



Vol. 44 No. 1

January 2009

Dedicated to the Education, Preservation & Promotion of Traditional Jazz

That's what?

And That's
Jazz's name
answers the
question that
music fans never
have to ask



Coming in
January

**Gene Maurice's
And That's Jazz**
1:30-5 p.m., Jan. 18, 2009
The Lodge in San Pablo
13233 San Pablo Ave.

⋮ Donation request
(new for 2009):
NOJCNC members, \$8
Other jazz club members, \$10
⋮ general public \$12

NOJCNC News

Published by the New Orleans Jazz Club of Northern California, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the education, preservation and promotion of traditional jazz. Incorporated 1966.

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Dottie Lawless

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President's Message

December ended on a sad note for **NOJCNC**. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an obituary for **Bill Walker**, who passed away on Dec. 15, 2008.

Exacerbating **Elvera's** loss was the tragic and sudden death of their only child, **Susan Vaara**, just two days before Bill's passing. We would like to express our deepest sympathy to Elvera and her family and we look forward to Elvera's return to NOJCNC.

We were also saddened to hear of **Pete Allen's** passing in late October. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find an obituary by **Earl Sheelar**. Pete was a long-time member of NOJCNC and we are grateful for the strong support he gave us over the years. He has left us a wonderful legacy of recordings with various bands.

We are happy to report that our club broke even in 2008. Good as that is, there was a disturbing trend of reduced attendance (and therefore less revenue) compared with previous years. And our membership was also down slightly. Fortunately, we were able to offset this loss of revenue by reducing our operating expenses.

More of you have opted for the emailed version of this newsletter. Editor **Paul Hilton** will bring a laptop to our January session to demonstrate the e-mail version, and hopefully sign up more members for this cost-saving option.

We believe we have booked excellent bands for 2009. We hope that you agree and support the club by coming to all the sessions, even if the style of a band, its instrumentation or some of its personnel are not those of your first choice. I recently read of the demise of a jazz club in England after its members started to cherry-pick attending only a few bands that were their favorites. Only by having consistent robust attendance each month can our club continue to be viable for future years.

During the coming year we will be looking for members willing to serve on the Board and replace some of the existing officers; this is essential for the club to continue to operate beyond 2009. If you are willing to help in this manner, please contact **Rich, Dottie** or any of the Board members.

We start our program this month, with **Gene Maurice's And That's Jazz**, after an absence of five years from our sessions. This band has been around for many years, with some impressive long-standing engagements (see their bio on the next page). Please, let's welcome them back to NOJCNC with a good attendance.

Rich Vose & Dottie Lawless

January Featured Band: *And That's Jazz*

And That's Jazz is a hard-driving Chicago-style traditional jazz ensemble that plays great American popular dance music of the 1920s (as well as the '30s and '40s). This six-piece group features vocals and instrumentals by such great American song masters as **Jelly Roll Morton, Fats Waller, Louis Armstrong, Hoagy Carmichael** and **Irving Berlin**.

The band's traditional front line consists of cornet, trombone and clarinet and is supported by a classic rhythm section of drums, tuba and banjo. *And That's Jazz* plays clubs, festivals, jazz societies and special functions throughout Northern California. After four years at Pasta Pelican in Alameda, the band moved to the Speisekammer Restaurant in Alameda, where it has been playing first Thursdays of the month for three years. The band is made up of:

- Bandleader and cornetist **Gene Maurice** founded *And That's Jazz* 38 years ago, and he continues to showcase a lyrical artistry born of years of experience with traditional groups throughout California.
- Vocalist and drummer **Bill Todd**, also with the band for many years, contributes his rich Crosby-style baritone voice as well as tasteful drum riffs to the musical mix.
- Trombonist **John Soulis**, who also leads his own band, joined many years ago. His expertise has contributed a great deal to the band.
- Longtime member **Dave Richoux** plays tuba, adding to the band his wide background with many trad jazz groups (as well as his experience for 23 years as a DJ with KFJC).
- **Jack Wiecks**, banjo, also a veteran member, has extended experience with many trad jazz bands very long musical career and is a solid contributor to the band's rhythm section. On occasion, his ancient National Steel plectrum guitar adds a unique sound.
- Clarinetist **Al Flood** is an all-around reed player, as well as an experienced bandleader, and has brought his interpretations and energy to the group.

The band's latest recording is "Hot Notes" and features trad New Orleans classics.



In memory: *Peter Hammond Allen*

I am very sad to report that after 70 years of playing Jazz in the Bay Area, **Peter Allen** passed away on Oct. 27, 2008, in Portland, Ore. He was 86 years old.

Over the years he played with almost every Trad Jazz musician in the Bay Area, including a wartime band in the Navy with **Lu Waters** and several internationally known bands led **Kid Ory**, **Muggsy Spanier**, **Joe Sullivan** and **Lionel Hampton**.

In his early years, he played clarinet and sang with a trio that made a 78 RPM record of "When the Midnight Choo-Choo Leaves for Alabam" and "Lena Queen of Plasteena." This is a rare collector's record today. In the 1950s he switched to string bass and played in **Bob Mielke's Bearcats** and played and recorded with many bands in the Bay Area.

Peter was the guest of honor at the September 2007 session of the **NOJCNC**, and sat in and played well with the **Zenith Jazz Band**, of which he was a longtime member.

Peter was an avid bird watcher and led many bird walks for the Marin Audubon Society.

There will be a Memorial for Peter on Sunday, Jan. 25, at the **Champa Restaurant**, 3550 San Pablo Dam Road in the El Sobrante Plaza, El Sobrante, from 3 - 8 pm. Many of Peter's old friends will be playing there and everyone is welcome. There is a large dance floor and the Thai food is very good and inexpensive.

For more, call **Earl Scheelar**, 510-843-9862.



Peter Allen

In memory: *Bill Walker*

Please offer your prayers and sympathy to **Elvera Walker** and her family for **Bill Walker**, who passed away on Dec. 15, 2008, following a brief hospitalization. Bill was one of our most supportive members, distributing club information wherever he could and bringing in new members on a regular basis.

Bill joined **NOJCNC** in 1984, joined the Board of Directors in 1999, and was the club's President in 2004 and 2005. He was also our CD salesman.

In recognition of Bill's passion for New Orleans' jazz, a small group of Club musicians played traditional New Orleans' funeral tunes at his funeral service on Dec. 29, 2008. Many thanks to **Carol Dutcher**, **Bob Mielke**, **Bob Sutherland**, **Mike Harryman**, **Pat Campbell** and **Rich Vose** for giving Bill the jazz tribute he would have wished for.

Rest well, Bill, and our deepest condolences to Elvera.



The
Jazzinators

Youth Dixieland Festival

The next generation of musicians to carry the trad jazz torch will be featured at the **Second Annual Youth Dixieland Festival** on Jan. 31 in Fremont.

The event will host three recognized Northern California youth bands, including: the **Jazz Raptors** of Creekview Ranch Middle School in Roseville; **Dixie Dominus** of Fremont Christian High School; and the **Jazzinators**, the youth band of the **East Bay Traditional Jazz Society**. Jam sets are scheduled for between bands.

Admission to the event is free; organizers will “pass the hat” after each band, with the money going toward the bands, expenses and jazz scholarships through the EBTJS for youth musicians in the Bay Area.

Pizza, sandwiches and salads, as well as soft drinks, wine and beer, will be available through the hosting venue.

The music plays 12:30 – 4:30 pm, Jan. 31 (Saturday), at **Pizza Depot**, 43450 Grimmer Blvd. in Fremont, (510) 656-9911. For more information, call the Jazz Society at (510) 657-0243, or visit www.eastbaytradjazz.org.

Bands schedule

**Jazz Raptors,
Creekview Ranch
Middle School
12:30-1:30**

**Jam Session
1:30-2:00**

**Jazzinators, East Bay
Traditional Jazz
Society
2:00-3:00**

**Jam Session
3:00-3:30**

**Dixie Dominus,
Fremont Christian HS
3:30-4:30**

**The NAPA VALLEY
DIXIELAND JAZZ SOCIETY**

**MEETS EVERY 2ND SUNDAY
FROM 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.**

Linda 707-939-9018

Website: www.jazzdance.org/NapaJazz

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*New Orleans Jazz Club
of Southern California*

2009 NOJCNC Renewal

Just a reminder that it's now time to
renew your **2009 membership**.

Our membership rates for 2009 remain
unchanged. Please see the last page of
this newsletter for the rates and where
to mail your check.

Membership subscriptions provide the
majority of our income for funding our
monthly sessions. So please renew as
soon as possible. We are always deeply
grateful for any extra donations. And
please remember, membership fees and
donations are tax deductible.

On the Airwaves

Sunday

KCSM (91.1 FM): **Jim Cullum's
Riverwalk** (6 pm); **Richard Hadlock's
Annals of Jazz** (7 pm); **Mal Sharpe** (9
pm); **Ray Smith's Jazz Decades** (11
pm).

Monday

KUSF (90.3 FM): **Dave Reffkin's
Ragtime Machine** (9 pm).

Friday

XM Satellite Radio, Ch. 70: **Dave
Robinson's French Quarter** (6 pm).

The logo for the South Bay Traditional Jazz Society. It features the text "SOUTH BAY" in a curved banner at the top, followed by "TRADITIONAL" and "JAZZ SOCIETY" in similar banners. Below the text is a detailed illustration of a trumpet.

MEETS EVERY 4th SUNDAY
SUNNYVALE ELKS LODGE #2128
375 N. Pastoria Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94086
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Members and Members of other Clubs - \$8.00 Non-members - \$10.00
www.SouthBayJazz.org

In Search of Live Jazz

San Francisco

Tuesday Pier 23, Embarcadero near Filbert, 5 - 8 pm, 415-362-5125
Rotating pianists: **Virginia Tichenor, Marty Eggers, Frederick Hodges.**

Saturday **Mal Sharp's Big Money in Jazz**, 3 - 6 pm, 415-362-7023
Savoy Tivoli, 1434 Grant Ave.

Peninsula & South

Friday **Clint Baker's Cafe Borrone All Stars**, 8 - 11 pm, 650-344-1462
Café Borrone, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

East Bay & East

1st & 3rd Monday **Jack Convery's Banjojazz** (featuring Gary Neuman), 6 - 9 pm, (925) 934-4831, The San Franciscan Rest, 1525 N Main St., Walnut Creek

1st & 3rd Tuesday **Jazzinators** (Youth Group), 7 - 8 pm, Jam set 8 - 9 pm
510-656-9911 Pizza Depot, 43450 Grimmer Blvd, Fremont

2nd & 4th Wednesday **Mission Gold**, 7 – 9 pm, Swiss Park Dance Hall,
5911 Mowry Ave., Newark.

1st Thursday **And That's Jazz**, 7:30-10 pm, 510-522-1300
Speisekammers Restaurant, 2424 Lincoln Avenue, Alameda

Fridays **Ted Shafer's Jelly Roll Jazz Band**, 7 - 10 pm, 510-222-1819
Champa Restaurant, 3550 San Pablo Dam Rd, San Pablo

3rd Saturday **Devil Mountain Jazz Band**, 2 - 5 pm, 925-625-2707
Danville Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Rd, Danville

3rd Sunday **Joyful Noise Jazz Band**, 5:30 – 7:30 pm,
Champa Restaurant, 3550 San Pablo Dam Rd, San Pablo

North Bay & North

2nd Sunday **Natural Gas Jazz Band**, 2 - 5 pm, 415-924-6107
Sweetwater Station, 500 Magnolia Ave, Larkspur

2nd Wednesday **Marty Eggers & Virginia Tichenor**, 5 - 8 pm, 415-924-6107
Sweetwater Station, 500 Magnolia Ave, Larkspur

2nd & 4th Wednesday **Marin Jazz Group**, 7:30 - 9:30 pm, 415-456-1011
Mayflower Inn, 1533 4th St, San Rafael

Last Saturday **Gold Coast Jazz Band**, 1 - 4 pm, 707-938-9990
Little Switzerland, 401 Grove St, Sonoma

(For updated listings, visit www.clintbakerjazz.com/raeannnlist.html)

NOJCNC Membership

Member	All year	From July 1
Musician	\$10	\$5
Individual	\$25	\$12.50
Couple	\$35	\$17.50
Contributing	\$100	\$50
Sustaining	\$125	\$62.50

(Note: All memberships expire Dec. 31)

Make checks payable to "**NOJCNC**" and send to:

Lynn Schloss, Membership
1871 Stratton Circle,
Walnut Creek, CA 94958-2272

Benefits of membership:

- * All contributions are tax-deductible
- * Free NOJCNC monthly newsletter
- * Contributing members: Free admission for two to all regularly scheduled events
- * Sustaining members: Free admission for four to regularly scheduled events

NOJCNC News

New Orleans Jazz Club
of Northern California

P.O. Box 27232

San Francisco, CA 94127

FIRST CLASS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming soon

Feb.15: NOJCNC Annual
Showcase

March 15: Bob Schulz's
Frisco Jazz Band

April 19: Fog City
Stompers

**(All events at the San Pablo
Moose Lodge)**

**Visit www.nojcnc.org for jazz
info and news on the Web.**