginning banjo player. You should not be intimidated, though, because musicians like to have a banjo player or two around. Even the most mediocre group of musicians will sound great by contrast when a banjo player is added. So get in there and start jamming!

Three Myths Dispelled:

Myth #1: It takes hard work and talent to play the banjo.

Fact: The only talent most banjo players have is a talent for avoiding hard work.

Myth #2: You can make good money playing the banjo.

Fact: People will frequently pay you much better money to stop.

Myth #3: Your banjo will make you friends wherever you go.

Fact: This is only true if you never go anywhere.

#### Basic rules for Jam sessions

1. Everyone should play the same piece.
2. Observe the repeat signs only if what you just played was interesting.
3. If you play a wrong note, glare at one of the other players.
4. The right note, at the wrong time, is a wrong note. (And vice versa.)
5. A wrong note, played timidly, is a wrong note.
6. A wrong note, played with authority, is simply your interpretation of the phrase.
7. If everyone gets lost except you, follow the ones who are lost.
8. Strive always to play the maximum notes per second. This will intimidate the weaker players and gain you the admiration of the ignorant.
9. Markings for slurs, dynamics, and accidentals should be completely ignored. They are only there to make the score look more complicated.
10. If a passage is difficult, slow down. If it is easy, speed up. Everything will even itself out in the end.
11. You have achieved a true interpretation when, in the end, you have not played one note of the original piece.
12. When everyone else stops playing, you should stop also. Do not play any notes you may have left over.





*Celebrating Our Birthdays...*

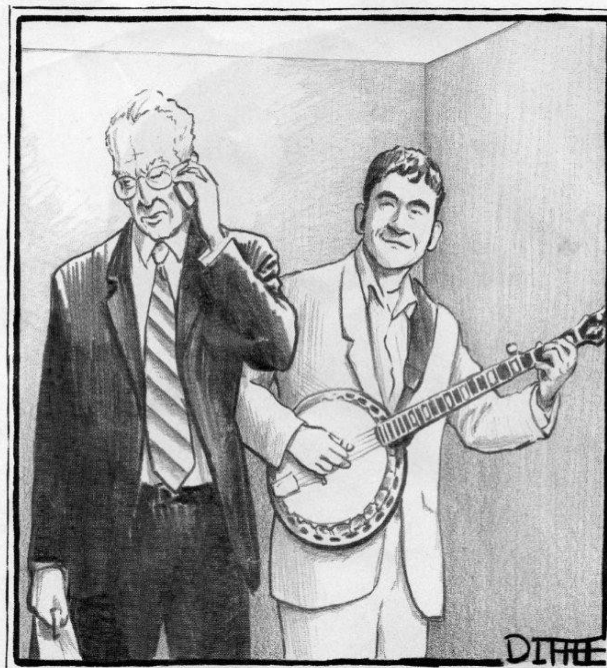


**MAY**

Larry Risner 9  
 June Rosploch 24  
 Betty David 27

**JUNE**

Robin Reeves 3  
 Linda Meyers 17



*"I'm trapped in an elevator—wait, it gets worse."*

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 Director</b> 925-938-0126	<b>Betty David</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>
<b>Telephone Tree</b> <a href="mailto:dorothy_cahill@comcast.net">dorothy_cahill@comcast.net</a>	<b>Dorothy Cahill</b>

**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****Date:** Tuesday, April 3, 2012**Place:** Bambino's Restaurant, Farm Bureau Rd. in Concord, CA**Board Members Present:** Betty David, Vice President; Ardie Jarrett, Secretary; June Rosploch, Past President; John Rosploch, Booking Agent; Bill Cooper, Music Director.**Absent:** Sheila Welt, President; Robin Reeves arrived late.**Appointed Chairs Present:** Mickie McDonald, Hospitality; June Rosploch, Scholarship; John Rosploch, Web Master.**Those Absent:** Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Mary Black, Membership; Kasey Torres, Newsletter**Call to Order:** 6:00 by Betty David, Vice President.**Immediate Action:** Nothing was brought to the board's attention.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Secretary:** June Rosploch moved that the minutes be accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Rosploch, and the motion passed 3/0/1**Treasurer:** Robin Reeves, no report. Robin arrived after the board meeting & provided the secretary with her report. The report was filed for audit. No action was taken on this report.**Correspondence:** There was nothing to be read.**Vice President:** Betty David, no report**Past President:** June Rosploch, no report**Booking Agent:** John Rosploch, no report**Music Director:** Bill Cooper, mention that we need to purchase a microphone stand. Bill was advised to purchase the stand & turn in a receipt for reimbursement.**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Mickie McDonald said everything was fine in her area.**Scholarship:** June Rosploch reported that since we didn't have any takers for the two \$375 scholarships, a \$750 donation will be sent to the Sacramento Youth Jazz Camp as previously voted.**Web Master:** John Rosploch agreed to talk to members who aren't using their right email addresses.**Summer Event:** It was decided to go ahead with the summer event, have a picnic and keep it simple. Every one can bring their own chairs, food, and drink. We will use the internet and limited flyers to advertise. The date is Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. If other bands want to play, they will be given a slot. Bill Cooper will rent the park.**NEW BUSINESS:****Seating Arrangement:** There seems to be a concern about the seating arrangement & not being able to see all the players. John Rosploch presented a new seating plan that we agreed to try.**OTHER BUSINESS:**

There wasn't any other business presented.

**ACTION LIST:**

Bill Cooper will take care of what is needed to secure the park. The Club will be responsible for the necessary insurance on the park. Sheila Welt, John &amp; June Rosploch will work on Publicity.

**Meeting was adjourned at 6:33.****Respectfully Submitted:** Ardie Jarrett, Secretary

**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****Date:** Tuesday, May 1, 2012**Place:** Bambino's Restaurant, Farm Bureau Rd. in Concord, CA**Board Members Present:** Sheila Welt, President; Betty David, Vice President; Ardie Jarrett, Secretary; Robin Reeves, Treasurer; June Rosploch, Past President; Bill Cooper, Music Director; John Rosploch, Booking Agent.**Appointed Chairs Present:** Mickie McDonald, Hospitality; June Rosploch, Scholarship; John Rosploch, Web Master; Mary Black, Membership.**Those Absent:** Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Kasey Torres, Newsletter Editor**Call to Order:** 6:00 p.m. by Sheila Welt, President.**Immediate Action:** Sheila Welt handed out a list of revised EBBC Board of Director Meeting dates, along with dates for summer picnic and Annual Meeting/Holiday Party.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Secretary:** Minutes were correct as to number of microphone stands needed. June Rosploch moved we accept the corrected minutes, Bill Cooper 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the motion passed 5/0/0.**Treasurer:** Robin Reeves gave her report which will be filed for audit.**Correspondence:** Letter written by June Rosploch and sent to Bill Dendle, Camp director of Sacramento Traditional Jazz Camp was read, along with the Camp Director's thank you for our donation.**Vice President:** Betty David, no report.**Past President:** June Rosploch, no report.**Booking Agent:** John Rosploch reported that gigs are beginning to come in.**Music Director:** Bill Cooper reported that we need to purchase 1 or 2 microphone cords and was advised to go ahead with their purchase. He will submit his receipt for reimbursement.**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Mickie McDonald reported that we have 3 birthdays this month.**Membership:** Mary Black reported a new member, MaryAnn Spicer.**Scholarship:** June Rosploch showed a music book put together by Bob Malucelli for our banjo youngsters who might want to also learn to play the Ukulele.**Web Master:** John Rosploch had no report.**Summer Event:** Bill Cooper reported on costs for the event: \$110 to rent the park, approx. \$350 for insurance, and \$1.10/chair for 75 chairs. Bill was appointed to be the clubs representative.**NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS.****NEW BUSINESS:****Telephone Tree Committee Chair:** Bill Cooper moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by June Rosploch, that Dorothy Cahill be appointed to this position. Motion passed 5/0/0.**Annual Meeting/Holiday Party:** After a brief discussion, it was decided to have the meeting/part at Bambino's on Dec. 11, 2012. Sheila would discuss it with Bambino's as to what would be offered and at what cost. \$1500 has been budgeted. The member's meals will be paid for by the club but not their drinks. Sheila Welt is working on a Membership Participation Award Concept.**FROM THE FLOOR:**

Mickie McDonald asked about penalty for unreturned chairs at the Picnic in the Park. Bill Cooper volunteered to check on this.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**Betty David will be covering for the Sheila Welt, President, as Sheila will be absent May 15<sup>th</sup> & 22.

Bill Cooper will re-do his several Play-out list of songs and get them published for the membership

**Meeting was adjourned by 6:58 by Sheila Welt.****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