



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 39, Number 1

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association

January 2011

www.scvfa.org

President's Message

by Richard Brooks



There's nothing historical about this month's banner. It's simply a bordered BlackChancery font.

Holiday potluck was a success

We can thank MaryAnn Clausen, Lee Clarke, Evelyn McCuiston and her daughter Lyn Gussin, and Jerry Wijnen for the great

success of our holiday potluck. There was food aplenty!

Revision to our bylaws

The proposed revisions to our bylaws (inserted in this Fiddler's Rag) will be presented for approval at our annual membership meeting at the February jam. If approved, they will be the most important changes to the SCVFA since the bylaws were written in 1975.

It took several years and numerous meetings of work to review, discuss, and edit them for your consideration. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the countless hours of work by Pete Showman, Dinah Showman, Paul Clarke, and John and Cynthia Lytle. We also thank attorney Mike Hall (NCBS) for his review.

Please look at the changes before the February meeting. Copies of the before and after bylaw changes are available online at.... [since removed].

December Trustee Meeting

The Trustees held a special meeting on December 12 to finish reviewing the proposed Bylaws revision. The main items of business were:

- The Trustee Nominating Committee presented a report
- Bylaws Committee presented, and the Trustees reviewed, the remainder of the proposed bylaws that were not covered at the November meeting
- The Trustees approved the proposed revisions, to be voted on by the membership in February.

The next regular Trustee meeting will be **January 16, 2011**. All SCVFA members are welcome to attend. Contact Richard Brooks for details and location.

Our success depends on YOU

Too few people are doing too many things. The current effort of a few folks is unsustainable.

PLEASE HELP! We especially need several officers to help with the association's operation:

- Newsletter Editor & content contributors
- Secretary or Treasurer
- Webmaster
- Youth Activity chairperson

The Fiddler's Rag is published monthly by the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association and is provided to members of the Association. The Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association (SCVFA), founded in 1973 in San Jose, California, is a nonprofit, volunteer-operated organization dedicated to the preservation, teaching, and enjoyment of traditional music. Memberships are \$15 per family per year. To join or extend your membership, send a check for \$15 to the address below, or sign up at the monthly jam.

Officers and Chairs

President	Richard J. Brooks
Vice President	OPEN
Treasurer	Janet Johnston
Membership	Pete Showman
Recording Secretary	Dinah Showman
Newsletter Editor	OPEN
Newsletter Publisher	Charlotte Prater
Webmaster	OPEN (Pete Showman, acting)
Playout Coordinator	Paul Clarke
Youth Activity	OPEN
Youth Fiddle Contest.....	Pete Showman & Sarah Kirton
Publicity	Shared
Calendar	Pete Showman
Jam MC	Evelyn McCuiston

Trustees

Paul Clarke	Norio Kawato
Pete Showman	Dave Williams
Charlotte Prater	Steve Joynes

To Contact the SCVFA:

Mail: P.O. Box 2666, Cupertino, CA 95015-2666
Email: President at scvfa.org Phone: (650) 328-3939

Newsletter Submissions & Comments:

Email: newsletter at scvfa.org
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Annual Meeting and Trustee Election

The SCVFA **annual membership meeting** will be held at 3:00 pm during the February 6th jam. There will be two main items of business:

- The annual Trustee election (see the candidates' statements below)
- Discussion of revised Bylaws adopted by the Trustees, followed by a membership vote to ratify or reject them. See p.3 and the Bylaws insert.

This is the members' annual chance to influence the SCVFA's direction. If you're a member, please join us, and vote! (Currently the adults and any children between 12 and 16 who are part of a member family may vote.)

Election of Trustees

SCVFA is managed by a board of six elected Trustees plus a President-Trustee who is appointed by the elected Trustees. Each year, two Trustees are elected to three-year terms.

This year positions 1 and 2, held by Pete Showman and Norio Kawato, are up for election. Pete has agreed to run again, while Norio has decided to retire from the board after serving two terms. The nominating committee has nominated Pete and Gorden Gibson. Their statements follow.

Candidates' Statements

Gorden Gibson

I worked for AT&T for over 40 years and joined the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association (SCVFA) as soon as I retired. I've been with the SCVFA for almost two years now and have heard wonderful music and picked up great guitar techniques from the jamborees and workshops.

Since retiring I teach children and adults how to play the guitar, on a part time basis, at these organizations:

- Metropolitan Adult Education Program
- Campbell Union High School District
- San Jose Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services
- Almaden Hills United Methodist Church (for about 2 years)

I have participated in the SCVFA in the following ways:

- I've attended SCVFA workshops
- I've performed at play-outs
- I've performed on stage at the jamborees
- I've helped out with the Beginners Circle (Slow Jam)
- I've participated in Trustee meetings
- I love bluegrass music.

As a Trustee I will give back all and more of what the SCVFA has given me. Bluegrass music is the best music I've ever heard and the SCVFA makes it happen

Pete Showman

My wife Dinah and I have been SCVFA members since 1977. After many years of enjoying the benefits of the Association, I got involved with the board in 1998 when I was appointed Secretary. I served as President from 2001 to 2007, and as a Trustee since then. I am also membership secretary, and have taken on other jobs at various times including youth program coordinator, contest chairman, calendar editor, webmaster – and interim co-editor of the newsletter.

The SCVFA has a good membership base, with a wide range of ages and musical interests. We are also in good financial condition, though we are being stressed somewhat by ever-increasing costs (such as the recent 24% increase in school rent). Our most critical challenge is getting more people involved: attending the jam regularly, and helping in leadership roles.

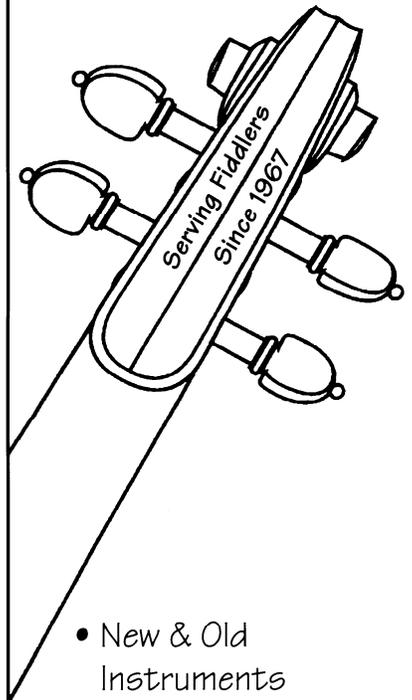
Good jam attendance helps us remain a dynamic organization – and also helps us pay the school rent. Sharing the work is key, too; we have too few people doing too many jobs.

If elected as a continuing Trustee, I will do my best to work with the rest of the board to get more people involved in both ways.

We need your help too. Invite your friends to come to the jam. And please consider volunteering, to help us keep the SCVFA going strong.

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SCVFA Bylaws Revision

Pete Showman, Bylaws Committee chairman

The SCVFA Bylaws are the rules under which we operate. Our Bylaws have not been changed since we were incorporated as a non-profit in 1975. Many things have changed since then, and the Bylaws really need to be updated.

As well as being the rules under which the organization operates, an important purpose of bylaws is to protect members' rights, and in the case of a non-profit association, to protect the public's interest as well. Several aspects are regulated by California law (we are a California non-profit "public benefit" corporation).

The Board of Trustees voted on December 12 to approve the enclosed revision, which will be voted on by the members at the annual membership meeting on February 6, 2011.

Please review this summary of changes, and look over the Bylaws text. We hope you will attend the annual meeting, raise any questions you may have, and vote to adopt the new Bylaws.

The enclosed Bylaws show the final text, but with grey background where the text is new or revised. (Omitted text is not shown, but can be seen on the markup version online).

For those who would like more detail, three PDF files are available on our website: [since removed]

- 1) the original Bylaws from 1975,
- 2) the new Bylaws with new text highlighted (same as what's enclosed with this newsletter, but full-size),
- 3) a markup "strikeout" version showing the wording changes in detail.

What's New?

Our overall purpose and structure remain the same. We have made several changes to match changes in California law, and to modernize and streamline some of the procedures described in the Bylaws. For example, we have reworded or expanded some sections to allow the use of personal computers and electronic communication – possibilities that did not exist in 1975.

The most significant change, and a key motivation to update the Bylaws, is the definition of a member. The original (current) Bylaws define both families and individuals as members, and allow individuals in member-families who are adults or between 12 and 16 to vote. Unfortunately there is no provision that allows us to know who all those people are! Among other things that means we don't know how many members we have – so cannot determine whether we have enough people at a meeting

for a vote to be valid, or whether all the voters are actually members.

To address that problem while remaining family-oriented, we followed the lead of some similar organizations. The new Bylaws define members as individuals. The first member in a household pays regular dues, and receives the newsletter. Additional members of the household can become members by paying a small additional dues amount, and will share the household's newsletter. All paid-up members may vote.

For the first time that allows us to know how many members we have, and clarifies who may vote.

Other changes include

- updates to be compliant with current California law,
- clarifying member and Trustee rights,
- protecting members' privacy,
- modernizing various procedures described in the bylaws, and making them more flexible,
- correcting a number of unclear items and typographic errors.

If you have questions about any of the provisions in the revised Bylaws, or the approval process (which is defined in our current Bylaws), feel free to contact me either via email or phone: membership@scvfa.org or (408) 255-0297



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**THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
BLUEGRASS SOCIETY**

www.ncbs.us

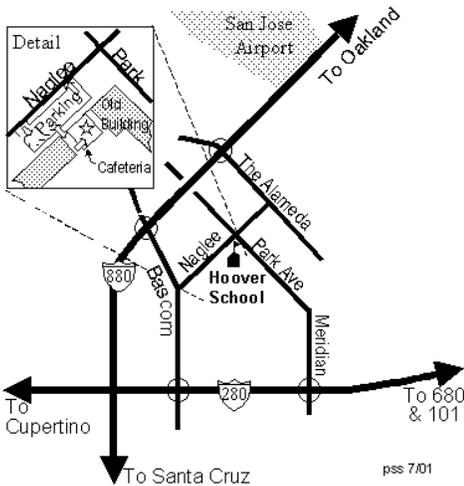
Since 1982 the Northern California Bluegrass Society has promoted bluegrass and old time music in the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay areas. This highly active club has nurtured the development of bands and venues. The NCBS hosts the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival each August, an event that solely features California bands. We sponsor festivals, concerts and jams all over the area. Members receive the Bluegrass By the Bay magazine each month. Please join us!

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
P.O. Box 2666
Cupertino, CA 95015-2666

SCVFA Jam on the first Sunday of each month.
 Location: Hoover Middle School, 1635 Park Ave.,
 San Jose. The school is at the corner of Naglee and
 Park. Cafeteria parking is on the Naglee side

**** SPECIAL BYLAWS EDITION ****
Next Jam: Sunday Jan. 2, 1-5 pm,
Hoover Middle School.

Damaged or Missing Issue? Call us,
or email to: newsletter at scvfa.org



January 2011 Calendar

👉 **Be sure to verify performers, times & dates before driving to an event, especially near holidays.** 👈

Weekly & Biweekly Events

- 1/2+ **Irish Session, O'Flaherty's Irish Pub**, 25 N. San Pedro St., San Jose, Sun. 5-8pm. No children. Pub: (408) 947-8007. Moderated session . +1/9, 16, 23, 30.
- 1/3+ **Old-Time Jam at Fandango Pizza**, 3163 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto; Mondays 7-9. Info: showman.org/jams/oti +1/10, 17, 24, 31.
- 1/4+ **Irish Slow Session, Stephen's Green Pub**, 223 Castro St., MV. Tues. 7:30-9pm. www.sfpipersclub.org. (Pub info only: 650-964-9151) +1/11, 18, 25.
- 1/4+ **Bluegrass at Sam's BBQ**, 1110 S. Bascom Ave., Campbell, 6-9pm. www.samsbbq.com or (408) 297-9151. Bands every Tues. & Wed. +1/5, 11,12, 18,19, 25,26.
- 1/5+ **Peninsula Banjo Band** Wednesdays 7pm. **Cabrito's Mexican Bistro**, 685 E. El Camino Real, SV. Info: (408) 993-BAND, www.peninsulabanjoband.org. +1/12, 19, 26.
- 1/5+ **Bluegrass Jam at Fandango** (see above) every Wed. 7:30-9. Info: www.fandangopizza.com +1/12, 19, 26.
- 1/6+ **South Bay Folks Acoustic Open Mike**, Mission City Coffee Roasting Co., 2221 The Alameda, Santa Clara; 7-10 every Thu.; www.SouthBayFolks.org. +1/13, 20, 27.
- 1/7+ **Bluegrass and Country at Mission Pizza** in Fremont, 7-10, featuring various SCVFA musicians. Info: (510) 651-6858, www.missionpizza.com. Most Fri. & Sat. +1/8, 14,15, 21,22, 28,29.

Monthly and Special Events

- 1/2 **SCVFA Jam & Open Mike: Hoover School** (see map), 1st Sundays, 1-5pm. www.scvfa.org; Richard Brooks. \$6 members / \$8 non-memb.; kids free.
- 1/12-16 **Portland Oregon Old-Time Music Gathering**: 5-day non-profit festival with shows, jams, easy square dances, workshops. www.bubbaguitar.com/festival.
- 1/16 **Sunnyvale Bluegrass Jam**, 3rd Sundays 1-5: Heritage Park Building, Sunnyvale Community Center (550 E. Remington). \$5. Info: http://tinyurl.com/CABluegrassJams
- 1/23 **CSOTFA Dist. 9 Jam**: 19806 Wisteria Ave., Castro Valley, 1:30 - 5pm, fourth Sun. of Jan.-Nov. Info: www.csotfa9.org.
- 1/23 **Santa Cruz Bluegrass & Old Time Jam**, 4th Sun. 1-5: Oceanview Park, Santa Cruz. Info: tinyurl.com/SCjam.
- 1/29-30 **Cloverdale Old-Time Fiddle Contest**, Cloverdale. *Registration and payment must be rec'd by Jan 14.* www.cloverdalehistoricalsociety.org/Fiddle_Festival.html, (see email link).

Coming Up

- 2/11-20 **NCBS San Francisco Bluegrass & Old-Time Festival**: many venues and dates. Info: www.sfbluegrass.org.
- 2/24-27 **CBA President's Day Music Camp**, Petaluma. Info: www.cbamusiccamp.org.
- 6/20-25 **Teen Celtic Music Camp**, Boulder Creek. www.communitymusicsschool.org.

Got events? Email us at calendar@scvfa.org. More at NCBS: www.scbs.org and at South Bay Folks: www.SouthBayFolks.org