

# East Bay Banjo Club

Since 1963

January / February 2019

Volume 14, Issue 1

## Events Calendar

### **Friday, March 8**

Brookdale  
950 Diablo Road  
Danville, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

### **Saturday, April 20**

Alamo Rotary Club  
Easter Egg Hunt, Livorna Park  
2615 Miranda Road  
Alamo, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

### **Sunday, May 19**

Banjo-Rama  
Lion's Gate Hotel  
22410 Westover Street  
McClellan Park  
Sacramento (time to be determined)

[www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://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](mailto:grany@astound.net).*

## President's Message

By Bob Malucelli

I want to start out by letting everyone know that Guy Black, our long-time bassist, has difficulty playing the bass guitar these days and will not be playing with the club any more. Guy has been a great member by never missing practice or playing for a gig. He has also helped me in setting up the sound system so everything is balanced.

Guy will still be in the club and will try to assist us when he can. I hope everyone gives Guy a big thank you for all of his good service to the club.



Other club members who play bass such as Betty David, John Greitzer and Terry Horner have been stepping up, and that is great. We will continue to have a "committee" of bass players unless and until we find one permanent bassist.

Meantime, club vice-president Paul Mack and treasurer Rich Combs are working on setting up a program to teach young people to play banjo, working with the Pleasant Hill Parks Department.

Finally, EBBC will be playing in this year's Banjo-Rama in Sacramento, which will be from May 17-19. We will probably be playing on Sunday, May 19 but we don't have all the details yet, so stay tuned.

### Inside:

*Banjo Groups Send Thanks To EBBC – page 2*

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*West Coast Banjo-Rama Slated For May 17-19 – page 3*

## American Banjo Museum Sends Thanks For EBBC Contribution

The American Banjo Museum acknowledged EBBC's year-end contribution of \$500 with a nice thank-you letter, signed by museum executive director Johnny Baier. He also is a well-known banjo performer, recording artist and ambassador for the instrument.

The Oklahoma-based museum displays the history of the four-string banjo and its place in America's musical and cultural history. EBBC made year-end contributions to the museum, to All-Frets which sponsors banjo events and publications, and to Banjo-Rama 2019. EBBC is one of four banjo clubs sponsoring the latter event (see notice on next page).

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## Midwest Banjo Camp Slated For June 6-9

Midwest Banjo Camp XV, an annual camp that offers the study of old-time and bluegrass banjo with some of the best banjo players around, is scheduled for June 6-9 at the Olivet College Campus in Olivet, Michigan. The town is about thirty minutes south of Lansing, the state capitol.

The list of instructors is like a "who's who" of world-class banjoists. Tenor banjo instructor will be the great Don Vappie, assisted by Keith Baumann. Old-time banjo instructors include Roy Andrade, Cathy Barton Para, Riley Baugus, Frank Evans, Adam Hurt, Joe Newberry, Ken Perlman, Lukas Pool, Stephen Wade and Dan Walsh. Bluegrass instructors include Tony Trischka, Gina Furtado, Danny Barnes, Janet Beazley, BB Bowness, Greg Cahill, Ryan Cavanaugh, Julie Elkins, Bill Evans and Alan Munde.

You can register for the full camp, which runs Thursday through Sunday, June 6-9, or the weekend-only option which is Friday through Sunday, June 7-9.

Students at the camp are free to take any class at any time. You can move freely between different styles of banjo and different experience levels. Students also can take classes in different instruments. Besides banjo, classes will be offered in bass, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, and jam skills.

For more information about fees and other topics, or to register for the camp, visit the camp's website at <http://midwestbanjocamp.com/registrationinfo/>



**From The Banjo-Rama folks...**

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**West Coast Banjo-Rama:  
An Acoustic Music Festival**

Come join the fun playing and listening to great music  
from the 1920's, 30's, 40's and beyond.

**May 17-19, 2019**

**Lion's Gate Hotel**

3410 Westover Street, McClellan Park, CA 95652  
(the former McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento)

**Three full days are on tap for jamming, workshops,  
concerts, music vendors, and performances**

Bring your unamplified acoustic guitar, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, uke, string bass,  
mandola, cavaquinho, lute, or other stringed instrument and come have fun.

**More information will be available soon at [Banjo-Rama.com](http://Banjo-Rama.com)**

All styles of playing will be featured, including jazz, standards,  
country, folk, ragtime, bluegrass, and novelty

**Presented by:**

Sacramento Banjo Band  
Peninsula Banjo Band  
East Bay Banjo Band  
Wineland Banjo Band

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## **Editor needed for newsletter --- a year from now**

At the end of this year, your intrepid newsletter editor will be giving up the editor's post after what will be a four-year run. If any EBBC club members are interested in taking over as editor in January 2020, contact the editor. And remember – if nobody volunteers, the editor will come looking for one of you....and the editor will be relentless....

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## **Choosing A Pick For Beginning Banjo Players**

By Larry Risner

This article is focused on the “flat pick” used by four-string banjoists, not the “finger picks” used by five-string banjo players.

Selecting a pick can be a daunting experience of trial and error. Picks come in a wide variety of materials, thicknesses and shapes. Over the years I have used a variety of picks and have settled on one style and firmness that works well for me.

Up into the early 1960's the pick of choice for professional banjo players was made of real tortoise shell. Besides being somewhat expensive they were subject to breakage and were discontinued when nylon and plastic became available. The newer robust nylon and teflon picks can last for years of playing. I bought a triangular teflon pick in the late 1960's and used it for 40 years. It was very slightly worn but it eventually became curved which made it difficult to tremolo (sweeping the pick continuously and smoothly up and down across all of the strings).

I then started the trial-and-error process of selecting a new pick. At first, I thought a stiff rigid pick would be best because that's what I had used before. However, I found the stiff picks were easy to strum up and down but not to tremolo with. I then tried a thin flexible pick and found it was easy to tremolo with but difficult to selectively pick notes with any volume.

My final choice was a medium pick that was good for both picking and tremolos. I could hold the pick loosely to play softly and hold it tighter to play louder, so the thickness is the key for me. Once you find the pick of your choice be sure to buy a few spares in case of loss. You should always have an extra pick handy somewhere on the instrument in case you drop the pick while playing.

The thickness of picks is measured in millimeters. I found the Dunlop Maxi-Grip 0.73mm pick best for me. These are inexpensive nylon picks that come in packs of twelve. These picks are available in other thicknesses as well. Picks are easy to drop, so some picks will have slight ridges, bumps or holes to help you hold on to them. The Dunlop Maxi-Grip picks have little bumps.

If you need to experiment in finding the right pick for you, buy various thicknesses to try. When you have determined which is best for you, buy a few better-quality picks of that thickness.

## Board members and appointed officers for 2019

### 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

### 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](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 is available 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!*

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

**EAST BAY BANJO CLUB  
2018 ANNUAL MEETING  
HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2019  
ROUND TABLE PIZZA, PLEASANT HILL, CA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Bob Malucelli called the meeting to order at 7:17pm.

A dinner of pizza, salad, bread sticks and cinnamon rolls, beer, wine and soft drinks was provided. This was the Thanks You dinner for everyone's participation during the 2018 year. A Holiday bandana was given to each person for their dedication to the East Bay Banjo Club.

**THANK YOU'S:** Bob Malucelli

Bob thanked the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for their work on behalf of the East Bay Banjo Club.

**BOD Projects in progress:**

The Board of Directors is pursuing a youth program. Rich Combs and Paul Mack have been working with the Pleasant Hill Parks and Recreation Department to provide banjo lessons for children. More information to follow.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

There were no sign-ups or volunteers for any of the positions on the BOD's. The sitting BOD's consented to serve for another year.

Committee Chairs will be appointed by the BOD. Hopefully all of the current chairs will continue with their positions.

The Board of Directors election was taken by a voice and hand vote of all those present. All were elected. Congratulation to the continuing Directors.

Respectfully submitted, Sheila Welt-Secretary

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**EAST BAY BANJO CLUB  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
13 NOVEMBER 2018  
ROUND TABLE PIZZA, PLEASANT HILL**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Bob Malucelli, President at 5:34.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

President - Bob Malucelli  
Vice President - Paul Mack  
Secretary - Sheila Welt  
Treasurer - Rich Combs  
Past President - John Greitzer

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Editor - John Greitzer  
Equipment - Bob Malucelli Hospitality - Sheila Welt  
Telephone Tree - Diane Malucelli  
Uniforms - Ardie Jarrett

**VISITORS:**

Guy Black  
Minutes - Sheila Welt  
The October minutes were adopted as corrected.  
Treasurer's Report - Rich Combs  
Income: \$220  
Expenses: \$115.

A motion was made by Rich Combs and Seconded by Paul Mack that donations will be given to The American Banjo Museum and All Frets in the amount of \$500 each.

The motion was passed.

Hospitality - Sheila Welt Gifts of holiday bandana's, candy and decorations were okayed.

Membership - Chris Lardge -- He does not want to be Membership chair

A motion was made by Rich Combs and Seconded by Sheila Welt that we look into putting the membership on line. The motion passed.

**Unfinished Business:**

Posed new songs to Karen  
Proposals to school music teachers was not well received (they did not want to teach banjo).

**New Business:**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Larry will check into wireless equipment.  
Guy's comments - Action taken by the Board. The president will handle the necessary action.  
John will send proposed new songs to Karen.

Adjournment: 6:26 by Bob Malucelli, President; until the meeting in December.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Welt, Secretary

**East Bay Banjo Club**  
P.O. Box 5414  
Concord, CA 94524

**The East Bay Banjo Club**

**Meets on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Round Table Pizza**

**1938 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill**

**[www.eastbaybanjoclub.org](http://www.eastbaybanjoclub.org)**