



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 39, Number 6
Celebrating 38 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.scvfa.org or www.Fiddlers.org

June 2011
Next Jam: **June 5**



President's Message

by Richard Brooks

South County Special will be our Featured Performers on June 5. This group is made of veteran bluegrass performers all of whom are SCVFA members!

They will perform at 3:00 pm and the cost is included with the door admission price.

Auction Success

Our silent and "Dutch" auctions last month were a huge success. A big thank you to everyone who made donations and another hearty thanks for those who made purchases to help out the organization. We could have a future auction if enough new donations are made.

July 3 and August 7 in the Rose Garden Park

Our July 3 and August 7 jams will be in the Rose Garden Park – one and a half blocks down the street from the Hoover School. They've been a huge success for us and the community. Tell all your friends about it.

Since we don't pay rent, it's free for everyone. Help save some benches in the shade by getting there early – usually before 11 am. Bring your lunch and don't forget to bring suntan lotion and water.

We're More Than an Outside Jam

I'd like to see more musicians volunteer to play on stage for our listening audience. Some in our audience prefer to sit down and/or cannot easily walk around and stand up to enjoy the music. A 15-minute performance for those who are capable is not too much to ask for an entire afternoon of music fun. Some great musicians who attend regularly would be welcome on stage.

Page 1 Typo in May Issue

The new DVD of our last jam at the John Muir School was recorded ten years ago on May 6, 2001 (not 2011).

This historic 90-minute DVD has many folks on it who still come and others who are no longer with us. The video was recorded by Howard and Jeanette Jackson. It can be yours as our "thank you" gift for a \$15 donation.



Coming June 5: South County Special band will be our featured performers. LtoR: Linda Maki, Dave Magram, Mark Wardenburg, and Curtis Leslie – all SCVFA members!

Label Your Equipment with Identification

Be sure your instrument, equipment, or camera has identification attached. If left at the school, it makes it a lot easier to identify the owner.

We still have a black music stand without identification that remains unclaimed. If it's yours, contact me or Pete Showman.

Doing Less With Less

Without an editor, I've decided to continue to write only page 1 of the Rag and offer photos for acting co-editors Pete and Dinah Showman to decide what to include. I'd like our Rag to continue with relevant articles of interest to our members. Think about contributing a short article about your summer's music adventures and music festivals.

- Richard Brooks

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*Want to see more? We need help!
Volunteer to be the Editor (or to write articles)*

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. The first membership in a household includes the *Fiddler's Rag*; additional members sharing the newsletter are steeply discounted. To join, sign up at the jam or see www.fiddlers.org/join.

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Treasurer Janet Johnston
Membership Pete Showman
Recording Secretary Dinah Showman
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Newsletter Publisher Charlotte Prater
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Youth Activity OPEN (*P. Showman & R. Brooks, act.*)
Youth Fiddle Contest Pete Showman & Sarah Kirton
Publicity Shared
Calendar Pete Showman
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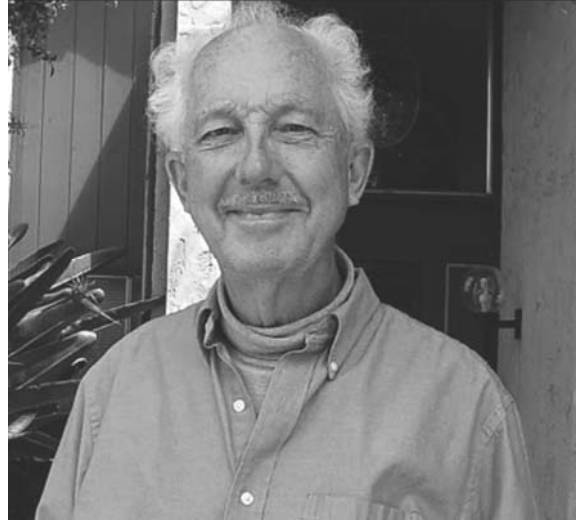
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Email: President at scvfa.org Phone: (650) 328-3939

Newsletter Submissions & Comments:

Email: newsletter at scvfa.org
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In Memoriam: Bill Wright



We were sorry to learn that Bill Wright passed away on March 24, 2011. Bill was a member of the SCVFA for over 20 years, until he and his wife Dolores moved to the Seattle, Washington area in early 2009. He served as our Membership Secretary under President Fritz Buell from 1993 through 2001. Bill joined us at the October 2010 jam during a visit to the Bay Area; it was nice to see him again.

Bill was a member of the University of Santa Clara class of 1950 engineers. He worked for Westinghouse from 1950 to 1989. Bill loved trains, playing banjo and traveling with Dolores in their RV.

Bill is survived by Dolores, his loving wife of 58 years, his children Randy, Mary Frances Wright and Nancy White, five grandchildren and a great-granddaughter, and his brother, James Wright.



At the May jam, *KidFiddle* student Clara Fleming performs with instructor Art Kee, with backup from Norio Kawato (above), then dances with Lee Clarke (right).

Richard Brooks photo



Pete Showman photo

SCVFA Happenings

Music Stand Still Unclaimed

At the March jam, someone left a black music stand. If it's yours, see Richard Brooks or Pete Showman.

Reminder: Dues Increase July 1


Remember that our first dues increase in over 10 years will begin July 1. The dues will be **\$20** for the first member in a household, and **\$2** for each additional member (regardless of age) sharing the newsletter. Renewals postmarked by June 30 will be accepted at the current \$15 rate (for any number in a household).

July and August Jams in the Park

The **July 3** and **August 7 jams** will be held in the Rose Garden Park, located about 2 blocks from Hoover School at Naglee Avenue and Garden Drive. No open mike. Then back to Hoover in September.

These jams are free, and nominally 1-5 pm as usual – but feel free to come early or stay late. Bring a picnic and come early to help “reserve” some picnic tables (each person can hold one table in San Jose parks).

**From Marin to Monterey, Tracy to Tiburon...
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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!

www.ncbs.us

Board Meeting Highlights

Dinah Showman, Secretary

The SCVFA Trustees met on May 15, 2011, and took the following actions:

- Agreed to encourage people playing outside at the jams to pay the door charge.
- Discussed strategies to encourage people to volunteer for small and large tasks to help SCVFA, and discussed the impact of having fewer volunteers on the organization's activities.
- Discussed ways to get the newsletter done in the absence of an editor.
- Heard report of upcoming SCVFA playouts in June at two senior centers.
- Reviewed tax filing requirements required of SCVFA.
- Discussed purchase of replacement sound equipment to have ready for September jam.
- Authorized holding a Youth Fiddle Contest (our tenth annual) in November, raising the upper age limit on entrants to include age 17.
- Discussed ways to reach out to schools to encourage students to participate in SCVFA.
- Discussed future planning for the organization and agreed to put together a questionnaire for jam attendees about what people like and don't like about the organization.
- Tentatively set July 24 as the next trustee meeting date, location to be determined.

Any SCVFA member is welcome to attend Trustee meetings. Contact Richard (president at scvfa.org) for more information.



Pete Showman photo

Arthur Kee and Jack Sadler demonstrate some sweet twin fiddling at the May jam.

Upcoming Events (continued from the event calendar on the back page)

7/29-8/6 **Lark Camp** World Music & Dance Camp, Mendocino. Many Instructors, styles. Mixed reviews. Info: www.larkcamp.com; Lark Camp, PO Box 1176, Mendocino, CA 95460.

7/29-30 **Redwood Dulcimer Day**: see box below.

7/31-8/7 **Rocky Mountain Fiddle Camp**, Estes Park near Denver. Week-long workshop with nationally-known instructors. Info: www.RMfiddle.com or 303-753-6870. Expected to sell out.

8/5-7 **Boonville Old Time Campout**: See box below right.

8/12-14 **Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival** Bolado Park, Hollister. Starts Friday 1pm. Info: www.scbs.org/events/gof.

8/13 **Ukiah Fiddle Contest**: 12:30 Sat. at the Redwood Empire Fair (www.redwoodempirefair.com). Info: Laura Smith.

8/13-14 **Saw Players' Picnic & Music Festival at Roaring Camp, Felton**. Sat. eve. potluck; festival Sun. 10-6 with contest 11am; workshop 4pm. Info: Morgan Cowin or www.SawPlayers.org.

8/26-9/3 **Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School**, Alasdair Fraser. Info www.valleyofthemoon.org, or (415) 566-4355.

9/1-5 **Strawberry Labor Day Music Festival**: Camp Mather, Sonoma, CA. Info: (209) 984-8630, www.strawberrymusic.com.

The 11th Redwood Dulcimer Day

The West Coast's only mountain dulcimer event, in a beautiful woodsy setting near Silicon Valley. It offers a full day of jamming plus organized workshops at all levels, featuring accomplished and nationally-known teacher/performers from near and far. See www.redwooddulcimerday.com for more information and event registration.

Workshops: Sat. July 30, 2011. Doors open at 9 am. 60 Verde Road, Bonny Doon, CA. Advance registration \$45, or \$55 at the door.

Faculty Concert: Friday July 29, 2011, 7:30 pm, at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, 125 Canterbury Drive, Aptos. Suggested donation at the door: \$15 (\$12 student/senior).

Questions? Peter Tommerup ... @ ...
or Ron Beardslee. ... @ ...

Boonville Old Time Campout revived?

Although the CBA has decided not to continue sponsoring the Boonville Old Time Campout, a group of dedicated participants plans to continue the tradition for 2011.

This year's campout is tentatively scheduled for **August 5, 6 and 7** at the Mendocino Fairgrounds in Boonville, CA. The event consists of tent camping and almost continuous old-time jamming. No official classes are being scheduled but people are free to organize specific jams (e.g. Charlie Poole tunes) which will be listed on an activities board.

The approximate fee will be \$60 per camper (depending somewhat on the number of people attending). If you are interested please contact Renna Ulvang, ... @ ...



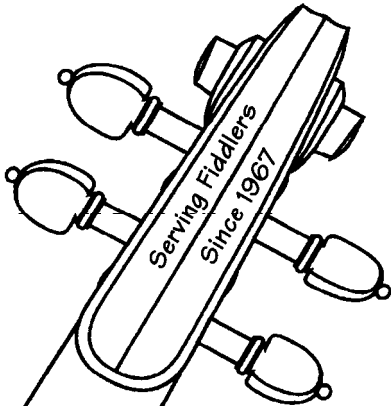
Richard Brooks photo

Warren Campbell, Barbara Ann Barnett, Pete Showman, Arthur Kee and Norio Kawato entertain at the May jam.

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The Association for Recorded Sound Collections

Joe Weed – In the Studio #42

I've just packed up to leave L.A. after presenting a couple of sessions at the annual conference of the Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC). ARSC is a music-focused but eclectic assemblage of record collectors, museum and library archivists and curators, musicologists, professors, recording studio professionals, authors, and hobbyists. The annual conference is packed with presentations about old cylinder recordings, 78s and LPs (with several featuring various types of traditional American music), the history of recording, best practices for maintaining collections, news of the recording industry, and many related topics.

This year, I showed my documentary "The Waltz to Westphalia," and later gave a presentation about the Blue Bonnet Music Company, the Texas record label that in 1946 was the first to release the "Westphalia Waltz."

A small number of the ARSC leadership are actively involved in helping to reform U.S. copyright law so that it will be more in line with the laws in Europe, and so that American museums and libraries can legally make digital copies of their rare collections before they deteriorate further. This is an important topic, but the RIAA (the trade association of the major record labels) has been stonewalling and fighting it for many years. Finally, Congress is beginning to realize the importance of the issue and is listening to

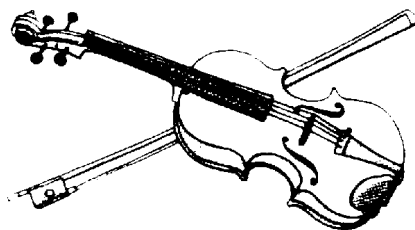
viewpoints other than those of the major record companies. Things are beginning to look better for the future of archived traditional American music.

If you are interested in recording history, or if you have a collection of old 78s or sheet music and you want to learn more about those subjects, then consider joining ARSC (it's not expensive) and even attending a conference. Next year's will be in May in Rochester, NY, nestled alongside the historic Erie Canal and the home of the Eastman School of Music.

See "Waltz to Westphalia"

At the Grass Valley Father's Day Bluegrass Festival in June, I'll be showing my film "The Waltz to Westphalia." I'm also giving a workshop on how to record acoustic instruments. I look forward to visiting with SCVFA members at the festival, and hope to see you at the film and/or workshop.

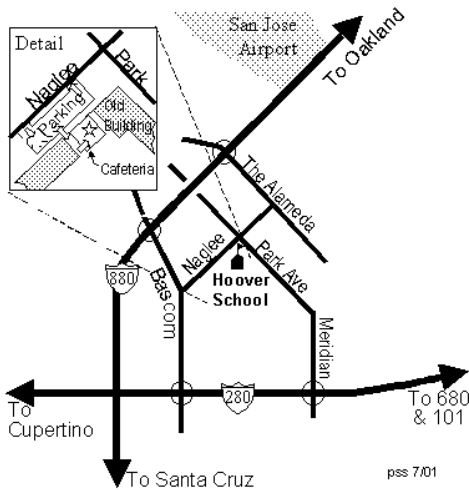
Joe Weed records acoustic music at his Highland Studios near Los Gatos, California. He has released six albums of his own, produced many projects for independent artists and labels, and does sound tracks for film, TV and museums. He recently produced "Pa's Fiddle," a collection of 19th-century American music played by "Pa" Charles Ingalls, father of Laura Ingalls Wilder, the author of the "Little House on the Prairie" book series. Reach Joe by calling (408) 353-3353, by email at joe@highlandpublishing.com, or by visiting joeweel.com.



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

Next Jam: Sunday June 5, 1-5 pm,
Hoover Middle School.
***South County Special* performs, 3 pm.**

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



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

June 2011 Calendar

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

- Weekly & Biweekly Events
- 6/1+ **Peninsula Banjo Band** Wednesdays 7pm. Cabrito's Mexican Bistro, 685 E. El Camino Real, SV. Info: (408) 993-2263, www.peninsulabanjoband.org. +6/8, 15, 22, 29.
 - 6/1+ **Bluegrass at Sam's BBQ**, 1110 S. Bascom Ave., Campbell, 6-9pm. www.samsbbq.com or (408) 297-9151. Bands every Tues. & Wed. +6/7,8, 14,15, 21,22, 28,29.
 - 6/1+ **Bluegrass Jam at Fandango Pizza**, 3163 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto every Wed. 7:30-9. www.fandangopizza.com +6/8, 15, 22, 29.
 - 6/2+ **South Bay Folks Acoustic Open Mike**, Mission City Coffee Roasting Co., 2221 The Alameda, Santa Clara; 7-10 every Thu.; signups at 6:45. www.SouthBayFolks.org; café info only: 408-261-2221. +6/9, 16, 23, 30.
 - 6/3+ **Bluegrass and Country at Mission Pizza** in Fremont, 7-10. Info: (510) 651-6858, www.missionpizza.com. Most Fri. & Sat. +6/4, 10,11, 17,18, 24,25.
 - 6/5+ **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. +6/12, 19, 26.
 - 6/6+ **Old-Time Jam at Fandango** (see above); Mondays 7-9. Info: showman.org/jams/oti . +6/13, 20, 27.

6/7+ **Irish Slow Session**, Stephen's Green Pub, 223 Castro St., MV. Tues. 7:30-9pm. www.sfpipersclub.org. (Pub info only: 650-964-9151) +6/14, 21, 28

- Monthly and Special Events
- 6/5 **SCVFA Jam & Open Mike: Hoover School** (see map), 1st Sundays, 1-5pm. www.fiddlers.org; Richard Brooks. \$6 members / \$8 non-memb., kids free.
 - 6/16-19 **Grass Valley CBA Fathers' Day Weekend Bluegrass Fest**: Info: www.fathersdayfestival.com.
 - 6/19 **Sunnyvale Bluegrass Jam**, 3rd Sundays 1-5: Heritage Park Building, Sunnyvale Community Center (550 E. Remington). \$5. Info: http://tinyurl.com/CABluegrassJams
 - 6/20-25 **National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest, Weiser, ID**. Third full week of June. www.fiddlecontest.com, 800-437-1280.
 - 6/25-26 **San Francisco Free Folk Festival**: classes, dances, concerts. Noon to 10pm Sat & Sun. Presidio Middle Sch., 450 30th Ave (at Geary), SF. Info: www.sffolkfest.org.
 - 6/26 **CSOTFA Dist. 9 Jam**: 19806 Wisteria Ave., **Castro Valley**, 1:30 - 5pm, fourth Sun. of Jan.-Nov. Info: www.csotfa9.org.
 - 6/26 **Santa Cruz Bluegrass & Old Time Jam**, 4th Sun. 1-5: Oceanview Park, Santa Cruz. Info: tinyurl.com/SCjam , groups.google.com/group/santacruzjam.

Coming Up
(Upcoming Events continued on page 4)