



# East Bay Banjo Club

Since 1963



Jan / Feb 2017

Members Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 1

## Events Calendar

### **Friday, February 24**

Orinda Masonic Lodge Crab Feast  
9 Altarinda Road  
Orinda, CA 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

### **Saturday, April 15**

Alamo Rotary Club  
Easter Egg Hunt, Livorna Park  
Alamo, CA 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

### **Sat-Sun, April 22-23**

Banjo-Rama  
Carmichael Elks Lodge  
5631 Cypress Avenue  
Carmichael, CA

### **Tuesday, May 30**

Stoneman Village  
390 E. Leland Road  
Pittsburg CA 2 – 3 p.m.

[www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://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](mailto:bobehrhorn@comcast.net) or call (707) 731-0198.*

## President's Message

By Jack Starr

Greetings, banjo players. I hope you've been keeping dry these past weeks of almost daily rain. Have you been to the new EBBC practice venue at the Pleasant Hill Round Table Pizza on Oak Park Boulevard? If not, you're missing a great time and the enjoyment of playing banjo plus the great camaraderie with your fellow banjoistas. We're now meeting on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Round Table "Community Room. The Sunday evening time slot is working out well, especially since traffic is practically nonexistent at that time.



EBBC has made a minor tweak to our policy on obtaining our music book. If a new member wants a paper book, they must attend three practice sessions and then they can obtain the book for the actual cost of printing it. If the new member wants an electronic version, they still must attend three practices and then make the arrangements with our digital librarian, Karen Hefter.

In case you haven't heard, our longtime Music Director, Betty David, retired from the post in January. She has done a great job and assisted many of us in becoming more knowledgeable about banjo playing. During Betty's years as Music Director she has attended virtually all of our practices and led us in all our playouts. EBBC owes Betty a hearty "thank you" for her dedication and hard work. When you see Betty, be sure and thank her for her service.

*-- continued, page 2*

### Inside:

***EBBC to play at Banjo-Rama—p. 2***

***New music director tapped for EBBC—p. 3***

## **President's Message**, *continued from page 1*

Now what, you say? We are fortunate to have Karen Hefter agree to step in as Music Director. Karen took the reins on February 5 and will be the “go to” person for our practices and playouts. Please be sure to extend a hearty welcome to Karen as she embarks on the difficult task of trying to herd cats (that would be us)! For more on Betty and Karen, see the article on page 3.

A gentle reminder to all – be attentive to the Music Director during our practices, play more softly when we have a singer, listen to your neighbor, and try to stay on the beat. In addition, it would be helpful when attending our weekly practices to arrive in enough time to set up, tune your banjo, and be ready to play at 7 p.m.

Banjo-Rama is just around the corner, April 22-23, at the Elks Lodge in Carmichael. Karen Hefter is looking for EBBC members to suggest tunes to play at the event and of course to attend the event. We will play two sets on Sunday April 23, with each set to be about 20 minutes long. There is a signup sheet at our weekly practices so please indicate your willingness to attend and participate.

Bob Ehrhorn, our Gig Master, has arranged a late February gig in Orinda, an Easter gig in Alamo, and a Memorial Day gig in Pittsburg at Stoneman Village. I'm sure he will be arranging additional playouts for us. Sign up on the attendance sheet at our weekly practice if you're able to make any of these playouts.

As Georgette Twain always said:

“Banjorically yours,”

Jack Starr  
President

---

## **Banjo-Rama Set For April 22-23, 2017 Plans Announced For This Year's Banjo Fest**

The annual Banjo-Rama festival, sponsored by the Sacramento Banjo Band, will take place on April 22 and 23 at the Carmichael Elks Lodge, 5631 Cypress Avenue in Carmichael, CA. Dinner and jams are planned for the Saturday evening session and performances are slated for Sunday. For more info: [sacramentobanjoband.com](http://sacramentobanjoband.com).

The East Bay Banjo Club will once again play at the event, as we have in the past. We're on for two 20-minute sets on the second day of the event, Sunday April 23.

All interested banjoistas should sign up for the event at our next weekly practice session. Remember, there can *never* be too many banjo players.

## EBBC Has A New Music Director

Karen Hefter has been selected as our new Music Director, taking the reins from longtime club member Betty David, who retired from the position in January. Betty had been “MD” for four years, and served as Assistant Music Director for 19 years before that, so she has had a major influence on the club’s musical direction for a couple of decades.

The Music Director leads the club during our weekly practices and at playouts, compiles the song lists for our playouts, and provides general musical guidance for the club.



*Karen Hefter (l) and Betty David*

Betty says she will appreciate being able to relax and just play at our weekly sessions, rather than having to serve as Music Director. In announcing her retirement, Betty noted that she has been an EBBC member for 41 years. She joined the club as a novice but quickly took to the banjo and worked her way up “from the back row” at club playing sessions to the front as one of our leaders.

A lifelong pianist, Betty recalls going into a music store decades ago in Walnut Creek, looking for some piano music. She spotted a row of banjos on the back wall of the shop and, on a whim, took a look at them.

“I noticed they had four strings, just like the ukulele that I played when I was a kid,” she said. Intrigued by the banjos, she rented one for three months for seventeen dollars. “Then I went back to the shop and asked if there were any teachers who could give me lessons,” she said. “They said sure,” and connected Betty with famed banjo virtuoso and teacher Georgette Twain. The rest, as they say, is history.

EBBC members appreciate everything Betty did as Music Director and gave her a couple of rounds of heartfelt applause at our recent practices. She will continue to make a major contribution simply by her continued participation at our weekly practices and playouts.

New Music Director Karen Hefter is a multi-instrumentalist, having played violin, clarinet, oboe, trumpet, bassoon and bagpipes in addition to tenor banjo. Her favorite instrument was the oboe, which she played through her school years and beyond but had to give up due to repetitive motion issues, which she described as “devastating.” Unable to play instruments for years, she began building them, including several small busker organs from kits. In college she had built a clavichord from drawings made by one of her college professors.

Karen got her first EBBC club banjo from the late Bill Cooper and joined the club in May 2012.

“I only have one more instrument on my bucket list, which is the accordion,” Karen said recently. “I bought one last year and [EBBC member] Don Granberg gave me some playing tips, but I've been playing so much banjo that I haven't had time to focus on it. I hope to play the tenor banjo for a long time.”

She plays in EBBC, the Oakland Banjo Band, and her own group, Banjos by the San Francisco Bay.

# Board members and appointed officers for 2017

## Board Members

President: Jack Starr .....john.starr@att.net  
Vice President: John Greitzer .....johngreitzer@outlook.com  
Secretary: Diana Starr.....john.starr@att.net  
Treasurer: Rich Combs.....combsrichard@sbcglobal.net  
Music Director: Karen Hefter .....karenhefter@gmail.com  
Past President: Larry Risner ... .....rhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net  
Booking Agent: Bob Ehrhorn ..... bobehrhorn@comcast.net

## Non-Board Officers

Digital Librarian: Karen Hefter..... karenhefter@gmail.com  
Hard-Copy Librarian: Jim Blankenship ..... jpblankenship@att.net  
Membership: Chris Lardge.....chrislardge@aol.com  
Newsletter Editor/Publisher: John Greitzer ..... johngreitzer@outlook.com  
Uniforms (Gold Vest & Polos): Ardie Jarrett..... jarjohn@msn.com  
Webmaster: Bud Pearce ..... bud.pearce@pearcechris.com  
Hospitality: Vacant  
Telephone Tree: Vacant

---

## 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](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org) (click on “Newsletters”). All articles are written by the newsletter editor unless otherwise noted.

---

## Upcoming birthdays



### *Happy birthday to all!*

Dick Neuman – March 1	Rich Combs – March 20
Chris Lardge – March 3	Garry Kerr – March 20
Dina Melamed – March 14	Annie Lem – April 2
Jim Blankenship – March 15	Bobbie Landers – April 17
Cathy Dongallo – March 15	Jim Abele – April 18

# Membership dues are due!

## East Bay Banjo Club 2017 Membership Form

Dues are now payable in the amount of \$20.00 per member. Youth under 18 are free.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make \$20 checks payable to East Bay Banjo Club. Checks can be mailed to EBBC Membership, 5102 Coral Court, Concord CA 94521, or given in person to Diane Malucelli, membership chairperson.

## **East Bay Banjo Club Executive Meeting**

**Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017**

**Place: Round Table Pizza Parlor**

**Board Members Present:** Jack Starr, President; John Geitzer, Vice President; Diana Starr, Secretary; Rich Combs, Treasurer; Bob Ehrhorn, Booking Agent; Betty David, Music Director

**Absent Board Members:** Larry Risner, Past President

**Guests Present:** Guy Black

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 6:55 pm

Jack Starr, president, spoke with Pacheco Community Center in regards to our meeting at their location. The cost would be \$75.00 per night, three Wednesdays a month. The fourth Wednesday is unavailable. The room is good size with plenty of metal chairs. This would be \$225.00 a month or \$2750 a year. The parking area is good. The information for Round Table Pizza Parlor from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at no charge would be reserving one month at a time.

Bob Ehrhorn, Booking agent, said the club does not bring in enough money to cover the \$2750.00 a year.

John Geitzer, Vice president, asked if we have ever paid for a location. The answers were that we have never paid for a location.

Betty David, Music director, suggested we keep both locations open.

Rich Combs, Treasurer, said he would like us to keep looking for locations.

Bob Ehrhorn checked with the Concord and Walnut Creek Elks Club which could still be an option.

Diana Starr, Secretary, checked with the Senior Centers in the area and found that they are mostly city owned and the cities do charge for rooms.

It was decided that we would meet at the Round Table Pizza Parlor at 7:00 pm on Sundays.

Regarding the music book policy, it was decided that a new member needs to personally apply for membership in the club and attend three practices in order to purchase either a hard copy of our music or the digital copy. The hard copy is \$40.00 each. The electronic system is to be worked out by Karen Hefter, the Digital librarian. Betty David explained our copyright problems. It was decided that we need to vote on a policy for Karen.

Rich Combs asked if we have to vote a new member into the club. The answer was no.

Diana Starr suggested we charge for the digital copy as well as the hard copy.

Rich Combs made a motion that we charge \$20.00 for the digital copy.

There was no second to the motion and was decided to pass on this suggestion to our next board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:00 pm

**Respectfully Submitted:**

Diana Starr, Secretary

## **East Bay Banjo Club Board Meeting**

**Date: Sunday, February 12, 2017**

**Place: Round Table Pizza Parlor**

**Board Members Present:** Jack Starr, President, Diana Starr, Secretary; Rich Combs, Treasurer; Karen Hefter, Music Director; Larry Risner, Past President

**Board Members Absent:** John Greitzer, Vice President; Bob Ehrhorn, Booking Agent

**Committee Members Present:** Sheila Welt, Hospitality; Chris Large, Membership; Bud Pearce, Web Master

**Committee Members Absent:** Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Diane Malucelli, Telephone Tree; John Greitzer, Editor

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 5:30 PM**

The minutes were read and approved on a motion by Karen H. and second by Rich C.

The treasurers report was given by Rich C. January expenses were \$498.86 and January receipts were \$280.00. The checking account balance as of January is \$8380.31. Rich went over the budget for 2017 thoroughly. He questioned the Banjo lease and how it is to be written in the budget. It was decided that for the budget purposes that is to be a zero. Sheila W. will look for the banjo "lease" agreement. There are two "lease" agreements, one for students and one for adults. Rich suggested we change the lease agreement to banjo "buy back" agreement. The budget was discussed at length. Rich will bring a revised 2017 budget to the next board meeting.

Karen, our new Music Director plans to do an intro workshop after our next gig. She reported that Easter is on a Sunday which is a practice night so there will not be a practice the week before Banjorama. She asked about the process for booking a gig. Jack Starr said the gig master brings the gig information to the board and Music Director for approval.

### **Committee reports:**

Hospitality – Sheila sent a get well email card to Kit Nelson.

Membership - Chris sent the message that he has not received Membership material from former chairman.

Web Master – Bud has paid the service fees for the year until February 2018. He would like the song list for the web.

Karen will send him the list. Bud mentioned that we must take care not to include private information on the website.

### **Old Business:**

Banjorama – Ten players have signed up. Four members have paid their \$25.00. It was stated that if a member is playing with more than one group they need only pay for one fee.

Practice Location – Bud reported February and March are set for Sundays at the Pleasant Hill Round Table Pizza Parlor

Music Director – We are happy to have Karen Hefter as our new Music Director.

### **New Business:**

Music Books – The board discussed providing the digital book at no cost. The board may discuss this matter at a later date. Rich suggested that we need a privacy policy, which also could be a topic for a future board meeting.

**Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

The next board meeting is March 12, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Starr, Secretary

**East Bay Banjo Club**  
[www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org)  
P.O. Box 5414  
Concord, CA 94524

## **East Bay Banjo Club**

**Meets every week to play happy music**

**Sundays from 7 to 9 p.m.**