



## President's Message

by Chris Doan

We had a very special practice at Mountain Mike's on May 20th. As we were about to start, about 50 high school aged kids filed for pizza. To our surprise as we started to practice, the young men and women started to engage with us. Yvonne Whitchurch offered one of the chaperones her seat and her banjo ukulele, who then joined the banjo club for a song or two and after a few more numbers, the young crowd sang a couple of lively numbers to the banjo players, in occupello no less, and they were great. The entire pizza parlor was alive with music and what a blast! The group was from San Gabriel High School in Los Angeles, in town for a vocal competition.



The extraordinary evening underlines our rationale for moving practice to a public setting where there is natural exposure to the public on a regular basis. What a fun time for everyone involved, including a few customers not associated with either group.

We did take a new Club picture on March 27 which will be used for EBBC promotional purposes. Unfortunately, we had 4 or 5 active members missing that evening so we are looking for a new date to repeat the picture effort ... one that works for the majority of banjo players. Stay tuned for a future announcement.

## The Dreaded Diminished

by Rich Combs

By now we are all familiar with the Augmented chord, I hope. That one was easy. To review,



you just “augment” or sharp the fifth note in the key. So for the key of C that is C D E F G, and you play a G# along with the C and E. But now, the Diminished chord!

Since diminished means to lessen, we are going to lessen or flat, a few notes. A normal C chord has the notes C, E, and G. For a C diminished we keep the C, flat the E, and flat the G. This is the basic diminished “triad” or group of three notes. C... E flat... G flat.

But the story doesn’t end here. We have four strings, so let’s live it up. There are two options, a diminished 7 th chord, and a half-diminished seventh chord. Oh dread!

The diminished 7 th chord is what we usually end up playing. We add the seventh note to the triad, but diminished or flatted. So C D E F G A B, B is the seventh note in the key of C and we flat or diminish it. The oddity is that you flat it twice. So we have C... E flat... G flat and B flat-flat, or A! Very diminished wouldn’t you say?

I don’t think I’ve ever seen a half diminished seventh chord, but that would be with just a B flat.

One amazing thing about the diminished chord is that if you play the four notes, and move your fingering up three frets, you have the chord again! So play Cdim7, then slide your hand up three frets and voila, Cdim7 again. This is used in the beginning to Banjo Picker’s Ball, but going down rather than up. Play Cdim7 at the 9 th fret, then play the same form at the 6 th fret, then the third fret , then at the nut. You’ve played Cdim7 but at four locations. How about that!

Rich

## **EBBC Playouts for your Calendar**

June 11 at Stoneman Village with a 1230pm setup and a 130pm start. Uniform: blue polo shirts. Tan slacks and optional boater hat.

June 22 at the home of Jim Francis hosting his 90th birthday party. 1:30pm set-up with a 2:30 start.

July 4 at the Orinda Parade. 8:30am gathering at the Orinda BART parking lot. More details as we get closer.

## **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.



## Betty David's Gorgeous Banjos

by John Buschiazzo

Betty David played with EBBC for more than forty years. She loved it, the play outs, the camaraderie. So much so that she wound up owning 3 Vegas. Since retiring from the group, she finds that she can no longer hold up the banjo to play it. She does play her piano just about every day. So, she would like to find good homes for her beloved Vegas. They should be played and enjoyed. Here is what she is offering right now.

The first is her prize VegaVox Deluxe IV. SN: 98790 dates it to 1952 22 fret, tubaphone tone ring with holes.



And the second plectrum is a Vega Tuba 1927 - 22 fret. Head has been replaced.



For more photos or to arrange a viewing, email her nephew John - [mrbatjs@gmail.com](mailto:mrbatjs@gmail.com)

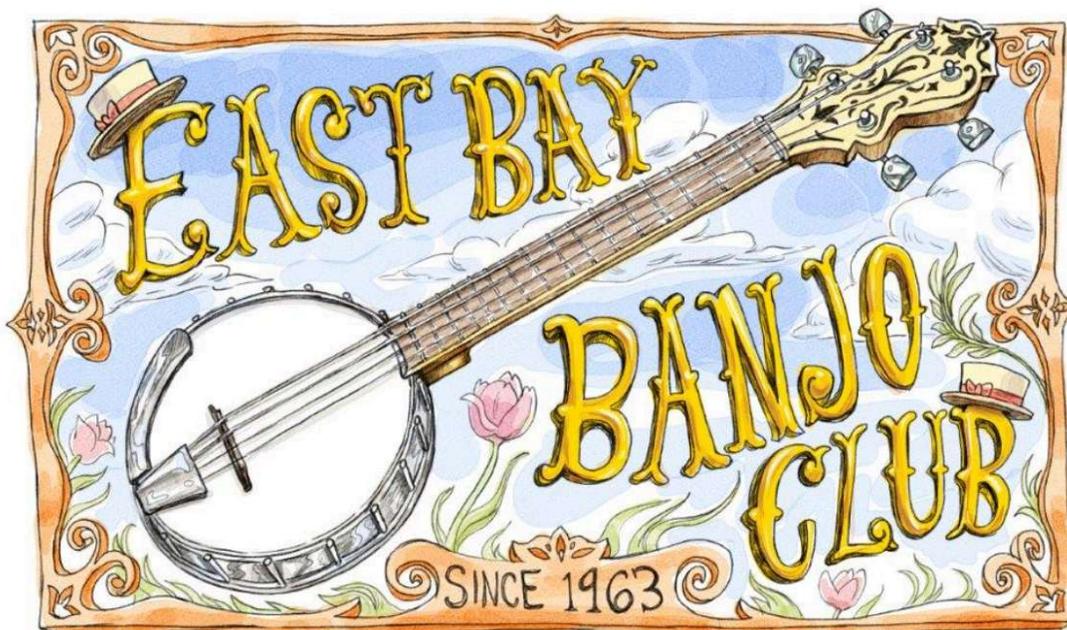


## Club Members Handbook

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](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org)) under the "Club Info" tab. The Handbook is filled with information about the club ... take a look!

## 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 Heffer
Communication Coord .....	Sheila Welt
Webmaster .....	Bud Pearce



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