



Newsletter

President's Message

By Deb Hodson

Our band has had a busy few months! Playouts at Merrill Gardens, Stoneman, the Pleasant Hill Library, and the Orinda Parade filled up our summer months.

We celebrated at our annual picnic in the delta hosted by Bobbie Landers. I wish to thank each and every one of you for showing up and participating in our events.

We are all continuing to improve and our band is getting better and better. A big thank you to Rich, who continues to encourage us to learn new things and challenge ourselves to keep getting better. So let's keep up our momentum and show up on Tuesday nights for education and fun!

Events Calendar

Friday, Sept 11, 2026

Pleasant Hill Senior Center
233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill
1:00 to 2:00 pm

Tuesday, December 15, 2026

Pleasant Hill Library for their Family Night
2 Monticello Ave, Pleasant Hill
6:30 to 7:30 pm

Practice: 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.

Newsletter Editor

The Club now has a dedicated Newsletter Editor to handle the logistics and distribution of Club news on a monthly schedule. If you have any ideas of suggested content, please contact Chris Doan, who has agreed to take on this important communication for the Club.

Hello Dolly

by Paul Mack

One of our songs is Hello Dolly and I thought it would be fun to learn a little bit about it. Hello Dolly is a musical by Jerry Herman. It follows the story of matchmaker Dolly Gallagher Levi. She moves to New York City to find a match for Horace Vandergelder.

The play first opened in 1963 starring Carol Channing. It became so popular that in 1964 it became a hit Broadway musical winning ten Tony Awards. In 1969 it was made into a movie starring Barbra Streisand.

Louis Armstrong's recording became his most successful album, topping the charts for seventy-four weeks.

Our audiences still love to hear "Hello Dolly" thanks to our four Dollys: Sheila, Yvonne, Slavka and Deborah!





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Trembling Tuning

by Rich Combs

It always bothers me that when I'm tuning up, the tuner seems to get the shakes, a little high, a little low, just not sure where it wants to settle. One thing that helps is to strike the string lightly, often a challenge in a noisy environment.

Now I've found another trick. By damping the other three strings, by lightly resting a finger on them, the tuner seems much better behaved. Seems that the string I'm tuning causes the other strings to vibrate, and that throws in some undesirable harmonics that confuse the tuner.

So next time you're tuning up, (at home in a quiet location) try damping the other strings, and see if it makes the job easier. And of course, you tune up every time you play.
Rich

Banjo Opportunity of Interest

BanjoFest 2026 will take place in Oklahoma City October 8–10, put on by the American Banjo Museum. Always a fun weekend. For details, visit www.banjofest2026.com.

A Library Like No Other

I was recently at a performance of a one-man band, Nathan Ignacio. While chatting with him during a break, he mentioned that he was building a musical instrument library in Mokelumne Hill, on Hwy 49 near Jackson. Its

purpose is to make instruments available, at little or no cost, for those who want to play music but can't afford an instrument. Knowing that EBBC has a number of banjos gathering dust, I offered to donate a few banjos to the library.

"Absolutely!" he said. So with the approval of the board I gathered three of our banjos—a tenor, a plectrum, and a five-string—and hoofed it up to Mokelumne Hill.

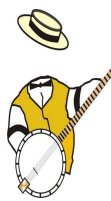
What I found there was their grand re-opening day, with a good crowd milling about. There were about 40 instruments, mostly guitars, but including a zither, a xylophone, ukuleles, banjos, and even a few basses, acoustic as well as electric. After donating the instruments, which they immediately displayed, I stayed to jam a little with a few others including a young girl playing flute. So next time you are up in the Mother Lode region, plan to drop by The Music Library. You'll be glad you did. Their website is www.thecreativecollectivelibrary.org where you can check their open hours and see if any special events are planned. I now have another library card that I'm proud of!

Rich



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.

Newsletter

Club Leadership 2026**President** Deb Hodson**Vice-President** Bob Malucelli**Secretary** Diane Malucelli**Music Director** Rich Combs**Event Coordinator** Paul Mack**Treasurer** Chris Doan**Membership****Communication****Webmaster****Newsletter Editor****Digital Librarian**

Ardie Jarrett

Sheila Welt

Bud Pearce

Chris Doan

Karen Hefter

Playout at Pleasant Hill Senior Center on September 11, 2026

Seventeen banjos entertained the Pleasant Hill Senior Center's annual summer picnic where 150 enthusiastic diners clearly enjoyed our vibe. There was a lot of singing and dancing in the audience lending to the atmosphere. This was our second year to join the summer fun at the Center.

