



# East Bay Banjo Club

Since 1963



March / April 2018

Members Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 2

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## Events Calendar

**Tuesday, July 3, 2018**

**Stoneman Village**

390 E. Leland Road  
Pittsburg, CA 2:00 p.m.

**Friday, July 27, 2018**

**St. John Vianney Church**

The Courtyard by Marriott  
1650 Ygnacio Valley Blvd.  
Walnut Creek, CA 12:00 p.m.

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[www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org)

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*To book the East Bay Banjo Club to play at your event, please contact our booking agent, Don Granberg, at [grany@astound.net](mailto:grany@astound.net).*

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## President's Message

By Bob Malucelli

Our East Bay Banjo Club has been busy with playouts since the new year began. In recent weeks we've played for the Orinda Masonic Lodge, Stonebrook Health Center in Concord, an Easter Egg Hunt at Livorna Park in Alamo, and most recently at Banjo-Rama in Sacramento. You'll read about these wonderful events elsewhere in



the pages of this issue. EBBC sounded great and added a new wrinkle in our performance at Banjo-Rama. Our master of ceremonies, club Vice President Paul Mack, gave information about what happened the year that each song was first performed. It made for a very interesting presentation of our music.

All of the groups at Banjo-Rama were enthusiastic and the music was excellent. A couple of our members did double duty, playing with EBBC and other clubs. For example, our Treasurer, Rich Combs, performed in both EBBC and the Wineland Banjo Band. Gutbucket player Terry Horner performed in both EBBC and the Orphan Band. The latter is composed of banjo players who aren't playing in another band at the show, and other banjo players who just want to play with them. The Orphan Band included many experienced banjo players.

As always, a good time was had by all. We hope to continue our busy pace in the months ahead.

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### Inside:

***EBBC Performs Around East Bay, Banjo-Rama – pages 2-4***  
***Handling Key Changes: Know Your Fretboard – page 5***

# EBBC Plays at Orinda Masonic Lodge Crab Feed

By Paul Mack

Photos by Bob Nelson

The East Bay Banjo Club put on an outstanding performance at the annual Orinda Masonic Lodge Crab Feed on Friday February 23, 2018. The place was packed as each table was filled. Not only did the audience dine on crab, they also dined on an hour of great tunes.

All 21 of us had to fit onto the small stage, but that didn't stop us from entertaining the crowd. Banjo players and singers included Bob Malucelli, Rich Combs, Karen Hefter, Don Granberg, Bud Pearce, Sheila Welt, Ardie Jarrett, Jan Ruzicka, Slavka Ruzicka, Tom Brunetti, Dina Melamed, Clyde Dedmon, Paul Mack, Garry Kerr, Deb Hodson, Bob Ehrhorn, Doug Johnson, Kit Nelson, Phil Myers and Linda Myers. Guy Black played bass, Bob Nelson served as photographer and Bob Malucelli handled the equipment.

Bud Pearce was the Master of Ceremonies. He gave a little history of each song as he introduced it. We had two duets as Kit and Don sang "Bill Bailey" and Don and Sheila sang "Your Cheatin' Heart". Some audience members loved all of the music so much they stopped eating crab and got up and danced! They also got in their exercise as Sheila, Paul and Deb got the crowd moving during "When the Saints Go Marching In." It was a wonderful audience and we received a standing ovation. As Karen Hefter said, "It was a great team effort. Everyone did their bit as part of the team and it really showed tonight."



From left, Doug Johnson, Paul Mack, Slavka Ruzicka, Jan Ruzicka, Linda Myers and Phil Myers in the back line.



Kit Nelson sings, Bud Pearce strums.



Guy Black lays down the bass line.



The club in full regalia.

## **EBBC Plays At Stonebrook Health Care Center In Concord**

By Paul Mack

The East Bay Banjo Club entertained the residents of the Stonebrook Health Care Center in Concord on Tuesday March 13, 2018. Don Granberg worked with Valarie McDaniel of Stonebrook to organize the playout. Our musical director was Rich Combs, Paul Mack was the announcer, Guy Black played the bass and Bob Malucelli handled the equipment.

We set up the sound equipment and chairs as our performance was in the dining hall. Our musicians and singers were Doug Johnson, Paul Mack, Lary McGrew, Kit Nelson, Rich Combs, Don Granberg, Bob Malucelli, Sheila Welt, Ardie Jarret, Tom Brunetti, Slavka Ruzicka, Jan Ruzicka, Bob Erhorn, Garry Kerr and Bud Pearce.

We took the audience down memory lane by playing twenty songs, starting with “Bill Bailey” and ending with “When the Saints Go Marching In.” Although many in the audience were in wheelchairs, that did not stop them from moving to the music, singing and clapping along to the songs. With their smiles and applause it was clear that they were having a great time.

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## **Club Plays Return Engagement At Livorna Park Easter Egg Hunt**

By Don Granberg

On March 31, 2018 the EBBC met at 8 a.m. and played from 9 to 11 a.m. under a pavilion in Livorna Park in Alamo for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Hundreds of grownups and children filled the park not only to hunt for Easter eggs, but to hear us play. We played for two hours almost non-stop and had a great time.

Karen Hefter, the Musical Director for this event, did a fantastic job of arranging the songs and singers. The weather was ideal. It was a wonderful experience for all of us to have the cooperation of all those there helping set up and take down our sound equipment. The sound system was set up perfectly, the singers did well and so did the musicians. We have been asked to perform at the Easter Egg Hunt again next year. In attendance were Bob Ehrhorn, Paul Mack, Slavka and Jan Ruzicka, Don Granberg, Karen Hefter, Terry Horner, Rich Combs, Bud Pearce, Sheila Welt, Ardie Jarrett, Red Higgins, Annie Lem, Tom Brunetti, Barbara Findley, and Chris Lardge. We are looking forward to next year.

*Editor's note: We don't yet have photographs from these playouts but hope to have them soon. We'll post them on our website when they're available.*

# East Bay Banjo Club A Rousing Success At Banjo-Rama

By Don Granberg

Our performance on April 8 at Banjo-Rama was a huge success. We really got the audience into our music. Many were singing along with us. The singers did a lovely job, and the song intro's were played perfectly. Paul Mack did a great job as announcer for our performance. He told some very interesting tales about history at the times some of the songs were written and gave out some interesting facts which added to our performance. It was very nice to have Deb Hodson join us and add to our sound.

All of us club members arrived ahead of time to practice a bit and get ourselves organized. Rich Combs did a great job of getting the players seated and arranging the music menu. Thanks to all the attending players: Rich Combs, Kit Nelson, Don Granberg, Jan and Slavka Ruzicka, Tom Brunetti, Bob Malucelli, Bob Ehrhorn, Paul Mack, Annie Lem, Terry Horner, Deb Hodson, Barbara Findley (all the way from Hawaii), Chris Lardge, and Garry Kerr.

It's been a busy spring, full of playouts and great music. We all had fun at Banjo-Rama and look forward to the next gig.

*Editor's note: Photos from Banjo-Rama will be posted on our website when they become available.*

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## *Just For Yuks...*

Did you hear that they've isolated the gene for banjo playing?

It's the first step towards a cure.



# How To Change Keys Up And Down The Banjo Neck

By Larry Risner

Here is some music instruction in easy-to-understand terms. A typical chord pattern used in many songs in the key of C, is as follows: C-F-G7-C (used in many basic boogie-woogie, blues and pop songs). Add a few more chords, like C-C7-F-Fm-A7-D7-G7-C, and it becomes a more complete set of chords for many jazz and popular songs in the key of C. But what about songs in other keys? It so happens that the frets on the fingerboard of stringed instruments are precisely spaced to the musical scale. If you play a chord and then slide it up one fret or down one fret the chord goes up or down in pitch.

For example, if you play a C chord and then move it up one fret (“up” means towards your body) it becomes a C-sharp chord (also known as D-flat”). Move it up one more fret and it becomes a D chord; up one more fret and it's a D-sharp (or E-flat) chord. The idea here is that if you refer to the C chord series described in the first paragraph above and move the same fingering up the neck three frets, the chord progression is now in the key of E flat. Move that same chord fingering up two more frets and it is now in the key of F.

The frets on the neck are precisely spaced one tone apart from each other, based on the Western musical scale. This becomes very handy to know when songs change keys - playing "The Saints" in F then in G and finally in C is an example of this. By playing the chord fingering for the key of F and moving it up two frets, it becomes the key of G and so on. Four-string banjo players often play songs in the keys of B-flat, C, E-flat, F and G because the chords and melody notes fall easily within the "range" of the fingerboard. If you are playing in a band that includes non-stringed instruments you should be prepared to play songs in the keys of A-flat, D and D-flat also. However, knowing that the key of A-flat is simply one fret up from the key of G, and that D-flat is one fret up from the key of C makes it really easy. With practice, playing various chord progressions that you are familiar with at different locations on the neck isn't all that hard.

These principles for changing keys will work if you are strumming the chords to a song. Changing keys can be more challenging when playing a combination of chords and melody, rather than just strumming chords. Like most things, a lot of practice is the answer.

*Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of instructional articles by long-time EBBC member Larry Risner. The newsletter will run the remaining articles in each of the next several issues.*

## ***Tech tips***

***The second in a series of tutorials by Larry Risner, for our beginners and less experienced members.***

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## ***For A Few More Yuks....***

A trio consisting of banjo, tuba and trombone was playing a New Year's Eve gig, to great success. The client who hired them was ecstatic, and said he wanted to hire them again for next New Year's Eve. "Great," said the banjo player. "Another gig! And we can leave our instruments here."



## 2018 EBBC Playout Participation

Playouts for 2018: five (through April 8, 2018 at Banjo-Rama)

Guy Black	2
Tom Brunetti	5
Rich Combs	5
Betty David	1
Clyde Dedmon	2
Bob Ehrhorn	4
Barbara Findlay	2
Don Granberg	5
John Greitzer	1
Karen Hefter	2
Red Higgins	1
Deb Hodson	2
Terry Horner	2
Garry Kerr	4
Ardie Jarrett	4
Doug Johnson	3
Chris Lardge	2
Annie Lem	2
Paul Mack	5
Bob Malucelli	4
Lary McGrew	2
Dina Melamed	2
Linda Myers	1
Phil Myers	1
Kit Nelson	3
Bud Pearce	4
Larry Risner	1
Jan Ruzicka	4
Slavka Ruzicka	4
Sheila Welt	4



# **Board members and appointed officers for 2018**

## **Board Members**

President: Bob Malucelli.....dmalucelli@att.net  
Vice President: Paul Mack.....Anthony.Mack55@gmail.com  
Secretary: Sheila Welt .....weltbear@sbcglobal.net  
Treasurer: Rich Combs.....combsrichard@sbcglobal.net  
Past President: John Greitzer ... ..johngreitzer@outlook.com  
Booking Agent: Don Granberg.....grany@astound.net  
Music Director: vacant

## **Non-Board Officers**

Assistant Music Director: Jack Convery.....entline@msn.com  
Assistant Music Director: Betty David.....(925) 938-0126  
Assistant Music Director: Larry Risner.....rhythmbanjo@sbcglobal.net  
Assistant Music Director and Digital Librarian: Karen Hefter.....karenhefter@gmail.com  
Assistant Music Director and Webmaster: Bud Pearce.....bud.pearce@pearcechris.com  
Hard-Copy Librarian: Don Granberg;..... [grany@astound.net](mailto:grany@astound.net)  
Hospitality: Sheila Welt.....weltbear@sbcglobal.net  
Membership: Chris Lardge.....chrislardge@aol.com  
Newsletter Editor/Publisher: John Greitzer ..... johngreitzer@outlook.com  
Telephone Tree: Diane Malucelli.....dmalucelli@att.net  
Uniforms (Gold Vest & Polos): Ardie Jarrett..... jarjohn@msn.com

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

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## **Upcoming birthdays**



***Happy birthday to all!***

Larry Risner – May 9  
Betty David – May 27  
Berniece White – June 6  
Alex Dongallo – June 8  
Linda Myers – June 17  
John Greitzer – June 18

**EAST BAY BANJO CLUB  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
4 MARCH 2018  
ROUND TABLE PIZZA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President, Tom Malucelli at 5:45pm.

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

President, Bob Malucelli  
Vice President, Paul Mack  
Secretary, Sheila Welt  
Treasurer, Rich Combs  
Booking Agent, Don Granberg

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Assistant Music Director, Larry Risner  
Assistant Music Director, Karen Hefter  
Digital Librarian, Karen Hefter  
Equipment, Bob Malucelli  
Hospitality, Sheila Welt  
Uniforms, Ardie Jarrett

**VISITERS:**

Guy Black

**MINUTES:** Sheila Welt

The minutes were adopted as sent.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Rich Combs

Income: \$80.00  
Expenses: 0  
Balance: \$9,938.70

The report was filed for Audit.

Karen Proposed Budget was Accepted by the Board of Directors. It will be presented to the membership at our next meet.

**BOOKING AGENT:** Don Granberg  
Stonebrook, March 13th

Pleasant Hill Senior Center

Karen Hefter suggested that we have a Gig Coordinator in place of Music Director until she returns from her leave of absence sometime in July. Karen has made a spread sheet of songs to be used by acting music directors.

**Action Item:** Put the list on the WebSite.



**EQUIPMENT, Bob Malucelli**

Mikes are marked for different vocal volumes. Refer to enclosed list with equipment,

**UNIFORMS, Ardie Jarrett**

The cost of Polo Shirts has gone up.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Finalize Charities contributions. Sheila Welt will contact Mt. Diablo Unified regarding contributing to music education.
2. Fliers for schools are completed (4X6).
3. Scholarship program: Wording. Separate meeting needed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Allow Dougs saxophone in the front row, at the discretion of the Music Director or Play Out Coordinator. Passed.
2. Karen's leave of Absence was approved by the Board of Directors. She will resume Music Director duties sometime in July.
3. Stickers? Two people have asked for them. We do not have any stickers.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Put the gig music list on the Web Site.

Rich will be gone April 18 to May 24.

Finalize Charities - Sheila will look into MDUD music program.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 until the next scheduled Board of Directors Meeting in April by Bob Malucelli

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Welt  
Recording Secretary

**EAST BAY BANJO CLUB  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
February 11, 2018  
Round Table Pizza**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President, Bob Malucelli at 5:36PM.

**BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDANCE:**

President, Bob Malucelli  
Vice President, Paul Mack  
Secretary, Sheila Welt  
Treasurer, Rich Combs  
Music Director, Open  
Booking Agent, Don Granberg

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDANCE:**

Assistant Music director, Larry Risner  
Assistant Music Director, Bud Pearce  
Digital Librarian, Karen Hefner  
Equipment, Bob Malucelli  
Hospitality, Sheila Welt  
Print Librarian, Don Granberg  
Uniforms, Aride Jarrett  
Web Master, Bud Pearce

**VISITORS:**

Guy Black

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:**

Secretary, Sheila Welt  
The minutes were accepted as presented. They will be filled.

Treasurer, Rich Combs  
Income: \$323.00  
Expenses: \$134.00  
Balance: \$9,918.70  
This report will be filed for audit.

Hospitality, Sheila Welt  
Chocolate Hearts were brought for Valentine's Day.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Change practice nights to Tuesday? Can't be done at this time. We will continue to meet on Sunday's from 7-9:00pm.
2. Draft Budget (see attached copy).

Discussion: Contributions to our charities was tabled until the March BOD Meeting. Karen is going to check on student related organizations.

3. Put GET THE WORK OUT CAMPAIGN in the Newsletter.  
John Greitzer will do this.
4. 4X6 Post Card flyer  
John Greitzer will print 25 fliers, after exact wording is established.
5. Club Boater Hats are being sold for \$48.00 ea. by Rich Combs. They are not an approved Uniform Requirement, however will be requested for some play outs.
6. Fliers for schools are not ready yet. An extra meeting will be required for the exact wording.
7. Scholarship Program.  
Extra meetings will be needed to finalize the qualifications and exact wording.
8. Inter-club communications and Face Book Page  
Karen is in charge of the Face Book Page.
9. Meet-Up Group.  
The Meet-Up group is on-line at [Meetup.com](http://Meetup.com) then go to Banjo and EBBC should come up.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- \*Check into putting the Membership Book on the Web Site.
- \*Rich bring a copy of the Budget for practice meeting for approval of the members. This needs to be done after charities are finalized.
- \*Schedule extra meetings for: Flyers for Schools and Scholarship Program.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:43pm, until the March Meeting,

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Welt  
Recording 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

**Round Table Pizza**

**1938 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill**

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