



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 41, Number 6
Celebrating 40 years

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

June 2013
Next Jam: June 2



President's Note

Everyone seemed to have a great time at the May 5 jam. Trustee Barbara Rosner did a fantastic job as jam manager and stage announcer.

Barbara and Pete Showman transported the PA system and desk supplies to and from the nearby storage locker about a mile away. Thank you.

Luke Abbott led another successful KidFiddle workshop with five youths and five adults getting on stage. Mary Kennedy, our Youth Activity Coordinator, deserves our appreciation for arranging this activity.

May 17 was Colonial Day at the Almond Elementary School in Los Altos. Thirteen dedicated members played for about seventy fifth graders in period dress. Angelina Cress, Alicia Cress, Cindy Dinga, Jena Rauti, Gary Breitbard, Dave Barton, John Durbin, Pete Showman, Warren Campbell, George Bradshaw, Paul Clarke, Lee Clarke, and I put on a great show. Lee had kids and adults dancing in lines and circles. It was a fun event we'll remember for a long time.

Our Community Performances (Playouts)

Our performances in the community (aka Playouts) are important activities that are both part of our mission as a community-benefit non-profit organization and a source of revenue. To make them easier to organize, we divided the responsibilities into three parts.

Trustee Dave Williams is willing to be our Performance Contact person. When we are asked to perform, Dave will find out the details (date, time, location, number of musicians, PA system, payment, etc.), and he will tell them about us and the type of music we can provide.

Several members are on an email list to be notified about dates, etc. If you would like to be on the list, let me know. Performances last about an hour and may be on weekdays or weekends.

Dave will email members on the list with the details and find out who wants to participate and who is willing to be Playout Leader for that event only. Before we can accept an invitation, one of the performers must agree to serve as leader for the event. People can take turns being the leader at different events.

The Playout Leader contacts the participants, finds out what tunes they know and like, and puts a set list together for a one hour show. Paul Clarke will post the information on our website, on the Performances page. They also arrange to get the PA system from the storage locker to the playout and back.

Volunteers can be a leader for **just that one time**. They are not committing to be the leader at other events.

We still need a Performance Outreach person to contact places where we have performed before and new places that might want us to play for them. Thanks to Paul Clarke, the list of our past performances and venues are posted on the Performances page on our website.

Newsletter Photos

If you enjoy seeing photos in the Rag, help take photos and email them to newsletter at fiddlers.org. You will be acknowledged if they are used.

Rose Garden Park jams

The July 7, August 4, and September 1 jams will be in the award-winning San Jose Rose Garden Park. Our cost is lower because there's no rent to pay, so we don't charge admission. It's a great community event, so spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors!

Future Activities

What activities would you like to have at our monthly jams? In the past, we've had a band scramble, a silent auction, a featured performer program of local talent, and even major concerts by well known artists.

- Richard Brooks



In This Issue:	Page
President's Message	1
Playout and Jam photos	2
SCVFA Happenings (special sale at the June jam; back issues online; upcoming jams)	3
Music Notes by Allan French (Recycling Instruments, Music in Movies).....	4
Tune: Goodbye Girls, I'm Going to Boston.....	5
Photos: the May Jam	6
Photos: Colonial Day at Almond Elementary... ..	7

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.

Officers and Chairs

President-TrusteeRichard J. Brooks
 Vice President OPEN
 Recording SecretaryDinah Showman
 TreasurerJanet Johnston
 Membership SecretaryPete Showman
 Newsletter EditorOPEN (*Pete Showman, acting*)
 Newsletter PublisherCharlotte Prater
 Performances ContactDave Williams
 PublicityOPEN
 WebmasterPete Showman
 Youth Activity CoordinatorMary Kennedy
 Youth Fiddle Contest Chair, 2013OPEN

Trustees

Seat 1: Pete Showman Seat 2: Barbara Rosner
 Seat 3: George Bradshaw Seat 4: Charlotte Prater
 Seat 5: Dave Williams Seat 6: Tom Clausen

To Contact the SCVFA:

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

Newsletter Submissions & Comments:

Email: newsletter at fiddlers.org

Website: www.scvfa.org or www.fiddlers.org

Copyright 2012, Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association

**From Marin to Monterey, Tracy to Tiburon...
 ...we're in the heart of bluegrass country**



**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 quarter. Please join us!



Cindy Dinga photo

Angelina Cress and Dave Barton warm up before the SCVFA playout at Almond Elementary School



Barbara Rosner photo

Our old friend **Bill Hall** on stage at the May 2013 jam. Welcome back, Bill! Good to hear Sierra Swing again.

SCVFA Happenings

June Jam: Special Sale, Desk Help

Charlotte Prater will need help at the back desk at the June jam because several of the usual staffers won't be there. She plans to defer doing membership renewals until 3:00, when handling admissions usually tapers off. But she could use some help – so if you're willing to put in a 1-hour shift to help with admissions or membership, let her know.

Cassettes for the Cause – a Fundraiser

Allan French will conduct a special sale to benefit the SCVFA. Allan writes:

Many of us grew up on cassette tapes, either the 8-track variety or the more common miniature reel-to-reel type. (Many people had a trove of vinyl platters too, but that's another story.) In recent years, I've been buying and listening to CDs exclusively. At the June jam, I will bring the remainder of my collection of audio tapes, to be sold as a fundraiser for the SCVFA. Several people have contributed additional tapes, so there will be more than one hundred tapes available!

Among the more notable items are a 6-tape collection of Stanley Brothers recordings, most still in the cellophane wrapping; 2 unused tapes of Dale Ann Bradley; 2 tapes of old-time fiddler Les Raber; 2 unopened Agatha Christie audio-books and 1 "Artemis Fowl" young adult novel (I was a "Harry Potter" fan when I got it); and the complete "School House Rock" 1970's public television series. Three "Case Logic" storage cases are available. I have lots of blank CDR's available, so you can record your tapes onto modern media, if you wish. Plus, I'll bring a tripod, a monopod, and several extra "quick release plates"; and also a cardboard guitar case.

Add some classics to your collection and help the SCVFA at the same time.

Did you know?

Back issues of the Fiddler's Rag are available on our website, www.fiddlers.org. All 2011 and 2012 issues are posted, along with January-May 2013.

Issues are typically posted a couple of months after the print edition is available. (We're a little ahead of schedule this month.)

Trustee Meeting Highlights

The SCVFA Board of Trustees met May 19, 2013, and took the following actions:

- Authorized funding for a Youth Fiddle Contest to be held in November if sufficient help is found.
- Made plans for the July, August and September jams at the Rose Garden Park (June jam to be held at Hoover).
- Discussed the recent SCVFA playout (performance) at Almond School Colonial Day in Los Altos and agreed that it was a success.
- Considered ways the playout (performance) coordinator job could be handled, so that we can continue to offer performances to other groups. These performances help carry out our mission of furthering participation in and enjoyment of traditional fiddle music and also generate funds for SCVFA.
- Reviewed storage locker packing plan (plan for placement of items in storage locker) for efficient usage.
- Considered getting lighter-weight, folding mike stands and will research this further.
- Agreed to look into other insurance options for SCVFA's events.
- Agreed to postpone for awhile the consideration of e-delivery of the newsletter.
- Agreed to continue to offer the Featured Performers program at our jams when we can. The next available date is the October jam.
- Set July 21 as the next tentative trustee meeting date.

Dinah Showman, Secretary

Trustee meetings are open to all SCVFA members. They are usually held on 3rd Sundays of odd-numbered months (subject to change depending on conflicts). If you'd like to attend a meeting, contact Richard Brooks: President@fiddlers.org.

Upcoming Jams

The **June jam** will be our last at Hoover until fall. As usual the **July and August jams** will all be held at the Rose Garden park. This year we've also decided to hold the **September jam** there on Labor Day weekend.

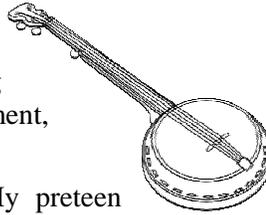
Then in **October** we'll return to Hoover School with a *KidFiddle* workshop and a Special Performer.

Music Notes

by Allan French

Recycling Instruments

Some of you may know that my Lyle banjo was originally donated to the SCVFA for fundraising purposes. I got a lot of benefit from that instrument, before upgrading earlier this year.



I will be keeping the instrument for now. My preteen nephew seems to have a slight interest in music, and I'll let him use it this summer when he visits. (He owns a toy-type guitar and a fluorescent orange plastic recorder/flute; and I'm hoping to upgrade his taste in instruments.) During past visits he's been intrigued by my dulcimer and banjo, so I'm hoping he's old enough that I can effectively teach him something. This may almost be like "the blind leading the blind" ... but he doesn't need to know that.

Allan also hopes June jam attendees will help him "recycle" by buying some of the music cassettes and accessories he's donating for a sale. See page 3.

Allan submitted several items originally published in the CBA's "Bluegrass Breakdown" (see www.cbaontheweb.org/breakdown.aspx), that he wrote between 2009 and 2012. The following is one of them.

The Foxes (Music in Movies)

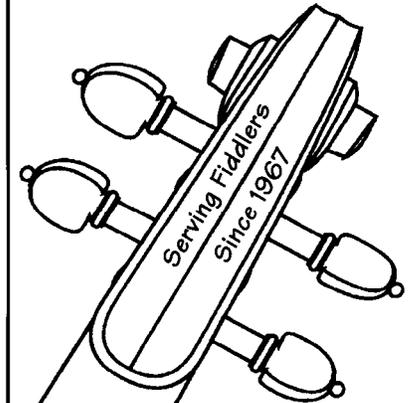
By the time you read this [*when this was originally published several years ago*], "The Fantastic Mister Fox" will have come out on video. I never did see it in the theater as I'd planned, but I'm going to watch the DVD. Besides its musical characteristics (including a singing banjoist, yay!), it seems to be a fun film for all ages. To quote one online commentator, "it has a definite 'Wallace and Gromit' sensibility about it." It was based on a story written by Roald Dahl, famous for "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and for "James and the Giant Peach." This movie was produced by the studio also named Fox.

Another fox that is worthy of your movie-watching time is Jamie Foxx, starring in 2009's "The Soloist" – based on the true story of a homeless man who was once a Juilliard cellist and violinist. Again, I've only seen the trailers and heard a "Fresh Air" discussion of it, but it seems compelling enough, and it features a whole bunch of talented guitar players (but no banjos).

How about one more movie (but without a fox)? A while back, looking through a rack of videos on display, I was drawn to the "August Rush" movie by its cover image: a guitar-playing street kid and his beautifully-decorated instrument. Robin Williams plays the bad guy who tries to make money off the young man's prodigious talents. When I later watched the trailer online, I kept thinking of our hotshot teens and how they would have showcased their own skills while busking, out on the mean streets somewhere. The guitar-playing actor (Freddie Highmore) was credibly realistic, but his portrayal of an orchestra conductor was appalling. I blame that on the "technical advisors" that failed to properly train him; he looked like a twerp waving a glow-stick, not someone conveying vital information to a dozen classically-trained musicians.

KAMIMOTO STRING INSTRUMENTS

"Fiddles
for
Every Style..."



- New & Old Instruments
- Repairs & Restorations
- One-hour bow rehairing (by appt.)
- Rentals: Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass

Hours: Mon-Sat 10:00 - 5:30

[408] 298-8168
www.kamimotostrings.com

609 North Fourth Street
San Jose, CA 95112

[800] 892-3199

Fax: [408] 298-8198

Goodbye Girls, I'm Going To Boston

G and G mixolydian

(square/danceable version)

Traditional

♩ = 100

5

9

13

Typeset in ABC by Pete Showman 2/17/2012 (r1).

Goodbye Girls, I'm Going To Boston

G mixolydian

(crooked/uneven version)

Traditional

♩ = 95

This crooked, modal version is from
Brian Sullivan and Lisa Johnson

7

11

17

Transcribed and arr. by Pete Showman; rev 2: 8/19/2012

A note at www.banjohangout.org/archive/175137 mentions a 1917 recording of a crooked version from Kentucky fiddler Hillard Smith. You can hear Brian and Lisa's recording, from which this was transcribed, at harmonias.com/our-music/Goodbye_Girls,_I'm_Going_to_Boston.mp3 (note that's not "harmonicas").

MIDI files for both versions are available at www.showman.org/Tunes/

Photos from the SCVFA Jam, May 2013



Richard Brooks photo

Luke Abbott (right) led our May *KidFiddle* workshop. This time Youth Activity Coordinator **Mary Kennedy** arranged for the parents to participate too, providing backup for their kids.



Richard Brooks photo

Full stages, first with (L-R) **Luke Abbott** (fiddle), **Colleen Lethridge** (guitar), **Rich Pizzorno** (guitar), **Barbara Rosner** (bass), **Ralph Stark** (guitar), **Dennis Gale** (banjo) and **Peter Forrest** (guitar)...



Richard Brooks photo

... and then (L-R) **Norio Kawato** (guitar), **John Booth** (guitar), **Arthur Kee** (fiddle), **Ryan Lim** (bass), **Trevor Murphy** (mandolin), and **Jim True** (guitar).

Colonial Day at Almond Elementary School

We had a great time playing and singing for about 70 enthusiastic students at Almond Elementary School's "Colonial Day" on May 17, 2013. (More pictures on page 2 and the outside cover.)



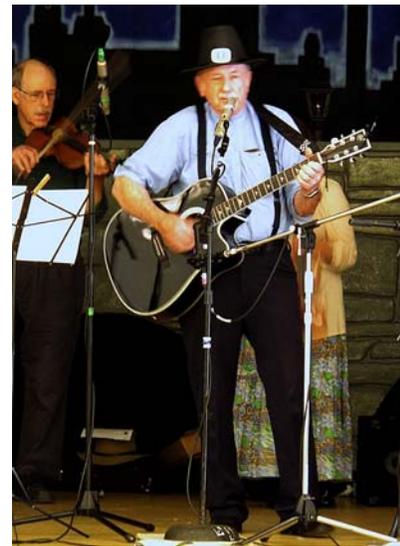
Richard Brooks photo

We were impressed that the kids in our audience were in colonial-style costumes.



As usual, **Lee Clarke** (2nd from left) got most of the kids and (here) several of the adults to dance to our music

Kathy Cress photos



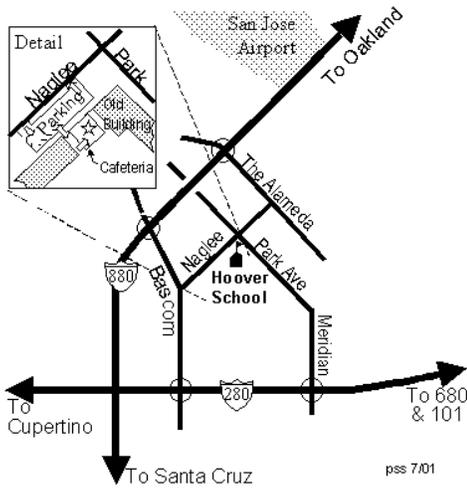
Warren Campbell singing "The Old Spinning Wheel."

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

**Next Jam: Sunday June 2, 1-5 pm
at Hoover Middle School**

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**



Kathy Cress / Richard Brooks photo

SCVFA Musicians perform at Almond Elementary School's Colonial Day. L-R: Paul Clarke, George Bradshaw, Warren Campbell, John Durbin (behind Richard), Richard Brooks, Pete Showman, Alicia Cress, Dave Barton, Angelina Cress, Cindy Dinga, Gary Breitbard and Jena Rauti.