The BAAC Page



APRIL 2003



President's Message

Well, although we can't please everyone all the time, we do promise something for everyone, and I think the March meeting provided a lot of "something for everyone" present. It's an all-toorare treat to get **Don Nurisso** to play at a BAAC meeting, and he came through big-time with his combo. We got still more from **Reno Di Bono** and **Dave Lario**,

some really entertaining Irish music from new BAAC member Lew Milligan and his Irish button box, and a great surprise appearance by Mike Zampiceni whose busy schedule seldom permits him to show up at BAAC meetings. I hope everyone enjoyed the Fun Band Dance Party in the second half. The band had an absolutely grand time playing for the club and will plan on doing it again as we improve our group playing under the direction of Sharon Walters.

Don't forget **Sev Garcia** is going to put on a real show for us at the **April meeting** — and then a workshop on Saturday, April 12. In April we'll also have a special performance by Frank Montoro, and time left over for **Open Mic.**, so bring your accordion if you'd like to play something on-the-spot. I'd like to hear some brave souls whom we don't hear very often. *You know who you are!!* Or, if you'd like to reserve a slot on the program, call me as soon as possible (510) 531-4836.

Which reminds me: LADIES I NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU! We need players for Ladies' Night May 8!! If you're in a combo with a guy, well OK, we'll let him in (this time)!! So, Give me a call (510) 531-4836 or send me an e-mail vtkacc@value.net!

Dancing the Night Away (March Meeting)

It was a first for our club to have our wonderful **Fun Band** provide the dance music (after intermission) for members and guests who readily took to the dance floor. Under the direction of **Sharon Walters**, the band struck up an Irish jig to announce their arrival, and then settled into some very enjoyable listening and dancing music to cap off another music-filled meeting.

And groups were the item for this meeting. Don Nurisso and his quartet greeted us as we came in the door before the meeting, and then later provided us with a very polished cocktail jazz-type set. That is, one where we could hear the melody and enjoy the artists' creative soloing. Don set the tone with his accordion stylings and very tasteful backing up, while André Bastan gave a terrific sound variation with his violin expertise. The rhythm

APRIL MEETING...

Sev Garcia Big Band & Jazz; Frank Montoro; Open Mic

Sev Garcia Workshop!!

Another "Mustn't Miss!"
Saturday, April 12 10:00 a.m.
Moose Lodge Daly City
"How to Memorize"

A talk, demonstration and application of various memory systems useful in memorizing music. Bring your accordion if you wish to play
(you won't be asked unless you volunteer)

This promises to be another very popular workshop. See you there!

Val

section was first rate with Steve Auerbach on bass, a most energetic and enthusiastic participant booming out those low notes to complement the stylings of Don and André. On drums was Marc Hinchman, providing a rock-solid beat and most tasteful accents and fills. Being featured on the Art Van Damme number Cute, Marc showed his great talent and perfect timing. Other pieces they played: Swing 42, a jazz composition by Django Reinhardt; Non Dimenticar, with Don soloing for 16 bars, featuring bass and drums on the bridge, and violin leading the next stanza; Trieste, a Bossa Nova; also Angel Eyes; Yardbird Suite (Charlie Parker), and Shiny Stockings. Thank you, Don and group!

Lew Milligan, a new member, brought along his Irish button box for a couple of Irish jigs. Lew is self-taught and showed real talent, pointing out along the way that he embraces the left-hand playing that most Irish musicians downplay or omit. What a difference, as his performance was a presentation of balanced sound and gave a complete accordion feeling to his music. Come and play for us again soon, Lew.

Reno Di Bono and Dave Lario on accordion and bass. "Flying Fingers" Dave, formerly with the Louie Prima band, has the fastest technique I've seen with a bass player, and his rhythm patterns certainly moved the songs along. Reno entertained us with stories about the Giulietti he had just purchased on Ebay, and then together with Dave, belted out some great standards, both playing and singing, such as Volare, Marina, Up a Lazy River, and Ciao Ciao Bambino. Whenever I've heard the name "Di Bono," I've always thought of the great artist in our club, Peter, but now I can assure you that Reno showed that he has come to play with the Big Boys with his great single note and chord technique. Great job, Reno and Dave!

Whenever Mike Zampiceni comes to our club, we just know we are in for a performance that we rarely hear. Mike is a splendid artist of the classic acoustic accordion with a technique that I have heard few rival. He walked on stage and burst into a fast Italian Tarantella, playing it faster than I've ever heard. He then showed off his beautiful tenor voice with his novelty version of San Francisco. His immense versatility was evident as he followed up with Lollipops and Roses and Moonlight in Vermont. It's hard to let someone like Mike stop playing, as he embodies what our accordion is all about. An acoustic celebration of the right and left hand techniques melded into beautiful arrangements that are so enjoyable to listen to. Mike showed us our "roots." Get to Di Cicco's in San Jose to catch this wonderful performer (see "Who Is Playing Where" elsewhere in this newsletter).

Then came the break, with two other "artists" showing what they can do: Domenic and Frances Benedetto, with an incredible food presentation for us. They brought homemade pizza and salad trays, lunch meats, cakes and pies. We thank you both so much for your dedication and hard work for the club.

The raffle was drawn by none other than our brandnew member Edmond Cheng, and the winner was his

wife Chai-Yuh! Attendance at meetings keeps climbing, and we look forward to more in the future. And so on to April with Sev Garcia and Frank Montoro.

D.S.

(Photos on next page)

ACE CONCERTS COMING UP

The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble Affiliated with the B.A.A.C. is holding its annual spring concert on Sunday, April 6 at 2:30

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2124 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City

The concerts will feature classical, folk and some standard pieces, arranged for accordion orchestra by Joe Smiell, and conducted by Joe Smiell

> Refreshments will be provided For info call Val Kieser (510) 531-4836 Or Frank Montoro (650) 574-4757

Ensemble members for Spring Concert Aldo Argenti, Jr, Peter Di Bono, Reno Di Bono, Mary-Alice Eldon, Lynn S. Ewing, Ron Harris, Valerie Kieser, Grigoriye Krumik, Anne Métais, Nora Mazzara, Frank Montoro, Joseph E. Smiell, Bob Smith, and Sharon Walters

Word Has It ...

- ... that, once again, Anne and Bernard Métais have returned from France, and we welcome them back heartily. Anne plays with the BAAC Fun Band and with the ACE Ensemble and has been a BAAC member since 1992. She is also a faithful attendee of the Galla-Rini accordion camps.
- ... that the BAAC Fun Band is slated to play for several events this summer and is very excited about it.
- ... that our Historian, Frank Schlotter, is working on a display board with photos and other BAAC memorabilia for display at the Las Vegas Accordion Con-
- ... that **Reno Di Bono** plays his accordion quite regularly at the schools of several of his 8 grandchildren. Keep it up, Reno!
- ... that Jim Firpo, Lee Woodall, Tony Di Bono and their music group play regularly for various senior and philanthropic organizations, including Laguna Honda Home, St. Francis of Assisi, Fort Miley, Jack London Square Senior Fair, Teachers' Association of Burlingame, Day Care centers, veterans organizations and more.
- ... That BAAC member Valarie Morris' Symphony of Light and Shadow will have its premier performance in Sacramento on Saturday, April 5 — See "Coming Events," page 9.

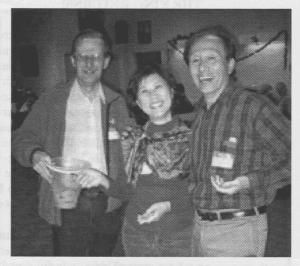
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A great big Welcome to new BAAC members Edmond and Chai-Yuh Cheng, Jennifer Goldman, and Irish accordionist Lew Milligan, all of whom attended the March meeting and all of whom are very enthusiastic.

PHOTOS OF MARCH MEETING



Steve Auerbach, André Bastan, Don Nurisso (To the left would be Marc Hinchman on drums)



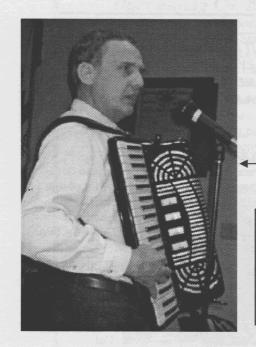
Bob Berta and new members Edmond and Chai-Yuh Cheng



Sharon Walters directing the BAAC Fun Band



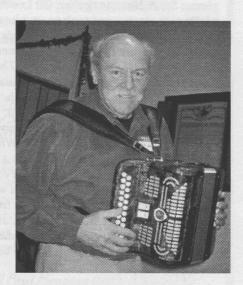
Dave Lario and Reno Di Bono



New member Lew Milligan

Mike Zampiceni





THE KING RETURNS!

I wonder how many of us realize that we have the greatest swing jazz accordionist of all time in our midst, and one of the greatest jazz musicians ever! The man who 60 years ago brought our accordion to the modern age and established a stylistic bench mark for all jazz accordionists. When listening to just two of **Art Van Damme's** albums, *Martini Time* and *The Van Damme Sound*, one is struck by the unparalleled virtuosity of his melody variations (ad-libs), and also by the arrangements his quintet plays that bring to life some of the most beloved standards like no other musical group I've ever heard. *I Remember April*, *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*, *Tenderly*, *Laura*, and on and on.

What group anywhere can match the creative sound and arrangements of Art Van Damme and his quintet? In short, there is none! Art created his wonderful sound with the combination of vibes, guitar, accordion, bass and drums, with the vibes and guitar playing melody blocked with chords from his accordion. He was the first to use this combination, which was later copied by pianist George Shearing (The George Shearing Quintet) when that group started in 1948. Art's music excels above all other groups because it is so enjoyable to listen to the delicious variations of melody and rhythm woven by a group tightness weaving in and out of single note and harmony runs, with chord progressions and melody and chord blocking that move the musical numbers to a higher plane and on to unique conclusions. These are melodies and solos that stay in our minds like beautiful poetry and paintings.

And so on Friday, January 17 at the Hutchins Street Sque\are Performing Arts Center in Lodi, Art Van Damme returned to create a wonderful moment in history, one that my family and a sold-out audience of 350 other lucky souls were so fortunate to experience.

With great anticipation and thunderous applause, Art took the stage with four other artists: Jon Eriksen, vibraphone; Steve Horman, guitar; Gil Lester, bass; and John McDonald, drums; and took us on a journey down memory lane. At 82 years of age, Art sounds the same, only better. His fingers flying on such up tunes as Lonesome Road, Green Dolphin Street, All The Things You Are and Cute, he inspired and challenged the members of the group (who were half his age) to reach to their best efforts. And rise to the occasion they did, playing intriguing solos at breakneck speed, and receiving well deserved accolades from the audience. What a delight to observe these same musicians watching and beaming as the Great One ran up and down the keyboard with combinations of arpeggios and chords that we Van Damme "wannabes" have been trying to copy from his records throughout our musical lives. I think Art was particularly pleased with guitarist Steve Horman's interaction with him on back-up chording, which brought repeated smiles from Art.

As the show progressed, we all settled in as the Van Damme mystique filled the room with the wonderful quintet sound. Laura, Don't Get Around Much Anymore, Making Whoopie, so many wonderful songs,



melodies that have stuck in our minds over the years being brought back to life! And yet the selections played didn't scratch the surface of all the masterpieces Art has created throughout the years.

And then, Art did something that I had not heard him ever do before! He played *Misty*, and *That Old Feeling* a cappella style, blending the left hand and the right with magnificent chords and bass, showing the totality of what is possible with the accordion in a jazz idiom.

What a treasure we have in Art Van Damme, the king of the jazz accordion! "I've walked where there was no path, and left one for others to follow." Long live the King with good health and vibrancy, Thank you Art!

This most memorable event was made possible thanks to Art's long-time friend, accordion master and teacher, Gene Bartolomei who calls the Good time Accordion Club in Escalon his home. Thank you, Gene! *D.S.*



IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT NO MAN EVER WENT WRONG MORALLY OR MENTALLY, WHILE LISTENING TO A SYMPHONY.

Judge John J. Dillon

BAAC Music Library?

Over the last several months BAAC has received donations of **two large boxes of old sheet music**. A lot of it is terrific stuff—oldies, standards, polkas, waltzes, tangos, everything you can think of except, possibly, jazz, and there may even be some of that in there too. I have the two cartons and am slowly weeding through it all. I haven't time to organize it and categorize it, so am just "sitting on it" for now. The board is going to discuss what to do with it, but meanwhile, anyone wishing to go through it and help classify it, please give me a call (510) 531-4836, e-mail vtkacc@value.net.

Val



- Sometimes I think I understand everything, and then I regain consciousness.
- There cannot be a crisis this week; my schedule is already full.
- Time may be a great healer, but it is a lousy beautician.
- The best way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes.
- I don't mind the rat race, but I could do with a little more cheese.
- Amazing! You just hang something in your closet for a while, and it shrinks two sizes.

Your Executive Board Met . . .

... on Tuesday, March 11, 2003. Including the donation in December earmarked for the ACE Ensemble, we have a total in all our accounts of \$13,927.45, of which \$3,492.07 is in our checking account.

As of March 11 we had 220 paid memberships (several new members have joined since then).

The newsletter was discussed and found to be doing OK. Val is willing to continue doing the newsletter unless someone else wishes to do it. She does not plan to run for re-election as President, however.

The board voted to allow Boaz Accordions to have a sale table at one of our meetings, on a trial basis, for a nominal fee.

We need three volunteers from the membership-atlarge for the Nominating Committee. The board also discussed, but did not make a conclusion, what presence BAAC will have at Cotati this year.

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Who Is Playing Where

Reno Di Bono and the Blue Moon Trio play for dancing every second Friday of the month at Montavalle in Scotts Valley, CA 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

For info call Reno (408) 252-3808

Joe Domitrowich and the Alpiners USA

Sunday, March 16 5:00-9:00 p.m. At Tyrolean Inn, 9600 Highway 9 in Ben Lomond Phone (831) 336-5188

Friday, March 7 from 7:00 p.m. Sokol Club, Basque Cultural Center in South SF

For info call Joe (408) 255-1259

Thursday, March 27 2-6 p.m.,"Café Vienna" theme
The Villages Retirement Center

Tables can be reserved for friends of the band For info call Joe (408) 255-1259

Mike Zampiceni plays
on Friday and Saturday nights
At Di Cicco's Italian Restaurant
2509 Bascom Ave., San Jose
For reservations call (408) 377-5850
Also Thursdays at La Gondola, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
242 State St., Los Altos; call (650) 941-7702

William DeMichelis plays on Friday and Saturday nights At the Elbe German and European restaurant

117 University Avenue, Palo Alto Call (650) 321-3319 or visit www.elbe-restaurant.com

The Internationals

Saturday, April 12 and Saturday, May 10 Teske's Germania, 255 N. First St., San Jose (408) 292-0291



I CARE NOT WHO WRITES THE LAWS OF A COUNTRY SO LONG AS I MAY LISTEN TO ITS SONGS.

George Jean Nathan

ACCORDION AMPLIFIERS FOR SALE!

Polytone MiniBrute S-15, 2-channel, 180w. with 15" speaker & 2 tweeters, vinyl leather . . . \$450
Polytone MiniBrute III 100w., single channel with 15" speaker . . . \$390

Iorio Supernova 2-channel with reverb, 15" speaker with horn. Orig. \$1500...\$450 All amps have been used little and are in mint condition. Buy all three for \$1000 or best offer.

Call Paul Henning (925) 830-2935

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND... Jim Hollilday's Basic Music series. Here is the first of several installments.

(BASIC MUSIC !

Tetrachords and The Major Scales

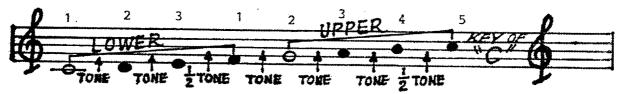
<u>by Jim Holliday</u>

(Bay Area Accordion Club)

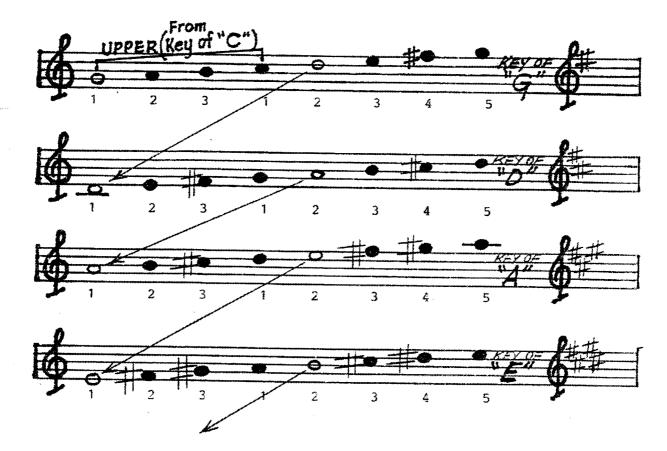
A tetrachord is a \underline{unit} consisting of 4 notes which are separated by a whole tone, whole tone, half tone.

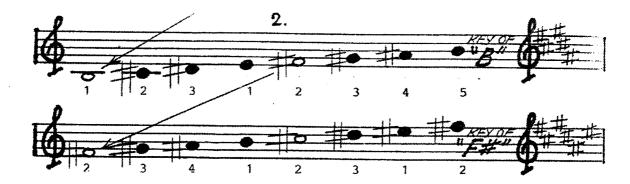


When two tetrachords are connected by a whole tone, a major scale is formed



A tetrachord belongs to two different scales. It can be the <u>lower</u> in one scale, or the <u>upper</u> in another. The first and last notes of a tetrachord indicate the two keys it belongs to. By using the <u>upper</u> tetrachord from one scale as the <u>lower</u> tetrachord in a new scale, all of the key signatures containing sharps can be formed.





Starting with the "C" scale, by using the <u>lower</u> tetrachord as the <u>upper</u> tetrachord in a new scale, all of the key signatures containing flats can be formed



Use the thumb to start scales beginning on a white key. Use finger 2 to start scales beginning on a black key.

Come and join in ... Bay Area Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the second Thursday of the month Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma For information call Val (510) 531-4836

Website: www.baaccordionclub.org

East Bay Accordion Circle

Meets the second Thursday of the month 1517 – 5th St., Berkeley. Bring your accordion! For information call (510) 548-2822

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma For information call Harry (707) 838-2859

Golden State Accordion Club

Meets 7 PM the second Tuesday of the month At Pietro's #2, 679 Merchant St. in *Vacaville* And 7 PM the fourth Wednesday at Sheepherders Inn, 11275 Folsom Blvd. in *Rancho Cordova*

For information call (707) 864-2359

Northern California Accordion Society

Meets 7 PM the third Thursday of the month Polish American Community Hall 327 Main Street, Roseville Info: Call Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

Good Time Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month Community Center 1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon

For information call (209) 545-3603 **South Bay Accordion Jam**

Meets 2:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month Seventh Day Adventist Church 5265 Carter Ave., near Camden & Kooser

BAAC Ensemble Practice

Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Moose Lodge 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City

7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City For information call Frank (650) 574-4757

BAAC "Fun Band" Practice

First and Third Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Moose Lodge 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City For information call Frank (510) 339-1163 **Accordion Teacher Listings**

San Francisco/North Peninsula

Peter Di Bono

Theory/Technique/Performance (415) 753-1502

Lou Soper

Every Tuesday 3:00-6:30 p.m. Moose Club, Colma/Daly City (510) 841-6745

Sharon Walters

All levels (415) 621-8284

North Bay

Steve Albini

Marin/Sonoma

Private (415) 897-4131

Bart Beninco

Accordion and Piano Petaluma (707) 769-8744

Marjorie Konrad

Button Box, Piano Accordion & Chromatic Santa Rosa (707) 539-5308 East Bay

Valarie Morris

Group & Private; Theory, Technique, Composition; all levels/ages (510) 222-8442

Lou Jacklich

Private Lessons; Technique, Arranging & Chords (510) 317-9510 Peninsula & South Bay

Lynn Ewing

All levels/ages (650) 365-1700

Marian Kelly

Lessons structured to your Individual need (650) 854-1896

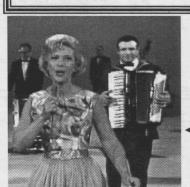
Ron Borelli

Theory, Technique, and Performance (650) 574-5707

Mike Zampiceni

Beginner to Advanced BA and MA in music (408) 734-1565

(Additional teacher listings available at www.boazaccordions.com)



Club Photo Sept. 2002

Anyone know who the accordionist behind Dinah

Shore is?



Coming Events

Sunday, March 30 2:30 p.m.

SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble Spring Concert Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., Piedmont Saturday, April 5 8:00 p.m.

World Premiere Performance by the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Michael Morgan, at the Sacramento Community Center Theater (downtown Sacramento across from Capitol Bldg.) of Valarie Morris'

Symphony of Light and Shadow, preceded by a lecture by Valarie Morris at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 6 2:30 p.m.
SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble Spring Concert

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2124 Brewster Ave., Redwood City
Sunday, April 6 2:00 p.m.

First meeting of the newly formed

Silicon Valley Accordion Society
Seventh Day Adventist church

5265 Carter Ave., San Jose Featuring Ed Massolo and Frank Panac

Featuring *Ed Massolo and Frank Panacci* **Monday, May 19 7:30 p.m.**

The BAAC Ensemble will perform a short program at the *Accordion Club of the Redwoods* meeting Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma June 1-5, 2003

Silver Falls Accordion Camp, Sublimity, Oregon Call Geoff Levear (503) 452-4517 gleavear@aol.com

June 17-21, 2003

Leavenworth International

Accordion Celebration

Leavenworth, WA

Info: Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 327, Leavenworth, WA 98826 (509) 548-5807; email info@leavenworth.org June 22-25, 2003

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention Starring Myron Floren, Dick Contino, Art Van Damme, and Anthony Galla-Rini appearing for the first time together on one stage!

And featuring Pete Barbutti, Pino Di Madugno, Kenny Kotwitz, Don Lipovac, Gina Branelli and much, much more!

Call (800) 472-1695 or (801) 486-1695 Or visit www.accordionstars.com E-mail Vegas@accordioninfo.com

June 25-29, 2003

ATG Competition and Festival

Info: Joan C. Sommers, 2312 W. 71 Terrace Prairie Village, KS (913) 722-5625 E-mail: sommersJ@umkc.edu

July 9-13, 2003
American Accordionists' Association
AAA Festival

Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia International Airport Info: AAA, 580 Kearny Ave., Kearny, NJ 07032 (201) 991-2233; FAX (201) 991-1944; e-mail isoleyreed@aol.com Or see Val who has the form July 7-13, 2003

Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championships (KIOTAC), Kimberley, B.C. Info: KIOTAC, Box 473, Kimberley, B.C., VIA 3B9, Canada (250) 427-4547 or (800) 4-KIOTAC KIOTAC@monarch.net

> Saturday, July 12 BAAC Annual Picnic

Nature Friends Park, Oakland July 27-Aug. 1, 2003

14th Annual Galla-Rini Accordion Camp Held at the University of San Diego campus

Held at the University of San Diego campus Info: see Val, or call Kjell Holmes (858) 453-5486

BAAC Officers

President: Valerie T. Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@value.net Vice President: Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163 Treasurer: Bob Pisani

(650) 347-2559 grnduster@aol.com Secretary: Richard Schiller (510) 832-3002 richards38@aol.com

Directors

Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208 James Firpo (415) 648-3674 Ed Massolo (650) 589-8409 Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

BAAC MEMBERSHIP

\$25 per year for individual; \$30 per year for a family Mail check to B.A.A.C. P.O. Box 318175 San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

Ad Policy

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue; a business-card-size ad will cost \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; a quarter-page ad will cost \$10.00; a half-page ad will cost \$20.00; and a full-page ad will cost \$35.00. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$10. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-quoted prices



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THE BAAC PAGE

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

