

# East Bay Banjo Club

Since 1963

March / April 2019

Volume 14, Issue 2

---

## Events Calendar

### **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)

### **Friday, June 14**

Stoneman Village  
390 East Leland Road  
Pittsburg, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

---

[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

We are in the process of organizing a youth banjo program for our club. This program should be starting in October 2019 and we hope it will lead to a new generation of young four-string banjo players here in our area.

We also have a big playout planned for Saturday, April 20 at 9 a.m. in Alamo for the Rotary Easter Egg Hunt at Livorna Park (see our website for more information). We have played at this event for the last several years and we always get a great reception from the crowd. We hope everyone will attend this playout.



Diane and I and Terry and Chris Horner went on a Dixieland jazz cruise on Holland America in the Caribbean from March 23-30 (see our cruise photo on page 4). We had a great time on the cruise listening to the Dixieland jazz and to Karla West's Western girl band from Whitefish, Montana.

There will be another Dixieland jazz cruise in March, 2020. If you are interested, contact the travel agent for the jazz cruise group at Kelly Haverlandt@AvoyaNetwork.com or (844) 299-6937.

And finally, remember to pay your membership dues for 2019 (see page 4 for more).

---

### Inside:

*West Coast Banjo-Rama Slated For May 17-19 – page 2*

*Perspective On Choosing Strings – page 3*

*2019 Membership Dues Are Due – page 4*

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

---

**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

---

# Settling On Strings Takes Patience, Trial And Error

By Larry Risner

*Tech tips*  
*Another in a*  
*series of articles*  
*by EBBC's Larry*  
*Risner for*  
*beginning banjo*  
*players.*

Selecting strings for an instrument is a trial-and-error effort shaped by each player's personal preferences. Many factors affect the tonal quality of an instrument. An inexpensive instrument can sound good or bad just as an expensive instrument can sound good or bad. An instrument can also sound good to one person and not so good to another.

Ukuleles and guitars usually have fixed-in-place bridges that are not adjustable and wooden bodies so the strings are the only variables. Banjoleles and banjos, on the other hand, have movable bridges and plastic or calfskin heads that will affect the tuning and sound quality. It's most important to make sure the bridge is properly positioned on the head and the head is correctly tightened before experimenting with string selection and tuning.

I play a four-string plectrum banjo and I preferred using Gibson SBG-571 string sets with wound third and fourth strings. It has become almost impossible to find four-string sets of plectrum strings so I have settled on the GHS PF-180 M five-string sets that have a mellower sound than the "lighter" string sets. I discard the fifth string and use the other four. These sets are readily available online for around \$4 per set.

You have to make sure the string end that connects to your banjo's tailpiece is the correct type. The tail end of a string can be either looped, ferruled or plain and only the correct type will work on any given instrument.

To install new strings, wrap the leading end three times around the tuning nut then pass the end through the hole in the nut, pulling it tight. Tune the string to make sure it doesn't slip, then cut off the loose end leaving about one to two inches sticking out. If you are changing all the strings, do it one string at a time. If you take all four of the old strings off at once, the bridge can easily move out of place.

Here are some examples of string sets for commonly used tunings.

## **Tenor Banjo:** (four-string tenor set)

Use standard tenor banjo tuning [c-g-d-a from the lowest-note string to the highest] or Irish tenor tuning [g-d-a-e].

## **Plectrum Banjo:** (four- and five-string banjo set)

Use bluegrass banjo tuning [g-d-g-b-d], double C tuning [g-c-g-c-d] or C tuning [g-c-g-b-d].

Or use guitar tuning (also called Chicago tuning) [d-g-b-e].

Or use plectrum tuning [c-g-b-d].

Popular brands of banjo strings include GHS, D'Addario, Aquila, Ernie Ball, Martin, Elixir and Thomastik-Infeld. All are available from many online string sellers, such as Southwest Strings, Strings By Mail, Strings And Beyond, and Elderly Instruments, to name just a few.

## Time To Pay Your Membership Dues For 2019

Membership dues for 2019 are now due and payable. If you haven't paid up yet, please send \$20 to Chris Lardge, membership chair, or give your dues to Chris in person at one of our weekly practices.

If you prefer sending him a check, mail it to Chris Lardge, PO Box 6115, Moraga CA 94570- 6115.

---

## EBBC Entertains At Brookdale In Danville

By Don Granberg

We all had a great time at our playout at Brookdale Danville Senior Living on March 8. The parking turned out to be a little better than anticipated, which helped a great deal. We did have to bring our own chairs for the playout, if we wanted chairs without arm rests. As we were getting settled in, some EBBC members didn't show and others did, so Paul Mack and I rearranged the songs and singers a bit.

Everyone co-operated and 'played along' with the program. Among those playing and singing were Rich Combs, Sheila Welt, Ardie Jarrett, Jan and Slavka Ruzicka, Debbie Black, Bob Malucelli, Diane Malucelli, Kit Nelson and hubby Bob, Garry Kerr, Terry Horner, and Don Granberg on piano. My apologies if I missed anybody who participated.

The crowd loved us and did some dancing and singing along. The song selection was lots of fun and a great time was had by all. We hope for a return engagement at Brookdale in the future.

---

## EBBC Members On The High Seas (High C's?)



EBBCers (from left) Terry and Chris Horner and Diane and Bob Malucelli recently enjoyed a Dixieland jazz cruise on Holland America, out of Fort Lauderdale. They all brought their instruments – Terry's home-made gutbucket bass, Chris's washboard, Diane's banjolele and Bob's banjo.

Another Dixieland cruise is slated for March 21-28, 2020. Contact World Unleashed Travel: [worldunleashed.com](http://worldunleashed.com) or (406) 862-8989.

## 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

---

## 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.

---

## Upcoming birthdays



### *Happy birthday to all!*

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

**EAST BAY BANJO CLUB  
MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2019  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
ROUND TABLE PIZZA, PLEASANT HILL, CA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President, Bob Malucelli  
The meeting was called to order at 5:41pm

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assistant Music Director, Larry Risner  
Assistant Music Director, Betty David  
Equipment, Bob Malucelli  
Hospitality, Sheila Welt  
Telephone Tree, Diane Malucelli  
Uniforms, Ardie Jarrett

**VISITORS:** None

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

President, Bob Malucelli

Will be on vacation until April 9, 2019

Secretary, Sheila Welt

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report, Rich Combs

Income: \$190

Expenses: \$182

Balance: \$10,012.48

Rich Combs moved to raise the equipment fund to \$500. Seconded by Don Granberg. Passed.

BOOKING AGENT, Don Granberg

Friday, June 14, 2019 at 1pm, Stoneman Village

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Uniforms, Ardie Jarrett

To be discussed under new business.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Rich Combs reported that the Banjo Rama Fliers are finished. Packet and letter to supporters of Banjo Rama and list of Contacts is also ready.

Sheila Welt and Ardie Jarrett volunteered to get information to retirement homes, senior centers.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Uniforms - Ardie Jarrett, Are gold Vests still available from our AZ contact?

Ardie will check on the amount of fabric we have left and how many vests can be made with the fabric we have left. She will instruct our seamstress to make as many vests as she can out of the fabric left and specify the sizes needed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:46pm until our Board of Directors Meeting in April.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Welt. Secretary

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**ALL - WORK ON BANJO RAMA PROMOTION.**

**ARDIE - FIND OUT ABOUT OUR SEAMSTRESS, FABRIC, AND NUMBER OF VESTS THAT CAN BE MADE.**

**EVERYONE HAVE A GREAT EASTER!**

**EAST BAY BANJO CLUB  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2019  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
ROUND TABLE PIZZA, PLEASANT HILL, CA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Bob Malucelli called the meeting to order at 5:44pm

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Editor - John Greitzer  
Hospitality - Sheila Welt  
Print Librarian - Don Granberg  
Telephone Tree - Diane Malucelli  
Uniforms - Ardie Jarrett

**VISITORS:**

Guy Black - Guy stated that he will no longer be playing bass with the EBBC. Health issues are making it very difficult for him to continue that position. Guy did state that he would still like to be involved in some capacity.

The Board thanked him for his service to the club. Your bass will be missed.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

**Vice President** - Paul wrote a letter to an instructor at Pleasant Hill Recreation, hopefully instruction for youth can begin in the fall.  
Letter Attached.

**MINUTES** - Secretary, Sheila Welt  
The Minutes were adopted as sent.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - Rich Combs

Beginning Balance: \$11,586.  
Income: 200.  
Expenses: 2,444.  
Ending Balance 9,562.48  
Treasurer's Report attached.

The report was filed for audit.

Sally Johnson, CPA will Audit our Books for 2018.



Our Books for 2018 were Audited and Oked by Sally Johnson, CPA.

**BOOKING AGENT - Don Granberg**

Don passed out the Duties of Performance Leader. Attached.

Bob Smith can be a guest Banjo Leader.

Betty will play Bass as needed.

John Greitzer can play bass also.

Don is working on getting Mr. Bob Smith to help out.

Playout - March 8th, Brookdale in Danville.

April 20th, Alamo Rotary Club Easter Egg Hunt

**PAST PRESIDENT - John Greitzer**

Resigning his position of Newsletter Editor at the end of this year.

We need to start looking for someone to fill this position.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Sheila Welt brought in information on the Mid West Banjo Camp, June 6-9, 2019.
2. Rich Combs - information on Banjo Rama. Rich will be asking for help with organization, check in, stage hands, etc. Bands will play on Saturday.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. **BEGIN LOOKING FOR A NEWSLETTER EDITOR.**
2. **ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO SIGN UP TO HELP WITH BANJO RAMA.**
3. **ATTACHMENT'S WILL BE PROVIDED AT BOARD MEETING IN FEBRUARY IF ANYONE WANTS A COPY.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned by President, Bob Malucelli at 6:30PM until our Board of Directors Meeting in February.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Welt

**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)**