

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER



EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

SINCE 1963



APRIL 2004

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

A message from our President Bob Nelson



Where have these four months gone? I wanted all of you to know that my arm has healed up just fine after Ed Rossman twisted it behind my back in December to accept the job as Club President. I also want everyone to know that I'm very proud to be President of EBBC and excited about promoting interest in our Club. One thing I really enjoy doing during our Tuesday Night Practices and at our Play-outs is to roam around and inter-act with the people enjoying our music, you would be surprised what I hear and who I meet. I have never heard a negative comment about our club and usually hear comments like "Boy they sure look like they're having fun." Have you noticed the Tuesday Night crowds are getting bigger? I have.

Until Our Next Publication,
President Bob

49er Banjo Jam Reunion coming in Oct!

The week-end of October 15th & 16th has been secured for the 49er Banjo Jam Reunion in Sonora, CA. The event will be held in the Muir Garden, which is a covered area, just in case it rains.

If you would like to make a reservation, or if you have questions, please contact:

Bob & Joyce Pinckney
239 Rainbow Dr. #13986
Livingston, TX 77399
Email: bjpink@juno.com

A short putt for par By Terry Horner

At 5 pm on Monday, April 26th, the club turned out to entertain the golfers raising money for the Court Appointed Special Advocates at the Boundary Oak Country Club. Despite the early hour, we had a great turnout, played well, and were asked to stay on for an extra half hour. Our group included: leader **BILL COOPER, JACK STARR, KIT NELSON**, and ever helpful President **BOB NELSON, MICKIE McDONALD, ED ROSSMAN, TERRY HORNER, BILL DOWLING, PAT WHEATON, TIM PERRY, BETTY DAVID, and CHUCK COOK**. The event organization left a little to be desired. We set up, an hour before downbeat, in the air conditioned dining room, only to be relocated at the last minute to a breezeway outside by the pro shop. Then our set finished before the tournament, so we had no audience until the last song. Oh, well. A long drive for a short putt.

Play-out Schedule

⇒ Sat, June 5

Valley View Lodge

Walnut Creek

6:30PM to 7:30PM

Please sign up or contact Jack Starr to make this play out a huge success!

Note from the Editor

We still need a name for this publication. The two possibilities are "The Banjo Buzz" (thank you Mickey!) and "The Banjo Rag" (thank you Barbara!). I would like to add some more names to the mix. If you have ANY ideas, please let me know! I want to offer some prize for the winning name, and will at least buy a personal pizza for the winner. Maybe we can get the club to donate a T-shirt.
- Bud

EBBC Strummers bring fun and excitement to Somerset Social Club

On April 8, after enjoying a delicious buffet provide by the Somerset Social Club, the banjoists, augmented with our rhythm section (washboard, gut-bucket, and TWO tubas), brought life to the gathering of club members. We had them dancing and singing, and almost guarantying a repeat performance next year.



Impressive group of strummers entertain Somerset Social Club. Vocals performed by **Kit Nelson, Fredy Kinadeter**, and **Bud Pearce**. **Betty David** soloed with "Bye-Bye Blues", and **Terry Horner** excited the audience with "Coney Island Washboard" on his washboard.



Three social club members were inspired to dance the Charleston after just a little prodding from our music Director **Bill Cooper**.



Dueling Tubas! **Chuck Cook & Fredy Kinadeter**



Our washboard extraordinaire **Terry Horner**

EBBC Board Members	
President	Bob Nelson
Vice President	Ed Rossman
Secretary	Faye Gonzales
Treasurer	Pat Wheaton
Music Director	Bill Cooper
Member at Large	Kit Nelson



Booking Agent	Jack Starr
Assistant Music Director	Betty David
Newsletter Editor/Publishers	Bud Pearce
Librarian	Bob Nelson

Special Kids get special treat from EBBC

On Saturday, April 24, the EBBC performed at "Special Kids Day" sponsored by the Lion's Club. As with most of our engagements many members of the audience want to be part of the show. This gig was no exception. The banjo has a way of bringing out an up-beat attitude to anyone in ear-shot of our music.



EBBC performs under the "Big Top" for the "Special Kids Day" at Castle Rock in Walnut Creek.



Bill Cooper is caught "clowning around" with one of the many happy audience members.



Betty Davis solos while **Kit Nelson** assists and **Jack Starr** accompanies



Bill Cooper teaches Dolly and Cher, two banjo loving divas, the Charleston



"**San Francisco Jack**" takes the break in "Twelfth Street Rag"



Gary Dietz sports his new bowler hat.

Gary goes to GLIB

By Gary Kerr

The Great Lakes International Banjo Convention

Here I am in beautiful (?) Dearborn, an industrial suburb of Detroit.

This show is probably the biggest in the nation and is staged by a consortium of 5 banjo clubs. For the official 2 days of the show there are several workshops 2 vendor display rooms, three shows consisting of 35 acts, and of course nearly nonstop jamming around the clock. There were fewer players here from the West Coast than years past.

Friday:

This morning there were workshops but I elected to go with a group of about a dozen players to a play out downtown, outdoors and a bit chilly, but ok. The leader chose the songs wisely, taking into account players from all over the country, and things went surprisingly well.

Jam sessions here have a slightly different character than in the West. Tenor banjos are the majority and their players tend to lay back and let the plectrum minority who play more vigorously do the work. Whenever any West Coast players join in everything gets kicked up several notches. The evening show was pretty fair. Jack Convery was on last and was excellent, if a bit subdued. After the show a jam session continued to the wee hours.

Saturday:

Jack opened the matinee with a much livelier performance than the night before, more like the Jack we know. Also on the bill was 13 year old Cody Clauson on the tenor banjo. His family makes their living doing a vaudeville type show, and their presentation is very theatrical and a bit corny. I guess it doesn't take much to entertain folks up there in Wisconsin. He has a lot of stage presence and plays very basic stuff. He has the fastest right hand I've ever seen, probably not unlike a legendary Scotsman we often hear about.

The evening show was standing room only and featured the best acts of the 3 shows. Al Allotta was probably the top soloist - a Peabody clone. The Clauson family was back and they kicked it up several notches. Cody is a very high energy entertainer and has the fastest right hand I've ever seen, but just up & down strokes. The all ladies pickup band had about 30 players and did some pretty ambitious stuff, That's Aplenty, etc. Again this year A country flavor band called Picks & Sticks, I feel outclassed all other entertainment. Big, big sound. The show ended about 11:45 and the last jam was in full swing by midnight. Probably 100+ jammers. I had to leave the jam early because my 06:30 wake-up call was rushing towards me. This was my fourth visit to this show and always enjoyable.



Jack Convery performs at GLIB



Cody Clauson a tenor wonder. Bud will be recruiting him for the EBBC