





Membership Newsletter

Editor: Karen Hefter

Volume 9 Issue 4

Upcoming Play Out Schedule

July/August 2014

August 23rd Club Picnic, Landers Landing 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

November 10th Montecito Oakmont Senior Living, Concord 3:00 am - 4:00 pm

<u>November 11th</u> The Kensington, Walnut Creek TBD

> December 4th Walnut Creek Civic Arts 10:00 am - 11:00 am



For bookings, Contact Phil Myers, Booking Agent at bookingagent@eastbaybanjo.org or Call 925-932-3489 **President's Message:**

On behalf of the East Bay Banjo Club, I'd like to give a hearty thank you to Luigi for being so generous in hosting our club meetings at his deli for the last year. Luigi extended his business hours to accommodate our Tuesday evening meetings and we really appreciate all he has done for the Club. I'd also like to thank all of our other friends at Luigi's.

Effective immediately, the day and location of club meetings has been changed to:

Wednesday evenings from 7-9pm The Greenery Restaurant, 1551 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek



The reason for this move is that our meeting time is during the Greenery's normal business hours, so there is no charge to the club. Plus, it is more conveniently located for most of our members. After the first meeting there last week, members reported that the food, service, and acoustics are excellent. You might consider arriving early and enjoying a meal. The room is a bit darker than we are used to, so people who use paper music books may want to bring a reading light. Users of iPads/tablets will have no problem. Parking is easy in a large, open lot. As usual, players of any age and experience level (including new beginners), as well as listeners, are welcome to attend our meetings.

This is yet another major change for the club and everyone's patience is greatly appreciated. I would like to recognize Jesse DeTorres for all of the time and effort and time he put forth to locate a new venue and arrange for our club to meet at this new location.

The board meeting in August was cancelled because of the move. Board meetings will resume in September.

Important reminders for all band players:

- Try to play in support of the entire group, not just for yourself.
- Play every tune as if there is a vocalist singing it (hold the volume down).
- Keep in mind that the banjo is much louder to those out in front of you.
- Just because someone else is playing loudly, don't play loudly also.
- If you can't hear the melody, everyone is playing too loudly.
- Listen to and follow the tempo set by the bass.

Larry Risner EBBC President

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP







Back View of Bob's Banjo

My Homemade Tahitian Banjo

By: Bob Malucelli Photos by: Karen Hefter

I wanted to build a Tahitian banjo, so I went on the internet to learn about making musical instruments. I found some ideas and instructions there. The following website, <u>www.tahitiukulele.com/</u>, has some beautiful Tahitian ukuleles in turtle, manta ray, pineapple, and other shapes. This was my inspiration: I purchased the following supplies:

- Oak wood
- Birch wood
- 6 tuning pegs
- 30 lb fishing line
- Frets

I made the fret board out of the birch wood and attached the frets to it. Making the banjo required a lot of cutting and sanding. It took about 20 hours and about \$75 to build this instrument.



Bob Ehrhorn and Red Higgins



PLAY OUTS



Aegis Senior Living Playout

June 19, 2014

By: Karen Hefter Photos by: Bob Nelson

The EBBC had an amazing turnout of 18 players and 2 supporting members at this playout! We performed in a beautiful, shaded courtyard in front of a gurgling fountain while the audience members lounged in chairs around the perimeter of the courtyard. They were served drinks and hors d'oeuvres by staff members during our performance. The EBBC was invited to join the residents for a light buffet following the show.

We performed a number of singalong and dance favorites and audience members clapped as we played. Towards the end, many of them rose to their feet and danced to "Five Foot Two" and our closing number, "When The Saints Go Marching In." Our youngest member, Danielle Torres, sang several songs, to the delight of the audience. Don Granberg, Kit Nelson, Red Higgins, Bud Pearce, and Chris Lardge also entertained the audience with their vocals. Our performers were: Guy Black, Tom Brunetti, Kermit Collins, Betty David, Don Granberg, Karen Hefter, Harry Higgins, Red Higgins, Ardie Jarrett, Chris Lardge, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Larry Risner, and Danielle Torres. Club members Bob Nelson and Jim Abele were present in the audience, along with EBBC alumnus Jack Hicks.



PLAY OUTS



Stoneman Village Playout

July 3, 2014

By: Diane Malucelli

Photos by: Bob Nelson

We had an enjoyable playout at Stoneman Village in Pittsburg. We were going to play in their outdoor patio, but we were moved into their recreation room because it was too warm outside. We were very happy to be in the air conditioning!

The members who played were **Betty David**, **Guy Black**, **Kit Nelson**, **Don Granberg**, **Linda Myers**, **Phil Myers**, **Jim Blankenship**, **Bob Malucelli**, and **Diane Malucelli**. Since it was right before the 4th of July, Betty led us in a state themed program, including songs like "Missouri Waltz" and "Alabama Jubilee." We played all 5 of the military songs. Betty acknowledged each branch of the military individually and asked the veterans to stand when their branch's song was played. Kit Nelson sang and led the group in the military songs. Don Granberg played several songs on the piano, which really added a special touch to our music. We ended with "God Bless America."

We had about forty people in the audience and I want to highlight two special residents who were present in the audience. Mac Coates, the president of the Pittsburg Lions Club, was in the front of the room and he loved every song. He really inspired us with his enthusiasm as he cheered us on. The other person I would like to mention is Joe Morales, an Army veteran. He was drafted in World War II, reenlisted four times, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He took a photo with **Bob Nelson**, our own Marine veteran.



PLAY OUTS



Orinda Parade July 4, 2014

By: Karen Hefter

Photos by: Karen Hefter, Edward Hefter, Linda Myers, and Gloria Pearce

We couldn't have picked a nicer day for a parade! Spirits were high as we rode down the streets of Orinda on our festive float. We decorated the flatbed truck with bales of straw, bunting, and plenty of American flags. Betty David led us in our parade songs, which we played to the cheers of the audience. Many people smiled at us and air strummed imaginary banjos as we went by. We were told that it was much easier to hear us this year, as compared to last year, which is good! The parade was really well attended this year and it is a real treat to be part of this slice of Americana. Diane and Bob Malucelli coordinated this event for us and even brought coffee and doughnuts for us to enjoy as we decorated the float! Be sure to check out a video clip of this event at www.eastbaybanjo.org.

We would like to thank our wonderful sponsors, Alex and Alice Gailas of A.G. Realty (and their dog Apollo) for sponsoring our float again and for riding with us. We would also like to thank club member Bobbie Landers for arranging the logistics of the straw bales for us this year. Our performers were: Guy Black, Betty David, Don Granberg, Brian Green, Marco Green, Karen Hefter, Harry Higgins, Red Higgins, Deb Hodson, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, and Bud Pearce.



PLAY OUTS



PLAY OUTS

Relay For Life Playout

July 12, 2014

By: Kit Nelson

Photos by: Bob Nelson and Edward Hefter

Todos De Santos park in Concord, CA was the scene of a "Relay For Life" walk to support the American Cancer Society. It is a 24-hour walk-a-thon for a cure and all proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. We were delighted to be a part of their day and we thank the American Cancer Society for the opportunity to play at this event.

We had a wonderful turnout of 23 performers from the East Bay Banjo Club. Our performers were: Betty David, Guy Black, Tom Brunetti, Jesse De Torres, Marco and Brian Green, Harry and Red Higgins, Don Granberg, Terry Horner, Karen Hefter, Ardie Jarrett, Chris Lardge, Bob and Diane Malucelli, Dina Melamed, Phil and Linda Myers, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Larry Risner, Sheila Welt, and Ken Williamson. Other club members who attended were Jim Abele, Georgette De Torres, Clyde Dedmon, and Bob Nelson.

A "Try A Banjo" area was set up adjacent to the stage and staffed by Karen and Linda. People could stop by and learn more about banjos, ukuleles, and the East Bay Banjo Club. Karen and Linda let people try the banjos and ukes we had on display and taught the visitors to play a 2-chord song (The Hokey Pokey).

Quite a variety of musical talents were displayed that day by our members. The audience enjoyed the list of songs that Betty, our Music Director, chose to play. The EBBC did a wonderful service to our community by volunteering to provide music to people who are "fighting for the cure." Everyone in the club can feel proud to have made their own personal contribution to the American Cancer Society. We hope we are invited back next year.







Forest Home Farm Ice Cream Social

August 9, 2014

By: Bob Nelson

Photos by: Bob Nelson

This was our second performance at Forest Home Farm this year. It's always fun and there's never a dull moment. There are plenty of interesting things for kids and adults to do, including tractor rides, dog herding demonstrations, and a display of farm tools from the 1800s to the early 1900s. There was also a display of children's toys from the same era. Kids had the opportunity to step back in time and try tossing bean bags and jumping rope. It turns out that these games are not as easy as they look!

The East Bay Banjo Club was the highlight of the afternoon and we performed in the old Walnut Drying Barn. Music Director **Betty David** had a great selection of songs and she was supported by musicians **Guy Black**, **Tom Brunetti**, **Clyde Dedmon**, **Jesse De Torres**, **Bob Ehrhorn**, **Ardie Jarrett**, **Gary Kerr**, **Chris Lardge**, **Bob Malucelli**, **Dina Melamed**, **Phil Myers** and **Kit Nelson**. Other members attending in support were **Mary Black**, **Georgette De Torres**, and Georgette's grandson. Also attending was Diane Malucelli's mother, Irene Macario.

Diane Malucelli, **Linda Myers**, and **Ardie Jarrett** were the demonstration team that headed up the "Try A Banjo" booth. Thank you ladies - this is such a great idea and it generates a lot of interest in the banjo.



ODDS & ENDS

Celebrating Our Upcoming Birthdays...

September

- 06 Ardie Jarrett
- 12 Garry May
- 24 Buddy Burke
- 25 Red Higgins

October

- 13 Barbara Findlay
- 13 Bob Ehrhorn
- 14 Fred "Mickey" Finn
- 18 Ken Williamson
- 25 Marco Green
- 26 Herb Moore
- 27 Bob Nelson
- 30 Karen DeWeese



Education Corner



For the scientists in the group: The secret of the Banjo's twang was revealed by a Nobel Prize winning Physicist. <u>https://medium.com/the-physics-arxivblog/the-secret-of-the-banjos-soundrevealed-d45f811ddf3d</u>

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



East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Date: Tuesday, June 10, 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 Directors: None **Committee Chairs Present:** Sheila Welt, Hospitality; Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Diane Malucelli, Telephone Tree; Linda Myers, Membership. Absent Committee Chair: Karen Hefter, Newsletter Editor; Bud Pearce, Web Master. **Guests Present:** Guy Black and Barbara Findlay. **Call to Order:** 5:05 PM by Larry Risner, President. **BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:** Secretary: May minutes were approved as presented, 7/0/0. **Treasurer**: Linda Myers gave the treasurer's report as of the end of May. The treasurer's report was accepted 7/0/0. This report will be filed for audit. Vice President: Bob Malucelli – Bob is still looking for possible new locations for the club to practice. **Music Director:** Betty David – Nothing to report. Booking Agent: Phil Myers – Discussed future gigs: June 19th at Aegis Living in Pleasant Hill and the 4th of July Orinda Parade. Phil is working on a fundraiser with Los Lomas High School on Sept. 15th. **Past President:** Sheila Welt – Nothing to report. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hospitality: Sheila Welt – Robin Reeves isn't feeling well.

Membership: Linda Myers – 5 new paid members, giving us a total of 57 members.

Librarian: Jim Blankenship – Jim reported that it currently costs \$38.25 to reproduce the club music book. **Web Master:** Bud Pearce – Absent.

Telephone Tree: Diane Malucelli – The telephone tree will be revised to include some of the club followers. **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. **Speaker Replacement:** Motion passed 7/0/0 to purchase a 15 inch Behringer speaker with 2 inputs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Casual Uniform: We discussed changing the casual uniform to black pants, black shoes, & black socks with the club blue polo. The vote ended in a tie. It was decided that if we perform outside in the heat, tan shorts could be worn.

The Future of the Club: We discussed how other clubs work at maintaining interest and membership. We discussed adding other instruments and going into schools to promote interest in EBBC. More discussion is needed.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM until July 8, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ardie Jarrett



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Date: Tuesday, July 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; Sheila Welt, Past President; Phil Myers, Booking Agent. Absent Board of Directors: None **Committee Chairs Present:** Sheila Welt, Hospitality; Diane Malucelli, Telephone Tree; Linda Myers, Membership; Bud Pearce, Web Master. Absent Committee Chair: Karen Hefter, Newsletter Editor; Jim Blankenship, Librarian. Guests Present: Guy Black, Mary Black, Kit Nelson, Bob Nelson, Jessie & Georgette DeTorres, Barbara Findlay. **Call to Order:** 5:03 PM by Larry Risner, President. **BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:** Secretary: June Minutes were approved as corrected, 7/0/0. **Treasurer**: Linda Myers gave the treasurer's report as of the end of June. 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 – Phil is working to secure 2 new gigs, one on Aug. 9th and one Sept. 15th. The annual picnic at Landers Landing will be August 23 at 11:00 am. **Past President:** Sheila Welt – Nothing to report. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Hospitality: Sheila Welt – Nothing new to report. Membership: Linda Myers – No new members. Librarian: Jim Blankenship – Absent. Web Master: Bud Pearce – Hasn't posted the last two gigs. **Telephone Tree:** Diane Malucelli – The Telephone Tree has been revised and does include some of our faithful Followers. **Editor:** Karen Hefter – absent. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** By-Law Committee: Sheila Welt has compiled all revisions and they have been sent to the committee and the board for their comments. Further discussion on by-law revisions was tabled until the next meeting. Proposed 2014 Budget: After discussing the modified 2014 proposed budget, a motion was made and passed 7/0/0 to accept. **NEW BUSINESS: Meeting location:** If the club is to continue to meet at Luigi's Deli, we will have to pay a flat \$100/meeting. Jessie DeTorres suggested that we look into The Greenery Restaurant, 1551 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. It was suggested that the board members look at this facility. This, along with any other options, will be discussed and the board will make a decision by the end of the month. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM. **Respectfully Submitted,** Ardie Jarrett

Concord, CA 94524



Cast Bay Banjo Club

Meets every Wednesday From 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM At The Greenery Restaurant 1551 Marchbanks Drive,

Walnut Creek, CA 94598