

EAST BAY BANJO CLUB



Since 1963

September/October 2014

Membership Newsletter

Editor: Karen Hefter

Volume 9 Issue 5

Upcoming Play Out Schedule

October 25th

Orchard Nursery, Lafayette
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

November 10th

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

November 11th

The Kensington, Walnut Creek
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

December 4th

Walnut Creek Civic Arts
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Monthly Board Meetings

2nd Tuesdays, 7pm-9pm

Round Table Pizza

2760 Treat Blvd., Concord

Next Meeting: Sept. 9th

East Bay Banjo Club Meets

Every Wednesday

7:00 pm- 9:00 pm

The Greenery Restaurant
1551 Marchbanks Drive,
Walnut Creek, CA

Be sure to check our website,
www.eastbaybanjo.org,
for current event information and a
blog about past performances.

For bookings, Contact
Phil Myers, Booking Agent at
bookingagent@eastbaybanjo.org
or
Call 925-932-3489

President's Message:

Wow, this year is flying by!!! There are two months left to go and we have accomplished so much already this year:

- We purchased a great new wireless microphone sound system and a larger loudspeaker to replace the older, complex system.
- We moved to a new location that is centrally located in and has good food and easy parking.
- We now allow other instruments to play with the club.
- We are currently establishing a committee to introduce new music into the club.



All of this work has been done so that the club is truly a club "for its members – by its members."

The club has a long and rich history in the world of banjo clubs/bands. It is the ongoing responsibility of all members, and especially the club's elected officers, to keep the EBBC functioning as an enjoyable, social, banjo playing club for everyone. That was the objective and purpose of forming the club over 50 years ago and we musn't lose that vision.

Currently, in a time when music doesn't sound like music and when banjos have lost the popularity they had during the 1900's, the hope is that there will be a re-discovery of acoustic instruments with the younger generations. I believe that this is already starting to take place with the growing popularity of the ukulele among younger people. Our club should encourage this and we should join with many of the other banjo bands and use the ukulele as a starting instrument, ultimately leading to banjo playing.

With the end of the year upon us, it is now time to open the nomination process for the elected club officer seats. A small nomination committee will be available to all voting members that might wish to run for an office. If you believe you would like to pursue a seat on the board, you should notify the nomination committee and obtain a description of the position from the nominating committee. All seats on the board are open for nominations and we will have a formal election at our annual membership meeting in December. Everyone will have a fair and equal opportunity to run for any board position. *(Continued on Page 3)*

Every Banjo Player Can Start A Song!

by Karen Hefter

An important part of playing the banjo in a group setting is being able to start a song with some kind of an intro. The main purposes of the intro are to set the tempo and to let the rest of the group know when to come in. At least 4 bars of intro are preferred, because 4 bars give the rest of the group enough time to figure out the beat so they can come in solidly at the appropriate time.

Now, you may think that only lead players or melody players can start a song. Wrong! Rhythm players can start songs too. Melody players might use the last 4 or 8 bars of the song melody as an intro or they might have their own special intro for a particular song. However, there are times when melody players need to start songs that they don't know well or don't play melody on. It turns out that there are several generic intros that will work with just about any song and are achievable by both melody and rhythm players. Interested? Read on...

First of all, the chords in the last 4 bars of the song can be used as an intro, even if the melody notes aren't played by the person starting the song. For example, in the song, "Shantytown," in the key of F, the last 4 bars of the song could be played as follows:

4 beats Gm, 4 beats C7, 2 beats F, 2 beats F#dim, 4 beats C7

The first generic 4 bar intro is extremely versatile and can be used for just about every song. It can be used for either slow songs or fast songs and it can even be changed into waltz time. It is easily transposed into other keys. Try this one with "Alley Cat" in the key of C.

Key of C: *4 beats D7, 4 beats G7, 4 beats C, 4 beats G7*

Key of F: *4 beats G7, 4 beats C7, 4 beats F, 4 beats C7*

Key of G: *4 beats A7, 4 beats D7, 4 beats G, 4 beats D7*

A variation of this is a 'vamp' style intro that is equally versatile. This intro consists of a 2 measure vamp that is repeated, resulting in a total of 4 bars. Try this one with "Bye Bye Blackbird" in the key of F.

Key of C: *2 beats D7, 2 beats G7, 4 beats C, 2 beats D7, 2 beats G7, 2 beats C, 2 beats G7*

Key of F: *2 beats G7, 2 beats C7, 4 beats F, 2 beats G7, 2 beats C7, 2 beats F, 2 beats C7*

Key of G: *2 beats A7, 2 beats D7, 4 beats G, 2 beats A7, 2 beats D7, 2 beats G, 2 beats D7*

The next generic 4 bar intro is one that also works well with a lot of songs. A variety of rhythm patterns can be used with it. Try this one with "Anchors Aweigh" in the key of C. It may sound familiar if you arrange your chord inversions so the top note of each chord is a G.

Key of C: *4 beats G7, 4 beats C7, 2 beats G7, 2 beats C7, 4 beats G+*

Key of F: *4 beats C7, 4 beats F7, 2 beats C7, 2 beats F7, 4 beats C+*

(continued on Page 3)

Every Banjo Player Can Start A Song (continued from page 2)

Key of G: *4 beats D7, 4 beats G7, 2 beats D7, 2 beats G7, 4 beats D+*

Something to note is that some of the military songs don't start right on the downbeat. Some, like "Caissons Go Rolling Along" and "Marine's Hymn", have two beats of 'pickup' notes that start the songs prior to the downbeat. In these cases, instead of 4 beats of G+, the last 4 beats of the intro might be 1 beat G7, 1 beat rest, 2 beats pickup notes.

The last generic 4 bar intro I'd like to mention is below. In the key of C, this would work well with a song like "Five Foot Two."

Key of C: *4 beats C, 4 beats Cdim, 4 beats G7, 4 beats G+*

Key of F: *4 beats F, 4 beats Fdim, 4 beats C7, 4 beats C+*

Key of G: *4 beats G, 4 beats Gdim, 4 beats D7, 4 beats D+*

I recommend that you try out some of these intros with some of your favorite songs. You may need to play around with the chord inversions so that your chord combinations sound like a cohesive intro. You should experiment with the different locations of the chords up and down the neck to find the chord inversions that sound good together and make the intro sound pleasing to your ear. Give it a try and have fun!

President's Message (continued from page 1)

As the end of the year is drawing near, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you for supporting the changes that we have made this year for the good of our club. In fact, I think it is better than ever – so again, thank you!!!

Larry Risner

President 2014



IN MEMORIAM

Bill Dowling

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Bill Dowling. Bill was a long time member of the East Bay Banjo Club. Bill passed away after a long battle with cancer and he will be missed by all of us.



Annual Club Picnic at Landers Landing

August 23, 2014

By: Diane Malucelli

Photos by: Linda Myers

After a long drive winding through farms and ranches, we arrived at our annual club picnic at Landers Landing. Most of us arrived before noon and Bobbie Landers gave us all a big welcome at her beautiful home on the water. Don Granberg brought his keyboard and joined banjo players Betty David, Bob Malucelli, Phil and Linda Myers, Kit Nelson, Mike Stein, Sheila Welt, Ardie Jarrett, Guy Black, and Bud Pearce, as they played music for many hours. Kit, Bud, Don, Bob, and Clyde sang many of the songs. The neighbors on the island across from Bobbie's home even came out on their deck to listen to the wonderful music!

Other attendees at the picnic were Mary Black and her son Randy, Bernadette Espejo, Diane Malucelli and her mom Irene, Clyde Dedmon, Dina Melamed, Jim and Angelina Blankenship, Bob Nelson, Gloria Pearce, and Jeannine Stein. A young friend of Bobbie's came to the picnic. His name is Marek and he is from Tabor in the Czech Republic. He attended with three other young people who are part of his host family. They went out on the boat with Bobbie's daughter, Holly Burke. Holly also took a few of our banjo group out on the boat to tour the Delta.

We had a wonderful lunch of sausages, veggie burgers, corn on the cob, salads, chips, dips, and great desserts. Don brought a delicious homemade cheesecake that he made from his mom's recipe. It was a beautiful, relaxing, warm day on the Delta with fun music and great people. We are so thankful to Bobbie and her family for this opportunity to visit her home and the Delta for our annual picnic. Thank you so much!





The Commons at Dallas Ranch Payout

October 4, 2014

By: Karen Hefter

Photos By: Diane Risner

We were scheduled to play outdoors at The Commons at Dallas Ranch's Fall Country Faire, but, since the temperature was in the mid 90s, we were able to play inside. We had a small but enthusiastic audience for our performance. Betty David led us in a variety of songs that the audience knew and loved. There was even marching and dancing in the aisles for "When the Saints Go Marching In." Don Granberg, Bud Pearce, and Sheila Welt were our singers for the day and the crowd was very appreciative of their vocal skills. The staff was very kind and offered us snacks and drinks before our performance, which we appreciated.

Our players were: Guy Black, Jim Blankenship, Tom Brunetti, Kermit Collins, Betty David, Don Granberg, Karen Hefter, Garry Kerr, Phil Myers, Bud Pearce, Larry Risner, and Sheila Welt.



Banjos For Sale or Wanted

FOR SALE: Complete EBBC formal performance uniform: Women's medium gold vest, white shirt and black satin bow tie. All in excellent condition \$25.00

FOR SALE: EBBC blue polo shirt: Women's medium (size 10-12) Blue cotton, waffle-weave, embroidered EBBC club shirt, short sleeves (used for casual performance with khakis). \$10.00 Like-new blue; no fading!

FOR SALE: Metronome: Super-cool pocket-sized German clockwork metronome. Set beats/minute to bring your work up to speed without practicing mistakes. This is a real sweetheart!

FOR SALE: Plectrum banjo travel case with wheels!! One of a kind. Black, custom-fitted with permanent wheels and tow handle for easy transport. This winner took my banjo to the Czech Republic for EBBC's tour in perfect safety and rolled over lots of curbs and cobblestones with ease. Mint condition (with a few decals from some of its other travels). Perfect for Hearst Castle Train trip! \$40.00

Interested parties for any of the above items may reach Chris Horner by E-MAIL at: cthorner@mac.com
PHONE at: [925.283.7234](tel:925.283.7234).

The East Bay Banjo Club assumes no responsibility for any transactions made through the For Sale or Wanted advertisements.

**Welcome to our
NEW MEMBER!**

Dan Kolody



Halloween Is Right Around The Corner!!



Don't forget to wear your costume to The Greenery on Wednesday, October 29th!



Celebrating Our Upcoming Birthdays...

November

- 04—Deb Hodson
- 14—Tom Brunetti
- 19—Chuck Cook
- 20—Jim Brunetti
- 20—Kit Nelson
- 29—Kermit Collins



December

- 01—Deborah Black
- 16—Jesse De Torres
- 19—Karen Hefter
- 22—Holly Burke
- 24—Diane Malucelli
- 27—Danielle Torres
- 28—Michael Stein
- 31—Phil Myers



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

2014 Non-Board Positions	
Assistant Music Director entline@msn.com	Jack Convery
Assistant Music Director rhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net	Larry Risner
Hospitality weltbear@sbcglobal.net	Sheila Welt
Librarian jplankenship@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 Polo Shirts jarjohn@msn.com	Robin Reeves Ardie Jarrett
Web Master bud.pearce@pearcechriss.com	Bud Pearce

Education Corner



Thank you Sheila for suggesting this article: "How to get your banjo playing out of a rut."

<http://blog.deeringbanjos.com/5-tips-to-get-your-banjo-playing-out-of-a-rut/>

East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Place: Sheila Welt's Residence

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 Chairs: Karen Hefter, Newsletter Editor; Jim Blankenship, Librarian.

CALL TO ORDER: Called to order at 7:07 PM by Larry Risner, President.

BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:

Secretary: A mistake was found in the January 1st, 2014 beginning bank balance for both June & July minutes. It was moved & seconded that the amounts be corrected. Motion passed 7/0/0.

Treasurer: Linda Myers gave the treasurer's report as of the end of August. The treasurer's report was accepted 7/0/0. This report will be filed for audit.

Vice President: Bob Malucelli – Bob doesn't think any more flyers are needed to advertise our new meeting location. He will also bring merchandise (cups, song books, & CDs) to weekly meetings.

Music Director: Betty David – The introduction of other instruments is working out fine and makes us more like a club type variety show. More members are participating and this is good.

Booking Agent: Phil Myers – We have had 14 gigs for the year and another on Oct. 25th at the Lafayette Nursery. We also might be asked to play some during the holidays, but nothing for now.

Past President: Sheila Welt – Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hospitality: Sheila Welt – Bill Dowling is on Hospice and she will bring a card for all to sign.

Membership: Linda Myers – We have 63 members as compared to 69 a year ago.

Librarian: Jim Blankenship – Absent

Web Master: Bud Pearce – We have been faced with social media and Facebook. We can put "static" information onto Facebook, which will direct people to our web page. Only our 3 website people will do postings, if needed.

Telephone Tree: Diane Malucelli – The telephone tree is working fine.

Editor: Karen Hefter – absent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

By-Law Committee: Sheila Welt moved that the EBBC Board of Directors recommend the adoption of the proposed by-laws revisions to the general membership. Motion was seconded and passed 5/2/0.

Honorary Membership: Larry Risner suggested that we should make Sue Horn an Honorary Member of the East Bay Banjo Club. It was decided that Larry would make the offer to Sue.

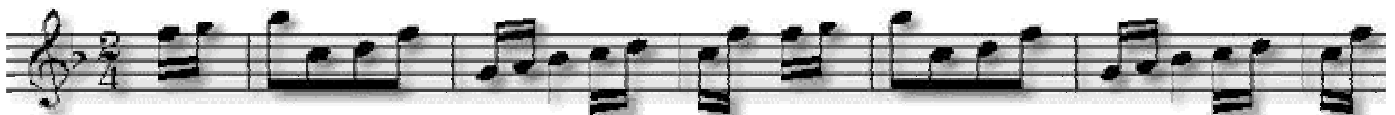
NEW BUSINESS:

Board Meeting Location: The location is still under discussion, but will probably be at the Round Table Pizza location on Treat, across from the fire station near De La Salle High School. Bud Pearce will check it out.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM .

Respectfully Submitted,

Ardie Jarrett



Concord, CA 94524

P.O. Box 5414

WWW.EASTBAYBANJO.ORG



East 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**