



# EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

SINCE 1963



July/August 2012

Membership Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 4

2012 Play-out Schedule

- ⇒ **August 25**  
EBBC Picnic  
Landers Landing  
10:00am- Open
- ⇒ **August 28**  
St. Agnes Church  
Concord, CA  
11:50am-12:50pm
- ⇒ **September 9**  
40th Peninsula Banjo Jubilee  
San Jose Airport Garden Hotel  
TBA
- ⇒ **September 27**  
Bingo Banjo  
Brentwood, CA  
5:00pm-8:00pm
- ⇒ **October 11**  
Birthday Party  
Walnut Creek, CA  
2:50pm-5:50pm
- ⇒ **November 17**  
Czech/Slovak Christmas Party  
Orinda Community Center  
11:50am-12:50pm
- ⇒ **December 11**  
EBBC Christmas Party  
Bambino's Pizza  
TBA

**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)  
 or  
 Call 925-864-3692

## Presidents Message:

Not being able to play my banjo has been frustrating, however, the “upside” is that I have been able to watch and listen to the entire group during practices. What a good looking group we are. Our musicianship is improving, as evidenced by our playing with less “beating on our Banjo’s”. Everyone seems to be enjoying the directed practice sessions that Bill Cooper has been instituting on the music to be played at our Gigs. A big THANK YOU to those of you who have provided ideas for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, next year. Your help assures us that your needs and desires for participation are being met. We have been given some very interesting sug-



gestions. Contact June Rosploch with your suggestions. Our Annual Picnic at Lander’s Landing is to be held on August 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10am and continuing until...? Please sign-up if you are planning on attending. If you can’t make the next meeting to sign up please call John Rosploch. You will be asked to bring a food contribution according to an alphabetical list that our Hostess has made up. You will also need to bring your own beverage in an ice chest. The sausages and corn on the cob will be provided by the EBBC. Boat rides on the Delta will be provided. This is a wonderful, relaxing, fun filled day. Don’t forget to wear hats, sun screen, and comfy clothing. You can also take a dip in the Delta, if you choose. Bring reading material if you would like, however conversation with other band members is GREAT (we don’t get enough time to talk with others at practices). Spouses, children and grandchildren are invited and encouraged to attend (be sure to let John Rosploch know how many you will be bringing). We need to have an exact count so that enough food can be provided. We will also be playing Banjo in the afternoon, so don’t forget your instruments! Looking forward to seeing everyone at Tuesday practices and at the Picnic on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>.

Keep Strummin’,

Sheila

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



By Bill Cooper

Recently I arranged and passed out three new tunes, all of them Beatles songs: *And I Love Her*, *Octopus's Garden*, and *Eight Days a Week*. I am thankful that these have been well received. But it got me thinking about the criteria I use to pick songs for us. So, in a rough order, here are the things I look for in a tune for the EBBC.

1) Can we "sell" the tune? In other words, will the song sound good in a performance. I am always thinking of the effect a tune will have on our audience. For example, *Oakland We're For You* always gets a lot of attention when we play it in Oakland. Actually, it gets attention all over the Bay Area, especially among people who remember when it came out in 1963 because it got a lot of air time then. Also, it's a happy, funny little song. This makes it entertaining. So are *Coney Island Washboard* and *My Little Bimbo*, for the same reasons. Along the same reasoning, occasionally I hear a tune that I think would sound fabulous sung or played by one particular person in our club. I added the verse to *Til We Meet Again* with Tim in mind, and *Mississippi Sandman* and *Sweet Man* for Kit.

2) Does the song sound good on the banjo? There are some people who believe that virtually every song can be played on the banjo. While there is some truth to that, in my opinion it is hugely dependent on whom the banjo player is. Johnny Baier, Buddy Wachter, and Dave Marty among others can play anything, from *Mahler's Eighth* down to *Happy Birthday* and make it sound fabulous. With our healthy pool of rhythm players, we have to have a strong beat. Also, we can't rely too much on clever chords and soaring banjo pyrotechnics. As an example of a song I don't think works well, think of *Somewhere My Love*. It's a pretty tune, but not one I enjoy listening to us play. An example of a tune that is unusual but that I think works well on the banjo is *World Without Love*.

3) It is Jazz? Fredrick Hodges, the pianist/vocalist with the Royal Society Jazz Band, has put forth the proposition that without the syncopations and rhythms of the banjo, jazz as we know it would not have been possible. Not every song we do has to be jazz, but almost all of our tunes are in a jazz idiom or with a jazzy feel. I am excited whenever I hear a jazz tune on the banjo. This includes more modern tunes than the traditional stuff we normally play. Anyone who has heard Jack Convery play *Black Orpheus*, the recordings of Tyler Jackson, or the Caribbean-flavored songs of Arno Hagensnaars would have to agree that jazz belongs on the 4-string banjo. Occasionally I will hear a tune done by a jazz artist that is not normally thought of as jazz, and I start to thinking about it for us. This happened with *I'm Walkin'*. Personally, I am looking for an Afro-Cuban jazz band that would allow me to try sitting in and taking the part that is normally played by a Tres, which is a sort of mandolin-shaped 4 string guitar.

4) Is it from the 1910's '20's, or '30's? Not every song from this period is right for the banjo. Some are rarely played for very good reasons. But this was the banjo's golden era and some weight has to be given to the historical context of the song.

5) Has someone in the banjo club asked me to arrange it? A tune that has an at least one person who likes and may pick it on Tuesdays has to be given consideration. Please understand that I get a lot of requests for tunes and can't include them all, but I always consider what you say. And, I can really only arrange one tune at a time. Adding tunes to our repertoire has to be carefully thought out because our capacity to absorb new tunes is a bit limited, as is the size of our book.

6) Finally, is it a tune I like? I know this sounds subjective, but I have to have an interest in playing it. After all, I have to play it every time we pick it. And, it takes hours to find the tune (I am grateful to Mickie for all the sheet music she has found for me), determine if it's playable, arrange it, and proof it. Then I have to learn it so I can lead it. I live with a tune for a long time before I bring it to the club. It needs to be one I *can* live with.

Of course, this doesn't apply to tunes that we already have in the book, like *Somewhere My Love*. As I say, I love all my children equally, even the little ugly ones that don't quite fit in. Perhaps, someday, they will turn into beautiful swans.

**Welcome to our  
NEW MEMBERS!**



Simone Morrow



**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.

### Stoneman Village

June 15, 2012

Reported by: Kit Nelson—View from the Back of the Patio

It was June 15<sup>th</sup>, and our club played for the seniors at Stoneman Village in Pittsburg. It was a yearly gig and their ice cream social, which we all looked forward to (the ice cream of course). Last year, I recall they ran out of ice cream before the gig ended, but this year they did not and we were rewarded. The seniors came walking outside to enjoy the music on the patio area. We all noticed they were wearing red, white and blue and some were carrying flags. The tables were decorated the same. June 14<sup>th</sup> was Flag Day and the people were still celebrating. How wonderful and patriotic it was! Immediately we all knew what was coming, and our leader, Bill Cooper, went into action . . . patriotic music - it was the order of the day. *Yankee Doodle*, *Grand Old Flag* and *God Bless America*. It turned out to be a wonderful hour of patriotic music with sing-a-longs from the crowd and having fun. Oh, did I mention how HOT it was? Actually, everyone was having so much fun, it really didn't matter. And next year . . . we'll go again!



## Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church

July 1, 2012

Reported by: June Rosploch

This is the first time I recall the club actually being an active part of a church service. My compliments go to Bill Cooper, EBBC Music Director and Reverend Gail Doering for developing an interesting program. The selection of music the club played was, *Just a Little While to Stay Here*, *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*, *Oseh Shalom*, *His Eye is on the Sparrow*, *When the Saints Go Marching In*, *This Land is Your Land*, and *God Bless America*. Did you know the Hebrew Adaptation of Oseh Shalom we have in the club music book was provided by former member, Rabbi Rick Winer in 1999. It is a Hebrew prayer for peace and the version in the book has been slightly adopted to be more universal. The word "Shalom" means not only "Peace" it also is used to say "Hello" and "Goodbye." After the worship, everyone was invited to enjoy an old-fashioned ice cream social in the Fellowship Hall and listen to more familiar banjo music. Thank you to all those that made this a special day for the congregations and I appreciate the variety of play-outs our Booking Agent, John Rosploch continues to line up for us. Members that signed up and attended were; Phil & Linda Meyers, Jim Abele, Bob Malucelli, Don Granberg, Mickie McDonald, Bill Cooper, Sheila Welt, John & June Rosploch, Betty David, and Terry Horner (last minute stand-in for Guy Black).



## July 4th Orinda Parade

Reported by: Sheila Welt

July 4th dawned crisp and bright. What a GREAT day for a Parade. We began gathering at 8:00am in the Orinda Bart parking lot. We had time to converse and consume WONDERFUL donuts, provided by the club and brought to us by Vice President, Betty David. Around 9:00am, being fortified with our breakfast, the decorations of the flatbed truck began. Those present for the decorating were: Bob and Diane Malucelli, Linda and Philip Meyers, Bill Cooper and Sue Horne, Brian Green, Mickie McDonald, Herb Moore, Betty David, Guy Black, Bud Pierce, Sheila Welt, Dina Melamed and Clyde Dedmon. Our Sponsor, Mary was in attendance to lend her support and rode on the truck with us. Her patriotic sequined vest was outstanding!! Bobbie Landers and Marilee were also there providing us with their support. We played for an hour on the parade route and were well received. The weather held out for us and was not too hot and there was a beautiful breeze. For those of you who have not had a chance to participate in this event, mark your calendars for next year. It is well worth your time and a lot of FUN!



## Aegis of Pleasant Hill

July 26, 2012

Reported by: Terry Horner  
Pictures by: Bob Malucelli

On Thursday, July 26th, the EBBC entertained the folks at Aegis of Pleasant Hill senior living residence. On a cool July evening we played from the courtyard to residents in their overlooking rooms as well as seated in the patio. Bill Cooper brought our gear and set up with help from Bob Nelson, John Rosploch, and Jim Abele. Bill then led a rousing 90 minute set of songs with women's names in the title. As he was introducing "Oh Suzanna" he pointed out that our regular bass player, Guy Black, was having surgery that very day to have a banjo removed from his knee. Fellow strummers included Bob Malucelli, June Rosploch, Chris Lardge, Kit Nelson, Betty David, Mickie McDonald, Tom Brunetti, Don Granberg, Bud Pearce, and Terry Horner. All three of my requirements for a great gig were met: they paid us, they liked the music, and they fed us. Perfect.



## Banjo Cruise to Hawaii

May 17-19, 2012

Excerpt Taken from: BanjoJazz

Jack Convery's BanjoJazz made their 1st BANJO CRUISE TO HAWAII! Many members from EBBC were in attendance. It was fun, relaxing, enjoyable, and went from San Francisco to Hawaii. This was their first trip on Princess, and their first cruise with 20 banjo and uke friends. Embarking the ship was quick & painless because they arrived early, at about 11:00am and checked-in right away. They boarded at Pier 35. The service was excellent. Princess employees have been uniformly excellent and friendly with very few exceptions. In regards to music, each morning was a first class breakfast in bed. Then they went topside and jammed with the Cruzin' Uke's before they went to lunch. They held an afternoon banjo jam session, which entertained a captive audience of passengers and it was great fun. They enjoyed a first-class dinner and had a choice between casino, a *LiVE* nightly show, or *Movies under Stars*. They ended up doing their own show for the passengers in the *Wheelhouse* Showroom near the end of the voyage that was standing room only. They started the trip off with 20 musicians & ended up with two more who joined & learned on board, after having purchased a banjo uke on the Island of Maui. A big ALHOA to Jack, for a great time!



## Doreen's New Orleans Jazz Band

By: Don Granberg

What do some EBBC members do in their spare time? They play and sing with Street People at Powell and Market Street in San Francisco. One and half years ago I spent a few days in New Orleans and listened for two hours to a street band playing and singing our kind of music. Kit Nelson happened to see a picture I took and told me that she and her husband Bob knew the group from 20 years ago. They were called Doreen's New Orleans Jazz Band and they had been keeping in touch with them. In the beginning of August Kit told me that the group was going to be in San Francisco and asked me to join them. I brought my washboard, Kit brought her voice and Bob drove us. I played a solo and Kit sang a few songs. A young 9 year old girl named Dorian played with us and played like a grown up. We made lots of money and had even more fun. It was a wonderful afternoon.





*Celebrating Our Birthdays...*



**July**

Brian Green 21  
 Rex Bell 26  
 Darlene Harris 31

**August**

Angelina Blankenship 5  
 Mary Ann Spicer 7  
 Marilyn Young 17  
 Bill Cooper 26  
 Mickie McDonald 28

**Easiest- Ever**  
**Peanut Butter Cookies**

Submitted by: June Rosploch

Larry Risners wife Dee shared some awesome peanut butter cookies with the crowd on Sunday, June 10th at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Jazz Banjo Festival. An interesting fact is the cookies have no flour. The cookies are not too soft, not too sweet, are yummy peanut butter buttons that may be the simplest cookies you've ever made.

Makes 5 dozen

Ingredients:  
 1 cup chunky or creamy peanut butter  
 ¾ cup packed light brown sugar  
 1 large egg  
 ¾ tsp baking soda

Heat oven to 350 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Using an electric mixer beat all ingredients in a large bowl until fully incorporated. Drop level teaspoons of dough onto the prepared baking sheets, spacing them 1 ½ inches apart. Bake until the cookies are puffed and starting to lightly brown around the edges, 8 to 10 minutes. Let cool on the sheets for 5 minutes, and then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Per Cookie: 33 CAL, 2 G FAT (0 G SAT FAT), 3 MG CHOL, 35 MG SOD, 1 G PRO, 3 G CAR, 0 G FIBER

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

Non-Board Positions	
<b>Assistant Music Director</b> 925-938-0126	Betty David
<b>Web Master</b> <a href="mailto:webmaster@eastbaybanjo.org">webmaster@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	John Rosploch
<b>Newsletter Editor/Publisher</b> <a href="mailto:editor@eastbaybanjo.org">editor@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	Kasey Torres
<b>Membership</b> <a href="mailto:membership@eastbaybanjo.org">membership@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	Mary Black
<b>Hospitality</b> 925-831-6922	Mickie McDonald
<b>Telephone Tree</b> <a href="mailto:dorothy_cahill@comcast.net">dorothy_cahill@comcast.net</a>	Dorothy Cahill
<b>Scholarship</b> <a href="mailto:pastpresident@eastbaybanjo.org">pastpresident@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	June Rosploch
<b>Uniforms</b> <b>Gold Vest</b> 925-685-0673 <b>Polo Shirts</b> <a href="mailto:president@eastbaybanjo.org">president@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	Robin Reeves Sheila Welt
<b>Librarian</b> <a href="mailto:jplankenship@att.net">jplankenship@att.net</a>	Jim Blankenship
<b>50th Anniversary Coordinator</b> <a href="mailto:pastpresident@eastbaybanjo.org">pastpresident@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	June Rosploch

### East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Highlights June and July 2012

**Place:** Bambino's Restaurant, Farm Bureau Rd. in Concord, CA

December Holiday Party will be December 11<sup>th</sup> at our weekly practice location, Bambino's Restaurant in Concord. Steak, Pastas, and Salad will be served buffet style. The club will pay for "members only" meals. Drinks will be purchased by all participants. Watch for the sign-up sheet due out in November.

50<sup>th</sup> Club Anniversary preparations are underway for 2013. Suggestions as to the type of event was gathered from the membership and presented to the board for review.

Amplification levels seem to be loader during our weekly practice sessions at our new location. The layout of the room at Bambino's with the linoleum floor and close proximity of the walls results in the music to bounce back more than at our former location which was carpeted. The other contributing factor is a balancing act, the loader the speakers are, the loader the players are..... At the beginning of each practice session the players will be asked for a sound check of the lead players, thus eliminating both sides playing over each other.

Planning for 2013 East Bay Banjo Club Annual Jazz Camp Scholarship has started. Further communications will be forth coming(how to apply, camp dates, etc.).

#### CAMP HISTORY:

In 1985, the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society (STJS) launched a new endeavor in its ongoing mission to preserve classic American jazz. The idea was to bring young, aspiring jazz musicians together with an all-star faculty in a beautiful, natural environment that was sure to inspire great music.

In 1997, a new chapter was opened with the STJS Adult Traditional Jazz Camp. The initial concept was to develop a traditional jazz program for continuing youth campers. The hope was to offer further musical education and guidance to campers who had passed the age limit for the youth camp, but still very much wanted to continue their musical growth and participation in the camp. Soon, it became apparent that former youth campers weren't the only ones interested!

Today's adult jazz campers range in age from late teens to late eighties! They come from all walks of life, all skill levels and with many different goals. It is the goal of STJS to continue to provide this fun opportunity to jazz musicians of all skill levels, thus fostering better musicians, better people, and a better world.

#### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The Adult Traditional Jazz Camp is focused on improvisation, both individual and group, with an emphasis on taking theory into practice at all times. Students are assigned to bands with players of similar ability and experience, and perform in the final concert on Saturday. Players of all levels and experience are accepted.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS:

Campers are housed in dormitory type cabins, and eat in the central dining hall. There are male, female, and couples cabins, with central, shared, bathrooms. You must bring bedding - a sleeping bag, sheets & blankets, and pillow. You may wish to bring an inflatable mattress for more comfort. Alternative Accommodations If you prefer, you may book a hotel or motel room in nearby Pollock Pines, and drive to camp each day. We also have space for a few RVs on campus.

#### Respectfully Submitted,

June Rosploch, Acting 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