



President's Message

by Chris Doan

As we continue to work on promoting the Club, we have been using a group picture taken in 2017.



While there are still a few familiar faces, it is time to update our image!

Please come to banjo practice **March 25** dressed in the gold vest uniform including a boater hat for a new Club picture. **We need everyone!!** The picture will be taken promptly at 7:00 pm before we go into Mountain Mike's for our regular practice session.

And speaking of promotion, the Club Board continues its focus on **two major goals for the year**, one being to **grow our club membership (more banjos!)** and the other to **increase our playout opportunities**. Your input and ideas regarding either of the goals is always welcome.

Paul Mack is continuing to explore new playout opportunities and since the last Newsletter has booked three new playouts. Again, if you have ideas or contacts for other playout opportunities, please convey your information to Paul.

EBBC Practice Sessions

Practice sessions are scheduled on the 2nd through the 5th Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:30 pm at Mountain Mike's Pizza, 30 Golf Club Road in Pleasant Hill.

EBBC Playouts for your Calendar

April 10 at Kensington Senior Center Memory Care with setup at 2pm for a 3pm start.

June 11 at Stoneman Village with a 1230pm setup and a 130pm start.

July 4 at the Orinda Parade. Time will be published closer to the event.

EBBC Membership 2025

We are in month 3 of the new year and there are still a few Club members who have not paid their 2025 dues (\$20). We would like to wrap up the membership drive this month so please see Ardie Jarrett to take care of this obligation with a check or cash (no credit cards). Ardie's contact information is on the Club Roster.

Club Members Handbook

As a Club Member, you probably have an old paper copy of the EBBC Member Handbook tucked away in a file someplace. The Handbook has been updated with a copy now posted on the Club website (www.eastbaybanjo.org) under the "Club Info" tab. The Handbook is filled with information about the club ... take a look!

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Things to Fret About

by Rich Combs

You're nicely moving along in a song, flowing through the chords when suddenly you see C+, or Caug. What the heck? Not to be flustered. Both symbols can be used to mean an "augmented" chord. Since the word augment means to add something, it must mean you add something. And what that is, is simple. You augment or raise the fifth by one fret, or sharp it.

To translate, in the key of C, the notes through the 5th, 1 to 5 are just C D E F G, with G being the "fifth". To make a C chord you play 1 3 5, or C E G. So for the C+ chord you play C E G#, augmenting the fifth. That's all there is to it.

You'll find that the augmented chord is often used to play a "passing" note, as a segway or transition to another chord. An example would be the opening of California Here I Come. You

could get away with just playing C, then F. Better yet is to play C then C+ into the F. Adds a little pizzazz.

So next time you see that funny sign, fret, just one fret, (G#) and augment your playing. This applies to any key, just sharp the 5th for that key.

Club Leadership 2025

President	Chris Doan
Vice President	Bob Malucelli
Secretary	Diane Malucelli
Membership	Ardi Jarrett
Treasurer & Music Director...	Rich Combs
Event Coordinator	Paul Mack
Digital Librarian	Karen Hefter
Communication Coord	Sheila Welt
Webmaster	Bud Pearce

Bob's 80th Birthday Bash

Decked out in Hawaiian shirts in keeping with the party theme, the East Bay Banjo Club entertained Bob Malucelli's 80 guests at the Concord Senior Center on Sunday, March 9. Deb Hodson did the honors of directing the Club during our playout. We had a great time and so did Bob and Diane!!



The party included an open bar staffed by our own Yvonne Whitchurch who broke away to sing a song. And a delicious lunch was catered for all the guests which the starving musicians all enjoyed.

Bob and Diane also had their ukulele group on hand to add to the party's entertainment.

Happy Birthday Bob!