

# EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

SINCE 1963



May/June 2014

## Membership Newsletter

Editor: Karen Hefter

Volume 9 Issue 3

### Upcoming Play Out Schedule

#### June 19th

Aegis of Pleasant Hill  
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

#### July 3rd

Stoneman Village, Pittsburg  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

#### July 4th

Orinda parade, West Lot Orinda  
9:30 am - 2:00 pm

#### July 12th

Relay For Life, Concord  
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

#### August 23rd

Club Picnic, Landers Landing  
11:00 am - 5:00 pm

#### November 11th

The Kensington, Walnut Creek  
Time TBD



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  
[bookingagent@eastbaybanjo.org](mailto:bookingagent@eastbaybanjo.org)  
or  
Call 925-932-3489

## President's Message:

Many thanks go to the members of our club that attended the Arizona Banjo Blast and made our presence, as well as our performance, there such a hit. It was wonderful to play and have a good time with our members at the event. We had the privilege of having an outstanding, world class tuba player, Sly (Daniel) Slipetsky join us – what a treat!



On another note: I am convinced that it is now time for everyone in the club to stand back and take look at what we can do to make our club attractive to all age groups. We all need to keep open minds about this and understand that there are two major considerations:

1) People 40 years of age and younger did not experience the "pizza parlor banjo/piano era." For this age group, hearing banjo music, other than bluegrass, is just a novelty. Many banjo bands today have managed to hold on to some degree of popularity because their members sing and play 1950's through present day music on their banjos, mixed in with the older favorites. This results in everyone having a good time, whether at a practice or performance. Note that the lead players do not need to play the melody on every song, because singers from the band, or even the audience, can carry the lead.

2) The ukulele has been enjoying a resurgence of popularity among all age groups. There are ukulele groups everywhere. Some schools are teaching ukuleles to children because the ukuleles come in many sizes and tuning options and they are inexpensive, easy to play, and sound so pleasing to the ear. Incidentally, there is a popular dixieland band that drops their instruments to play and sing a few ukulele tunes as a group and it is wonderful to hear! Our club might bring in younger members by incorporating ukuleles into our club. This would not be meant to reduce the importance of the banjo. The goal would be to move the younger members from ukuleles to banjos and it is very easy to move between the ukulele and the banjo.

These are just a few things that I have been turning over in my mind for some time and, of course, it is up to the entire club to decide what can or should be done. The overall health of the club is at stake and we need to make some changes to keep it alive. Otherwise, attrition will certainly be the deciding factor.

Larry Risner

## The East Bay Banjo Club – Our Roots and Our Direction Forward

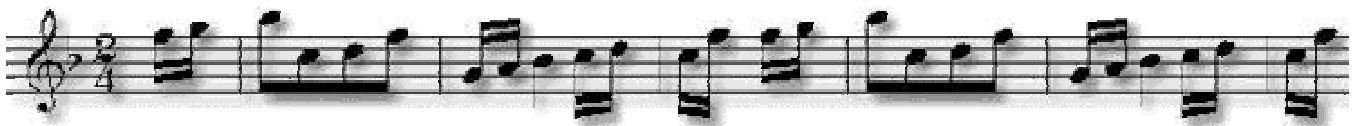
By: Larry Risner

In the early 1960s, a small group of people, ranging from professional banjo players to newly minted banjo players like myself, thought it would be a great idea to start a banjo club. This club would facilitate get-togethers for learning and playing the banjo in a fun environment. I was new to the banjo at the time, having just bought my first banjo for \$30 at a pawn shop. Two unselfish individuals, Chuck Posey and Earl Collins, both expert and noted banjo players, spread the word around and soon the club was formed. At one time, the club had over 300 members, from children to seniors. Some entire families were members! The club played in parades and at a few events, but the real intent of the club was not to form a banjo band. The intent was to play, to learn, and to have fun.

A few years back, an opportunity came about for the club to sponsor an event at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. The club booking agent was asked to actively pursue any and all paid gig opportunities he could to amass the necessary funds to hold the event. Well, he was very successful, but it seems that once the switch was turned on for building up the club treasury, the switch was never turned off. As a result, this misunderstanding led to the assumption that the club must have a given number of paid gigs per month and the weekly meetings were actually rehearsals for those paid gigs. However, in actuality, the weekly meetings have always been intended to be fun get-togethers that provide for the sharing of banjo playing knowledge and techniques among all of the club members. If the club needed some funds to support some miscellaneous club expenses beyond what the dues brought in, then an occasional gig would serve that purpose and any surplus funds could be donated to charity at the end of the year.

The club by-laws were written to legally define the club's responsibilities, in order for the club to qualify as a non-profit organization under the law as set forth by both the State of California and the United States Internal Revenue Service... and no more. We must be careful to keep the by-laws focused on that purpose only and not to include any club operational directives that are solely club defined. Those things should be in a separate operational document that the club maintains for its internal use to operate. However, these operational directives must not violate or overstep any of the non-profit status legal rules.

At the present time, we need to work together to restore the club to its roots and to bring it back to the fun, social gathering that it was created to be. It can not be a band, nor a business enterprise, and care must be taken to keep it from becoming, or seeming to become, either.



### Tim Perry - In Memoriam

October 14, 1929—May 4, 2014

Club member Tim Perry passed away after a long illness. Tim played the tenor banjo and sang with the EBBC for many years. He will be greatly missed.

### Reminders For Rhythm Players

- Play in support of the group, not for yourself.
- Play every tune as if there is a vocalist singing.
- Keep in mind that the banjo is much louder to those out in front of you.
- If someone is playing loudly, don't play loudly also.
- If you can't hear the melody, the rhythm players are too loud.



### Walnut Creek Senior Center Playout

April 18, 2014

By: Karen Hefter

Photos by: Bob Nelson

What a wonderful playout! We thoroughly enjoyed playing for a crowd of 60 or 70 seniors in a big, bright room for their April luncheon. This was first time that the new microphones and mixer were used for a playout. The setup was easy and the sound quality was excellent. Overall, the equipment situation has improved tremendously.

We were led by Betty David in a selection of spirited banjo classics that really got the crowd involved. At one point, a lady with a walker came up right in front of the band and did a solo dance, walker and all! Our players were: **Guy Black, Betty David, Don Granberg, Karen Hefter, Terry Horner, Ardie Jarrett, Chris Lardge, Dina Melamed, Herb Moore, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Larry Risner, and Sheila Welt.** Club member **Jim Abele** was in the audience and **Bob Nelson** took pictures.

Kit Nelson sang several songs, such as "St. Louis Blues," "You Are My Sunshine," and "Take Me Out To The Ballgame," many in singalong style. Bud Pearce sang "Yes Sir, That's My Baby" to thunderous applause. Herb Moore, who has been absent from the group for awhile, was back playing his banjo and sang "Bye, Bye Blackbird." Larry Risner took a solo on "Bye, Bye Blues," which the crowd really enjoyed. Chris Lardge sang "Margie" with style and Sheila Welt sang a lovely version of "Darkness on the Delta." We closed with "When the Saints Go Marching In" and about a third of the crowd got up out of their seats and started marching around the tables. When the song ended (after 4 times through), there were cries of, "Darn, you ended!" It was a fun performance and we left the crowd wanting more.





## Sheep Shearing Day at Forest Hill Farms

April 26, 2014

By: Karen Hefter

Photos by: Bob Nelson, Linda Myers, Garry Kerr

Over the years, the East Bay Banjo Club has played for a wide variety of audiences and events, but, to my knowledge, this was the first time that we have played for a Sheep Shearing Day! The City of San Ramon holds an annual festival on a former walnut orchard and processing plant where families watch sheep being herded and sheared, watch wool spinning and carding, take tractor rides, and tour the historic home and farm buildings. The EBBC played outside, in a courtyard next to an open barn filled with a variety of woodworking demonstrations. The play out was 3 ½ hours long, including a few breaks. Betty and Larry took turns leading the sets. We played a wide variety of songs and the crowd seemed to really enjoy us. Our players were: **Guy Black, Tom Brunetti, Kermit Collins, Betty David, Barbara Findlay, Don Granberg, Karen Hefter, Deb Hodson, Ardie Jarrett, Garry Kerr, Fredy Kinadeter, Chris Lardge, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Kit Nelson, Larry Risner, and Sheila Welt. Bob Nelson** took pictures.

We also tried something new. In order to reach out to the public, particularly children and their parents, we set up a “Try A Banjo” area next to the band. Two players at a time manned this area and we had 2 banjos available for the public to try. When people came, we would teach them “C” and “G7” chords and play “Camptown Races” with them. This was a huge success – we had children of all ages, from toddlers to adults, come and try playing the banjo. One little girl enjoyed it so much that she came over and sat in the middle of the band for about 20 minutes and just took everything in! We gave her a sparkling blue pick to take home as a souvenir... There was a line most of the day with people waiting their turn. The festival organizers seemed very pleased with the Club’s performance, as well as with the “Try A Banjo.” We hope we will be invited back next year. Be sure to check out our video from this playout at [www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org).





## Sacramento Banjo-Rama 2014

May 2-4, 2014

By: Karen Hefter

Photos by: Garry Kerr, Linda Myers, and Bob Nelson

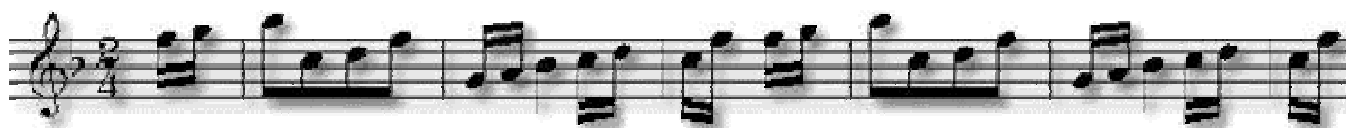
The East Bay Banjo club would like to thank our hosts, the Sacramento Banjo Band, for a fun-filled, 3 day banjo extravaganza. The workshops were excellent and very informative and the featured performers were inspiring. Jam sessions went on all day (and into the night). The Slovenian group, Navihanke, was a high energy surprise that brought smiles to everyone's faces. There was plenty to do all weekend long and, when there was a bit of down time, you could get your banjo worked on by Renee Karnes, a Hall of Fame luthier, or shop for a new addition to your banjo collection.

The EBBC had a great turnout for our performance, with 20 players present. Betty David led us in a solid performance of a variety of banjo favorites. Danielle Torres, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, and Sheila Welt were our singers for the day and 10 year old Danielle was especially popular with the crowd. The EBBC had the youngest band member present out of all of the clubs! We were fortunate to have Fredy Kinadeter play the tuba with us and we are grateful that he was able to join us. Our players were: **Guy Black, Tom Brunetti, Jack Convery, Betty David, Barbara Findlay, Don Granberg, Karen Hefter, Harry Higgins, Bob Hodson, Deb Hodson, Chris Lardge, Kit Nelson, Fredy Kinadeter, Herb Moore, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Bud Pearce, Larry Risner, Danielle Torres, and Sheila Welt.** **Bob Nelson** supported us in the audience and took pictures.

A special treat followed the EBBC's performance. First, our own Jack Convery performed with Dave Marty. Then, Harry Higgins and his granddaughter Danielle Torres were invited on stage to play with Jack and Dave. Danielle sang several songs and even played the banjo and sang at the same time. To top off this wonderful performance, Harry's wife, Red Higgins, came on stage and sang with Danielle while Harry, Jack, and Dave played their banjos. The crowd really enjoyed the entire performance.



### Banjo-Rama, continued



### S.I.R.S. Payout

May 8, 2014

By: Karen Hefter

Photos by: Bob Nelson

S.I.R.S. (Sons In Retirement) invited us to play for their bi-annual luncheon with their spouses. The luncheon was held at the beautiful Boundary Oaks Country Club in Walnut Creek. The audience was very appreciative of our music. Jack Convery led the payout and he introduced each member of the Club and invited him or her to select a song for us to play. The performance ended when the S.I.R.S. Singers got up in front of the banjos and invited the crowd (and the EBBC) to perform "God Bless America" with them. Their pianist started off the verse and the crowd and the banjos joined in on the chorus. Our players were: **Guy Black, Tom Brunetti, Kermit Collins, Jack Convery, Betty David, Karen Hefter, Ardie Jarrett, Garry Kerr, Chris Lardge, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Herb Moore, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Kit Nelson, and Sheila Welt.** Club member **Bob Nelson** took photographs.





## Arizona Banjo and Ukulele Blast

May 22-24, 2014

By: Diane Malucelli

Photos by: Diane Malucelli, Ardie Jarrett, Garry Kerr, Linda Myers, Larry Risner

This fun event took place over three days at the Omni Tucson National Resort on the outskirts of Tucson. Each day was jam packed with ukulele and banjo workshops, poolside concerts, jam sessions, and an evening concert. The resort was beautiful and included an outdoor swimming pool and a golf course. Many of our rooms were near the pool, as well as the banjo and ukulele activities. The weather was clear and around 90 degrees.

Our group of 12 banjo players practiced in Don Granberg's room on Friday. Our players were: **Jesse DeTorres, Don Granberg, Deb Hodson, Bob Hodson, Ardie Jarrett, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Dick Neuman, Larry Risner, and Sheila Welt.**

We performed at 2 pm on Saturday. We looked great in our blue polos and brown khaki pants and everyone cheered for us as we performed ten songs. A Tucson tuba player, Daniel "Sly" Slipetsky, joined us for our performance. We had about 100 people in the audience. Jesse played and sang "Babyface," "For Me and My Gal," and "California Here I Come." Don played his washboard on "Coney Island Washboard." Sheila sang "Darkness on the Delta" and Don and Deb sang a duet on "Just Because." Be sure to check out two videos from this performance on our website, [www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org).

There were many wonderful musicians at this event and one of the exciting groups that performed was the All Star Youth Banjo Band from Houston, Texas, led by Banjo Hall of Fame musician, Buddy Griffin. There were about 20 young people from ages 8 to 18 playing banjos and ukuleles. They knew all of their songs so well that they didn't need any music in front of them! They were very inspirational and are a great group of musicians. Johnny Baier, Executive Director of the National Four-String Banjo Museum and Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, performed at the event. Tyler Jackson and his lovely wife entertained us many times. Another Hall of Fame banjo player, Dave Marty attended as well. We all enjoyed several international banjo players: Sean Moyses from England, Mikoyo Onishi and Mashu from Tokyo and Tom Stuij from the Netherlands.

Several of us brought our ukuleles with us and we attended some of the ukulele jam sessions and workshops. Bob and Diane Malucelli played their ukuleles. Ardie Jarrett and Jesse DeTorres came to several ukulele workshops on Saturday to learn about Hawaiian style and other ukulele styles from Buddy Griffin, and blues from Del Rey.





### The Kensington Playout

May 26, 2014

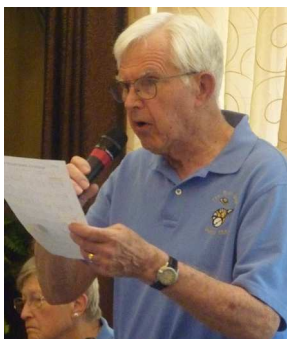
By: Bud Pearce

Photos by: Bob Nelson

The East Bay banjo strummers celebrated Memorial Day with the seniors at Kensington Senior Living Center. The performance got off to a somewhat rocky start, due to a problem with the audio system. With only one speaker working and no way to increase the volume, the audience could not hear Betty David's opening remarks. The first songs were a salute to all branches of the Armed Forces (Marines, Navy, Army, Coast Guard, and Air Force) and we relied heavily on Kit being able to start each song vocally. Again, the audio system caused less than desirable results. We must correct these problems if we expect our audiences to enjoy our performances.

Some excitement occurred during the performance when the EMTs arrived, along with an ambulance, to take care of a medical emergency somewhere in the facility. Fortunately, most of the audience was unaware of the happenings, as their backs were turned to the facility entrance.

Despite the problems, the East Bay performers did their best to provide a fine memorial day celebration. Performers included **Betty David, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Karen Hefter, Chris Lardge, Dina Melamed, Guy Black, Sheila Welt, Don Granberg, Herb Moore, and Ardie Jarrett.** Bob Nelson was in the audience and took pictures.





*Celebrating Our Upcoming Birthdays...*

**July**

**August**



8 Ally Vaught  
23 Brian Green

5 Angelena Blankenship  
31 Bob Malucelli



2014 EBBC Board	
<b>President</b> rhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net	Larry Risner
<b>Vice President</b> dmalucelli@att.net	Bob Malucelli
<b>Secretary</b> jarjohn@msn.com	Ardie Jarrett
<b>Treasurer</b> plmyershome@att.net	Linda Myers
<b>Music Director</b> 925-938-0126	Betty David
<b>Immediate Past President</b> weltbear@sbcglobal.net	Sheila Welt
<b>Booking Agent</b> plmyershome@att.net	Phil Myers

2014 Non-Board Positions	
<b>Assistant Music Director</b> entline@msn.com	Jack Convery
<b>Assistant Music Director</b> rhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net	Larry Risner
<b>Hospitality</b> weltbear@sbcglobal.net	Sheila Welt
<b>Librarian</b> jpblankenship@att.net	Jim Blankenship
<b>Membership</b> plmyershome@att.net	Linda Myers
<b>Newsletter Editor/Publisher</b> editor@eastbaybanjo.org	Karen Hefter
<b>Telephone Tree</b> dmalucelli@att.net	Diane Malucelli
<b>Uniforms</b> Gold Vest 925-685-0673 Polo Shirts jarjohn@msn.com	Robin Reeves Ardie Jarrett
<b>Web Master</b> bud.pearce@pearcechriss.com	Bud Pearce

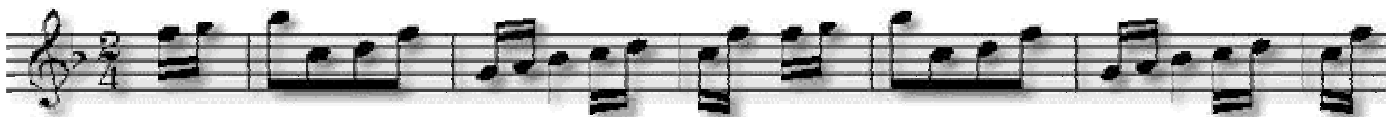
**Education Corner**



If your banjo isn't sounding as bright and lively as it used to, it might be time to change the strings! Change them every few months. This YouTube video gives a demonstration of how to change the strings on your banjo:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hd6E9h>

**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****Date:** Tuesday, April 8, 2014**Place:** Luigi's #1 Deli, 537 Main Street, Martinez, CA**Board Members Present:** Larry Risner, President; Bob Malucelli, Vice President; Ardie Jarrett, Secretary; Linda Myers, Treasurer; Betty David, Music Director; Phil Myers, Booking Agent, Sheila Welt, Past President.**Absent Board of Director:** None**Committee Chair Present:** Linda Myers, Membership; Sheila Welt, Hospitality.**Absent Committee Chair:** Karen Hefter, Newsletter Editor; Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Bud Pearce, Web Master; Diane Malucelli, Telephone Tree.**Guests Present:** Guy Black, Mary Black.**Call to Order:** 5:05 PM by Larry Risner, President.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Secretary:** March Minutes were approved as presented, 7/0/0.**Treasurer:** Linda Myers gave the treasurer's report as of the end of March. The treasurer's report was accepted 7/0/0. This report will be filed for audit.**Vice President:** Bob Malucelli – Nothing to report.**Music Director:** Betty David – Nothing to report.**Booking Agent:** Phil Myers: - Members going to Banjo Rama need to pay \$20 fee to treasurer. The Resonator has now been updated. We are expecting a large crowd for the May 8<sup>th</sup> gig for SIRS.**Past President:** Sheila Welt – Nothing to report.**CORRESPONDENCE:** None**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Sheila Welt – Nothing to report**Membership:** Linda Myers – We have 20 members who haven't renewed their membership. Reminders have been sent.**Librarian:** Jim Blankenship – Absent**Web Master:** Bud Pearce – Absent**Telephone Tree:** Diane Malucelli – Absent**Editor:** Karen Hefter – Absent**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****By-Law Committee:** Sheila Welt Volunteered to chair this committee. There will be 5 members on the committee including Larry Risner.**Wireless Mic System:** Larry explained the system, but decided to put it on hold for now.**NEW BUSINESS:****Changes:** Club business and announcements will be done at the beginning of practice. We need to think about introducing new songs and to get more younger players in our group. We are going to have to change our strict approach to club rules.**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Guy shared a conversation with Luigi concerning his cost for our using his facilities.

We need more members to purchase meals and other items to help offset his expenses. Please help!!!

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM until April 8, 2014.**Respectfully Submitted,**  
Ardie Jarrett

**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****Date:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014**Place:** Luigi's #1 Deli, 537 Main Street, Martinez, CA**Board Members Present:** Larry Risner, President; Bob Malucelli, Vice President; Ardie Jarrett, Secretary; Betty David, Music Director; Sheila Welt, Past President.**Absent Board of Director:** Linda Myers, Treasurer; Phil Myers, Booking Agent.**Committee Chair Present:** Sheila Welt, Hospitality; Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Diane Malucelli, Telephone Tree.**Absent Committee Chair:** Karen Hefter, Newsletter Editor; Bud Pearce, Web Master; Linda Myers, Membership.**Guests Present:** Guy Black and Barbara Finley.**Call to Order:** 5:05 PM by Larry Risner, President.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Secretary:** March Minutes were approved as presented, 5/0/2 ab.**Treasurer:** Linda Myers gave the treasurer's report as of the end of March. The treasurer's report was accepted 7/0/0. This report will be filed for audit.**Vice President:** Bob Malucelli – Gave a report on Tim Perry's memorial.**Music Director:** Betty David – Nothing to report.**Booking Agent:** Phil Myers: - Absent. However it was discussed that we don't need to push for more gigs, but if they happen, we can handle them. We have a new gig on June 19<sup>th</sup> at Aegis Living in Pleasant Hill from 6-7 pm.**Past President:** Sheila Welt – Nothing to report.**CORRESPONDENCE:** None**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Sheila Welt – She will get a card signed by the members to send to Tim Perry's family. Bill Dowling was at Tim's memorial and still is not doing very well.**Membership:** Linda Myers – Absent**Librarian:** Jim Blankenship – Jim has a couple of printed music books, for which members will be charged the printing cost, which presently is \$32.**Web Master:** Bud Pearce – Absent.**Telephone Tree:** Diane Malucelli – The Telephone Tree was used to inform the membership of Tim Perry's death and when the memorial would be held. We need to remember to make use of our Telephone Tree.**Editor:** Karen Hefter – Absent.**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****By-Law Committee:** Sheila Welt has compiled all revisions and they have been sent to the committee for their comments. When there are no more revisions, the document will be sent to the membership for their vote.**NEW BUSINESS:****Loudspeaker Replacement:** Larry Risner has found a lighter weight with 3 inputs for approx. \$200. This should be adequate for most practices and some gigs. Guy Black needs to go and check it out.**Casual Uniform:** We need to get into a discussion about changing the casual uniform to black pants, shoes, & socks with the club blue polo. Presently, we can't get a consistent color of tan.**GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION:**

- Membership meetings & club announcements will be held every week prior to practice.
- We need to get more young people in the club and make the club less strict with the club rules.
- Martinez homeless shelter and where the homeless are being fed was discussed. This might affect where we hold our practices.
- Bud Pearce had to buy a spam filter for the website, which costs \$2.50/month.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM until June 10, 2014.**Respectfully Submitted,**

Ardie Jarrett



Concord, CA 94524

P.O. Box 5414



## **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**