

# EAST BAY BANJO CLUB



Since 1963

July/August 2015

Membership Newsletter

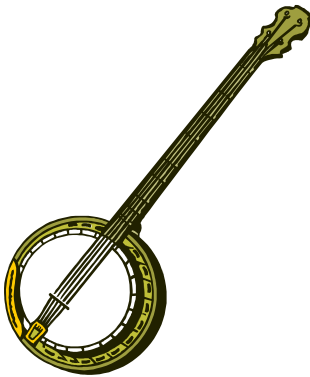
Editor: Karen Hefter

Volume 10 Issue 4

## Upcoming Play Out Schedule

### December 9th

Kaiser Permanente  
Castlewood Country Club  
Pleasanton  
1:15pm - 2:15 pm



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  
or  
Call 510-581-5195

## President's Message:

Although it isn't a function of the club to teach banjo playing, sharing playing techniques and styles among our members is always encouraged. If you like another player's playing style or technique please feel free to ask them for advice. When I first picked up the banjo, I was very fortunate to meet Earl Collins, a wonderful professional banjo player that shared tips with me. During my first year of practicing, he spent many hours showing me his playing methods. The most valuable tip for me was, "in order to play chord melody, you play the melody note on the 1<sup>st</sup> string and the chord on the other three strings". Wow, I found that you can play a recognizable song doing that!



Once the club formed and the membership grew, I discovered that the weekly meetings were, and still are, a great opportunity to be adventurous and try different things to see how they "fit" with the music (or don't). It was also great to hear the many various playing styles of some of the professional members back then in the 1960's, because the club had a lot of wonderfully talented tenor, guitar, and plectrum tuned players that played regularly in pizza parlors.

I discovered that some of the things that I tried at home sounded nice when I played by myself, but when I played them with a group, they didn't sound very good (and vice versa). You have to experiment, practice, and most importantly, listen to how you sound when playing with a group. Another important thing for beginners is to practice playing softly by holding the pick loosely in your fingers – it's much easier to first learn to play softly because then you can play loudly when you need to. There are times that you will need to play both softly and loudly, so learn to play softly first – it's easier.

Now about the rhythm - try to learn the chord positions over the full length of the neck so that you can play the rhythm chords in different areas of the neck from the melody player. First learn the chords at the nut end of the neck then move up the neck to the next position. It helps to think of the neck as divided into three areas – one third starting from the nut, the center third of the neck, and the upper third toward the head end. These three areas have very different pitches and, once you learn this, you can play "across" these areas to play chord melody. Personally, I like to play harmony chords that support the lead player because it adds "fullness" to tunes for the melody player. Hope this helps. Have fun with our club!

Larry Risner  
EBBC President



### Aegis of Pleasant Hill

June 19, 2015

By: Diane Malucelli  
Photos by: Bob Nelson

The East Bay Banjo Club payout was on Friday, June 19 at Aegis of Pleasant Hill, which is a beautiful assisted living residence. We played in the garden in front of the colorful flowers and cascading water fountain. It was sunny at first when we set up the equipment, so we moved our chairs around to get some shade. As the sun moved, it became shady and very pleasant to play outside. About 45 residents and visitors came to listen and they sang along to some of the songs. We saw a special resident with our gold vest on and Betty recognized him as Jack Hicks. Jack is still a member of EBBC. Bob and I talked to him afterwards and he has many membership cards and has been part of our club for 45 years.

Betty David was our leader for the day and Guy Black played the bass. The vocalists were Don Granberg, Kit Nelson and Sheila Welt. The banjo players were Tom Brunetti, Betty David, Don Granberg, Ardie Jarrett, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Kit Nelson, and Sheila Welt. Dina Melamed played her washboard and Clyde Dedmon played his guitar. Bob Nelson was our photographer. We ended with "When the Saints Go Marching In" and the workers danced with the residents and everyone enjoyed the music. It is a fun place to play and it is full of nice people.





### Castro Valley Masonic Center Payout

July 2, 2015

By: Sheila Welt

Photos by: Bob Nelson

This evening was dedicated to the youth groups that the Masonic Lodge sponsors. A young lady from the Rainbow Girls spoke to us about patriotism. She was an eloquent speaker and her presentation was enjoyed by all. The Rainbow Girls, Job's Daughters, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts brought in the Colors. The Rainbow Assembly served the diners their chicken dinners, which included dessert. The crowd was welcoming and enjoyed our entertainment. We played patriotic songs, as well as some of our traditional songs.

Those playing were: Guy Black, Tom Brunetti, Betty David, Bob Ehrhorn, Don Granberg, Ardie Jarrett, Bob Malucelli, Kit Nelson, Jack Starr, and Sheila Welt. Vocalists were: Kit Nelson, Bob Ehrhorn, Don Granberg, and Sheila Welt. Don Granberg also played the washboard. Bob Nelson was our photographer.

The cooks had hot dogs ready for those of us who arrived early to set up, which we greatly appreciated. They also offered us dinner after the meeting and some of our group took it home in carry-out containers. We only had one little glitch with the sound system, which Bob Malucelli found and fixed very quickly. He needed to replace a fuse. Overall, we were all very pleased with the evening.

### Congratulations to Jesse DeTorres

On Sunday, October 4th at 2 pm, Jesse DeTorres will be inducted into the Pittsburg Entertainment & Arts Hall of Fame for his lifelong contribution to the arts in the City of Pittsburg. Jesse began his singing career at age 9 and has performed all over the West Coast, Hawaii, and on cruise ships. He has performed musical jingles for several companies, sung the National Anthem at local sporting events, and his show band regularly performs in Pittsburg. In recent years, he has taken up playing the banjo and plays (and sings) with the East Bay Banjo Club. If you are interested in attending the awards ceremony, please contact Jesse. Tickets are \$10. For more information, visit [www.pittsburgartsandentertainment.org](http://www.pittsburgartsandentertainment.org).



### 4th of July Orinda Parade

July 4th, 2015

By: Karen Hefter

Photos by: Karen Hefter

The Fourth of July was a beautiful day, perfect for a parade. The weather was warm, but a cool breeze kept us from overheating. Spirits were high as we decorated our float with bunting, flags, signs, etc. Bob Ehrhorn brought a sound system so that we could hear Betty better this year. This was a big help! The parade is always a fun event and it is great to see all of the smiling faces along the street. People make lots of eye contact with us and cheer and clap along to our music. Our players were: Guy Black, Betty David, Clyde Dedmon, Bob Ehrhorn, Don Granberg, John Greitzer, Karen Hefter, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Dina Melamed, Linda Myers, and Phil Myers. Kat Hefter and David Hefter joined us on the float and threw candy for the kids along the parade route. Dina wore a special, star spangled 4th of July hat that she created herself, complete with an eagle, for the occasion.

A big thank you goes to Bobbie Landers for arranging this playout for us year after year and for coordinating the hay and truck logistics. Extra thanks go to Bob and Diane Malucelli, who brought coffee and donuts for the float decorators. They also brought all of the signs, decorations, etc, as well as the all important ladder needed to get on and off the float! They are kind enough to store all of these items for the club all year long.





### Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living

July 21, 2015

By: Diane Malucelli  
Photos by: Bob Nelson

On Tuesday, July 21, 2015, the East Bay Banjo Club performed at the Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living in Danville for the first time. This is an assisted living residence and there are many buildings and residents. We performed for their ice cream social and the theme was "Remember the Good Old Days." We played in a large dining room and there were probably around 70 residents and helpers there.

We had 18 people playing instruments and six of them sang as well. Our group included Guy Black, Tom Brunetti, Betty David, Clyde Dedmon, Jesse DeTorres, Bob Ehrhorn, Don Granberg, John Greitzer, Karen Hefter, Ardie Jarrett, Garry Kerr, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Dina Melamed, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Larry Risner, and Sheila Welt. The singers were Jesse DeTorres, Bob Ehrhorn, Don Granberg, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, and Sheila Welt. Club member Georgette DeTorres was in attendance and Bob Nelson took photos. Diane Risner attended as well.

It was wonderful to have Jesse back with us to play and sing. John Greitzer played with us for the first time at a gig and he enjoyed it. The audience was enthusiastic and sang along with the songs such as "You Are My Sunshine," "California Here I Come," and "Five Foot Two." They were dancing in their chairs and smiling. Even the helpers were dancing and clapping with the residents. Kit Nelson ended with a beautiful "God Bless America." It was a good performance and a lot of fun for all of us.





### Atria Senior Living Play Out

August 14, 2015

By: Diane Malucelli

Photos by: Bob Nelson

We performed on Friday, August 14 from 3:30pm - 4:30pm at Atria Senior Living, 1400 Montego Street in Walnut Creek. It is a very nice assisted living facility that was extensively renovated last year. We played in a medium-sized community room for about 25 residents. The theme was the Spirit of '45 and it was intended to celebrate the end of World War II.

Betty David led us and Guy Black provided our bass. Our other players were Clyde Dedmon on guitar, Bob Ehrhorn, Don Granberg, Ardie Jarrett, Chris Lardge, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, and Sheila Welt. We had our special guests of Jim Abele and Bob Nelson. Our vocalists were Bob Ehrhorn, Don Granberg, Chris Lardge, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce and Sheila Welt. Bob Nelson was our photographer. There was a full piano in the room so Don Granberg played the piano with us on "Cuddle Up a Little Closer," "Nobody's Sweetheart Now," and "Darkness on the Delta." Some of the residents sang along with our songs and one energetic lady danced to the songs while using her walker.

We ended our performance with Sheila singing "America the Beautiful" and Kit singing "Battle Hymn of the Republic." It was a very moving and patriotic tribute and a very nice playout.





### Picnic at Lander's Landing

August 15, 2015

by: Karen Hefter

Photos by: Karen Hefter

The East Bay Banjo Club would like to give a huge thank you to Bobbi Landers for hosting the annual picnic at her home on the Delta once again. It is so much fun to sit out on her deck at the edge of the water and, eat, chat, and, did I mention eat? People trickled in throughout the morning and enjoyed sitting out on the deck and talking with each other. The weather was hot but there was a nice breeze, at least in the morning. Boat rides and waterskiing lessons were available to those who wanted to go out on the water. Carl, this year's exchange student from Tabor in the Czech Republic, gave it a try and got up on skis on his very first day. Karen brought along a small monkey organ that she recently made from a kit and played it for the group. Bud and a couple of other people also gave it a try. Bob N. and Bud were in charge of the barbecue this year and they masterfully grilled corn on the cob and 4 kinds of sausages. There were plenty of salads and delicious desserts as well.

After lunch, everyone got out their instruments and we had a jam session out on the deck. In addition to all of the banjos, we had Don on the keyboard, an autoharp and a guitar played by some of Bobbi's Czech friends, Annie's husband Dan on harmonica, and Annie's granddaughter Danielle on the ukulele. Bud, Kit, Don, and Chris sang along with the group, as did some of the Czech guests. The club had a great turnout and many people attended with their spouses, children, grandchildren, etc. This year's EBBC deck chair brigade included: Guy and Mary Black, Betty David, Don Granberg and Bernadette, Karen Hefter, Harry and Red Higgins, Ardie Jarrett, Bobbi Landers, Chris Lardge, Bob and Diane Malucelli, Linda and Phil Myers, Kit and Bob Nelson, Bud and Gloria Pearce (plus other assorted family members), Annie and Dan Lem (plus other assorted family members), and Sheila Welt. A wonderful time was had had by all, as evidenced by all of the smiles in the photos.







## Welcome to Our New Members



**Annie Lem**  
(she's shy)



**Connor Calimlim**

## My Unique Resonator

By Karen Hefter

Many people have asked me about the beautiful resonator on my banjo. This banjo is a Bacon and Day Silver Bell No. 1 and I took its regular resonator off, so that it would be easier on my shoulder. I replaced it with a flat wooden resonator. Since I have a clear head on my banjo, I thought it would be fun to have a design on the resonator that showed through the clear head. My aunt, Janet Kercheval, enjoys painting and I asked her to paint something interesting on both sides of my flat resonator. She did an amazing job and came up with beautiful creations for both sides of the resonator. I now have a beautiful and unique banjo that I love to play and it will always remind me of her.



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## [Martinez Ukulele Jam Club](#)

Both experienced players and beginners are welcome. Must be age 18 or over. See the Martinez Senior Bulletin or call 925-370-8770 for information. Ukulele players are also welcome to play with the EBBC at their meetings on Wednesday nights, 7:00-9:00pm, The Greenery Restaurant.

## 2015 Performance Participation 2015 Playouts to date: 11

Black, Guy	10
Blankenship, Jim	1
Brunetti, Tom	8
Convery, Jack	2
David, Betty	11
Dedmon, Clyde	8
DeTorres, Jesse	1
Ehrhorn, Bob	9
Granberg, Don	11
Greitzer, John	2
Hefter, Karen	5
Higgins, Harry	2
Higgins, Red	2
Hodson, Deb	1
Horner, Terry	2
Jarrett, Ardie	8
Kerr, Garry	5
Lardge, Chris	3
Malucelli, Bob	10
Malucelli, Diane	9
Melamed, Dina	7
Myers, Linda	3
Myers, Phil	4
Nelson, Bob	9
Nelson, Kit	9
Neuman, Dick	1
Pearce, Bud	7
Risner, Larry	4
Starr, Jack	1
Torres, Danielle	2
Welt, Sheila	6

**Participation Awards** - Members who actively participate in at least half of the yearly playouts will receive a \$15 gift certificate for The Greenery at the end of the year.

*Upcoming Birthdays...*

**September**

06 - Ardie Jarrett  
25 - Red Higgins



**October**

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



**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:jpblankenship@att.net">jpblankenship@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**



If your banjo just isn't sounding the way you want to recently, you might need to tighten your head. Here's a video with instructions:

<http://www.deeringbanjos.com/blogs/banjo-maintenance-tips/10583597-how-to-tighten-your-banjo-head>

**East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2015**Place:** Greenery Dining Room, Walnut Creek, CA**Board Members Present:** Larry Risner, President; Bob Malucelli, Vice President; Ardie Jarrett, Secretary; Sheila Welt, Treasurer and Past President; and Betty David, Music Director.**Absent Board of Directors:** Bob Ehrhorn, Booking Agent.**Appointed Chairs Present:** Diane Malucelli, Membership & Telephone Tree; Sheila Welt, Hospitality;**Absent Appointed Chairs:** Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Bud Pearce, Web Master; Karen Hefter, Editor.**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Larry Risner, President.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Secretary:** The minutes were approved as presented, 6/0/0.**Treasurer:** The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented 6/0/0. This report will be filed for audit.**Vice President:** Bob Malucelli – Nothing new to report.**Music Director:** Betty David – Betty discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Bobbie Landers will have a trailer with hay bales and we need to add decorations, which Bob Malucelli has. We need to analyze the available speaker systems that will be used and microphones. Guy will have his amp but don't know if that will be enough for the float.**Booking Agent:** Bob Ehrhorn – Absent.**Past President:** Sheila Welt – Nothing to report.**APPOINTED CHAIR REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Sheila Welt – Nothing to report.**Membership & Telephone Tree:** Diane Malucelli – Nothing to report.**OLD BUSINESS:**

We, as a board, have already agreed on giving a thank you certificate at the end of the year. It was then discussed as to who should receive a gift certificate. After much discussion, it was made and passed 6/0/0 that "those members who have actively participated in half of the playouts for the year would receive a \$15 gift certificate to be used toward a meal at the Greenery." A membership participation list will be published monthly.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

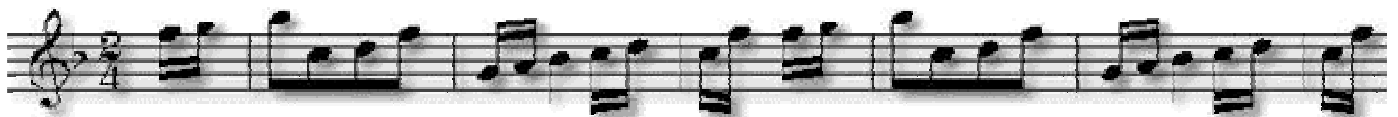
No one had any new business to bring up at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09. Our next meeting will be July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Greenery Dining Room. Ardie Jarrett said that she would not be in attendance and Sheila Welt volunteered to take minutes.

**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**