



### President's Message

by Chris Doan

It's been a good year for the East Bay Banjo Club as it continues to build back after the Covid crisis effectively shut it down. We appreciate all our members along with your contribution to the Club's success. Let's all commit to keeping the happy banjo music alive in our community!

As a Club we enjoyed the Christmas Party on Tuesday night, December 9 at Mountain Mike's Pizza. There were 29 in attendance with plenty of salad and pizza for the hardest appetites, followed by about an hour of lively Christmas favorite songs. It is safe to say that it was a successful conclusion to the year and a very enjoyable celebration of the Christmas holiday. Enjoy a few pictures taken at the party on page 2 of this newsletter.

We did elect a new slate of Club Officers and Leaders for 2026. For the new year:...

- ★ Deb Hodson will be President
- ★ Bob Malucelli - Vice-President
- ★ Diane Malucelli - Secretary
- ★ Ardie Jarrett - Membership
- ★ Rich Combs - Music Director
- ★ Paul Mack - Event Coordinator
- ★ Chris Doan - Treasurer

And three people with key appointed support roles will continue with their responsibilities:

- ★ Sheila Welt as Communication Coord
- ★ Bud Pearce as Webmaster
- ★ Karen Hefter as Digital Librarian

Thanks to each of you in advance of the new year for providing leadership and direction to the East Bay Banjo Club.



### Jesse "The Lone Cat" Fuller

by Paul Mack

One of our favorite songs is Jesse Fuller's "San Francisco Bay Blues". He was born in Jonesboro, Georgia, near Atlanta, in 1896. He learned to play the guitar at 10 years of age.

In 1929 he moved to Oakland and worked for the Southern Pacific Railway. During World War-2 he worked in the shipyards as a welder. In the 1950s he dedicated himself to music and was singing in clubs and bars all over the Bay Area. He became known as "The Lone Cat" when he found it difficult to find reliable musicians. He played a variety of instruments including 12 string guitar, harmonica, kazoo and cymbal. He also invented the fotdella, a foot-operated bass instrument. He became known as "The One Man Band."

In 1954 he recorded "San Francisco Bay Blues." There have been over 80 recordings in English and other languages. While on tour in England in 1966 he performed alongside The Rolling Stones and The Animals. Jesse died in 1976 in Oakland. A truly incredible musician, he will always be an important figure in American music.



### Club Member 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!

### Future Playouts

Paul Mack is working with a couple of interested parties for playouts in the new year but nothing has been firmed up at press time.

### The 2025 Christmas Party in Pictures

