

EAST BAY BANJO CLUB



Since 1963

January/February 2015

Membership Newsletter

Editor: Karen Hefter

Volume 10 Issue 1

Upcoming Play Out Schedule

February 27th

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

April 18th

Forest Home Farms, San Ramon
11:30 am - 2:30 pm

July 9th

Masonic Lodge, Castro Valley
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Monthly Board Meetings

2nd Wednesdays,
The Greenery

5:30pm—6:30 pm

The Greenery Restaurant

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:

First a tidbit of my history with our club: I discovered a passion for dixieland and polka music when I was 12 yrs old, but I didn't think about playing a banjo until I was about 21 years old. I bought my first banjo, a \$35 5-string Kay, at an Oakland pawn shop. I didn't know anybody that played the banjo, but I loved to listen to the music in pizza parlors. Then, in a roundabout way, I got wind of a couple of banjo players (Earl Collins and Chuck Posey) that were just starting a banjo interest group, so I went to check it out. It turned out that this meeting became the beginning of the East Bay Banjo Club! After a year of practicing all hours of the night and watching/asking the pros how they do what they're doing, I eventually joined the musician's union and started playing professionally in pizza parlors. The rest is history and it's funny how we all start out more or less in the same way. Oh yeah, I also played the tuba with the club in parades and other bands for about ten years until it got too heavy for me— kidding! So there it is!!!



The East Bay Banjo Club not only provides a place for learning to play, and for playing along with and trying new techniques in a group setting, but it is also a meeting place for sharing a common interest. There is always something to learn and everyone develops their own playing styles, be it rhythm, harmony, or chord melody and, most of all, it's always fun.

Now I'd like to share some thoughts that got me started with the banjo. First, work on learning the chord patterns in the three major areas of the neck – upper, lower & middle. Within the first 7 frets of the neck, first work on the key of C circle of fifths – C, E7, A7, D7, G7. Once you have these down and can hear how they sound in relation to each other, try playing the F circle of fifths within the same area – F, A7, D7, G7, C7, F. Once you have the F key chords down move 2 frets up on the neck and play the same F chord pattern in the same order. You have now played the key of G circle of fifths - G, B7, E7, A7, D7, G. Move up 3 more frets and those become the key of Bb. Notice that all you did was go up the scale and that any chord fingering position can be moved up or down the neck. The chords change according to the musical scale because the musical scale not only applies to single notes, but also to the chords. To change the key from Bb to C, simply move the Bb chord patterns up 2 frets on the neck. The idea here is that one can learn the chord fingering at one location on the neck and change it to another key simply by moving up or down on the neck.

Continued on page 3.



Oakland Masonic Crab Feed

January 17, 2015

By: Diane Malucelli
Photos by: Bob Nelson

We were invited back to the Masonic Lodge in Oakland for their annual crab feed. We played on a raised stage in a nice, large room on the third floor. There were around 100 people attending and most of them responded to the music when they were not eating their crabs. We played on the stage, so we had lots of equipment in addition to the 17 banjo and bass players up there. Guy Black played the bass and Terry Horner played the gut bucket. Jack Convery was our lead banjo player and we played a wide variety of fun, toe tapping favorites. Betty David, Bob Ehrhorn, Don Granberg, Karen Hefter, Deb Hodson, Ardie Jarrett, Garry Kerr, Chris Lardge, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Kit Nelson, and Bud Pearce were the rest of the banjo players present that night.

Jack had us each choose songs to play and Bob, Don, Deb, Chris, Kit, Terry and Bud sang many of the songs. One of the guests, Suzi Phillips, came on stage and sang "You Are My Sunshine." (Suzi is the daughter of past Masonic Master Joe Bettencourt.) Bud then sang "If You Knew Suzie" for her. At the end of the evening, we played "When the Saints Go Marching In." Deb led a parade through the audience with her banjo and she was accompanied by Don and Terry with their washboards. The audience had fun, we had fun, and it was a successful playout





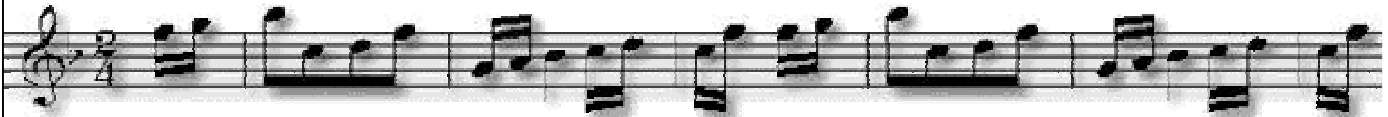
Happy New Year (and Birthday)

By: Don Granberg

Can you imagine how we 3 EBBC members felt in the winter of 2009 when we began talking during a break at Round Table Pizza in Pleasant Hill? I mentioned to Lynne Deutscher that I had a birthday coming up and Lynne said she did too! I told her that my birthday was on January first and Lynne said that her birthday was the same day! Pat Wheaton heard our conversation and was nearly speechless because she told us that her birthday was also January 1st. What an amazing coincidence! The whole world celebrates our unique birthday!

FREE UKULELE CLASSES

Want to learn to play the ukulele? Join us for FREE classes at the Martinez Senior Center, 818 Green Street, Martinez, CA every Friday from 2:00—3:30 pm. Players of all experience levels are welcome, including those who have never played an instrument before.



President's Message, continued from Page 1.

The second part of this is that you need to be constantly aware by listening to how you are blending in with the other instruments you are playing with. Depending on how the others sound, you may have to move to another position on the neck within the same key to blend in. Remember that you also have to play at a volume level that blends in – you should "support" the overall group sound and not overpower it. The best way I found to do this is to play very softly when you practice, then you can play "heavier" if you need to. If you play "heavy" when practicing, you will get in the habit of playing "heavy" all the time, which isn't good..

Sincerely, Larry Risner
President 2015

Upcoming Birthdays...**March**

01 - Dick Neuman
 03 - Chris Lardge
 14 - Dina Melamed
 15 - Jim Blankenship
 Garry Kerr

April

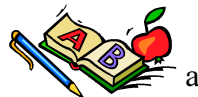
17 - Bobbie Landers
 18 - Jim Abele
 28 - Harry Higgins

**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 dmalucelli@att.net	Diane Malucelli
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

Education Corner is taking break this month, in favor of fun fluff! The banjo was recently featured on Jeopardy—you can see it here. http://youtu.be/_Wx08ojcKAc. It's not every day that the banjo makes it onto mainstream TV, even if it is the 5 string banjo!

2016 Banjo & Uke Cruise to Hawaii SFO to Hawaii & back

All Aboard the 'Grand Princess' Departs SF April 2-17, 2016
15 Nights, 16 days

ITINERARY

Sat Apr 2 San Francisco, CA 4:00pm
Sun Apr 3 At Sea
Mon Apr 4 At Sea
Tue Apr 5 At Sea
Wed Apr 6 At Sea
Thu Apr 7 Hilo, Hawaii, HI 8:00am 5:00pm
Fri Apr 8 Honolulu, Oahu, HI 7:00am 11:00pm
Sat Apr 9 Hialeah, Kauai, HI 8:00am 5:00pm
Sun Apr 10 Lahaina, Maui, HI 7:00am 5:00pm
Mon Apr 11 At Sea
Tue Apr 12 At Sea
Wed Apr 13 At Sea
Thu Apr 14 At Sea
Fri Apr 15 Ensenada, Mexico 4:00pm 8:00pm
Sat Apr 16 At Sea
Sun Apr 17 San Francisco, CA 7:00am



Be a part of the FUN!
*Singalongs-Jamming!
*Perform on Stage!
*Practice & Learn!
*Become a better musician!
*Travel & Fun!

PRICE: (PER PERSON)

Inside starting \$1599

Oceanview \$1799

Balcony \$2499

Mini Suites \$2,999

Banjo Cruise: 707-208-1269

Princess.com 800-774-6237

Reservations: Contact *Jack Convery

PH 707 208-1269

email : entline@mac.com

***Member CLIA**

Cruise Lines International Association

Princess Cruises® offers up to \$250 free onboard spending money* for veterans as well as active, retired or disabled military personnel.

* Discount for past passengers

* Price includes banjo shows & jamming every day at sea

* Champagne bon voyage top deck as we sail under the Golden Gate Bridge

**EAST BAY BANJO CLUB
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
December 9, 2014**
City Buffet, 1400 Willow Pass Rd, Concord, CA

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME: President – Larry Risner

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS & THANK YOU’S:

Betty David was thanked and an award was presented to her.
Phil & Linda Myers, “the Dynamic Duo” were thanked and presented with awards.
Sue Horn was made an Honorary Member of the East Bay Banjo Club.
Sheila Welt was thanked for all her hard work throughout the year and given a thank you gift.

PRESENTATION OF A SPECIAL GIFT:

Guy Black presented Bill Cooper’s stool, which he re-finished, to Danielle Torres. Guy mounted a special plaque commemorating Bill Cooper under the seat.

PRESENTATION OF MEMBER’S GIFTS:

All members received a fancy lace arm band to wear with their formal EBBC uniform.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President: Larry Risner
Vice President: Bob Malucelli
Secretary: Ardie Jarrett
Treasurer: Sheila Welt – Self Nominated.
Booking Agent: Write-In, Bob Nelson declined the nomination. Position will be left open.
Music Director: Betty David

ELECTION RESULTS:

All nominees were elected:
President: Larry Risner
Vice President: Bob Malucelli
Secretary: Ardie Jarrett
Treasurer: Sheila Welt
Music Director: Betty David
Booking Agent: Open

APPOINTED POSITIONS: To be announced in January, after the 2015 Board of Directors take office.

ADJOURNMENT: Since there wasn’t any other business to come before this assembly, the meeting was adjourned until the December 2015 Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Ardie Jarrett, Secretary



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 2015

East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Place: Sheila Welt's home, Concord, CA

Board Members Present: Larry Risner, President; Ardie Jarrett, Secretary; Sheila Welt, Treasurer; Betty David, Music Director; Sheila Welt, Past President; Bob Ehrhorn, Booking Agent.

Absent Board of Directors: Bob Malucelli, Vice President.

Appointed Chairs Present: Sheila Welt, Hospitality; Bud Pearce, Web Master.

Absent Appointed Chairs: Karen Hefter, Newsletter Editor; Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Diane Malucelli, Membership & Telephone Tree.

CALL TO ORDER: Called to order at 7:02 PM by Larry Risner, President.

BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:

Secretary: The minutes were approved as corrected 6/0/1.

Treasurer: The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented 6/0/1 and this report will be filed for audit.

Vice President: Bob Malucelli - Absent

Music Director: Betty David - Like to say thanks to all who help at the playouts. Song lists for gigs are available on website. Song list themes may be requested when contracting for an event.

Booking Agent: Bob Ehrhorn- Three gigs confirmed: Oakland Masonic Lodge 1-17-15, Orinda Masonic Lodge 2-27-15, and Forest Farms 4-18-15. Betty will determine music list and singers.

Past President: Sheila Welt - Nothing to report.

APPOINTED CHAIR REPORTS:

Web Master: Bud Pearce presented and received a check for the year's payment of our website. Bud announced that he can and will make business cards for officers and club cards if anyone would like.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Board Meeting Date & Place: It was agreed to meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30, prior to banjo practice in the back area of the Greenery's dining room.

By-Law Revision: Sheila Welt announced that the By-law revisions are complete and available.

Banjo Rama: It was agreed to do the same as last year and club will reimburse \$20 to participants, and cost for a tuba player.

Bill Cooper's Banjo: Sue Horn is planning to give Bill's banjo to the club for a deserving young banjo player.

Proposed 2015 Budget: Sheila Welt presented a proposed budget for 2015. The board reviewed the budget and a motion was made and passed (6/0/1) to accept this budget.

Other Discussions: It was discussed that the President and Secretary were the only two positions that couldn't hold another position. Therefore, it is alright for Sheila Welt to also hold the position of Treasurer and be able to vote as treasurer and as past president. It was also discussed to keep track of out charity playouts and the value of such.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ardie Jarrett





Haven't paid your dues yet?



Join the East Bay Banjo Club today!

East Bay Banjo Club

2015 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 Diane Malucelli, Membership Chairperson.

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**