



# EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

## SINCE 1963



January/February 2013

Membership Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 1

### 2013 Play-out Schedule

⇒ **April 8**

Sons In Retirement, Concord  
1:00pm-2:00pm

⇒ **April 11-14**

Banjo Rama  
Clarion Inn, Sacramento  
12:00pm-5:00pm

⇒ **April 18**

Ambrose Recreation, Bay Point  
11:30am-1:00pm

⇒ **May 11**

Delta Hawaii Mobile Park, Pittsburg  
7:30pm-9:00pm

⇒ **May 24**

WC Senior Center, Assembly Hall  
12:15p.-1:00pm

⇒ **May 27**

Montecito Senior Living, Concord  
11:30am-12:30pm



**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  
Phil Myers, Booking Agent at  
[plmyershome@att.net](mailto:plmyershome@att.net)  
or  
Call 925-932-3489

**I ♥  
banjo**

## Presidents Message:

As most of you know, our website has been down for several weeks. The Board of Directors and our new Webmaster, Bud Pearce are diligently working on the problem. We're expecting it will be corrected within the next couple of weeks. We appreciate your understanding during this transition period. Bookings for gigs are still coming in via telephone.

The design logo contest is now in its final phase. We have received one submission. It looks VERY good. Any others out there? I need designs by the March 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting.

Other happenings: Our last two gigs were attended well and a lot of FUN! Both venues enjoyed our performances and will be requesting return engagements. See the individual write-ups in this newsletter.

Banjo-Rama 2013 is just around the corner. We need to submit our list of members who are intending to participate. If you will be attending on Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>, please sign up by calling Bob Nelson. Our deadline date for submission is March 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a very rewarding, interesting and fun event. If you have never attended you have missed a wonderful experience, PLEASE plan on attending. Car pools are usually offered to assist member's travels to Sacramento.

*Excerpt from DEERING BANJO BLOG:*

*Practice, Practice, Practice, SMILE, Practice, Practice, Practice. Practice slowly. Some wise person once told me that if you practice slowly, you learn fast. Huh? Because with slow practice you focus on clean and accurate fretting, crisp/clean picking and even, exact tempo. You are teaching your body good muscle memory. You won't have to break any "bad habits" because by practicing slowly, you won't develop them in the first place.*

I personally have found this to be true and I keep reminding myself to slow down and use my metronome. (See Bill Coopers article for more on Practicing tips!)

Keep Strummin',

Sheila



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

### *Practice Makes Perfect*



By Bill Cooper

Recently I read an excellent article in the *Resonator* on practicing, and while I have my own views on the subject, I also interviewed the best musician and music teacher I know on the subject, my wife, Sue Horn. With all practicing you are changing a cognitive function to an associative, or ballistic function. When you start on any task, the first few times you do it you have to think about it. As you practice it, you move to automaticity. The brain uses repetitions to grow new dendrites, forming connections in the directions you require. An article I read in *Scientific American* a few years ago said that there is truth in the belief that it takes 10,000 repetitions to fully learn a task. The following suggestions are in a rough kind of order based on where you are in your playing:

- 1) Have a place to practice comfortably. For me, I hate getting out the banjo and putting it away for practicing. So, I keep my Trujo out on a stand with a music stand and metronome nearby so I can pick it up and play a phrase or tune I have been thinking about without any preparation. By the way, keeping your banjo for long periods of time on a stand with neoprene or rubber padding is not a good idea because constant contact with those substances will affect the finish. I keep my practice banjo on a Gil Ogawa stand.
- 2) Have a practice routine. Tune your banjo twice. Once by ear, and then using the tuner. This will help you train your ear. Jack Convery suggests shaking your hands a few times to loosen up; Kathy O'Reilly recommends squeezing a small rubber ball to strengthen your fingers. I recommend that you move your left hand fingers one at a time to limber them up. Sue suggests that you play the scales a couple of times in the key of the tunes you're going to practice. Warm up with something that you know first. Whether you practice at a particular time each day, or when the mood strikes you, or when you have the kids in bed, etc. will be up to you. However, keep in mind that studies show that the morning brain learns a little faster. Also, keep practicing fun. Don't make it a drudge. If all you have is ten minutes of fun, it's better than an hour of hating it.
- 3) Find a comfortable pick and stick with it. I am a big believer in consistency; using the same pick and weight of strings will allow you to learn control. In my opinion, people who change their pick according to how loud or soft they want to sound are kidding themselves. Practice using a light touch, both on the strings and with your pick, with no wasted motion. Wasted movements will tire you quicker and limit your speed. Pick control is one important aspect of playing, and you need to learn how to play louder or softer. As an aside, another natural tendency is to speed up when playing loud and slow down when playing softer. Which leads us to...
- 4) Use a metronome. I can't stress this enough! The banjo, like the piano, moves from being a rhythm to a lyric instrument. In a group, playing the wrong chord or note will not stand out as much as playing out of time. Also, there is a natural tendency to speed up a song if you know it, and slow it down when you don't. This will affect the people playing around you. One thing I have learned from leading the Club is to (try to) tune out people who are trying to speed, (I don't always succeed). Playing with a metronome will teach you to listen to the beat and avoid this. When you are beginning to learn melody, set the metronome at the slowest speed that will allow you to get the right notes or chords. Then, move it slowly faster until you are up to tempo.
- 5) Listen to someone else's playing. I believe that when we listen to other artists we will consciously or unconsciously try to imitate them. You also learn some tricks of the trade. It doesn't matter which tuning you listen to. Currently, my favorite is Johnny Baier, who plays tenor. When I was learning melody I listened to Eddie Peabody and to Earl Collins, one of our founders. Harry has told me he also listened to Eddie Peabody and tried to do everything he did. You could also learn by listening to Harry, Larry, Betty, or even to me.
- 6) Learn the inversions. When you are learning chords, prepare for learning melody by challenging yourself. Everyone learns the easy chords, which are usually the open chords at the top of the fretboard. Once you can

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reach those chords with ease, try chording the same song in a different place on the fretboard, in the middle, say, or up high. This will teach you the different inversions of the chords. In every tuning, there are at least three ways to play almost every chord. Learn them all. Once you have that, learning melody will be a snap. This will also help you when you start learning improvisation.

7) Play with a buddy. Playing at our practice is excellent, but you will learn much faster if you play with another person, especially one who is about at your level. Try to set up a regular play date. When I was learning, I taught myself the basic open chords, but I only improved when I started going over to the Posey's and played with Alan after school. The give and take, and a bit of competition, will improve your playing immensely.

8) Repetitions. So you're learning melody? Congratulations! Now you have to be smart about practicing. Think of a song as being a series of phrases, and you are learning one phrase at a time. So, don't play the song from start to finish every time. If you are stumbling over one change, play the phrase over and over until it's grooved in. For example, in "Darktown Strutter's Ball", one phrase is "I'll be down to get you in a taxi, Honey", which is two bars long, plus the pickup. Play that phrase until it is smooth. Then, play the whole tune. Learning a song phrase by phrase will make it much easier to play. Also, you will begin to see that there are similar phrases in different songs, and your speed in learning tunes will go up.

9) Pick up a jazz fakebook. As you probably know, I have simplified most of the tunes in our book. Once you can play these chords and are confident in learning melody, buy a fakebook written by someone else, such as the Hal Leonard Real Book, which has a Dixieland edition. These will have much harder chords, and passing chords and notes that we don't have. Learning these will improve your playing. Also, the tunes may be in different keys than what you're used to. Learning how to transpose is an important skill, especially if you...

10) Play with a different group occasionally. Our band is great, but to expand your horizons is wonderful. The New Orleans Jazz Club of Northern California (NOJC)(<http://www.nojnc.org>) has a practice every month, usually nearby. They hire a pro band, and alternate sets with a jam band. If you join the NOJC, you can sign up to play in the jam band. They typically use the Naybors fakebook, which you can purchase by contacting Pat Campbell at [patshirl@infionile.net](mailto:patshirl@infionile.net). Also, there are other banjo bands in the area that will allow you to sit in with them. Contact them ahead of time, as some of the bands are not so welcoming to strangers, or speak to Gary Kerr, who is familiar with all of them. Few bands welcome all comers as we do.

So there you have it. Keep them dendrites growing, but above all, keep it fun!



**Welcome to our  
NEW MEMBERS!**



Tony Lukaszewski



Diane Malucelli

***Have you paid your dues? If not, you have until March 5th to remain active!***



East Bay Banjo Club  
2013 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 Linda Myers, Membership Chairperson.

### Oakland Masonic Crab Feed

January 26, 2013

By: Sheila Welt

The Oakland Masonic Center is a beautiful venue with plenty of room on the stage. We played, they ate. Boy did that crab smell GREAT!! Left over crab was available for purchase after the event. It was a fun playout and we were well received by the diners. We played a variety of genre's, some we hadn't played in quite a while. There were a few requests from the audience that were filled.

Those playing were: Bill Cooper, Director; Guy Black, Bass; Terry Horner, Gut Bucket. Banjo's: Bob and Diane Malucelli, Sheila Welt, Mickie McDonald, Phil and Linda Myers, Betty David, Don Granberg, Tom Brunetti, Kit Nelson, Ardie Jarret, and Bud Pearce. Support team: Bob Nelson

They indicated that they would like for us to come back. I look forward to playing for this event again.



### Merrill Gardens of Vallejo

January 27, 2013

By: Terry Horner

A fine time was had by many as the East Bay Banjo Club played again for the enthusiastic audience at Merrill Gardens. Led by Bill Cooper, we played our list of sad songs like *A Good Man Is Hard To Find* and *Am I Blue*, with lots of singing by Kit Nelson. We also got lots of applause from the appreciative audience. Players were: Bob and Diane Malucelli, Sheila Welt, Mickie McDonald, Guy Black, Betty David, Don Granberg, Kit Nelson, Ardie Jarrett, Tom Brunetti, Phil and Linda Myers, Bud Pearce and Terry Horner. Our support section consisted of Mary Black and Bob Nelson. One lady in the front row made our day when she said we looked "cute" in our formal winter uniforms.



*Celebrating Our Birthdays...*



**January**

Don Granberg	1
Pat Wheaton	1
Patti Patton	10
Gerry 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

2013 EBBC Board	
<b>President</b> <a href="mailto:weltbear@sbcglobal.net">weltbear@sbcglobal.net</a>	<b>Sheila Welt</b>
<b>Vice President</b> <a href="mailto:dmalucelli@att.net">dmalucelli@att.net</a>	<b>Bob Malucelli</b>
<b>Secretary</b> <a href="mailto:jarjohn@msn.com">jarjohn@msn.com</a>	<b>Ardie Jarrett</b>
<b>Treasurer</b> <a href="mailto:bobsovaloffice@comcast.net">bobsovaloffice@comcast.net</a>	<b>Bob Nelson</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:banjojune@gmail.com">banjojune@gmail.com</a>	<b>June Rosploch</b>
<b>Booking Agent</b> <a href="mailto:plmyershome@att.net">plmyershome@att.net</a>	<b>Phil Myers</b>

Non-Board Positions	
<b>Assistant Music Director</b> <a href="tel:925-938-0126">925-938-0126</a>	<b>Betty David</b>
<b>Web Master</b> <a href="mailto:bud.pearce@pearcechris.com">bud.pearce@pearcechris.com</a>	<b>Bud Pearce</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor/Publisher</b> <a href="mailto:torkas66@yahoo.com">torkas66@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Kasey Torres</b>
<b>Membership</b> <a href="mailto:plmyershome@att.net">plmyershome@att.net</a>	<b>Linda Myers</b>
<b>Hospitality</b> <a href="tel:925-831-6922">925-831-6922</a>	<b>Mickie McDonald</b>
<b>Telephone Tree</b> <a href="mailto:dorothy_cahill@comcast.net">dorothy_cahill@comcast.net</a>	<b>Dorothy Cahill</b>
<b>Uniforms</b> <b>Gold Vest</b> <a href="tel:925-685-0673">925-685-0673</a> <b>Polo Shirts</b> <a href="mailto:weltbear@sbcglobal.net">weltbear@sbcglobal.net</a>	<b>Robin Reeves</b> <b>Sheila Welt</b>
<b>Librarian</b> <a href="mailto:jplankenship@att.net">jplankenship@att.net</a>	<b>Jim Blankenship</b>



**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****Date:** Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2012**Place:** Sheila Welt's Home, 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:** John Rosploch, Web Master;**Those Absent:** Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Dorothy Cahill, Telephone Tree; Kasey Torres, Newsletter Editor; Mary Black, Membership; Mickie McDonald, Hospitality**Guests Present:** Phil and Linda Myers and Bob Malucelli**Call to Order:** 7:01 PM by Sheila Welt, President.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Correspondent:** Sheila Welt received an email from Maria Morello who wants to buy an Irish Tenor Banjo.**Secretary:** Minutes were approved as corrected. 7/0/0.**Treasurer:** Robin Reeves gave her report which will be filed for audit.**Vice President:** Betty David – she will miss not being on the next Board of Directors.**Past President:** June Rosploch is still working on the purposed Operation Rules & Procedures.**Booking Agent:** John Rosploch, no reported.**Music Director:** Bill Cooper, no report**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Mickie McDonald - absent**Membership:** Mary Black - absent,**Web Master:** John Rosploch – no report**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****ALLOCATION OF MONEY TO OUR CHARITIES:** An agreed amount of money was determined to be given to Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Los Trampas, Meals On Wheels, and We Care Center. 7/0/0**IRS FORMS TO BE FILLED:** 199N e-Postcard submitted 12/1/2012; 990N e-Postcard submitted by phone for 2010 on 12/3/2012; 990N e-postcard submitted by email for 2011 on 21/3/2012.**NEW BUSINESS:****Audit of the EBBC Books:** We will contact former auditors to see if they would be willing to audit the books again this year.**Business from the Floor:** Bob Malucelli suggested that the Board of Directors Meeting be returned to Bambino on the First Tuesday of the month. This would save time and gas.**Recognition:** Sheila Welt ordered a gift for each EBBC member that will be given at the party and also ordered recognition pins for those who have participated in playing for a gig. Sheila also gave each board member a banjo strap with our logo embroidery on it. Another one will become a raffle prize at the Holiday Party.**Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM by Sheila Welt.****Respectfully Submitted,**  
Ardie Jarrett



**EAST BAY BANJO CLUB  
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
December 11, 2012  
Bambino's Restaurant, Concord, CA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President –Sheila Welt– 7:51PM

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

**MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2011 ANNUAL MEETING:**

The minutes from last year's Annual Meeting were approved by the Board of Directors at the January 2012 Board of Directors Meeting. A copy was enclosed in the members packet as a courtesy.

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS/GIFT:**

Gold Banjo Pins were awarded to those members (43) that participated in Play-outs during the year. Gifts for all members: Every member will receive an individual date book with the clubs name printed on them in appreciation of their contributions.

**ELECTION OF 2013 SLATE OF OFFICERS**

**President** - Sheila Welt

**Vice President** – Bob Malucelli

**Secretary** – Ardie Jarrett

**Treasurer** – Bob Nelson

**Music Director** – Bill Cooper

Robin Reeves was nominated for Treasurer by John Rosploch. The nomination was seconded and a written vote was taken. Bob Nelson was elected.

All other candidates were elected unanimously.

Appointed Positions will be announced in January, after the new Board of Directors take office.

**WRAP-UP** –Sheila Welt thanked her 2012 Board Members for their dedication and service.

Sheila Welt welcomed the new 2013 Board members.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Since there wasn't any other business to come before this assembly, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

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