

Vientos Bajos Codger

Activities in and around San Ramon

Vol. 4 Number 10

Published by Vientos Bajos, S.A.

Editor: John Buford/Janice Summers/Annie Burman

Phone: (506) 8530 6828

email: vientosbajos@gmail.com

October 2022

Activities and Upcoming Events (Details in newsletter)

Christmas Murder Mystery Madrigal Dinner (See below)

Music Groups (Membership Not Required) (On hiatus for October!)

- Weekly sessions for all music groups: ukuleles, recorders, bluegrass, B-flat instruments, chorus

Daily Activities (Membership Required)

- Pickleball (Reservations required—Join WhatsApp List)
- Gym 7AM–4PM
- Multi-Media Library 7AM–4PM
- Golf Simulator (Reservations required—Join WhatsApp List)
- Ping-Pong 7AM–NOON

Other Daily Activities (Membership Not Required)

- Walking Club, 7AM

Weekly Activities (Membership Required)

- Ping Pong 10 AM, SU, MO, TH (See below for sign-up info)
- Contract Bridge 1:30PM TUE (Join WhatsApp List)
- Beginning/Advanced Contract Bridge Class 1:30PM, THU
- Poker 1PM SAT (Join WhatsApp List)
- Sunday Cinema (SUN, 10:30 AM) (On Request)

Oktoberfest!! September 4, Sold Out, Gran Exito!

On Sunday, September 4, our many musical groups and our favorite Emcee, Milt Peterson, entertained a sold-out audience of 72 persons. Thank you for all who contributed food, time, and effort to make the day special. A special “hats off” to Jim and Kelly Watt for the apple pie, Shirley Anderson for the sauerkraut, Jennifer Blohn for the gluten-free cake, George Sapio and Maureen Stephens for the salad, and of course, to all our musicians who made the event special.



What's New? Upcoming Events

Christmas Madrigal Dinner and Murder Mystery! Sunday, December 11, 12 noon.

Join us for something old, something new. Although we're continuing with our tenth consecutive year of the Christmas Madrigal Dinner, this year has a twist—of a knife, you might say. Welcome to “A Knight of Murder.”

We'll begin as usual: procession of the court, welcoming of the houses, toasts, the boar's head carol, the wonderful pork chop meal, but things are guaranteed to go awry. And unlike previous years, there won't be a difference between performers and audience members. Everyone will participate! Sign up early to receive your role, and contact us about costuming. After we solve the murder, we'll still end the festivities with a Christmas song sing-along, so tune up your voices! Contact us at vientosbajos.com to get on the list!



PARTICIPATIVE MUSIC GROUPS

General information: During the month of October, many are traveling. Also, after all the work for Oktoberfest, many of us want to take a brief break from weekly music practices. Although group practices at VB will be in hiatus, we know many will be practicing their instruments at home. Below is what we'll be offering again in November.

All activities and practices take place at Vientos Bajos. We provide sheet music for all groups, and instruments for many. If you're interested in any of our groups, please contact us so we can put you on the special contact list. There is no charge to participate in any of the instrumental groups. Review the individual write-ups for the various groups below to see if you'd like to join us. Ukulele band meets on Wednesday mornings. All other groups currently are meeting Friday morning. Please contact us for more information.

Ukulele Band, 10:00AM, WED

No experience required. This is a fun, beginning music group. You do not need a music background to participate. A basic knowledge of ukulele or guitar chords is helpful, but not required. This is a backup sing-along group—we chord while our audience joins us for singalong songs. If you want to learn a musical instrument and spend some time socializing, this is your opportunity.



Bluegrass Band, 8:30 AM FRI

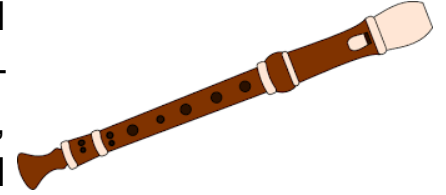
Experience required.

Our bluegrass band began playing together in 2021. We are a jam session but provide chord charts. We develop sets to play for various events. If you play any bluegrass instrument and can read chord charts, you're invited to join us. Please contact us if you're interested and let us know what instrument you'll be playing.



Recorder Ensemble, 9:30 AM FRI

Must read music. This group is for those who read music. Most of us were exposed to the recorder in the third or fourth grade. Even if you have never played the recorder, it's a fairly easy instrument to learn—if you read music. We currently have openings for all four parts—soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. We can provide a soprano, alto, or tenor recorder, but if you want to play bass, you'll need to provide your own instrument—or notify us so we can find one for you. On a scale of zero to 5, the music we choose is probably 1.5 to 2.0 level.



B-flat Instruments, 10:15 AM FRI

Must read music and have experience with a B-flat instrument. Any B-flat instrument; all musicians in the group should be able to read music and have experience with their instrument. Our sheet music is generally level 1.5 to 3.0. and we have sheet music for both bass and treble clef. We have an extra trumpet, trombone, and baritone for your use. If you need a different instrument, please let us know and we'll see what we can do.



Mixed Chorus

We're holding off until the new year, hoping everyone will feel more comfortable in getting together to sing. If you feel you can carry a tune, we'd love to have you join us. Reading music is not required, but extremely helpful. No formal musical training is required—just bring your voice and we'll go from there. We'll be singing unison or two-part numbers, and all music will be beginning-easy level. We're looking for all ranges—sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. If you don't know which you are, we'll figure it out for you.



DAILY ACTIVITIES

Pickleball: 3 sessions daily—8–10AM, 10:30AM–12:30PM, and 1:30–3:30PM

All signups via *SignUp Genius* limit play to two hours per signup time, and up to six players per signup time. All levels of players are welcome to sign up. If you're interested, please contact us to get on the *SignUp Genius* list.



Gym: 7AM–4PM



The gym is available for members and includes electronic as well as manual equipment.

Library: 7AM–4PM

Again, thank you to all who have contributed books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles. We continue to collect, and of course the library remains free to all members.



Golf Simulator: 7AM–4PM

Our golf simulator remains popular. We have recently added an additional 35 courses, giving us a total of 50 courses to play. Rick Reimer, our resident golf pro, will walk you through the use of the simulator. We have clubs available for all except men's LH. Play requires knowledge of the system, and Rick will be happy to set you up and accompany your initial play. Please contact Rick, rickreimer49@gmail.com to schedule a time if you want to try it out or join the league, now forming. Regular use is for golf club members only.



Ping Pong: SU, M, TH: 10 AM–Noon

Activities Room, third floor, Vientos Bajos. **Contact Kelly Bennett, +1-425-317-0812 to get on the list!**



Walks: 7AM (Membership Not Required)

Meet at the front gate of Jardin La Torre Monday through Saturday or call or email to be placed on the roster for longer, more challenging walks from different locations on Sundays.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays: Sunday Cinema.

General info: Cost is 2k CRC/person, free to VB members. Start time is tentative for 10:30 AM or 1:30 PM, upon request. Reservations are required and attendance is limited to 25. Children under 18 are not permitted without a parent. New titles will be announced weekly on our Facebook page.



Mondays: Ping Pong.

Tuesdays: Ping Pong 10 AM-12 PM; Contract/Party Bridge, 1:30–3:30 PM.

This is for those who want to spend a couple of hours together playing a little less competitive form of bridge than duplicate bridge. Play is more social than competitive. Please contact us beforehand if you want to play. We'd like to form groups in tables of four and would hate to have you come without having enough to complete a table. Those who have played bridge before or who have attended two or three sessions of our beginner group on Thursdays are welcome to join us.



Wednesdays: Ukulele Practice.

Thursdays: Beginner Contract Bridge Classes, 1:30-3:30 PM.

This is an ongoing class and we have openings for those wanting to learn the basics of contract bridge. This class is for those who may or may not have card-playing experience but have not played bridge before or have been away from the table for a very long time. Please contact us if you're interested so we can set up the correct number of tables.

Fridays

Music Groups, beginning 1 PM.

Saturdays: Penny-Ante Poker, 1–4PM.

If you want to get in on a big game, this isn't the one. The bets are small, but the fun is big. Feel free to come late or leave early. Please get on our WhatsApp list to ensure you're included for the "big" game.



Road Work, El Empalme

As we enter October, the heaviest part of the rainy season, Calle Empalme is in better shape than it has been for the past six months. With permission from the Village Chief, Braulio Salas, and financial assistance from our neighbor, Felicia

Stayner Sibaja, the JLT management has contributed to buying the culverts and gravel fill to better the situation. We also have bought several loads of mixed gravel and sand (lastre) to fill the many potholes. According to several reports, this year has seen a larger accumulation of rain than any of the previous forty years have seen. Because of this, the soil is saturated and we have not been able to lay asphalt. Once the roads dry out, we hope to offer you a better travel experience in the near future!



Left: lastre fill. Right: David Ugalde, JLT Work Foreman, leads the JLT work crew in culvert placement.

VIENTOS BAJOS—UNITS FOR RENT

We currently have two units available for rent. Minimum lease is six months, non-smokers please.

Heliconia Apartment (Vientos Bajos)

This two-bedroom, one-bath, 1,000-square-foot apartment, located on the fourth (top) floor of our activities center, Vientos Bajos, is now available. It provides drive-in, covered, secured parking. With a westward-facing patio, the apartment provides sunset views over Esparza, Puntarenas, the Gulf of Nicoya, and the Pacific Ocean. \$1,000/month, all utilities included.



Buganvilla Apartment (Vientos Bajos)

This two-bedroom, one-bath, 1,200-square-foot apartment, located on the third floor of our activities center, Vientos Bajos, is now available. This fully-furnished apartment, in addition to the usual amenities, also has a bathtub. It provides drive-in, covered, secured parking. With a westward-facing patio, the apartment provides



sunset views over Esparza, Puntarenas, the Gulf of Nicoya, and the Pacific Ocean. \$1,100/month, all utilities included.

*Vientos Bajos is a private activities center. Free membership for general activities and facility use is extended to owners and tenants of Jardin La Torre/Vientos Bajos. Membership, allowing entrance to all **activities**, is available for 10k CRC/month per person for those not owning or renting from the facility. The price of all **events** is based on our cost and applies to owners and tenants of JLT/VB as well as VB general members. The use of the golf simulator requires an additional membership fee and monthly dues for those not living at JLT/VB.*