



# EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

## SINCE 1963



September/October 2013

### Membership Newsletter

Editor: Karen Hefter

Volume 8 Issue 5

#### Upcoming Play Out Schedule

##### October 26

Smith Farms, Brentwood  
12:00pm - 2:00 pm

##### October 27

Salem Lutheran Home, Oakland  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

##### November 3

Bayside Park (bring chairs)  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

##### November 11

Chateaus of Pleasant Hill  
10:30 am - 11:30 am

##### November 11

The Kensington, Walnut Creek  
3:00 - 4:00 pm

##### December 10

Holiday Party, Luigi's Deli  
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

##### December 17

Salem Lutheran Home, Oakland  
2:00pm - 3:00 pm

East Bay Banjo Club Meets  
**Every Tuesday**  
 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm  
 Luigi's #1 Deli  
 537 Main St. at Castro St.  
 Martinez, CA

Be sure to check our website,  
[www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org),  
for current event information and a  
blog about past performances.

For bookings, Contact  
Phil Myers, Booking Agent at  
[plmyers@jps.net](mailto:plmyers@jps.net)  
or  
Call 925-932-3489

### President's Message:

Booooo! Gobble! Trick or Treat! Gobble!  
Eeeeeek! Yiiiiiiiikes! Gobble! Scary!

Get out your banjo and make ghostly music. Play "Amazing Grace" before your Thanksgiving Dinner.

Pass out the treats and play banjo music. Everybody loves it! The little children will scream in terror and run away. Then you can eat all the treats yourself! Whatever your costume is for the occasion, remember to include your banjo.

Phil has been keeping us very busy with a full schedule of play outs the last two months. We have played some new venues as well as returned to some old friends. Our website is just beautiful. Information for the club is very easy to find. Be sure and check it out at [www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org). This newsletter, as well as past ones, are posted on the website for your enjoyment.



Our Music Director, Betty David, is including instructional techniques during our weekly practice sessions. We have been getting a very good turnout at Luigi's on Tuesday evenings and everyone seems to have a wonderful time. I know that Luigi is pleased that so many of us purchase our dinners on Tuesday nights. I also want to take this moment to say THANK YOU, LUIGI!

Be sure to come in costume for our Halloween Costume night on October 29<sup>th</sup>. It should be an interesting and fun evening. Wear a costume and you might win a prize!

Thanksgiving is just about upon us. I hope that everyone has a wonderful "Turkey Day." Maybe you can learn "Turkey In The Straw" for the occasion.

So Boooooooooooooo! and Gobbbble, Gobbbble!

Keep on Strummin'.

Sheila Welt

## Techniques for Banjo Playing In A Group or Band

By Larry Risner

Here are some of my thoughts that might be helpful for musicians that play in a group or band. I hope that this is useful and it is, at best, just a guideline.

It is most important that every player in a group consider their individual role in the overall "sound" of the group. This is not to say that one's role in a song can't change from chorus to chorus.

### *Melody:*

The melody should be played by just one or two players predominately, unless a singer is performing. In that case, 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 other choruses, if/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 back up the melody but not duplicate it. It should also not duplicate the rhythm chords. The objective is to play "around" the melody and rhythm, filling in along with the rhythm players. However, care should be taken not to overpower the melody or rhythm players.

### *Rhythm:*

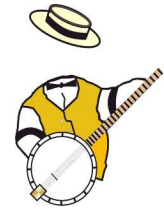
Besides the melody, this is the most important part of music. It holds the beat and also provides a foundation for the melody. Rhythm is usually best played up to, but not beyond, the 10<sup>th</sup> fret on a plectrum banjo. It does best with a "heavier" deep tonal quality. There is no limit to the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

**Because of the "loudness" of the instrument, the most difficult issue for banjo players is to be very careful not to play too heavily – play only loudly enough to blend in with the group. If one is playing too loudly, the tendency is for the rest of the group to play louder, resulting in loss of quality and an overall blasting sound.**



## Kensington Playout

August 25, 2013

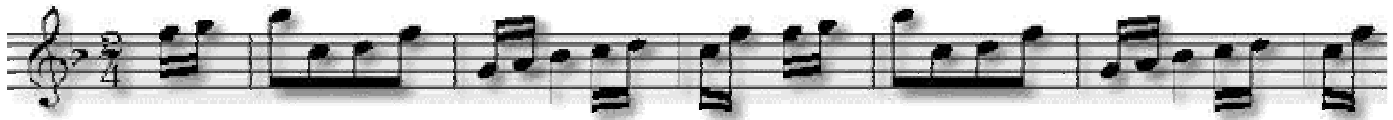


By: Bud Pearce

A large crowd arrived early to enjoy the music that is not only familiar to them, but brings a smile to their faces as well! Nineteen members performed at this gig, most sporting straw hats. With Betty David at the lead, we quickly played through most of the tunes on Show List #1, and completed the hour with folks asking for more.

It's clear they loved us because people spontaneously danced!

East Bay strummers included: **Mickie McDonald, Don Granberg, Jesse DeTorres, Bud Pearce, Kit Nelson, Betty David, Chris Lardge, Bob Hodson, Deb Hodson, Phil Myers, Linda Myers, Karen Hefter, Guy Black, Sheila Welt, Ardie Jarrett, Herb Moore, Ken Williamson, Bob Malucelli, and Diane Malucelli.** **Bob Nelson** photographed the event and sold CDs while **Georgette DeTorres** provided moral support. Be sure to check out the photos and video from this performance on [www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org).



## Aegis Senior Living Playout

August 29, 2013

By: Bob Nelson

It was a beautiful summer evening in Pleasant Hill. The weather was perfect and the audience was large and lively. The evening started with a very complimentary introduction from Aegis Senior Living's Activity Director, Ms. Kayla Brown, who explained that this was the last evening of their Annual Summer Concert Series and that they saved the best for last! Betty David opened the show with "Just Because" and quickly moved on to "Take Me Out To The Ballgame." This was excellent timing because the large screen TVs in the activity rooms and outside porch areas had the Giants game on.

As mentioned earlier, the audience was lively and there was not a tune that they didn't dance to! In the front row, an energetic group of women just could not get enough of the music. After some investigation, I discovered that they followed the East Bay Banjo Club for years. They rarely missed a Tuesday night at Round Table Pizza, just up the street, where we previously performed for 30+ years.

Our success goes to our players, **Guy Black, Tom Brunetti, Kermit Collins, Betty David, Jesse DeTorres, Don Granberg, Deb Hodson, Ardie Jarrett, Mickie McDonald, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Sheila Welt, and Ken Williamson.** Special thanks and appreciation goes to members **Jim Abele, Georgette DeTorres, and Bob Nelson,** who blended into the audience very well. Rumor has it that they provided crowd control, due to the aforementioned mentioned "Lively Audience." Be sure to check out the photos from this performance on [www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org).



## San Jose Banjo Jubilee

September 8, 2013

By: Karen Hefter

Photos by: Bob Nelson and Linda Myers

The East Bay Banjo club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by giving a rousing performance at the 41<sup>st</sup> Banjo Jubilee. We would like to thank our hosts at the Peninsula Banjo Band for putting on this wonderful event and we congratulate them on their own 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We were extremely fortunate to have 2 top artists (and EBBC members) join the East Bay Banjo Club on stage for our performance: the extremely talented Jack Convery and Hall of Famer Cathy Reilly. Our band has never sounded so good!

In honor of our club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Betty David, our new Music Director, selected classic banjo band songs that have withstood the test of time. She led us through a series of banjo favorites, including "Just Because," "Shantytown," "Yes Sir, That's My Baby," and many more. Cathy Reilly added wonderful color and harmonies to our performance. We had a small, but mighty, group of performers for this event that included: **Guy Black, Jim Blankenship, Jack Convery, Betty David, Barbara Findlay, Don Granberg, Karen Hefter, Mickie McDonald, Phil Myers, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, and Cathy Reilly.** We had lots of audience support from club members **Mary Black, Rich Boss, Mickey Finn, Deb Hodson, Garry Kerr, Linda Myers, and Bob Nelson.** Be sure to visit our website, [www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org), for videos of our performance.

The rest of the day was filled with performances by the Sacramento, Peninsula, and Happy Time Banjo Bands, as well as performances by a number of talented artists, including Dave Marty, Bill Lowery, Mickey Finn and Cathy Reilly, Charlie Tagawa, and many of his family members. The Happy Time Banjo Band broke new ground as they closed their portion of the show by putting on sunglasses and rocking out to "Wipeout." All in all, it was a well organized and wonderful day. We are looking forward to next year's Jubilee!





### Salem Lutheran Playout

September 17, 2013

By: Bud Pearce

Photos by: Linda Myers & Bob Nelson

The crowd grew in numbers as the banjos rang out in the "Gathering Area" at the Salem Lutheran Senior Center in Oakland, CA. Betty David led the strummers, playing tunes that were well known to the smiling faces in the audience. After the performance, several residents approached the club members with lots of questions about the banjo, and expressed their gratitude for the chance to hear traditional jazz with lyrics they could sing along with, as the vocalists sang the tunes.

The performers were honored to have jazz trombone legend Bob Mielke in the audience. Bob Mielke worked with, or sat in with, some of the traditional jazz legends like Turk Murphy, Lu Watters and Bob Scobey, to name just a few.

The "Top Ten" performers of the day included: **Tom Brunetti, Debra Hodson, Bud Pearce, Kit Nelson, Betty David, Terry Horner, Phil Myers, Linda Myers, Diane Malucelli, and Bob Malucelli.**

Providing moral support and mingling with the audience was **Bob Nelson**. Bob also helped capture some significant camera angles.





## Orchard Nursery Payout

October 12, 2013

By: Karen Hefter

Photos by: Karen Hefter and Linda Myers

I was tempted to sing "It's A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood" as we set up for the payout at the Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. It was a beautiful, sunny fall day and the band played in a gorgeous spot - a shaded area surrounded by lush plants. Our mission was to play background music for the shoppers at the nursery. We were a bit concerned about our ability to be successful in this endeavor, since we had a record turnout of 18 players for the gig! We weren't quite sure if 16 banjos, a washboard, and a gutbucket could play quietly enough to be "background music"... We set up in a circular arrangement, which was really nice, because everyone could hear each other. There was no amplification whatsoever, which forced everyone to play quietly enough to hear our leader, Betty David. Bud Pearce attempted to sing with the group, but was drowned out, even with everyone playing as quietly as possible. So, he sang another song, accompanied just by Betty David on banjo and Terry Horner on gutbucket. This worked out quite well and the rest of the players just kicked back and listened.

The entire program was very laid back and consisted of 2 hours' worth of banjo standards, crowd pleasers, and patriotic songs. The players all enjoyed the afternoon very much and lots of people stopped by to listen and sit down for awhile. One couple had heard about the band and drove up from Pleasanton to hear us! The players for this occasion were: **Tom Brunetti, Kermit Collins, Betty David, Virgie Fitzpatrick, Don Granberg, Karen Hefter, Deb Hodson, Terry Horner, Chris Lardge, Diane Malucelli, Bob Malucelli, Mickie McDonald, Dina Melamed, Herb Moore, Phil Myers, Linda Myers, Bud Pearce, and Ken Williamson.** Club members **Jim Abele and Clyde Dedmon** were in attendance as well.





## Dallas Ranch Playout

October 17, 2013

By: Diane Malucelli

Photos by: Bob Nelson

The people at Dallas Ranch Commons in Antioch were very friendly and they decided to have us play in their large dining room, which is off of the main entrance. It is a very bright room with high ceilings and we played in front of the large windows and faced the audience in the rest of the room.

We had at least 35 residents listening to us and singing along with many of the songs. Claire and Fred Miller, residents of the Commons and friends of Diane and Bob Malucelli, sat in the front row and smiled and sang the whole time. Beverly Torres, Activities Director, and Dora Branch, Activities Assistant, were extremely enthusiastic about our group. They clapped and sang along to a lot of the songs. Several other employees also stopped by and enjoyed the performance.

Betty David, our leader, chose songs that the residents would recognize and enjoy such as "You are My Sunshine," "Bill Bailey," "Bye, Bye Blackbird," "Cuddle Up," "Nobody's Sweetheart Now," "Saint Louis Blues," and "America the Beautiful." The East Bay Banjo Club performers were: **Guy Black, Jim Blankenship, Betty David, Don Granberg, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Kit Nelson, and Ken Williamson.** We sounded great in that large room and it was really fun to play for this appreciative audience.



## Familiar Faces at Luigi's

October 15, 2013

By: Bob Nelson

On Tuesday night, two couples walked into Luigi's with huge smiles on their faces. I walked over to them and said, "You folks look familiar. Where have we met?" It turned out that they used to listen to the EBBC at Round Table and followed us to Bambino's when we made the move a couple of years ago. Recently, they went looking for us at Bambino's and Bambino's referred them to Luigi's. Tonight, they were reunited with the club! Thank you Bob and Mary Marshall, Marcia Kite, and Ken Salling for being such loyal followers of our club and for the generous donation you made tonight.



**Welcome to our  
NEW MEMBERS!**



Deb Hodson



Kermit Collins



Virgie Fitzpatrick

**Banjo Maintenance Tip:** Check the nuts around your banjo head every month to make sure they are firm. You'll be surprised at how much the sound of your banjo improves if the head is properly tightened!

**Education  
Corner**



If you want to have a deeper understanding of how music “works” and want to improve your ability to play by ear, you might be interested in this book: The Complete Idiot’s Guide To Music Theory. (Yes, the name is horrible...)

It is an easy to follow book that starts at a very basic level. It comes with a companion CD that helps you train your ear so that you can tell what pitches/chords/intervals are being played and replicate them on your instrument or on a piano.

**Banjos For Sale or Wanted**

**WANTED:** Vega VegaVox I plectrum banjo in excellent condition. Please contact Phil Myers at [plmyers@jps.net](mailto:plmyers@jps.net) or call 925-932-3489.

**FOR SALE:** Gold Tone Banjo PS 250 Plectrum Special 4 String Banjo With Case, 16” resonator, Purchased new July 2010, all paperwork, \$800, Sheila Welt, [weltbear@sbcglobal.net](mailto:weltbear@sbcglobal.net), 925-689-4643.

**FOR SALE:** Plectrum 1968 Vega II Pro with Case, Excellent Condition, all paperwork, \$1500, Sheila Welt, [weltbear@sbcglobal.net](mailto:weltbear@sbcglobal.net), 925-689-4643.



**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.



*Celebrating Our Upcoming Birthdays...*

**November**

**December**



04—Deb Hodson  
 14—Tom Brunetti  
 19—Chuck Cook  
 20—Kit Nelson  
 25—Rich Boss  
 29—Kermit Collins

01—Deborah Black  
 16—Jesse De Torres  
 19—Karen Hefter  
 24—Diane Malucelli  
 28—Michael Stein  
 31—Phil Myers



| 2013 EBBC Board                                |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>President</b><br>weltbear@sbcglobal.net     | Sheila Welt   |
| <b>Vice President</b><br>dmalucelli@att.net    | Bob Malucelli |
| <b>Secretary</b><br>jarjohn@msn.com            | Ardie Jarrett |
| <b>Treasurer</b><br>bobsovaloffice@comcast.net | Bob Nelson    |
| <b>Music Director</b><br>925-938-0126          | Betty David   |
| <b>Immediate Past President</b>                | Open          |
| <b>Booking Agent</b><br>plmyers@jps.net        | Phil Myers    |

| 2013 Non-Board Positions  |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Web Master</b><br>bud.pearce@pearcechriss.com                                      | Bud Pearce                  |
| <b>Newsletter Editor/Publisher</b><br>editor@eastbaybanjo.org                         | Karen Hefter                |
| <b>Membership</b><br>plmyershome@att.net  | Linda Myers                 |
| <b>Hospitality</b><br>925-831-6922  | Mickie McDonald             |
| <b>Telephone Tree</b><br>dorothy_cahill@comcast.net                                   | Dorothy Cahill              |
| <b>Uniforms</b><br>Gold Vest<br>925-685-0673<br>Polo Shirts<br>weltbear@sbcglobal.net | Robin Reeves<br>Sheila Welt |
| <b>Librarian</b><br>jpblankenship@att.net   | Jim Blankenship             |

**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****Date:** Tuesday, August 6, 2013**Place:** Luigi's #1 Deli, 537 Main Street, Martinez, CA**Board Members Present:** Sheila Welt, President; Ardie Jarrett, Secretary; Bob Nelson, Treasurer; Betty David, Interim Music Director; Phil Myers, Booking Agent.**Absent Appointed Officers:** Bob Malucelli, Vice President; June Rosploch, Past President**Committee Chair Present:** Mickie McDonald, Hospitality**Absent Appointed Officers:** Karen Hefter, Newsletter Editor; Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Linda Myers, Membership; Dorothy Cahill, Phone Tree; Bud Pearce, Web Master.**Guest Present:** Guy Black.**Call to Order:** 5:08 PM by Sheila Welt, President.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Secretary:** July Minutes were approved as presented, 5/0/0.**Treasurer:** Bob Nelson- The treasurer gave his report and it will be filed for audit.**Vice President:** Bob Malucelli - absent**Past President:** Absent**Booking Agent:** Phil Myers: Those attending Banjo Jubilee are responsible for their own expenses & entrance fees. Betty David will lead. New gigs at Forest Home Farm in Aug. & Orchard's Nursery in Oct.**Interim Music Director:** Betty David – Thanked all those who have offered to transport sound equipment to practices & gigs.**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Mickie McDonald – All is O.K.**Membership:** Linda Myers – No report**Librarian:** Jim Blankenship - Absent**Web Master:** Bud Pearce – Absent**Telephone Tree:** Dorothy Cahill – No report**Editor:** Karen Hefter - Absent**50<sup>th</sup> Celebration:** Sheila Welt recommended holding this in conjunction with the Holiday Party. Further discussion will take place at a later meeting.**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****Proposed Operating Procedures:** In process.**4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade:** Attire, time, and help needed were discussed. Truck to get straw is a problem.**NEW BUSINESS:****Sheila Welt:** Concerned about performances in excessive heat.**Larry Risner:** Suggestions: 1. Review the music book. 2. Free learning practice session before regular practice.

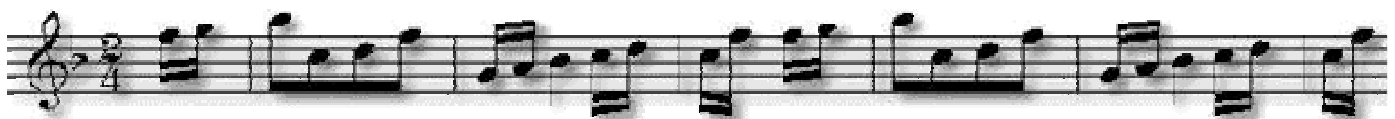
3. Need to give more focus to the club. 4. Suggest that we reconsider gold vest uniform to polo shirts.

5. Don't need to amplify except for singers and lead player.

**Guy Black:** Who should handle "crowd control" at practice sessions. Betty David says it is her job to do this.**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM until the Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting by Sheila Welt.**Respectfully Submitted,**

Ardie Jarrett



**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****Date:** Tuesday, September 3rd, 2013**Place:** Luigi's #1 Deli, 537 Main Street, Martinez, CA**Board Members Present:** Sheila Welt, President; Bob Malucelli, Vice President; Ardie Jarrett, Secretary; Bob Nelson, Treasurer; Betty David, Interim Music Director; Phil Myers, Booking Agent.**Absent Board of Directors:** None**Committee Chair Present:** Mickie McDonald, Hospitality**Absent Committee Chairs:** Karen Hefter, Newsletter Editor; Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Linda Myers, Membership; Dorothy Cahill, Phone Tree; Bud Pearce, Web Master.**Guest Present:** Guy Black.**Call to Order:** 5:08 PM by Sheila Welt, President.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Secretary:** August minutes were approved as presented, 5/0/0.**Treasurer:** Bob Nelson- The treasurer gave his report and it will be filed for audit.**Vice President:** Bob Malucelli – EBBC mugs will be given to Luigi and his family members.**Interim Music Director:** Betty David – All is still going well.**Booking Agent:** Phil Myers: Betty David will lead at Banjo Jubilee and we are the first guest band to play. Three new gigs have been booked and can be found on the EBBC web site.**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Mickie McDonald – All is O.K.**Membership:** Linda Myer – 57 paid members, 1 new adult & 2 new student members.**Librarian:** Jim Blankenship - Absent**Web Master:** Bud Pearce – Absent**Telephone Tree:** Dorothy Cahill – Absent**Editor:** Karen Hefter - Absent**50<sup>th</sup> Celebration:** Sheila Welt – this will be held Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at Luigi's Deli #1 in conjunction with Holiday Party & Annual Meeting. Bill Cooper's favorite songs will be featured.**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****Proposed Operating Procedures:** After review, changes, & corrections, Operating Procedures were passed 5/0/0.  
**4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade:** Tabled.**Polo Shirts:** Club Polo shirts and 50<sup>th</sup> Logo shirts can be ordered through Ardie Jarrett.**Change in Uniform:** The board agreed to maintain the present uniforms & it would be the Booking Agent's option as to which one will be worn when.**NEW BUSINESS:****Sound System and Acoustics:** Guy Black – This discussions was tabled.**Cordless Mics:** Sheila Welt – Vocal Pro Rechargeable wireless mic system: Tabled.**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM until the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting by Sheila Welt.**Respectfully Submitted,**  
Ardie Jarrett

Concord, CA 94524

P.O. Box 5414



**EAST BAY BANJO CLUB**  
[WWW.EASTBAYBANJO.ORG](http://WWW.EASTBAYBANJO.ORG)



## **EAST BAY BANJO CLUB**

**Meets every Tuesday**

**From 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

**At**

**Luigi's #1 Deli and Market**

**537 Main Street @ Castro Street**

**Martinez, CA**