



East Bay Banjo Club

Since 1963



May / June 2018

Members Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 3

Events Calendar

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Stoneman Village

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

Wednesday, July 4, 2018

Orinda Fourth of July Parade

Downtown Area
Orinda, CA

*(details will be posted on our
website when available)*

Friday, July 27, 2018

St. John Vianney Church

Mullens Commons

1650 Ygnacio Valley Blvd.
Walnut Creek, CA 12:00 p.m.

www.eastbaybanjo.org

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

President's Message

By Bob Malucelli

We had an enjoyable, well attended payout at Montecito Senior Living in Concord on May 25. The only problem was that we had to move all our equipment by elevator to the third floor and back again to the first floor to leave. Fortunately, there were people who helped us move the equipment. See page 2 for more information about the Montecito payout.



We are now practicing on Tuesday nights instead of Sundays. We had fun at our first Tuesday night practice, on June 5, with about 17 players attending – not bad for our first Tuesday night. I hope that more people will be able to attend on our new schedule.

The last newsletter had the new “Get the Word Out” campaign for the East Bay Banjo Club. Please think of ways that we can help promote the club. We will be contacting more organizations, printing flyers, using leave-behinds such as cards, and making more use of social media. The club also may develop a scholarship program to encourage and help young people learn the four-string banjo.

If any other types of publicity occur to you, please feel free to tell me or one of the other Board members or suggest it at one of our weekly practices.

I hope to see you on Tuesday evenings.

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EBBC Plays Memorial Day Program At Montecito In Concord

By Paul Mack

The East Bay Banjo Club played a terrific show on May 25 at Montecito Senior Living in Concord. Playing songs with an Americana theme, we had fourteen musicians and singers: Paul Mack, Slavka Ruzicka, Jan Ruzicka, Sheila Welt, Ardie Jarrett, Kit Nelson, Tom Brunetti, Diane Malucelli, Bob Malucelli, Chris Lardge, Bud Pearce, Garry Kerr, John Greitzer and Guy Black. Paul was the Master of Ceremonies, Bud was the Music Director, and Bob set up the sound equipment.

This was our second playout at Montecito this year, as we did a show in March. Since this was the Memorial Day weekend, we began our program with a moment of silence to honor those who died while serving in the country's armed forces. Our first five songs were the songs of each branch of the armed forces -- Anchors Aweigh, The Marine's Hymn, The Caissons Go Rolling Along, The Air Force Song, and Semper Paratus (a Coast Guard song). We continued playing another eighteen songs to complete the hour-long performance.

The audience loved the show, as most everyone was singing and clapping to the songs. Bob Nelson was handed a note by someone in the audience which read, "Claire's mother loved the music you brought to us. It brings back memories." As we were putting our equipment away after the show, a resident showed us a George Formby songbook which she graciously gave to us. Formby was a British entertainer, popular mostly in the pre-World War II era, often playing banjo or ukulele to accompany his singing.

Independence Day Weekend To Be A Busy One for EBBC

We have two playouts on tap for the Fourth of July weekend, one in eastern Contra Costa County and one in central county.

The club will play at Stoneman Village Senior Residence in Pittsburg on Tuesday, July 3, featuring a program of songs appropriate for the holiday. The show will run from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. We have played at Stoneman a number of times and we always appreciate another opportunity to entertain the residents there.

We will play another return engagement on Wednesday, July 4, for the Orinda Fourth of July Parade. As usual, club members will sit atop bales of hay on a big flatbed truck as part of the holiday parade through central Orinda. The parade usually features many different musical groups, cultural and civic organizations. The crowds are always full and lively, and they always give our banjo club hearty applause as we roll by them playing traditional songs. As this newsletter was published, we didn't yet have details on the time to report for duty. The information, when available, will be posted on our website.

EBBC appreciates the opportunity to play in both of these events and we look forward to many more.

Tips And Advice Offered For Playing In A Band

By Larry Risner

Tech tips
The third in a
series of tutorials
by Larry Risner,
for our beginners
and less
experienced
members.

First, the rhythm:

This is the most critical component for a group. Someone must set the tempo either with a count or by playing an introduction. Once it has been set, the rhythm must be followed by everyone. All players not playing either melody or harmony should be playing rhythm. So now comes the question, "who or what do I follow when playing rhythm?"

- Bass – This is the instrument to follow. The bass sets and holds the beat for everyone including the vocalist(s) or soloist(s). If there is no bass, the group should follow the tempo set by a count or introduction.
- Vocals - The vocalist also must follow the group rhythm, keeping in time all through the tune. If the vocalist accidentally varies a bit, he or she needs to resync with the group as soon and as smoothly as possible.
- Lead – Lead player(s) should follow the same rules as a vocalist, keeping in mind that the tempo must always be steady when playing solos with a group.

Second, the harmony:

Harmony is playing to support and reinforce the melody while not duplicating it. Harmony playing should not be the audible focus of the tune for the listeners - the melody should always be the focus. Harmony playing is acquired with practice to develop an ear for various chord and note patterns and progressions. Harmony can be single notes rather than chords as long as it adds to the tune.

Third, the melody:

The melody is the voice of the song, be it vocal or played by an instrument. Rarely is it proper to have more than one melody player at a time. However, this can sound really nice if it is done by two different instruments as a pair or by a vocalist and an instrument together, harmonizing like two vocalists singing together.

Some soloists vary the tempo and over-play the rhythm. The reason for this is that they have worked at developing solo methods that sound wonderful when playing alone but not when playing with a group. It's easy to do all sorts of things when one is playing alone; one can add or omit notes and vary the rhythm. This doesn't work well when playing with a group.

Did you notice that I have not used the word "banjo?" That's because the concepts in this article apply to all musical instruments.

Oh yes, what about that loudness thing? The order of dominance when playing in a group is that the melody (vocal and/or lead player) should be the loudest, "out in front," with all the others playing more quietly for "background" support.

Editor's Note: This is the third 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.

2018 EBBC Playout Participation

Playouts for 2018: six (through May 31, 2018 at Montecito)

Guy Black	3
Tom Brunetti	6
Rich Combs	5
Betty David	1
Clyde Dedmon	2
Bob Ehrhorn	4
Barbara Findlay	2
Don Granberg	5
John Greitzer	2
Karen Hefter	2
Red Higgins	1
Deb Hodson	2
Terry Horner	2
Garry Kerr	5
Ardie Jarrett	5
Doug Johnson	3
Chris Lardge	3
Annie Lem	2
Paul Mack	6
Bob Malucelli	5
Diane Malucelli	1
Lary McGrew	2
Dina Melamed	2
Linda Myers	1
Phil Myers	1
Kit Nelson	4
Bud Pearce	5
Larry Risner	1
Jan Ruzicka	5
Slavka Ruzicka	5
Sheila Welt	5



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 Weltweltbear@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer: Rich Combs.....combsrichard@sbcglobal.net
Past President: John Greitzerjohngreitzer@outlook.com
Booking Agent: Don Granberg.....grany@astound.net

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 Webmaster: Bud Pearce.....bud.pearce@pearcechris.com
Digital Librarian: Karen Hefter.....karenhefter@gmail.com
Hard-Copy Librarian: Don Granberg..... 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

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 is available on the EBBC website at www.eastbaybanjo.org (click on "Newsletters"). All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming birthdays



Happy birthday to all!

Brian Green – July 21
Janet Mullin – July 31
Angelina Blankenship – August 5
Doug Johnson – August 5
Bob Malucelli – August 31

**EAST BAY BANJO CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
15 APRIL 2018
ROUND TABLE PIZZA**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President, Bob Malucelli at 5:43.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

VISITORS:

Guy Black

MINUTES: Sheila Welt

The minutes were adopted as sent.

Correction to the Minutes of March 4, 2018. Karen Hefter requested that a change in the minutes be made to correct the date of her return for her leave of absence. Her leave of absence will be left open due to her course work schedule. **This is required to have Board of Directors approval.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rich Combs

Income: \$285.00
Debit: 0
Balance: \$10,679.56
The report will be filed for audit.

BOOKING AGENT: Don Granberg

Friday, May 25 Monticito 3-4pm
Tuesday, July 3 Stoneman Village

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

HOSPITALITY, Sheila Welt

Sympathy Card for Diane Malucelli and Bob on the death of her mother. Get Well Card for Betty.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. New members ideas, Rich Combs
Meet-up on line.
Post Cards
2. Contact City of Pleasant Hill (Paul Contruro), Paul Mack

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bob Malucelli moved to get rid of, old gig sheets but retain important contact information. Passed
2. Bob Malucelli will bring the EAST BAY BANJO CLUB BANNER to Sheila Welt to take to the June Board Meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Guy read his letter entitled “New Blood” no action was taken.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. DONATIONS - MDUSD MUSTIC FOUNDATION DONATIONS, Sheila Welt
2. Website - Bud Pearce
 - List of Karen’s list on the Web Site.
 - Gig Music List for each layout on Web Site.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 until the next meeting held in June.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Welt
Recording Secretary

East Bay Banjo Club
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

Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.