

East Bay Banjo Club

Since 1963

July / August 2019

Volume 14, Issue 4

Events Calendar

Tuesday, August 27

Next weekly practice
Round Table Pizza
1938 Oak Park Boulevard
Pleasant Hill 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 10

Board meeting/weekly practice
Round Table Pizza
1938 Oak Park Boulevard
Pleasant Hill 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 16

Reutlinger Community Center
4000 Camino Tassajara, Danville
2 p.m. – 3 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

I hope everyone enjoyed the “cool” summer temperatures as high as 108 degrees here in the East Bay recently. Fortunately, that heat spell has broken by the time you receive this edition of the newsletter.

We had another successful appearance at the Orinda Fourth of July Parade, with sixteen club members on our float. Everyone on the float had a great time and the people along the parade route through downtown Orinda seemed to enjoy us by smiling, dancing and waving.

We also had a playout on August 23 at Brookdale Senior Living in Danville (another return engagement for us), with more gigs in the coming months. The Brookdale residents appreciated our performance, as they have in the past, and we appreciate the chance to entertain them. Thanks go to our booking agent, Don Granberg, for booking these gigs.



The Parks and Recreation Department newsletter from Pleasant Hill has our banjo program listed in it. The new program will teach banjo to young people, starting in September. Thanks to our vice president, Paul Mack for working on this program and seeing it through to completion.

Lastly, Diane and I went to the Sutter Creek Ragtime Festival recently and we heard great ragtime music. Next year the ragtime festival will be the second weekend in August, in case you're interested. Sutter Creek is along Highway 49 in Amador County.

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EBBC Entertains At Brookdale in Danville

By John Greitzer

Photos By Bob Nelson

Your East Bay Banjo Club entertained an enthusiastic audience at Brookdale Senior Living in Danville on Friday, August 23. It was a return engagement for the club and this year's performance was just as rousing as the previous ones.

Bud Pearce served as music director for the performance, and Paul Mack did his usual fine job as master of ceremonies, providing some interesting historical background about what was happening in the early 1900s as he introduced each of our songs from that era. In addition to Bud and Paul, club members at the playout were Don Granberg, John Greitzer, Jan and Slavka Ruzicka, Betty David, Rich Combs, Chris Lardge, Kit Nelson, Tom Brunetti, Deb Hodson, and Doug Johnson. Our vocalists were Bud, Rich, Chris, Kit, and Slavka. Bob Nelson and Mimi Johnson also attended, and Bob snapped some photographs for us.

We played a well-constructed set, including some of our time-tested standards as well as a couple of songs we don't play very often, such as the Beatles' "Honey Pie." We opened with the old chestnut "Hello My Baby" and ended with our standard closer, "When The Saints Go Marching In." Along the way, we did a version of "Beer Barrel Polka" in which Slavka sang a couple of verses in English and then a verse in Czech.

Our club members had as good a time as the residents, and we hope to perform at Brookdale again.



The club bangs out a tune with Bud Pearce at the mic...

More photos on next page...



...and then Kit Nelson sings "A Good Man Is Hard To Find" (though actually there are plenty of us around).

Our Brookdale payout, cont'd



From left, Slavka Ruzicka, Jan Ruzicka, Paul Mack, Don Granberg (standing) and Kit Nelson get ready.



Tom Brunetti and Chris Lardge wait to get started. Behind are Slavka and Jan Ruzicka and Paul Mack (partially hidden).



Multi-instrumentalist Don Granberg warms up at his keyboard. Don also plays banjo and washboard, and as if that's not enough, he is our booking agent.



Bass player (and newsletter editor) John Greitzer is ready to go.

Party On Tap With Banjoist John Green On Sept. 6-8

Well-known banjoist John Green and his family are holding their annual three-day banjo fest and party at the family home in Fiddletown, which is in Amador County. EBBC members are invited to attend and asked to bring your banjos. The family indicates this may be the last year they hold this event.

Monetary donations are appreciated to pay for food and other expenses, as well as volunteers to serve food and clean up as needed.

For the contact information for this event, contact the newsletter editor via email.

Newsletter Editor *Still* Needed For 2020

Your trusty editor reminds club members – yet again -- that he will be giving up the editor's job at the end of this year. The November/December issue will be his last as editor, completing a four-year run that has been fun, creative, educational and rewarding.

Any club member who is interested in taking over as editor in January should contact me, either via email or at one of our Tuesday night practices (usually I attend on the first Tuesday of the month) to discuss it with me.

The editor's job doesn't take a tremendous amount of time overall, but it does require a dedicated effort in the days leading up to each publication date. The newsletter is published six times per year and is distributed almost entirely via email and our website. We publish fewer and fewer hard copies each year – currently only four hard copies of the newsletter are printed and mailed. The new editor – whoever you are – will inherit the club's HP color printer and digital camera.

Newsletter experience is helpful but not required. If you're interested, please contact me so we can discuss it.

2020 Banjo/Ukulele Jammers Cruise To Hawaii In The Works

EBBC member Jack Convery has organized a Hawaii cruise for both ukulele players and banjoists, set for January 27 to February 12 of next year. This should be a good opportunity for club members, since we have a number of ukulele players and a uke teacher in our group.

Jack indicates the jam will use ukulele song books and the EBBC banjo songbook, which we use in our weekly practices and our playouts. "So there will be no shortage of music," he said.

The cruise, on Princess Cruise Lines' "Grand Princess," will depart from San Francisco Pier 27 on January 27, 2020, and return on February 12. Fares will start at \$1,198 per person for interior rooms, going up to \$2,588 per person for a mini-suite, with several price tiers in between.

For more information contact Jack Convery at entline@msn.com,

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 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
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Membership: Chris Lardge.....chrislardge@gmail.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 (click on “Newsletters”). All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming birthdays



Happy birthday to all!

Ardie Jarrett—Sept. 6
Red Higgins—Sept. 25
Bob Ehrhorn—Oct. 13
Barb Findlay—Oct. 13
Fred “Mickey” Finn—Oct. 14
Connor Calimlim—Oct. 14
Ken Williamson—Oct. 18
Marco Green—Oct. 25
Bob Nelson—Oct. 27
Karen DeWeese—Oct. 30

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