



EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

Since 1963



March / April 2016

Members Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 2

Events Calendar

Sunday, May 15

Banjo-Rama / Lion's Gate Hotel

3410 Westover St., Sacramento
1:40 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 31

Playout at Stoneman Village

390 E. Leland Road, Pittsburg
2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday June 10

**Playout at Montecito Oakmont
Senior Living**

4756 Clayton Road, Concord
3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 27

Playout at Rossmoor

1001 Golden Rain Road
Walnut Creek
12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

www.eastbaybanjo.org

*To book the East Bay Banjo Club
to play at your event, please
contact booking agent
Bob Ehrhorn via email at
bobehrhorn@comcast.net or call
(707) 731-0198.*

President's Message

By Jack Starr

Ready for BANJO-RAMA?? Be sure to mark your calendar for MAY 15th, so you do not forget to attend!!!!

Our performance is from 1:40 P.M. to 200P.M. We have a whole 5 minutes to set up and break down and 20 minutes of playing time. In order to get the full 20 minutes of playing, we need to be really organized in getting on and off the stage. If anyone has special needs, better plan ahead for the necessary accommodations. If you have particular equipment problems, big equipment, electrical hook ups, etc.,



again, plan ahead so we look "professional" at the venue. Our uniform for the day is gold vest, black pants, white shirt, and black tie.

About playing, our music director Betty David has issued the song list we will be using, so between now and the big day, we have lots of time to practice at home in addition to the weekly sessions at the

Greenery. One thing that will help us make a good presentation is to remember to play softly when we have a singer. Using the "Boom-Chuck" method is good way to soften the music behind the singer. (Boom-Chuck—first beat, single bass string, then second beat full stroke, third beat single bass string, fourth beat full stroke) Remember to not use up-strokes unless you are playing a 1/16th note. The first string is the high string and it really shows up if you hit it strongly. Guy Black on bass is always there so try to stay on beat with Guy.

--Continued on page 2--

Inside:

EBBC to play at Banjo-Rama on May 15 – page 2

Ideas for banjo bands – page 4

East Bay Banjo Club slated to play Banjo-Rama on May 15

By John Greitzer

The East Bay Banjo Club will give a 20-minute performance at Banjo-Rama 2016 in Sacramento on Sunday, May 15, the final day of this year's event. Our slot starts at 12:50 p.m. at the Lions Gate Hotel.

EBBC will have 25 minutes overall, including five minutes to get on and off the stage.

As usual, Banjo-Rama will include a variety of workshops, performances, vendor displays and jam sessions.

The full event runs from Thursday May 12 through Sunday May 15. Workshops will be conducted on Friday morning and afternoon and Saturday morning. Workshops specifically for beginners who want to learn to play the banjo will be held on Saturday morning and Sunday morning. Banjos will be available for beginners who need them.

The Lions Gate Hotel is located at 3410 Westover Street in Sacramento. The phone number is (916) 640-0835.

If EBBC members want to stay overnight when making advance reservations, be sure to tell the hotel reservations desk you are with the Banjo-Rama event. Registration for all four days costs \$49 in advance or \$55 at the door. Single-day registration costs \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Children age 12 and under are free.

More information is available at www.banjo-rama.com.

President's message, continued from page 1

What else is going on? Our Gigmeister, Bob Ehrhorn, has scheduled the following gigs: TUESDAY, May 31, 2016, 2:00 – 3:00 P.M., Stoneman Village, 3419 Westover Street, Pittsburg. Uniform is blue polo, beige pants. FRIDAY, June 10, 2016, 3:00—4:00 P.M. Montecito Oakmont, Senior Living, 4756 Clayton Rd. Concord. Uniform is blue polo, beige pants. WEDNESDAY, July 27, 2016, 12:00 Noon—1:00 P.M., 1001 Golden Rain Road, (Rossmoor) Walnut Creek. Uniform is gold vest, black pants, white shirt, black tie. (This probably goes without saying, but wearing shoes is always an option for banjo players.)

As with BANJO-RAMA, in the weeks to come, Betty David will be asking us for input regarding songs to be played, singer and intro volunteers for the upcoming gigs. Put on your thinking caps and be ready to call some tunes.

Banjorically yours,

Jack Starr

Chords commonly used in EBBC music

Article provided by Don Granberg
With contributions by John Greitzer

Tech tips
A review of the
chords we keep
strummin'...

Augmented chords (C+)

A plus sign (+) after the chord symbol indicates an augmented chord, which means raising the fifth tone of the chord scale up one fret (or a “half-step”). For example a C chord includes C, E and G, while a C+, or C augmented chord, contains C, E, and G# (G-sharp).

Minor chords (Cm)

A lower-case “m” right after the chord symbol indicates a minor chord. This means the third tone of the chord scale is lowered, or “flatted”, by one fret. In a C chord, the notes are C, E and G. The Cm, or C minor chord, includes C, Eb (E-flat) and G.

Seventh chords (C7)

The seventh chord adds a “flatted seventh” tone of the chord scale on top of the usual first, third and fifth tones in the chord. To form a C7 chord, start with a C chord, add the seventh tone of the C scale, which is B, and lower or flat it one fret to Bb (B-flat). The C7 chord thus includes C, E, G and Bb. Seventh chords based on the fifth tone of a song’s key scale are commonly used to lead back into the main chord of the song. For example, if a song is in the key of C, the fifth tone of that scale is G. The G7 chord is commonly used to lead back into the C chord for the start of a new verse or the ending of the song. [*Editor’s note:* there are other types of seventh chords not covered here because EBBC’s sheet music does not use them. The most common types not covered here are major sevenths, minor sevenths and diminished sevenths.]

Diminished chords (C- in EBBC music; elsewhere it’s C^o or Cdim)

A diminished chord means both the third and fifth tones of the chord scale are lowered or flatted by one fret, and the seventh tone of the scale is “diminished,” or lowered two frets. The C diminished chord includes C, Eb, Gb, and A. [*Editor’s note:* In EBBC’s sheet music, a diminished chord is indicated by a minus sign after the chord symbol (C-). However, in the rest of the musical kingdom, a diminished chord is indicated by a small raised circle (C^o) or the abbreviation “dim” right after the chord symbol (Cdim). A minus sign (C-) usually indicates a *minor* chord, not a diminished chord. EBBC members should keep these differences in mind if they play with other musical groups that use sheet music.]

Diminished chords repeat every three frets up and down the neck. For example, if you play a B-diminished chord, you can move that same chord three frets up or three frets down the neck and you will still be playing a B-diminished chord. It will have the same four notes, but in a different order or “inversion.”

Ideas offered for banjo bands

By Garry Kerr

EBBC member Garry Kerr offers some ideas for consideration by banjo bands regarding style of play, rhythm, set lists and playouts...

Why do you suppose so many people love banjos?

Could it be because people in every culture have

responded to rhythm, and produced rhythm? Drums have always played a part in human culture from the most primitive to the most civilized. Rhythm has always been in the human psyche. Is it in our genes? Music with an overpowering beat affects humans at their most primal levels. The banjo is a musical drum, a rhythm instrument that can be made to produce tuneful melodies. (But so can cowbells) Audiences respond strongly when a number is played briskly and enthusiastically, or when there is an overpowering beat, and especially when there are both. When the banjo band is large and tight the “shock and awe” effect prevails.

Some players may have trouble keeping time because they are unfamiliar with the song that’s being played and try to concentrate on their sheet music, paying less attention to what’s going on around them, including the beat.

Club players need to know the rudiments of ensemble playing. This means being able to look up at, or listen to the Music Director at crucial times for cues or reminders of what to do next, all while playing their instrument and hearing the bass. Players should keep time with the bass, not their neighboring banjo player. Players need to feel that they are contributing to the overall sound, not sitting in their little bubble, playing to themselves.

Rhythm players should hit all the strings smartly and play down strokes only. When playing with singers, the rule of thumb is to follow the singer. The singer should stay with the band, keeping in mind that the band is playing a written arrangement. Singers must stay in sync with the band and not add or drop measures.

If players learned to “boom chuck” it can help (stressing the second and fourth beats when playing in 4/4 time). Players also should learn to start from a count. Try practicing songs with no melody being played, only chords.

Playout ideas

- Create a song list good for a calendar year. Eighty percent of the songs could be standards (often called “chestnuts”) and the remainder seasonal material, or requests by the client. The song list should have keys, tempos, and arrangements carefully integrated to avoid monotony for players and audience. Slow or emotional songs may be added to the mix for balance. If those songs are practiced early in the year players can become less reliant on their sheet music, pay more attention to what’s going on around them, and look at the audience. When space for players is severely limited, such as on a parade float, players should be encouraged to memorize the songs.
- Recruit a non-player to attend the playout with the song list in hand and write down how well each song is played by the group overall, and the audience reaction to each song. A numerical score per song (like 1 – 5) might work. The results are then tabulated. This will help us know what works and what doesn’t.



*From the "Far Side"
and elsewhere – more
fun with banjos....*

"Bad guy comin' in, Arnie! ... Minor key!"

Above: Copyright FarWorks Inc.



Board members and appointed officers for 2016

Board Members

President: Jack Starrjohn.starr@att.net
Vice President: Bob Malucellidmalucelli@att.net
Secretary: Ardie Jarrett.....jarjohn@msn.com
Treasurer: Sheila Welt.....weltbear@sbcglobal.net
Music Director: Betty David(925) 938-0126
Immediate Past President: Larry Risnerrhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net
Booking Agent: Bob Ehrhorn bobehrhorn@comcast.net

Non-Board Officers

Assistant Music Director: Jack Converyentline@msn.com
Assistant Music Director and Digital Librarian: Karen Hefter karenhefter@gmail.com
Assistant Music Director: Larry Risnerrhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net
Hospitality: Sheila Welt.....weltbear@sbcglobal.net
Librarian: Jim Blankenship jpblankenship@att.net
Membership: Diane Malucellidmalucelli@att.net
Newsletter Editor/Publisher: John Greitzer johngreitzer@outlook.com
Telephone Tree: Diane Malucellidmalucelli@att.net
Uniforms (Gold Vest & Polos): Ardie Jarrett..... jarjohn@msn.com
Web Master: Bud Pearce bud.pearce@pearcechriss.com

About our newsletter

The *East Bay Banjo Club Newsletter* is published six times per year, in February, April, June, August, October, and December. The newsletter also is posted on the EBBC website at www.eastbaybanjo.org (click on "Newsletters"). All articles are written by the newsletter editor unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming birthdays

Happy birthday to all!



Larry Risner – May 9
Betty David --May 27
Robin Reeves – June 3
Berniece Witte –June 6
Linda Myers – June 17
John Greitzer – June 18

2016 EBBC Playout Participation

Playouts to date: 2

Guy Black	2
Tom Brunetti	1
Betty David	2
Clyde Dedmon	1
Jesse DeTorres	1
Bob Ehrhorn	2
Don Granberg	2
John Greitzer	1
Karen Hefter	1
Terry Horner	1
Ardie Jarrett	2
Garry Kerr	2
Chris Lardge	2
Bob Malucelli	1
Diane Malucelli	1
Dina Melamed	1
Phil Myers	2
Linda Myers	1
Bob Nelson	2
Kit Nelson	2
Bud Pearce	1
Larry Risner	1
Jack Starr	1
Sheila Welt	2



Just For Yuks.....

C, E-flat and G go into a bar. The bartender says “Sorry, we don’t serve minors.” So E-flat leaves, and C and G have an open fifth between them.

Q: What’s the difference between a Harley-Davidson and a banjo? **A:** You can tune a Harley.

East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2016

Place: Greenery Dining Room, Walnut Creek, CA

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

Absent Board of Directors: none

Appointed Chairs Present: Sheila Welt, Hospitality; Diane Malucelli, Membership & Telephone Tree.

Absent Appointed Chairs: Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Karen Hefter, Digital Music Librarian; Bud Pearce, Web Master; John Greitzer, Editor.

Guest Present: Red Higgins

CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Jack Starr, President.

BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:

Secretary: Ardie Jarrett presented the minutes and were approved as presented.

Treasurer: Sheila Welt – The Treasurer’s report was accepted as presented and will be filed for audit. Sheila presented a 2016 proposed budget and it was accepted as presented.

Vice President: Bob Malucelli – no report.

Music Director: Betty David – no report other than the last gig in Oakland went well.

Booking Agent: Bob Ehrhorn – Bob has mailed out 30 letters trying to promote future gigs. So far we only have one gig which is May 31st in Pittsburg. We discussed how far we should consider accepting possible gigs and it was concluded to not book any that involved crossing the bridge. Our basic fee is \$200 per hour.

Past President: Larry Risner – no report

APPOINTED CHAIRS REPORTS:

Membership: Diane Malucelli reported that we have 34 paid members and we need to remind members to pay their dues. Diane would like to see us continue to reward members who participate in gigs with a free meal at the Greenery.

Hospitality: Sheila Welt reported that Mary Black was now home after having back surgery.

UNFINISHED OLD BUSINESS:

Advertising in NewsLetter: People have asked if non-members could advertise to sell personal Banjos in our Newsletter if they were not members. It was decided that we needed to do more research and clarify the legality with our tax status.

Printing Newsletter: After much discussion and research, Sheila Welt moved, 2nd by Ardie Jarrett, that we purchase a printer for the Editor instead of having the letter professionally printed. Motion passed 7/0/0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Banjo Rama 2016: After discussing, it was decided to continue the practice of everyone pay their own way in advance, and if they perform at Banjo Rama, the club would then reimburse the member for their performance cost.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ardie Jarrett, Secretary

East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: March 8, 2016

Place: Greenery Dining Room, Walnut Creek, CA

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

Absent Board of Directors: none

Appointed Chairs Present: Sheila Welt, Hospitality; Diane Malucelli, Membership & Telephone Tree; Bud Pearce, Web Master.

Absent Appointed Chairs: Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Karen Hefter, Digital Music Librarian; John Greitzer, Editor.

Guests Present: Guy and Mary Black; Red Higgins;

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:30 by Jack Starr, President.

BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:

Secretary: Ardie Jarrett presented the minutes and they were approved as presented.

Treasurer: Sheila Welt – The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented and will be filed for audit.

Vice President: Bob Malucelli reported that Jim Blankenship was not feeling well. He nothing else to present.

Music Director: Betty David – Betty will ask the members for their suggestions of songs to be played at BanjoRama. 12 songs will be picked and we will start practicing on these songs. BanjoRama is May 12-15, and we play on Sunday, May 15th. We need to start getting names of those who plan to participate.

Booking Agent: Bob Ehrhorn reported that we have been asked to play at the Pittsburg Sr. Center on May 14th (the day before our performance at BanjoRama) which would be a FreeBee. It was decided to turn it down for now. The only other gig we presently have is May 31st.

APPOINTED CHAIRS REPORTS:

Hospitality: Sheila Welt said that she would send a card to both Jim Blankenship and to Jerry Reeves.

Web Master: Bud Pearce reported that all is going smoothly and all bills have been paid.

Membership and Telephone Tree: Diane Mallucelli reported that not all remembers have renewed their memberships as of today. The Telephone Tree is all set up and ready to go.

Editor: It was reported that John Greitzer, Editor, loves the new colored printer and thinks it will save the club substantially.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Member Contact - Addressed by BOD President Jack Starr.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ardie Jarrett, Secretary