



EAST BAY BANJO CLUB



Since 1963

November/December 2014

Membership Newsletter

Editor: Karen Hefter

Volume 9 Issue 6

Upcoming Play Out Schedule

February 27th

Orinda Masonic Lodge Crab Feed
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm



****No EBBC****

12/24 or 12/31

**See you next
year!**

Monthly Board Meetings

**2nd Tuesdays, 7pm
Sheila Welt's House
Next Meeting: Jan. 13th**



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
Bob Ehrhorn, Booking Agent at
bobehrhorn@att.net
or
Call 510-581-5195

President's Message:

We should all be very proud of our club - our club is for all of us!!!

As members of the club, we are all vital and functioning parts. The board positions are open to all regular and lifetime club members. I have personally discovered this year that the President's chair isn't all that demanding, nor are the other board chairs. The fact is that, as long as the board functions as a team for the benefit of the club and all of its members, no single board chair is too demanding. This is because there is always someone in the club to provide assistance and/or support, when and if needed. The most important savior for me this last year has been our past president – Sheila Welt.



Our club was formed over 50 years ago as an interest group for the banjo that included professional banjoists, beginners and families just wanting to have fun learning and playing together. My wish is that the club will continue with this concept but, because of changing times, we will surely need to continue to be open to making ongoing adjustments.

In addition to finding paying venues to accumulate funds, the board has decided that we will play more benefit gigs for schools and non-profit organizations in the future. This will get us back to being a "club," not a "band" and the monies derived from any paid gigs will be used to cover club operational expenses. A very difficult decision made by the board this year is to not fund our annual club dinner this year, in order to retain as much of the club funds in reserve as possible. The reason for this is that the club may need these funds in the future to pay a place to hold our weekly meetings. So far we have been very fortunate in finding locations that haven't required payments, but, as we all know, times are getting tough.

In 2014, many changes have been made to hopefully ensure the continued future of our club. This has been a somewhat challenging year for all of us and I sincerely hope that the changes the club has made in 2014 will ensure the existence of our club for future generations. I also hope that future Boards of Directors will always focus on the needs of the club for the members and not on personal agendas.

Continued on page 8

BAND TIPS

By: Garry Kerr

1. At least one player and/or all rhythm players should play strong rhythm chords on every song, - boom-chuck or 4/4. No tremolo or syncopated strokes should be used, unless everybody does it uniformly. From the audience's standpoint, a strong beat is more important than correct chords or fancy arrangements.

2. Play a song no more than 2 times unless the band is playing an arrangement or members of the audience are dancing or showing extra enthusiasm. The audience (and musicians) quickly become bored if the same thing is done over and over. Simple arrangements can consist of:

- **Vocals** - Can add interest, especially if stylized. (But not too many)
- **Key changes** - Easy, just transition by playing the dominant seven version of the new key.
- **Fancy Intros & Endings.**
- **Solos** - These need not be anything fancy. Each banjo and each player has a unique sound. Playing it straight is just fine. Nonetheless, this is your opportunity to display your best stuff. It should be noted that during a solo, **it is the duty of all the other players to make the soloist sound good without calling attention to themselves.** This means playing soft chords behind the soloist, or even not playing at all. This might require the leader to "come down" on the rogue players and insist that they show courtesy to the soloist. **If the vocalist drifts away from the arrangement, follow the vocalist.**
- **Breaks** - Breaks require absolute silence from all band members except the soloist. Soloists can do anything they want during their break.
- **Syncopated/Special strokes** - Stop time, or doublet strokes - as in "Your Cheating Heart."
- **Medleys** - If nobody can do anything special with a song and two times around is too short, combine songs to form a medley. Medleys are a great way to use up time while keeping everything fresh, and requires only one intro. Medleys can be two songs or more, each played once or twice. They can be based around a common theme, like Southern, Stephen Foster, Military, Patriotic, Trains, or keys, like C or/and F. Examples:
 - Chinatown [C]/China Boy [F]
 - Four Leaf Clover [C]/Susie [C]
 - Bill Bailey[F]/Bourbon St[F]/Avalon[F]/Battle Hymn[C]/Dixie[C]/Calif Here I Come[C]

3. Audiences are attracted to gut buckets/washboards, etc. because they represent something audience members feel that they themselves could possibly do. Encourage the gut bucket/washboard players to exploit every opportunity, but washboard/novelty percussion players should only play while being featured.

4. Tell one or two sidesplitting jokes per performance. A couple of hearty laughs are more memorable after the performance than frequent chuckles. You might have to rotate through some jokes until you find what works.

5. Try to recruit a singer that can do parodies or novelty songs. Older audiences enjoy "getting old" type songs like "Are You Bloated" or "Get Up 'N Go Has Got Up 'N Went", "It's Hard To Be Humble," or "Old Bones." It should be noted that "After You've Gone" is NOT a good choice in this situation.



Orchard Nursery Playout

October 25, 2014

By: Karen Hefter

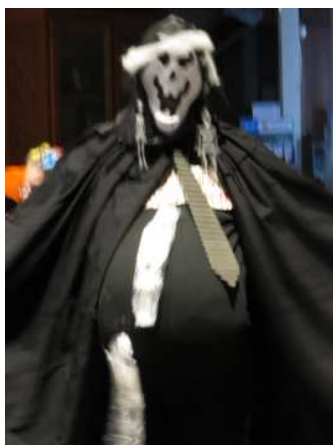
Photos by: Karen Hefter

The Orchard Nursery playout is often one of the most fun playouts of the year and this year was no exception. It rained earlier in the day and we weren't sure if the playout would be rained out, but we ended up with a beautiful day. The nursery was kind enough to provide a large canopy for us to play under. We enjoyed the gorgeous foliage and festive Halloween and fall decorations that surrounded us as we played.

There was room under the canopy for a small audience and many shoppers stopped by to listen to us. We do not use amplification for this event because no electricity is available. This also meant that we had no mics for singers. However, that didn't stop us! Don and Sheila gave their best efforts at singing (and being heard), before the group decided that sing-along style was the way to go! Chris stood up and used Tom's tap dancing cane to conduct the band (and the audience) in a singalong version of "You Are My Sunshine." This was a real hit! We closed out our program with "Take Me Out To The Ball Game," in an effort to give the San Francisco Giants a boost for their World Series game later in the day.

Our players were: Betty David, Don Granberg, Terry Horner, Tom Brunetti, Karen Hefter, Ardie Jarrett, Garry Kerr, Chris Lardge, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Larry Risner, and Sheila Welt.





Halloween Costume Party and San Francisco Giants World Series Victory

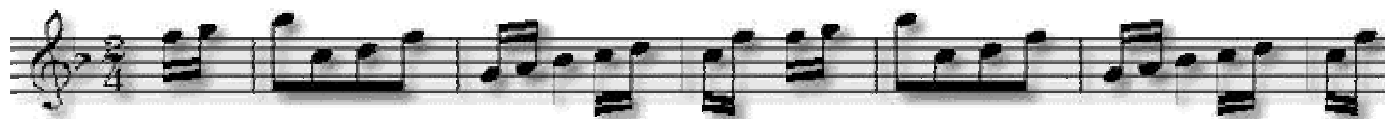
October 29, 2014

By: Karen Hefter

Photos by: Linda Myers

Our Halloween practice on October 29th couldn't have been more exciting. Besides our wonderful costume contest, the San Francisco Giants brought the 2014 World Series to a nail biting conclusion and won the title!!!

Many players and audience members came to the practice in costume and prizes were awarded to a select few who topped their categories. We played our one and only Halloween song, "I Ain't Got No-Body," to the annual groans of the crowd. At the break, most players snuck downstairs to the sports bar to watch the suspenseful 9th inning of the last game of the World Series. The tension in the room was humming. When the Giants won, the crowd erupted into cheers and the EBBC members went back up into their room and played favorites like "Take Me Out To the Ball Game" and "San Francisco" to root for the Giants' victory. Spirits were high on this festive October night.



****Celebration of Life for Randy Black**** 1955-2014

Randy Black, beloved son of EBBC members Guy and Mary Black, passed away on December 3rd. Some EBBC members knew Randy and others met him at the picnic at Lander's Landing last summer. He so enjoyed the Delta. Guy and Mary invite you to a Celebration of Life for Randy.

Sunday December 28th at 2:30 p.m.

Pacheco Town Hall
5800 Pacheco Blvd.
Pacheco, CA

Welcome to our NEW MEMBER!

Jack Starr





Montecito Oakmont Senior Living Payout

November 10, 2014

By: Ardie Jarrett

Photos by: Linda Myers

Our payout at Montecito Oakmont Senior Living turned out to be a wonderful experience for all. I don't think I have ever seen as many people sitting in the audience for one of our payouts as there were today. We tried to count the audience members, but they just kept on coming into the room. We guessed that the crowd included at least 100 people. The director of the facility welcomed everyone (including us) to the Veteran's Day celebration, and read a wonderful poem called, "The Best On Earth."

We started our program by playing songs as a tribute to each branch of the military...Marines, Navy, Army, Coast Guard, and Air Force. Then, we just started having fun by playing lots of the "oldies but goodies" songs that everyone was familiar with. Our singers included: Don Granberg, Chris Lardge, Sheila Welt, Bud Pearce, and Bob Ehrhorn. The audience joined in and sang while we were playing. We all had a great time. Our players were: Betty David, Don Granberg, Tom Brunetti, Chris Lardge, Bob Malucelli, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Sheila Welt, Guy Black, Bud Pearce, Bob Ehrhorn, and Ardie Jarrett.





Kensington Payout

November 11, 2014

By: Diane Malucelli
Photos by: Linda Myers

When we walked into the Kensington, they had a very large, beautiful American flag across the foyer. It made you feel patriotic right away. We played in the foyer and we had around 45 people in the audience.

Our leader was Betty David and our bass players were Guy Black and Terry Horner. The banjo players were Bud Pearce, Bob Ehrhorn, Don Granberg, Phil Myers, Linda Myers, Tom Brunetti, Ardie Jarrett, Diane Malucelli, and Bob Malucelli.

We played the military songs first and everyone enthusiastically joined in as Bud Pearce and Bob Ehrhorn led us in those songs. We sang some of the songs from Betty's List and it was fun to see how much the residents enjoyed the music. Don Granberg also sang a few songs. We closed with "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America."

Many residents told us how much they enjoyed our performance. It was so nice to play music on Veteran's Day.





Walnut Creek Civic Arts Playout

December 4, 2014

By: Diane Malucelli

Photos by: Bob Nelson and Linda Myers

Our playout on Thursday, December 4 was for the Walnut Creek Civic Arts League's annual holiday lunch. The Civic Arts League promotes the arts in Contra Costa County and will celebrate their 50th year in March, 2015. There were probably 150 women in the audience and many wore a lot of bright red and green.

Jack Convery led us in a variety of Christmas and Jewish songs, in addition to songs from our regular EBBC book. We started out with "Winter Wonderland" and performed some new songs like "Sunrise, Sunset," which was sung by Sheila Welt. Chris Lardge sang "Hava Nagila," in addition to a song by George Fromby called "Fanlight Fanny." Don Granberg sang a song and played his washboard. Dina Melamed and Don played their washboards together to "Coney Island Washboard." Terry Horner sang a couple of songs and played the gut bucket, to the delight of the audience. Bud Pearce sang several songs, including "Swanee." Kit Nelson sang also and we ended with "When the Saints Go Marching In." It was a fun playout and the audience sang and clapped along with the songs.

The people who performed today were: Guy Black, Tom Brunetti, Jack Convery, Betty David, Clyde Dedmon, Bob Ehrhorn, Don Granberg, Terry Horner, Ardie Jarrett, Garry Kerr, Chris Lardge, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Dina Melamed, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, and Sheila Welt. Bob Nelson took photos for us.



President's Message, Continued from Page 1.**Our 2014 club achievements:**

- We moved to a centrally located meeting place - thank you to member Jesse DeTorres for finding The Greenery for us.
- We purchased a new sound system that is easy to set up. It eliminated microphone cables and it includes a quality loudspeaker that is ample for bass instruments as well.
- We have opened our club to other instruments besides banjos, to add to the fun of playing banjos.
- The club newsletter now includes instructional playing techniques and helpful hints, thanks to editor Karen Hefter.
- We have formed a "New Music Committee" to introduce tunes into our club that are suggested by our members.
- We are encouraging, more than ever, sing-along, vocals and individual/group talents to add to the club's overall appeal and enjoyment.

I have truly enjoyed serving as your club President in 2014 and I hope that everyone else has enjoyed this last year as much as I have! Thanks to all and ***Happy Holidays***!!

Sincerely, Larry Risner
(President 2014)

**Holiday Dinner**

December 9, 2014

By: Karen Hefter

Our holiday dinner was a little different this year. It was held at the Buffet City Chinese Restaurant in Concord. We enjoyed dinner and a short meeting, but we did not bring our banjos. We held our regular meeting the next night at the Greenery and enjoyed playing at that time. It was wonderful to see everyone twice in the same week! A big thank you goes to Bob Malucelli and Sheila Welt for arranging the holiday dinner. An even bigger thank you goes to all of our 2014 board, led by Larry Risner, who kept the club going this year and helped us find a new direction.

A short business meeting was held and our annual election took place. Thank you to our new board for volunteering for these positions. Our 2015 board will be:

- Betty David—Music Director
- Larry Risner—President
- Bob Malucelli—Vice President
- Bob Ehrhorn—Booking Agent
- Sheila Welt—Treasurer
- Ardie Jarrett—Secretary

Special presentations were made to Betty David for her continued dedication as our Music Director and to outgoing board members Phil and Linda Myers for their service as Booking Agent and Treasurer/Membership. An Honorary Lifetime Membership was granted to Sue Horn.

Guy Black made an extra-special presentation to Danielle Torres. He presented her with Bill Cooper's stool (now painted pink). Sue Horn gave Guy the stool after Bill died and Guy said that he felt that it should now belong to someone with many years ahead of them. Bill's name and phone number are still under the seat and Guy added an inscription that reads, "Bill Cooper of the East Bay Banjo Club used this stool for many years. Bill really had a way of making young players feel confident." It also says that the stool now belongs to "Danielle Torres, *Future Banjo Hall of Famer*, Granddaughter of Elinor (Red) Higgins & Banjo Hall of Famer, Harry Higgins."

Upcoming Birthdays... January

01—Lynne Deutscher
 01—Don Granberg
 10—Bob Hodson
 10—Patti Paton
 13—Bonnie Miller
 16—Gerry Reeves
 18—Clyde Dedmon
 26—Mary Black
 27—Sheila Welt

February

08—Bud Pearce
 16—Georgette De Torres
 21—Guy Black
 27—Terry Horner

**2015 EBBC Board**

| | |
|---|---------------|
| President rhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net | Larry Risner |
| Vice President dmalucelli@att.net | Bob Malucelli |
| Secretary jarjohn@msn.com | Ardie Jarrett |
| Treasurer weltbear@sbcglobal.net | Sheila Welt |
| Music Director 925-938-0126 | Betty David |
| Immediate Past President weltbear@sbcglobal.net | Sheila Welt |
| Booking Agent bobehrhorn@att.net | Bob Ehrhorn |

2015 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 jpblankenship@att.net | Jim Blankenship |
| Membership weltbear@sbcglobal.net | Sheila Welt |
| 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

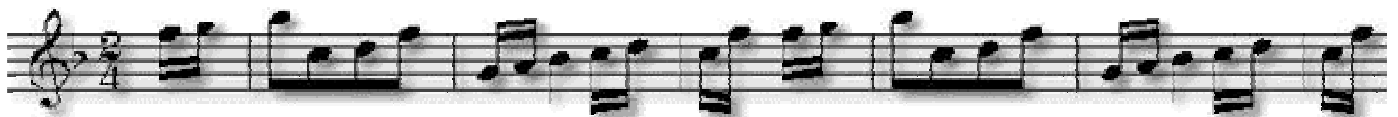
Here's a neat article on tips for practicing. It's written for 5-string players, but most of it is very applicable to the 4-string banjo player.

<http://blog.deeringbanjos.com/how-should-i-practice-the-banjo/>

East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**Date:** Tuesday, October 14, 2014**Place:** Round Table Pizza, 2960 Treat Blvd, Concord, 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:** Linda Myers, Treasurer; Phil Myers, Booking Agent.**Committee Chair Present:** Sheila Welt, Hospitality; Diane Malucelli, Telephone Tree.**Absent Committee Chairs:** Karen Hefter, Newsletter Editor; Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Linda Myers, Membership; Bud Pearce, Web Master.**CALL TO ORDER:** Called to order at 7:01 PM by Larry Risner, President.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Secretary:** The minutes were approved as presented 5/0/2.**Treasurer:** The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented 5/0/2 and this report will be filed for audit.**Vice President:** Bob Malucelli – Nothing to report.**Music Director:** Betty David – The Music Director will be the head of the new Music Committee who presently includes: Garry Kerr, Chris Lardge, Bob Malucelli, Bud Pearce, Don Granberg, Ken Williamson, and Bob Ehrhorn. Garry Kerr presented a proposal for this committee to consider, and Larry Risner presented a flow chart that a new song to be considered would go through. The newly formed committee will need to meet and consider both.**Booking Agent:** Phil Myers – Absent**Past President:** Sheila Welt – Nothing to report.**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Sheila Welt – Bill Dowling died this past weekend. Sheila will get a committee formed to start working on the Holiday Party and to find a location for the party.**Membership:** Linda Myers – Absent**Librarian:** Jim Blankenship – Absent**Web Master:** Bud Pearce – Absent**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 2nd and passed 5/0/2.**Honorary Membership:** Sue Horn will be made an honorary member of the East Bay Banjo Club in December. Sheila Welt will get the necessary forms ready for presentation.**NEW BUSINESS:****Sound System and Speakers:** It was decided that the large speaker needs to be used for the bass and needs to be left on the floor, as it is so heavy. The smaller, lighter speaker can then be put on the stand.**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.**Respectfully Submitted,**
Ardie Jarrett

East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**Date:** Tuesday, November 11, 2014**Place:** Sheila Welt's home, Concord, 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.**Absent Committee Chairs:** Karen Hefter, Newsletter Editor; Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Bud Pearce, Web Master.**CALL TO ORDER:** Called to order at 7:01 PM by Larry Risner, President.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Secretary:** The minutes were approved as corrected 7/0/0.**Treasurer:** The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented 7/0/0 and this report will be filed for audit.**Vice President:** Bob Malucelli – 3 speakers seem to be working fine. A 4th will be needed for outside. Nothing to report.**Music Director:** Betty David – Like to say thanks to all who help at the payouts.**Booking Agent:** Phil Myers – One more gig for the year, Dec. 4th at the Civic Arts in W.C. at 10 a.m. We have had 15 gigs so far this year.**Past President:** Sheila Welt – Nothing to report.**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Sheila Welt – Robin Reeves got injured while on vacation. She and Ken Williamson are doing better.**Membership:** Linda Myers – Jack Starr is a new member bringing the total to 64.**Librarian:** Jim Blankenship – Absent.**Web Master:** Bud Pearce – Absent.**Telephone Tree:** Diane Malucelli – The Telephone Tree is working fine.**Editor:** Karen Hefter – Absent.**Music Committee:** Betty David and committee will call a meeting to discuss 3 new songs and will report back.**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****By-Law Committee:** The By-Laws will be voted on by the membership at the Nov. 26th meeting. Changes will take effect immediately. Booking Agent will become an elected position & Assistant Music Directors are appointed committee positions.**Honorary Membership:** Sue Horn will be made an honorary member of the East Bay Banjo Club in December.**Christmas Party:** Party will be held at Buffet City on Tuesday, Dec. 8th at 5:30. Each person will pay for their own meal. RSVP to Sheila Welt.**NEW BUSINESS:****Nominating Committee:** Chris Lardge, Sheila Welt, and Ardie Jarrett volunteered to be on this committee. We really need more people to be willing to volunteer to run for positions on the board and be committee chairs.**Charity Donations:** A motion was made, seconded, & passed 7/0/0 that the EBBC will book several charitable events in place of making large monetary contributions.**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.**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