

# EAST BAY BANJO CLUB



Since 1963

March/April 2015

## Membership Newsletter

Editor: Karen Hefter

Volume 10 Issue 2

### Upcoming Play Out Schedule

#### May 16, 2015

Pittsburg Senior Center  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

#### May 17, 2015

Sacramento BanjoRama  
2:55pm - 3:15 pm

#### May 26th

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

#### June 18th

Aegis of Pleasant Hill  
6:15pm - 7:15 pm

#### July 2nd

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

#### July 4th

Orinda 4th of July Parade

#### August 22nd

Club Picnic, Landers Landing



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](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org),  
for current event information and a  
blog about past performances.

For bookings, Contact  
Bob Ehrhorn, Booking Agent at  
[bobehrhorn@att.net](mailto:bobehrhorn@att.net)  
or  
Call 510-581-5195

## President's Message:

### President's Message April 2015

I just feel the need to say what a pleasure it is to see everyone smiling and having a good time when we get together. This is what the club was meant to be from the beginning and I know that the founders would be so happy if they could only be here with us.

Thanks to everyone for being so supportive of our club. I'd especially like to thank those that are so willing to share their playing techniques, to help others, and to be a part of our club.



I am feeling somewhat uneasy about inviting other types of instruments to join in with us at our Wednesday practices. The fear is that they won't play in a way that blends in with our group and they won't add to the overall musical quality of the group. I guess we take our chances because we never know what is going to happen until we hear them play. It can go either way, good or bad. It is wonderful that our hearts are with the music and that we do give others a try. I fully support taking the risks with this and would really like to incorporate more instruments, especially ukuleles, with our club because they sound very nice and, for some, it leads to playing the banjo.

Now for some music stuff: By now most people know about the "Circle of Fifths" in the key of "C" (ie; C-E7-A7-D7-G7-C) . But there are other chord progressions that are also useful to know. One small progression is "C-F-G7-C". Now, add a few more chords for "C-C7-F-Fm-D7-G7-C" and it becomes a complete chord progression for many songs. So, this works for the key of "C," but what about other keys? It so happens that the frets on the fingerboard of stringed instruments are precisely spaced to the musical scale. This can be seen on charts that show the notes of the strings at the frets on the neck. As an example: If you play a chord then slide it up (towards the bridge) or down (towards the nut) one fret it goes up or down the scale accordingly in pitch.

If you play a "C" chord then move it up one fret it becomes a "Db" chord. Move it up one more fret and it becomes a "D" chord. Move up one more fret and it's a "Eb" chord. The idea here is that if you refer to the "C" progression above and move the same fingering that you used to play it in the key of "C" up the neck three frets it becomes the key of "Eb". Play that same chord fingering up two more frets and it is now in the key of "F".

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### Orinda Crab Feed Playout

February 27, 2015

By: Diane Malucelli  
 Photos by: Bob Nelson

We had a playout on Friday, February 27 from 7pm - 8pm at the Orinda Masonic Temple at 9 Altarinda Road. It was their annual crab feed and we estimated that about 140 people were there, including guests, cooks, and servers.

We were on a low stage and it was a challenge to fit 14 people and the equipment on the stage. Betty David was our lead player and Guy Black was on bass. The rest of the players were Tom Brunetti, Clyde Dedmon, Don Granberg, Harry Higgins, Ardie Jarrett, Garry Kerr, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Dina Melamed, Kit Nelson, Larry Risner, and Danielle Torres. Red Higgins, Diane Risner, Kasey Torres and Bob Nelson were in the audience to support us.

Danielle started off singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and Red joined her for "Bill Bailey" and the "Crawdad Song," which was such fun. Kit sang "Nobody's Sweetheart Now," "Give My Regards to Broadway," and "This Land is Your Land." Don Granberg sang "Oh Susanna" and "Five Foot Two." Red also sang "Darktown Strutter's Ball." Danielle closed out our performance by singing "South."

It was a fun playout and our sound system seemed to work really well for the vocals. The audience appreciated the music and songs.





## Sheep Shearing Day at Forest Hill Farms

April 18, 2015

By: Karen Hefter

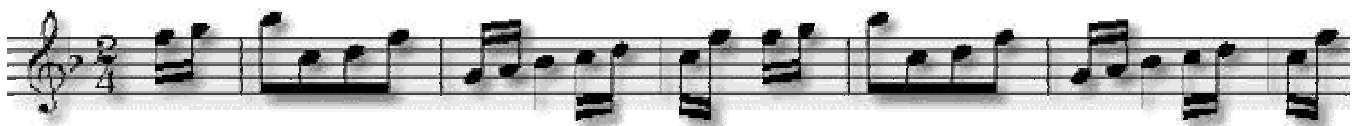
Photos by: Bob Nelson and Karen Hefter

It was a beautiful day for shearing sheep (and playing the banjo) at Forest Hill Farms in San Ramon. We played in a (mostly) shady corner, outside the old barn, from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm. This was one of our longest playouts ever! It was very low key and was well attended. Betty and Larry took turns leading the club, since the playout was so long. We had lots of singers for the day, including Sheila, Bob, Kit, Terry, Don, Chris, and Bud. Our players were: Guy Black, Tom Brunetti, Betty David, Clyde Dedmon, Bob Ehrhorn, Don Granberg, Karen Hefter, Terry Horner, Ardie Jarrett, Garry Kerr, Chris Lardge, Dina Melamed, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Kit Nelson, Dick Neumann, Bud Pearce, Larry Risner, and Sheila Welt. Bob Nelson was our photographer.

We also set up our "Try A Banjo" area and it was staffed by Karen, Phil, Sheila, and Ardie. As usual, we had a great response to this. Lots of kids, including an adorable one and a half year old named Mary Ella, tried our banjos and ukuleles and we even had several adults who were able to learn the chords to Camptown Races well enough (in about 5 minutes) to play the song along with one of our banjo players. They took business cards and might actually show up at a club practice and learn to play the banjo! We can hope... We also had a few people who wanted to try their hands at the washboard and gut bucket. One man played the gut bucket so long that I was afraid that Terry wouldn't get it back!

We also had an old friend, Jack Burrous, visit our area. Jack currently plays with the San Francisco Banjo Band and is a former member of the East Bay Banjo Club and the Oakland Banjo Band. He borrowed a banjo and played along with us for awhile. He even sang a song, which was fun. Another man, who introduced himself as Gary, visiting from Indiana, came up and asked to sing "Indiana." We are a flexible bunch and let him sing along with Bob Ehrhorn. All in all, it was a fun day.





**President's Message, continued from Page 1**

Think of the neck of the instrument as the musical scale – you can move a chord up or down on the neck and it follows the musical scale. This becomes very handy when songs change keys - playing "The Saints" in "F" then in "G" is an example or this (same chord fingering up two frets from "F" becomes the key of "G". Stringed instrument groups (banjo, guitar and ukulele) most often play songs in the keys of "Bb, C, Eb, F, & G" but if you are playing in a band with horns be prepared to play songs in the keys of "Ab" & "Db" also. However, knowing that of the key "Ab" is simply one fret up from the key of "G" and "Db" is one fret up from the key of "C" makes it easy. So, with practice playing the chord progressions that you are familiar with at different locations on the neck, playing rhythm in any key isn't that hard. Playing the melody is the same way up and down the neck but is it more difficult to shift around on the neck to change keys mainly because of the neck markers that are used for references – a lot of practice is the answer.

Have fun trying different things!!!

Sincerely, Larry Risner (President 2015)



## Dina Melamed Washboard Creator Extraordinaire

By: Karen Hefter

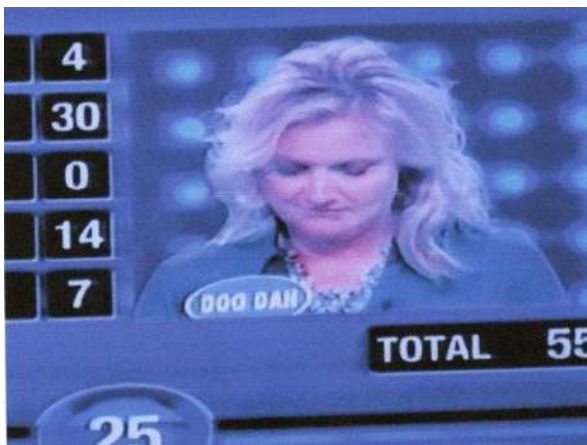
Dina Melamed started playing the washboard about 11 years ago and when she did, she decided to make the washboard as fun and entertaining as possible. She makes and decorates her own washboards and has completed four to date, each with its own ‘character.’ Dina is very creative and intends her colorful and eye-catching creations to be entertaining and to make people happy. Often, people will approach Dina after a gig and ask her questions about her washboard or inquire about the name of her washboard. They also tell her how much they enjoyed her performance, which in turn makes Dina happy!

## 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.

## The Truth About *Camptown Races*

By: Don Granberg



Recently, on an extended trip to the Sandwich Islands, I came upon an extraordinary discovery. As we all know (or thought we did), *Camptown Races* was written and arranged by Stephen Foster. To my chagrin, we are all wrong! While walking on a deserted beach, I came upon a woman. I shall not bloviate, but get to this amazing exposure of the truth. She was sobbing uncontrollably. With a bit of urgency, I queried her as to her lament. Then I noticed a name tag on her chest. Her last name was Dah and her first name was Doo. I asked her why she was so unhappy. At first, she was taciturn, but then she opened her heart to me. She told me that Stephen Foster claimed to write *Camptown Races*. She then showed me her original score as proof of her authorship. So, when the EBBC spiritedly sings “Doo Dah” in *Camptown Races*, remember this lovely woman. Doo Dah!

## Welcome To Our New Members



**Berniece Witte**



**Janet Mullin**



**Diana Starr**

**Not pictured:  
John Greitzer**

### Upcoming Birthdays...



#### May

09 - Larry Risner  
27 - Betty David

#### June

03 - Robin Reeves  
06 - Berniece Witte  
17 - Linda Myers  
18 - John Greitzer



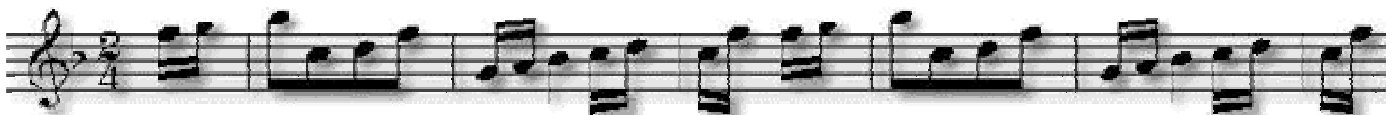
2015 EBBC Board	
<b>President</b> <a href="mailto:rhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net">rhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net</a>	<b>Larry Risner</b>
<b>Vice President</b> <a href="mailto:dmalucelli@att.net">dmalucelli@att.net</a>	<b>Bob Malucelli</b>
<b>Secretary</b> <a href="mailto:jarjohn@msn.com">jarjohn@msn.com</a>	<b>Ardie Jarrett</b>
<b>Treasurer</b> <a href="mailto:weltbear@sbcglobal.net">weltbear@sbcglobal.net</a>	<b>Sheila Welt</b>
<b>Music Director</b> 925-938-0126	<b>Betty David</b>
<b>Immediate Past President</b> <a href="mailto:weltbear@sbcglobal.net">weltbear@sbcglobal.net</a>	<b>Sheila Welt</b>
<b>Booking Agent</b> <a href="mailto:bobehrhorn@att.net">bobehrhorn@att.net</a>	<b>Bob Ehrhorn</b>

2015 Non-Board Positions	
<b>Assistant Music Director</b> <a href="mailto:entline@msn.com">entline@msn.com</a>	<b>Jack Convery</b>
<b>Assistant Music Director</b> <a href="mailto:karenhefter@gmail.com">karenhefter@gmail.com</a>	<b>Karen Hefter</b>
<b>Assistant Music Director</b> <a href="mailto:rhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net">rhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net</a>	<b>Larry Risner</b>
<b>Hospitality</b> <a href="mailto:weltbear@sbcglobal.net">weltbear@sbcglobal.net</a>	<b>Sheila Welt</b>
<b>Librarian</b> <a href="mailto:jplankenship@att.net">jplankenship@att.net</a>	<b>Jim Blankenship</b>
<b>Membership</b> <a href="mailto:dmalucelli@att.net">dmalucelli@att.net</a>	<b>Diane Malucelli</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor/Publisher</b> <a href="mailto:editor@eastbaybanjo.org">editor@eastbaybanjo.org</a>	<b>Karen Hefter</b>
<b>Telephone Tree</b> <a href="mailto:dmalucelli@att.net">dmalucelli@att.net</a>	<b>Diane Malucelli</b>
<b>Uniforms—Gold Vest &amp; Polos</b> <a href="mailto:jarjohn@msn.com">jarjohn@msn.com</a>	<b>Ardie Jarrett</b>
<b>Web Master</b> <a href="mailto:bud.pearce@pearcechriss.com">bud.pearce@pearcechriss.com</a>	<b>Bud Pearce</b>

### Education Corner



Stuck on learning a song? Check out this article which gives detailed instructions on how to improve your practice by using the loop method. <http://makingmusicmag.com/loop-method/>

**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****Date:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015**Place:** Greenery Dining Room, Walnut Creek, CA**Board Members Present:** Larry Risner, President; Bob Malucelli, Vice President; Ardie Jarrett, Secretary; Sheila Welt, Treasurer; Betty David, Music Director; Sheila Welt, Past President.**Absent Board of Director:** Bob Ehrhorn, Booking Agent.**Appointed Chairs Present:** Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Diane Malucelli, Membership & Telephone Tree; Sheila Welt, Hospitality.**Absent Appointed Chairs:** Karen Hefter, Editor; Bud Pearce, Web Master.**CALL TO ORDER:** Called to order at 5:32 by Larry Risner, President.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Secretary:** The minutes were approved as presented, 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 reported that Bobbie Landers still wants EBBC to play at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and she has invited the club to the annual summer picnic at her family's Delta home. Bob would like more new songs added to our song book.**Music Director:** Betty David – Betty announced that a new song has been suggested by the committee and the club will try it out before taking a vote to add it to the book.**Booking Agent:** Bob Ehrhorn, Absent.**Past President:** Sheila Welt – Nothing to report.**APPOINTED CHAIR REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Sheila Welt – Nothing to report.**Membership:** Diane Malucelli – We now have 36 paid members and 10 Life & Honorary members.**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****Banjo Rama:** Larry Risner would like for us to use more singers and less just instrumental playing.**New Music:** As we get new songs, we need to note on the top of the sheet music if there is a break or rest needed. This would make things clearer before we start playing.**Bass Player:** John Stafford is a bass player and will be available if needed.**Practice Time:** Our practice timing will go back to: a brief meeting at the beginning of the session, practice after that until 8:00, take a 15 minute break, and finish our practice session from 8:15 – 9:00.**Ukulele Classes:** Ukulele classes are held Friday afternoons at the Martinez Senior Center. They have about 20 members. It is hoped that these players will come and join the EBBC.**Attracting more young people to join EBBC:** Larry Risner and Bob Malucelli would like to start going to local high schools to get students interested in playing banjos and ukuleles.**Policies & Procedures:** Policies and Procedures are now completed and can be emailed to anyone who is interested. Contact Sheila Welt.**Booking Agent Procedures:** Larry Risner will be working with Bob Ehrhorn on these procedures.**New Assistant Music Director:** Karen Hefter was asked and accepted the position of Assistant Music Director and will now sit in the front row.**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:23pm.**Respectfully Submitted,**  
Ardie Jarrett



**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015**Place:** Greenery Dining Room, Walnut Creek, CA**Board Members Present:** Larry Risner, President; Bob Malucelli, Vice President; Ardie Jarrett, Secretary; Sheila Welt, Treasurer; Betty David, Music Director; Sheila Welt, Past President.**Absent Board of Director:** Bob Ehrhorn, Booking Agent.**Appointed Chairs Present:** Diane Malucelli, Membership & Telephone Tree; Sheila Welt, Hospitality**Absent Appointed Chairs:** Bud Pearce, Web Master; Karen Hefter, Editor; Jim Blankenship, Librarian**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 5:33 by Larry Risner, President.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Secretary:** The minutes were approved as presented, 6/0/1**Treasurer:** The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented 6/0/1. This report will be filed for audit.**Vice President:** Bob Malucelli will not be available for the April 18<sup>th</sup> gig and will need someone to handle the equipment.**Music Director:** Betty David announced that the club will go back to saying the "Doo Dah's" in Camptown Races. Everything else is going fine.**Booking Agent:** Larry Risner, filling in for Bob Ehrhorn, announced that we will be playing May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Appreciation Day in Antioch at no charge. They will feed us lunch. This is the day before Banjo Rama.**Past President:** Sheila Welt – Nothing to report.**APPOINTED CHAIR REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Sheila Welt – Jerry Reeves is back in the hospital.**Membership:** Diane Malucelli – We now have 53 members in the club.**UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:**

It was discussed that we should create new song lists by Theme and adding new songs in general.

**NEW BUSINESS:****Pre-booking Procedures for the club:** This was tabled until Bob Ehrhorn is present.**Banjo Rama:** May 1<sup>st</sup> will be the cut-off date for accepting money to attend and participate in Banjo Rama. The collected money will be returned after the event. Still haven't heard from the Peninsula Band concerning renting a bus and sharing in the cost. John Stafford will be playing the bass for us at Banjo Rama, since Guy Black will be unavailable. The club will pick up his expense. Jack Convery wants to play with us at the Banjo Rama.**Ukulele Group:** The Uke group in Martinez is doing very well and has been invited to join the EBBC.**4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade:** Bobbie Landers says she will be responsible for the truck and sponsor.**EBBC Picnic:** Bobbie Landers has invited us to their home on the Delta, August 22, for our annual picnic.**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:11pm.**Respectfully Submitted,**  
Ardie Jarrett

Concord, CA 94524

P.O. Box 5414

[WWW.EASTBAYBANJO.ORG](http://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**