



# Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 42, Number 1  
Celebrating 40 years

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

January 2014  
Next Jam: Jan. 5



## President's Note

Our holiday potluck and jam in December were wonderful. Special thanks are owed to **Cheri Palasek** and **Lee Clarke** for organizing it and buying the great table decorations.

We can also thank **George Bradshaw**, **Paul Clarke**, and

**Barbara Rosner** for bringing the supplies to the jam; **Naomi Dumont**, **Doniella Dumont**, **Paul Clarke**, and **me** for cleanup and returning the supplies to the storage locker; **Cheri**, **Lee**, **Karen Bradshaw**, and **Charlotte Prater** for setting up the tables and decorations; and as usual, **Janet Johnston** and **Charlotte Prater** for their hard work at the desk.

This jam had triple fiddles galore! One group had fiddlers Billy Smith, Arthur Kee, and Jean Avram, and another had Billy, Arthur, and John Sellers. Two year old Jessie Geren delighted everyone with her singing. She's Tom's daughter and Arsie's great granddaughter.

### What will 2014 be like for the SCVFA?

As we start 2014, it is your opportunity to tell me what you want for our future. What programs should we continue or discontinue? Is there something new to do?

How important is it to have a PA system on stage? Is it important enough for you to *help* transport it to the jam from the storage locker about one mile away? It should be a responsibility shared by members, not just that of our six trustees and me. There are only nine or ten jams at the school each year, so it would be very infrequent if enough people volunteered to help.

Is it important that we have youth programs like our KidFiddle workshops and youth fiddle contest? Maybe it is if you're a parent of a young fiddler. Is SCVFA's future just a bunch of jamming adults? That won't result in organizational longevity. What new strategies should we consider? Who will volunteer to make it happen?

What about our community outreach? We're supposed to be a community-benefit non-profit. But no one is helping to do outreach that could also be a strategy for attracting youths and new members. No one has volunteered to spend a couple of hours a month to inquire about performing in the community at senior centers or at music events or at arts fairs. Seniors loved

hearing us perform and it was often the highlight of their day. Our performances are also a source of income.

What about some of the fun things we did in the past like our band scramble and silent auction? If you enjoyed participating in these events, then consider volunteering to lead them. It's a little work, but not a lot.

Do you enjoy reading the Fiddler's Rag every month? How important is the music that Pete includes? Do you think photos make it more enjoyable and personal? Music and photos show non-members what we're about. Take some photos and email them to us (see page 2).

Your newsletter articles would be a welcome addition. If you go to a music camp or concert that you enjoyed, how about writing a few paragraphs about it for all of us to read. Writing style is not that important and Pete, our interim editor, can edit it if needed.

What do you think of our website? How can it be improved?

Do you use the Amazon link on the lower left side of our website to make Amazon purchases? We get a small referral commission that costs you nothing when you use that link. The commissions make a difference.

Our board meetings are open to all members. They are usually on the third Sunday of odd-numbered months from 2-5 PM. You can make a difference by attending.

### Audio CD of Youth Fiddle Contest

Would you like to have an audio CD of the entire youth fiddle contest on December 1 as our gift for a \$10 donation to the SCVFA? If there is enough interest, I could make these CDs available at a future jam.

- *Richard Brooks*

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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](http://www.fiddlers.org/join).

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 Treasurer ..... Janet Johnston  
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 Newsletter Publisher ..... Charlotte Prater  
 Performances Contact ..... Dave Williams  
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**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

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Richard Brooks photo

Former SCVFA President **Paul Clarke** is well known for his fine banjo playing, but he's now a fiddler, too.

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**Remembering Pat Maximoff**

We were sorry to learn that former member Pat (Patten) Maximoff passed away in early December at the age of 89. Pat was mainly a classical violinist (and actress and author, we just learned), but she attended our jams when she was able, and enjoyed learning to play fiddle tunes.



Pat was involved in many activities besides SCVFA, including the Peninsula Symphony and the AAUW (American Association of University Women). Through the latter connection she arranged for SCVFA to be featured on a weekly AAUW TV program on KMVT in Mountain View. Several of us assembled at the studio to play tunes and discuss SCVFA for the show, which was broadcast on local cable channels in early 2008.

Pat's husband Bob Maximoff was an amateur videographer who videotaped one of our Youth Fiddle Contests; he passed away two years earlier.

## SCVFA Happenings

### Trustee Election in February

As usual, we'll have our annual Member Meeting at the February jam. The main item of business is election of two trustees to three-year terms. (There are six elected trustees, with two elected each year so their terms overlap.)

The board of trustees has nominated two candidates for 2014-2017: Pete Showman (incumbent) for seat 1 and Élan Alford for seat 2.

### Candidates' Statements

#### Pete Showman

Pete writes that he and his wife Dinah have been SCVFA members since 1977. After many years of enjoying the benefits of the Association, he got involved with the board in 1998 when he was appointed Secretary. He served as president from 2001 to 2007, and as a trustee since then. He's also membership secretary, and has taken on other jobs at various times including youth program coordinator, contest chairman, calendar editor, webmaster – and is currently in his 15<sup>th</sup> month as “interim” newsletter editor.



Pete notes that SCVFA has a good membership base, with a wide range of ages and musical interests. “Our organization is in good financial condition, in spite of ever-increasing costs. Our most critical challenge is getting more people involved, both 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 and related jam costs. Sharing the work is key, too; we have far 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.”



#### Élan Alford

Élan Alford writes that she is a banjo player, but she didn't start out as one. She grew up playing percussion and baritone horn in her school band and bells at church back in Pennsylvania. Élan's first banjo came as a high school graduation gift from her mother.

After taking a few Scruggs style lessons, Élan let her banjo playing languish for many years during her college and graduate school days. However, despite this neglect, she managed to teach herself clawhammer style and had informal jams with a few guitar playing friends toward the end of her time in grad school.

After her move to California in 2012, Élan decided to devote more time to the banjo and use it as an instrument (pun intended!) to meet new people. Élan found the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association through a web search and decided to come and check the group out. As typical for this group, folks at the SCVFA made her feel right at home! With an invitation to come back next month, along with invitations to try out other groups as well, Élan ended up getting the old-time bug.

On her most recent visit back to the East Coast, Élan made her first banjo from a kit, so that she has a banjo to play when she goes back east (see photo). Élan enjoys coming to the monthly SCVFA meetings, playing old-time with new friends, learning songs at the beginners circle, and seeing great performances on the main stage. Élan is looking forward to helping SCVFA members by serving as a trustee – and asks you to please let her know how she can help you.

#### Additional Nominations

The Bylaws also permit other nominations by written petition. See the November Fiddler's Rag for details.

**Acoustic Music and the Golden Globe Awards** by Allan French

In October, I mentioned two movies coming out soon, each with significant acoustic music elements. Each has been nominated for the 2014 Golden Globe awards. The awards event will be held on Sunday, January 12.

“Twelve Years A Slave” (7 nominations) features a fiddler in the title role. It is based on the true story of a free black Northerner (a literate man, a carpenter and fiddler/violinist) who was kidnaped and sold into slavery in 1841.

“Inside Llewyn Davis” (3 nominations) was directed by the Coen brothers, and stars John Goodman and Justin Timberlake. IMDb describes it as “a week in the life of a young singer as he navigates the Greenwich Village folk scene of 1961.”

**December Potluck Photos**



Allan French photo

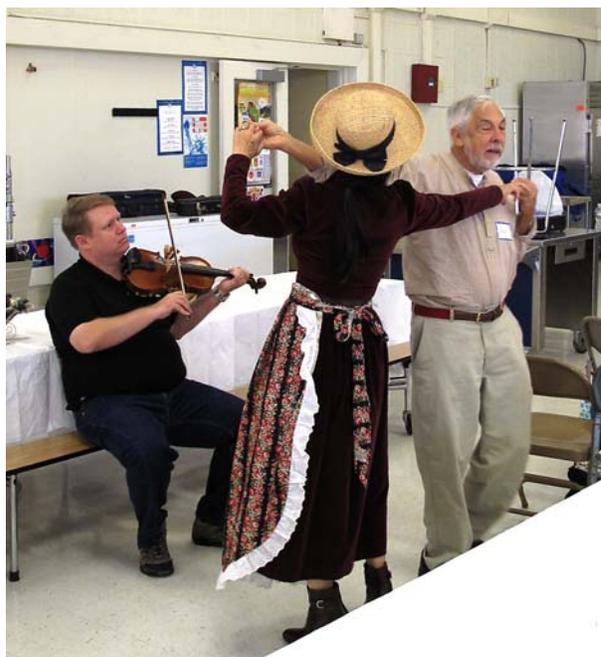


Richard Brooks photo

Above left: potluck organizer **Cheri Palasek** arranges food at the serving table.

Above right: Two year old **Jessie Geren** sings. Jessie is Arsie Bigby’s great-granddaughter and our youngest member.

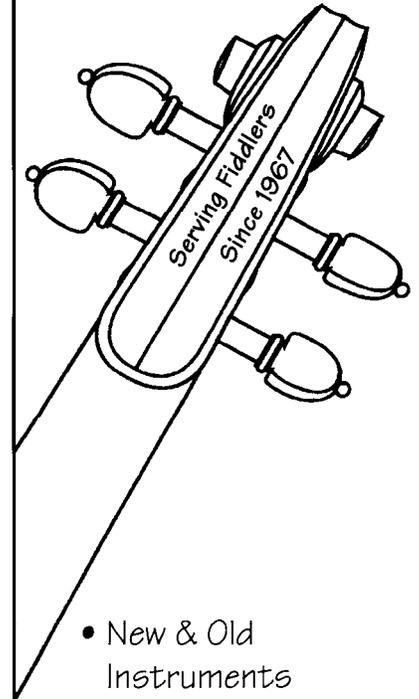
Right: **Eric Berseth** plays for **Gary Breitbard** and potluck co-organizer **Lee Clarke**.



Richard Brooks photo

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Keys: D mix / D Maj

# Damon's Winder

Traditional; as Pete learned it at the Monday night old-time jam

♩ = 90

At the Monday night old-time jam we usually play it starting with the low part. Very similar to Marmaduke's Hornpipe except for the C naturals and minor chords in meas. 3 & 4 (see notes in the Portland Collection).

Transcribed & arr. by Pete Showman 1/28/11; rev 4 11/12/13

Keys: D Maj / D mix.

# Damon's Winder

Based on a Bruce Molsky transcription (high part first)

♩ = 90

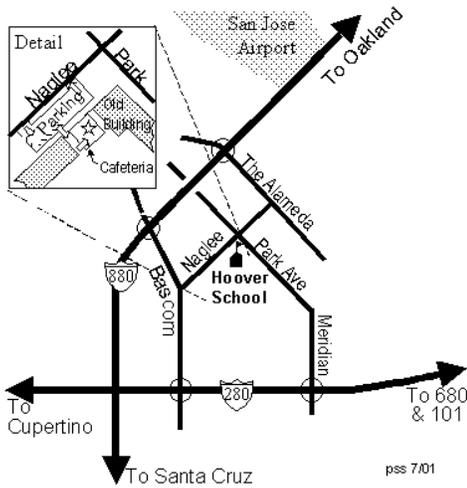
Ceolas.org and the Portland Collection note this is almost the same as *Marmaduke's Hornpipe* except for the C natural in meas. 11 & 12. It was recorded as Damon's Winder in 1934 by Kentucky fiddler J.W. Day under his pseudonym, Jilson Setters. Kerry Blech explains a winder is a type of dance-set in Kentucky, where the figure winds about.

Melody transcribed by John Lamancusa; arr. & re-typeset by Pete Showman 1/25/11; rev 3: 8/15/12

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

**Next Jam: Sunday Jan. 5, 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**

*Happy New Year*



Richard Brooks photo

Entertainers at the Holiday Potluck (L-R): **George Bradshaw, Dorian Martinka, Susan Goodis, Barbara Rosner (bass), Bob Palasek, Chip Curry and Dave Barton.**