

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER



EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

SINCE 1963



SUMMER 2005

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 7

Play-out

Schedule

⇒ Sept 7 to 15

Performances in
Czech Republic
(See Trip Itinerary)

⇒ Sun, Sept 18

Banjo Jubilee
San Jose
TBA

⇒ Sat, Sept 24

Mobile Home Park
Fremont
6:00PM

⇒ Fri, Sept 30

Aegis
Concord
3:00PM

Club Event

⇒ Sat, Aug 20

Family Picnic
Landers Landing
Brentwood
10:00AM to Whenever

Plan to attend this event! Plenty of food, fun, and merriment! Sign up at one of our meetings soon! Contact Bob Nelson before Aug 15 if you can't make the meetings.

President's Words



We made it! After ten months of hard work and dedication, I was able to hand carry an EBBC check to our Travel Agent for 85+% of the round-trip air fare for traveling members to Prague, Czech Republic. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone for their extra efforts and especially, The Orinda / Tabor Sister City Foundation, Coca Cola, Round Table Pizza, Rich Boss, Ruth-Anne Bray, Jack Convery, Dave Frey, Jack Hicks, Eric Phillips, Larry Risner, Bobbie Landers, and Cathy Knowles for their generous donations.

Mark your calendars for August 20th! That's the date for this year's annual picnic, which is being held at Lander's Landings on the Delta. Our host is Bobbie Landers. This is a co-event with the Orinda Sister City Foundation. Sign-up sheets are available at our weekly meetings, or call me (925) 372-0553 by Aug 15 to make arrangements.

Bob Nelson

From The Oval Office of EBBC

Czech Republic here we come!

September 7, 2005 will be a big day in EBBC history! For the first time, the EBBC will travel abroad to perform! The two performance locations, both within the **Czech Republic**, are **Tabor** at the **European Music Festival (EMF)** and **Cesky Krumlov**. Banjo players include **Jack Convery, Bill Cooper, Karen and Gary Dietz, Chris Horner, George Knoblauch, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Ken Fogarty, Gary Kerr, Mickie McDonald, Tim Perry, Pat Wheaton, and Marilyn Young**. **Chuck Cook** will be joining the group to play the tuba. **Dina Melamed, Chris and Terry Horner** will be featured on the washboard, and **Betty Purchase** along with **Terry** will accompany on their gutbuckets. **Bob Nelson** will provide much needed administrative leadership.

Trip Itinerary

Wednesday, September 7
Thursday, September 8
Thursday, September 8
Friday, September 9
Saturday, September 10
Saturday, September 10
Sunday, September 11
Sunday, September 11
Sunday, September 11
Sunday, September 11
Monday, September 12
Monday, September 12
Monday, September 12
Tuesday, September 13
Wednesday, September 14
Thursday, September 15
Thursday, September 15

Evening
Early Evening
Evening
Evening
Morning
Afternoon
Morning
Noon
Afternoon
Afternoon
Morning
Afternoon
Evening
Morning
Evening
Morning
Afternoon

Leave San Francisco
Arrive in Prague (via London)
Arrive in Tabor (via bus)
1st performance in Tabor at the EMF
2nd performance in Tabor at the EMF
3rd performance in Tabor at the EMF
Leave Tabor (via bus)
Lunch at Ceske Budejovice
Arrive Cesky Krumlov
Performance in Cesky Krumlov
Hluboka Castle Tour
Arrive in Tabor for lunch
Arrive in Prague
Tour the Castle & Chapel
Group Dinner
Leave Prague
Arrive in San Francisco

Special guests at EBBC meeting

Members of the Tabor/Orinda Sister City Foundation paid a special visit to our Tuesday meeting on July 5 while on their visit to the United States. Surprisingly, the group still had a great deal of energy after completing their eight day tour including, San Francisco, Yosemite Park, Las Vegas, the Hoover Dam, Las Angeles, and San Diego! WOW! These folks can site-see!

The group enjoyed pizza, compliments of Cathy Knowles of Round Table, while listening to a sample of the Traditional American Jazz the EBBC will play at the European Music Festival in Tabor, Czech Republic. Many were familiar with Traditional American Jazz, and one member of the group, Frank Jansky, said, "I wanted you to hear a CD of a Czech group that plays many of these tunes."

Unquestionably, the biggest surprise came when we played "Beer Barrel Polka". The Tabor group immediately reacted and began singing along in Czech. Then, just before leaving, our new Czech friends requested "Skoda Lasky" as the last song of our July 5th meeting. We obliged their request by playing "Beer Barrel Polka" as they all gleefully sang "Skoda Lasky" and one of their members played the washboard. When the song ended, we wished them a safe journey home and let them know how much we look forward to our visit to their fair city. It is also a comfort to know that the jazz banjo will not be that "foreign" to our listeners in Europe.

Thanks to **Gary Kerr**, we learned why we got this reaction from our Czech friends. As Gary explained, the German version is called "Rosamunde" and was renamed "Beer Barrel Polka" in the U.S. However, the original version of this tune is called "Skoda Lasky" and was composed in 1934 by Czech composer, Jaromir Vejvoda, who was born in Zbraslav, a district of Prague. "Skoda Lasky" has also been referred to by the Czech people as the "Zbraslav Polka" and the "Modrany Polka" yet another district in Prague. So, the "Beer Barrel Polka" is a very well known song to the Czech people, and will, no doubt, be an important tune to play while in the Czech Republic.

Large audience at Lake Park Retirement Community

A large, enthusiastic crowd greeted EBBC strummers during their performance, June 24, at the Lake Park Retirement High Rise in Oakland. The crowd particularly enjoyed **Terry Horner** during his washboard solo, and surrounded him with curious questions about the gutbucket after the gig ended. **Bob Nelson** was in "sales heaven" as he had to take orders because the demand for our CD's exceeded the supply on site. One of the Lake Park organizers of the performance said he was going to organize a bus of at least eleven people from the community to pay us a visit during one of our weekly meetings.

Bill Cooper led the group of banjo players including **Jack Burros, Betty David, Gary Kerr, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, and Tim Perry. Terry Horner** accompanied and soloed on the washboard and gutbucket. Keeping the group together on the electric base was **Guy Black**. Welcome back Guy! Good to have you recovered from your wrist injury.



Terry WOW's them on the gutbucket



Moved to dance the "Charleston"



On-looker inspired to play washboard

Pre-Fourth-of-July gig at Aegis

A small group of EBBC performers entertained residents at the Aegis retirement facility in Concord on July 1. **Bill Cooper** led strummers **Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Jack and Diana Starr, and Marilyn Young** playing all the patriotic favorites as a warm up for the Fourth of July holiday on the following Monday. The group was kept on the beat by two excellent gutbucket players, **Terry Horner** and **Betty Purchase**. Rhythm was enhanced by **Dina Melamed** on the washboard.



Kit sings "God Bless America"

East Bay Banjo Club a huge hit in Orinda on the Fourth of July

Our friends at the Tabor/Orinda Sister City Foundation afforded us a great opportunity to perform on a float at the Fourth of July Parade and at a concert in the Community Park afterwards. The crowd that lined the streets of Orinda enthusiastically applauded and cheered as the float passed. Sitting on hay bales with balloons waving, our banjo players took their cues to start playing from the referee style "FOX-40" whistle of our Music Director, **Bill Cooper**. Aboard the float were **Chuck Cook, Bill Cooper, Betty David, Karen Dietz, Ken Fogarty, Chris Horner, Terry Horner, Gary Kerr, George Knoblauch, Mickie McDonald, Dina Melamed, Bud Pearce, Tim Perry, June Rosploch, and Ed Rossman**. Although it was a bit "cozy" on the float, there is nothing like a "hometown parade" on the 4th! Also in the parade were members of the Tabor/Orinda Sister City group visiting from the Czech Republic. As a sign of our friendship, banjos were decorated with both "Old Glory" and the flag of the Czech Republic.

Immediately following the parade, EBBC members hustled to the Orinda Community Park to perform an hour and a half concert for folks enjoying the 4th of July festivities. Club members joining the performance included **Lynne Deutscher, Kit Nelson, Betty Purchase, and Marilyn Young**. At the end of the concert, the Mayor of Orinda drew the winning raffle ticket for the jazz quilt created and donated by our own club Secretary, **Ruth-Anne Bray**. Of course, our relentless, fund-raising President, **Bob Nelson**, was selling tickets right up to the drawing! Bob, we REALLY appreciate your efforts to make our trip to the Czech Republic a reality! You ARE the man!



Gary Kerr & Ken Purchase decorate



Strummers tune up before the parade



We're ready to go!



At the "upbeat" in the park



EBBC's top salesman, Bob Nelson



And the winner is.... Bobbie who?!!!

Banjo players add fun to church picnic

Even without a sound system, EBBC players made the St Francis of Assisi Church parish picnic a fun place to be on July 10. People of all ages enjoyed the old summer tunes like "In the Good Old Summer Time" and "Cruising Down the River" while they ate their hot dogs and drank their favorite beverage. On the banjo were **Jack Burros, Bill Cooper, Betty David, Karen Dietz, Chris Horner, Gary Kerr, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Ed Rossman, Jack and Diana Starr, Pat Wheaton, and Marilyn Young.** Terry Horner provided rhythm on the gutbucket as did Dina Melamed on the washboard.



Fun at Pleasant Hill Community Park



President Bob chats with audience



Even Sponge Bob joins in on the fun

Two "hot, hot" birthday parties

The temperature was over 100° F, but the "show must go on!". Nine dedicated EBBC members endured a two hour play-out session for a birthday party held outside on July 16 at Rossmoor. The sweltering entertainers included **Jack Convery, Bill Cooper, Karen Dietz, Terry Horner, Gary Kerr, Dina Melamed, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, and Tim Perry.** Special kudos to **Jack Convery** who soloed with an outstanding medley of tunes during intermission while most others caught their breath in a nearby air-conditioned building. Thanks Jack! We needed that!

On the following day, July 17, with the thermometer just below the 100° F mark, another group of hardy players performed outside for a birthday celebration at Rossmore. The ten "hot, hot" instrumentalists were **Bill Cooper, Betty David, Lynne Deutscher, Dina Melamed, Kit Nelson, Bud Pearce, Tim Perry, Jack Starr, and Pat Wheaton.**



Jack and Betty chillin' before hot, hot



Lynne ready for her "Baptism of Fire"



Ed & Kit way too cool to be hot, hot

EBBC BOARD MEMBERS	
President	Bob Nelson
Vice President	Ed Rossman
Secretary	Ruth-Anne Bray
Treasurer	Pat Wheaton
Music Director	Bill Cooper
Member at Large	Kit Nelson
Booking Agent	Jack Starr



Bud orders everyone into the pool!

Assistant Music Directors	Betty David, Ed Rossman, Larry Risner
Newsletter Editor/Publisher	Bud Pearce
Librarian	Bob Nelson