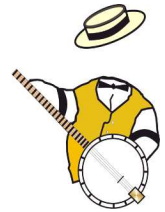


EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

SINCE 1963



January/February 2014

Membership Newsletter

Editor: Karen Hefter

Volume 9 Issue 1

Upcoming Play Out Schedule

February 28th

Orinda Masonic Center
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

April 18th

Walnut Creek Civic Center
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

April 26th

Forest Home Farms, San Ramon
11:00 am - 2:30 pm

May 1st-4th

BanjoRama, Clarion Hotel
Sacramento, CA

May 22nd-24th

Arizona Banjo Blast
Tuscon, Arizona

May 26th

The Kensington, Walnut Creek
1:30 pm—2:30 pm

East Bay Banjo Club Meets
Every Tuesday
7:00 pm- 9:00 pm
Luigi's #1 Deli
537 Main St. at Castro St.
Martinez, CA

Be sure to check our website,
www.eastbaybanjo.org,
for current event information and a
blog about past performances.

For bookings, Contact
Phil Myers, Booking Agent at
plmyers@jps.net
or
Call 925-932-3489

President's Message:

It is with both happiness and sadness that the year 2014 opened for the East Bay Banjo Club.

The sad and untimely passing of our dear Mickie McDonald this January came as a shock to everyone. We miss her smiles, singing, and passing around the get well and birthday cards for club members to sign at the Tuesday meetings. Mickie was the perfect Hospitality Chairperson for our club and she put her heart into making everyone feel welcome – she is truly missed!!!



I'd like to thank the outgoing Board of Directors for guiding the club through last year's difficult times and also thank the club members for placing their trust in me this year as the club president. I have made a personal vow to do anything and everything I can to help ensure the continued future of our wonderful club (banjo family). I am also making it my priority to be available to join in playing at club events this year.

Because of Phil Myers's dedication as the club's booking agent and also the dedication of all of the club members who play at the booked gigs, the club is starting this new year off with a positive financial position. Our Music Director, Betty David, is the greatest - she never misses a meeting or event and always has a smile for us. Thank you, Betty!

Most importantly, the reason the East Bay Banjo Club has been so successful for 50 years and continues to be so is you, the members. So, for that – THANK YOU!!!

Larry Risner

President



In Memoriam - Yvonne "Mickie" McDonald

By: Sheila Welt

On January 5, 2014, longtime EBBC member Mickie McDonald passed away in her home. She played the banjo and sang with the EBBC for many, many years and rarely missed a playout. She didn't read music and taught herself to play the banjo by ear. She could sing in several languages and we occasionally heard her sing a beautiful version of "Silent Night" in German. Many people didn't know that she also played the piano. Sharing a love of music with her was magical - she was a master of harmony and it was my privilege to sing duets alongside her.

Irish? Oh, yes, she was Irish and loved it! She shared this love by singing Irish songs and wearing a lot of green, but she was color blind and had a hard time with different shades of colors. Mickie had many friends, yet she was also a very private person. I was pleased to drive her to practices and play outs for many years and during these trips we talked a lot and I learned a lot about her.

Mickie was a "military brat" who went to school in Japan and learned to speak Japanese. Later, she became a special education teacher and always talked fondly about her past students. We had a lot of fun sharing special education stories. Mickie could also read Braille and was fluent in American Sign Language. She continued her wonderful work with children by volunteering for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for over 20 years. She really enjoyed being a special friend to those children that she was assigned to help. Her van was always full of stuffed animals, games, and just about anything that a child would like. She not only gave things to the children she served, she gave unconditional love to them. She also loved to bring special little gifts for the children that played with the EBBC. She really cared about people and their needs. One example is that the EBBC has a blind player and Mickie always gave him a stuffed something for his birthday instead of a card.

Mickie was the Hospitality Chair for the EBBC for several years. She picked out wonderful birthday, sympathy, and get well cards for all of us to sign for all of the EBBC members. What many didn't know is that Mickie was dyslexic! This made the Hospitality job a lot harder than we would have ever imagined... She was also an avid collector of old sheet music - she loved the covers and the original lyrics and would share the music with everyone who was interested.

Mickie was a member of MENSA and said that the members of MENSA were just the same as everyone else, but that they had different "punch lines" for their jokes! As intelligent as she was, she had an awful time mastering the computer and she never did figure out the printer. She often came over to my house to get computer help and we ended up with a lot of extra duet practice. Mickie was such an outstanding lady - I miss her calls and rides with me. I know that she is ever watchful over all of us that she shared her life with.

Introducing Songs

By Larry Risner

Okay, I confess that I'm writing this as notes for myself because the hardest part of playing music for me is introducing songs. So here we go.....

Basic introduction purposes:

- Establishes the rhythm for the song.
- If possible or needed, includes a small bit of the song melody.
- Presents a clear downbeat note or chord run as a cue for the group to start playing.

Many introductions can consist of the last 8 bars of the song. However, care should be taken to make the introduction brief and not too lengthy. This method automatically eliminates a repetition of introduction styles. The most difficult introduction for a group is a simple count down. This type of introduction should be avoided unless the group is well "seasoned" from playing together frequently or has a familiar vocalist to start the song.

Introductions should also have enough volume so the audience and the group can clearly hear it. A major concern associated with playing a banjo is to not beat on it. Hard playing results in both a complete loss of tonal quality (not joking!) and also causes other banjo members to play harder, in order to be heard. This is not good because the music just becomes a lot of noise!

Generally, once the introduction is complete, the player should drop back to playing rhythm or harmony, if he/she is not designated as playing the lead. This is a basic method and one will develop an ear for this with the experience of playing with groups. There are no fixed rules and the variety of playing techniques by group members can add color to the sound as long as the rhythm is steady and strong.

One should keep in mind that the sound from a banjo is directed out from the front of the instrument and the player is above and behind it, so the banjo may not sound as loud to the player as it is to the listener located in the front. It's always a good habit to ask others around you how you sound to them – I always do and then I compensate accordingly. Sometimes the answer I get surprises me, so I know how important it is to ask the listeners how it sounds to them.

I hope this helps and now it's back to working on introductions...

Larry

A Special Treat

We were fortunate enough to have Jack Hurley (trombone) and Fredy Kinadeter (tuba) join us for one of our Tuesday night practices at Luigi's Deli. It was wonderful to have them join us and we hope they come back soon!





Salem Lutheran Home Playout

December 17, 2013

By: Karen Hefter

Photos by: Bob Nelson

As we arrived at the Salem Lutheran Home an hour early to set up, several residents had already staked out their spots for our performance and were waiting with eager anticipation for us to start playing. In fact, one woman counted down the time for our performance to begin! The residents here really enjoy our music – this is the third time we have played for them in four months. There were around 30 audience members, which filled the room.

Many EBBC members sported festive hats, which helped set the holiday mood. Our Music Director, Betty David, led us in a performance of many standard banjo songs, as well as holiday favorites. Don Granberg hung up his banjo for the day and played the piano with all of the banjos. We were also fortunate to have Terry Horner join us with his gutbucket. Kit Nelson, Mickie McDonald, and Sheila Welt were our singers and they encouraged the crowd to sing along to the holiday songs. The crowd obliged...with enthusiasm! Two staff members put their dancing shoes on and danced with each other to "Five Foot Two." Our performers today were: **Tom Brunetti, Betty David, Don Granberg, Karen Hefter, Terry Horner, Ardie Jarrett, Diane Malucelli, Bob Malucelli, Mickie McDonald, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, Kit Nelson, Sheila Welt, and Ken Williamson.** Club member, Treasurer, and photographer **Bob Nelson** and loyal supporter **Bernadette Espejo** were in the audience.





Oakland Masonic Center Crab Feed

January 25, 2014

By: Karen Hefter

Photos by: Georgette De Torres and Linda Myers

A crowd of about 120 people was gathered for the annual Crab Feed at the Oakland Masonic Center. The East Bay Banjo Club was slated to perform background music as the patrons served themselves from the buffet line, waited for their crabs to be served at the tables, and then enjoyed their dinners.

Even though we had a nice turnout of 13 performers, it was a tough playout. Due to the high level of ambient noise in the room and issues with the sound system, Betty was unable to hear the rest of the performers for much of the performance. To compound the issue, many of the performers were unable to hear Betty. However, everyone tried their best and, by the second half, things really came together. Our wonderful singers, Jesse De Torres, Sheila Welt, and Chris Lardge, saved the day and provided great entertainment. The patrons seemed to appreciate our performance and, after the event was over, one of the organizers came on stage and thanked each performer individually and shook his/her hand.

Our performers were: **Guy Black, Tom Brunetti, Betty David, Jesse De Torres, Karen Hefter, Terry Horner, Ardie Jarrett, Chris Lardge, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Linda Myers, Phil Myers, and Sheila Welt.** Club member **Georgette De Torres** was in the audience and was one of our photographers for the evening.



Snow Train 2014

February 4-6, 2013

By: Bud Pearce

Photos by: Linda Myers

All aboard for the Snow Train 2014! Several East Bay strummers boarded the train early on February 4th, bound for Reno, Nevada. The train made several stops along its journey from Oakland to Reno. Most passengers boarded in Martinez, but players also boarded in Emeryville and Sacramento, including Dick Martin, who rode a train from Oregon to Sacramento to join Jack Convery as a banjo "headliner."

The event took on an international flair this year with the addition of Mr. Fetze Pijlman from Hilversum, Holland. Mr. Pijlman, who organizes the Holland Jazz Banjo Festival (www.jazzbanjo.nl) enjoyed playing traditional jazz on his tenor banjo while seeing the sights the High Sierra Mountains offer in the winter. There were some preliminary discussions about some American banjo players journeying to Holland to participate in the Holland Jazz Banjo Festival in the future. Jack was very excited about that possibility, which reminded us of our trip to the Czech Republic in 2005. Don't be surprised if some East Bay strummers are performing in Europe in 2015!

As is customary, we played many traditional jazz tunes while riding the train to Reno. Kit Nelson sang using the sound system provided by Jack, and many of those riding in the car sang along using song books provided by Jack. We were also accompanied by a keyboard player, who managed to set up his keyboard between the seats and allowed just enough room for people to pass by in the aisle. The conductor, trying to avoid being a killjoy, held back his admonishments and looked the other way during his strolls through the train car. We arrived on schedule in Reno. After checking into our rooms, we were on our own to eat, gamble, or see a show. Some people even jammed a little in their rooms!

The next day, everyone gathered in the Hobby Horse Room to practice some tunes that we were going to play that night in the Sapphire Lounge in Harrah's. During the practice session, every player was given the opportunity to select a song to be played on stage. It was a huge thrill to play with talented people outside the EBBC. Our appearance on the stage at the Sapphire Lounge was fun, even though a little cramped. The audience, comprised mostly of folks from our train car ride up to Reno, enthusiastically sang and danced to the music we created in the lounge. Frankly, the crowds in the casino were extremely sparse, so we could have easily attracted more people into the lounge, had business been better in Reno. While on stage, we were all informed that the train would arrive late the next morning. We were all advised to dial Amtrak directly to avoid missing its arrival. Some thought it was actually good news, since it meant we could sleep late the next day, and Harrah's was willing to extend us all a late checkout.

The next morning, Jack awoke each of us with a phone call that informed us of a bus that would leave in lieu of the 8:30 departure of the train. Apparently, the train was going to be close to five hours late due to a problem with a freight train blocking the tracks. Most people opted for the bus, which took us to Sacramento. From there, we were able to catch a train back to the Bay Area, stopping at all stops covered on the original trip to Reno. All is well that ends well! The train from Sacramento arrived back in the East Bay before our original train made it to Reno.



Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS!



Ally Vaught



Jim Brunetti

Welcome back to our FORMER MEMBERS!

Buddy Burke

Holly Burke

Lynne Deutscher



Education Corner

Have you discovered www.banjohangout.org? It has classified ads, discussions, and all sorts of other banjo information. Here is a link to instructions and a video for several intros and endings

<http://www.banjohangout.org/blog/30939>. It is for tenor banjo, but is easily applicable to plectrum. Check it out!!

Banjos For Sale or Wanted

Equipment Hand Truck, like new, DayTon Convertible, 4 wheel, \$75. Call Bob 925-674-0920.

The East Bay Banjo Club assumes no responsibility for any transactions made through the For Sale or Wanted advertisements.



East Bay Banjo Club

2014 Membership Form

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



Name: _____

Street or Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell number optional: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthday Month and Day: _____

Please make \$20/member checks payable to: East Bay Banjo Club. Money can be sent to EBBC, P.O. Box 5414, Concord, CA 94524 or personally given to Linda Myers, Membership Chairperson.

Celebrating Our Upcoming Birthdays...



March

01 Dick Neuman
03 Chris Lardge
14 Dina Melamed
15 Jim Blankenship
Garry Kerr

April

17 Bobbie Landers
18 Jim Abele
28 Harry Higgins



2014 EBBC Board

President rhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net	Larry Risner
Vice President dmalucelli@att.net	Bob Malucelli
Secretary jarjohn@msn.com	Ardie Jarrett
Treasurer plmyershome@att.net	Linda Myers
Music Director 925-938-0126	Betty David
Immediate Past President weltbear@sbcglobal.net	Sheila Welt
Booking Agent plmyers@jps.net	Phil Myers

2014 Non-Board Positions

Assistant Music Director entline@msn.com	Jack Convery
Assistant Music Director rhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net	Larry Risner
Hospitality weltbear@sbcglobal.net	Sheila Welt
Librarian jpbblankenship@att.net	Jim Blankenship
Membership plmyershome@att.net	Linda Myers
Newsletter Editor/Publisher editor@eastbaybanjo.org	Karen Hefter
Telephone Tree dmalucelli@att.net	Diane Malucelli
Uniforms Gold Vest 925-685-0673 Polo Shirts weltbear@sbcglobal.net	Robin Reeves Sheila Welt
Web Master bud.pearce@pearcechriss.com	Bud Pearce

East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**Date:** Tuesday, December 3rd, 2013**Place:** Luigi's #1 Deli, 537 Main Street, Martinez, CA**Board Members Present:** Sheila Welt, President; Bob Malucelli, Vice President; Ardie Jarrett, Secretary; Bob Nelson, Treasurer; Betty David, Music Director; Phil Myers, Booking Agent.**Absent Board of Director:** None**Committee Chair Present:** Mickie McDonald, Hospitality; Linda Myers, Membership.**Absent Committee Chairs:** Karen Hefter, Newsletter Editor; Dorothy Cahill, Phone Tree; Jim Blankenship, Librarian; Karen Hefter, Newsletter Editor; Bud Pearce, Web Master.**Call to Order:** 5:05 PM by Sheila Welt, President.**BOD OFFICERS REPORTS:****Secretary:** November Minutes were approved as presented, 6/0/0.**Treasurer:** Bob Nelson- The Treasurer gave his report and it will be filed for audit. It was suggested to look into finding a bank that doesn't charge fees. The number of Resonators to be ordered will be left up to the new board.**Vice President:** Bob Malucelli - Bob reported that one of the speakers is being repaired.**Music Director:** Betty David - Betty thanked everyone for all their hard effort.**Booking Agent:** Phil Myers - Phil's suggestion to budget for only 18 gigs for next year was approved.**CORRESPONDENCE:** None**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Hospitality:** Mickie McDonald – All is going fine.**Membership:** Linda Myers – 58 paid members, which include 11 new members. We have 69 members when Life, Honorary, and Youth memberships are included.**Librarian:** Jim Blankenship - absent**Web Master:** Bud Pearce - absent**Telephone Tree:** Dorothy Cahill – absent**Editor:** Karen Hefter - absent**50th Celebration:** Sheila Welt – Sheila Welt, Mickie McDonald, Betty David, & Ardie Jarrett will come early to decorate. Sheila is working on the 50th Album Book.**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

EBBC Survey responses were distributed.

NEW BUSINESS:**Nominating Committee:** Nominees are: President, Larry Risner; VP, Bob Malucelli; Secretary, Ardie Jarrett; Treasurer, Linda Myers; Music Director, Betty David. Had a discussion on polling general membership as to what should come before the Board of Directors. It was acknowledged that the board was elected to make routine decisions.**Sheila Welt:** Sheila presented embroidered towels to each EBBC Board Member & Committee Chair as a thank you for doing a fine job throughout the year.**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM until the Annual Meeting on December 10th by Sheila Welt.**Respectfully Submitted,**
Ardie Jarrett

EAST BAY BANJO CLUB ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

December 10, 2013

Luigi's #1 Deli, 537 Main Street, Martinez, CA

CALL TO ORDER: President - Sheila Welt - 7:49

WELCOME AND THANK YOUS: Sheila Welt welcomed everyone. She thanked her Holiday Party Committee who consisted of Mickie McDonald, Betty David, and Ardie Jarrett.

MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2012 ANNUAL MEETING: The minutes from last year's Annual Meeting were approved by the Board of Directors at the January 2013 Board of Directors Meeting. Copies of the minutes were on the tables for people to read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Nelson reported that we are out of debt and have money in our savings account. Many, many thanks to Phil Myers for booking 26 gigs throughout the year to bring in the needed monies.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS & DRAWINGS: Embroidered hand towels were given to each of the Board of Directors and to the Committee Chairs as a thank you for their dedication and hard work throughout this past year. A drawing was held afterward with various items as gifts.

ELECTION OF 2013 SLATE OF OFFICERS:

Nominee for President: Larry Risner

Nominee for Vice President: Bob Malucelli

Nominee for Secretary: Ardie Jarrett

Nominee for Treasurer: Linda Myers

Nominee for Music Director: Betty David

Nominations from the Floor: None

(Note: Immediate Past President is automatic, and Booking Agent is an appointed office.)

President: Being no nominations from the floor, Larry Risner was elected.

Vice President: Being no nominations from the floor, Bob Malucelli was elected.

At this time, a motion was made by Bobbie Landers to accept the remaining nominations. The motion was seconded and passed. Therefore, Ardie Jarrett was elected Secretary, Linda Myers was elected Treasurer, and Betty David was elected Music Director. The election of the 2014 East Bay Banjo Club Board of Directors was closed.

APPOINTED POSITIONS: To be announced in January, after the 2014 Board of Directors take office.

WRAP-UP:

Gift: Sheila Welt presented Betty David with a gift.

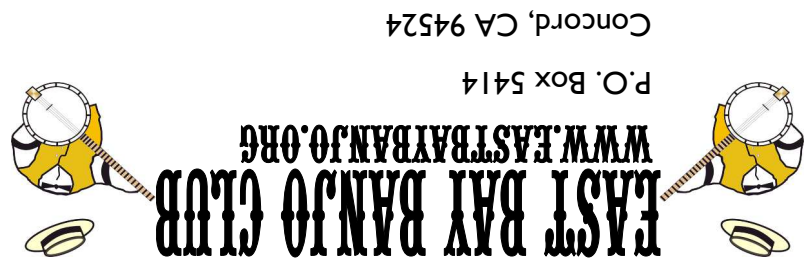
Thank You: Sheila Welt thanked the 2013 Board for all their support and effort to continue to make the East Bay Banjo Club a success.

We will not be giving any donations this year and the 50th Centennial Book had to be put on hold.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 until the December 2014 Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardie Jarrett, Secretary





EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

Meets every Tuesday

From 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

At

Luigi's #1 Deli and Market

537 Main Street @ Castro Street

Martinez, CA