



# Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 43, Number 2  
Celebrating 41 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association  
[www.scvfa.org](http://www.scvfa.org) or [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org)

February 2015  
Next Jam: Feb. 1



## President's Note

It was great to see everyone enjoying our first jam of the year on a bright and sunny day. Fiddle teacher Dave Barton led another successful Beginners Circle.

Toph Heath led his version of a new jam for beginning to advanced beginners who can play chords at a steady rhythm. If attendance is any measure of success, he's hit the right chord.

Pete Showman and Richard Grace deserve our thanks for bringing our supplies from the storage locker to the jam. Pete was also our jam manager. Thank you both.

## Annual Membership Meeting in February

It is very important that you attend our annual membership meeting at 3 PM to elect or reelect trustees to three year terms. Trustees Susan Goodis and Dave Williams have agreed to serve again if elected. I will give a summary of the state of our association. Trustees will also appoint a president and the officers.

## Sign Up at the Desk to Help at the Storage Locker

We **really** need help at the storage locker to bring our supplies and equipment to the jam. It's not difficult but one car is not enough. A signup sheet will be at the desk. Loading takes 15-20 minutes and driving to the jam takes only 10 minutes. Without help, we'll bring our "minimal" system (1 speaker, no monitors, etc.).

## First-Time Visitors Can Get Free Door Admission

Members can bring first-time visitors for free door admission in February and April through June. Guests must be accompanied by a member. We hope you bring your friends, family, and neighbors.

## Share Your Photos

Share your photos and we will include your name if they are used in the Rag. Email them to our editor at newsletter at fiddlers.org.

## Amazon Buyers

On the lower left side of our [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org) website we have a link to Amazon. If you click on it to go to Amazon, we get a small commission if you make a purchase. It costs you nothing and it really helps us.

- Richard Brooks

## Coming March 1: Blaine Sprouse

On March 1, bluegrass fiddler **Blaine Sprouse** will teach a fiddle workshop for intermediate to advanced fiddlers and give a concert.



Blaine Sprouse

The workshop is limited to 30 attendees (first come, first served). The adult door admission to the jam and concert will be \$15; if that is more than you can afford, please see me to discuss a discount. Youths will be \$5.

The workshop is an additional \$10 for all participants. See the flyer on page 4 for more information.

At the one hour workshop, you will learn new tunes and traditional fiddling techniques to use in jam sessions including backup techniques, double stops, how to improve your tone, how to rhythmically "drive" a fiddle tune, and how to play in different keys. Time permitting, he will teach old-time Appalachian mountain tunes, and classic Bill Monroe and Kenny Baker tunes.

Blaine currently performs with the Peter Rowan band, Roland White Band, and James Reames and the Barnstormers. He is a sought-after instructor and teaches workshops throughout the U.S.

He has been on the Grand Ole Opry and played with Bill Monroe, Jimmy Martin, Osborne Brothers, Jim and Jessie, Charlie Louvin, Jerry Douglas, Béla Fleck, Roland White, and many Nashville session musicians.

Visit [BlaineSprouseMusic.com](http://BlaineSprouseMusic.com) for more information about his musical endeavors.

- 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).

#### Officers and Chairs

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News Editor .....	(Pete Showman, acting)	Youth Fiddle Contest	Pete Showman

#### Trustees

Seat 1: Pete Showman	Seat 3: George Bradshaw	Seat 5: Dave Williams
Seat 2: Élan Alford	Seat 4: Charlotte Prater	Seat 6: Susan Goodis

#### To Contact the SCVFA:

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 Email to Richard Brooks: president at fiddlers.org Phone: (650) 328-3939

#### Newsletter Submissions & Comments:

Email: newsletter at fiddlers.org

Website: [www.scvfa.org](http://www.scvfa.org) or [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org)  
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### RBA concert news by *Patrice Tanti*

The **RBA** (Redwood Bluegrass Associates) kicked off its 2015 concert season Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup> with a remarkable 2-hour performance by **The Tuttlés with A.J. Lee** and special guest fiddler **John Mailander**. The sold-out audience at the First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View was in for a concert full of surprises. First the news that Jack's daughter Molly is moving to Nashville and launching her solo music career at the end of January. There were a number of old and new tunes from both Molly and A.J. Lee, including A.J.'s title from her new CD "A Song for Noah" as well as a touching homage to Jerry Garcia with "Ripple" from **The Grateful Dead**, all supported by John's superb fiddle improvisational style. But the biggest hit came from Jack's eldest son Sullivan, a UCSC student (photo below right). Up until now, Jack's sons have been performing instrumentally only to support their sister and A/J. So when Sullivan delivered "Voices from My Mind" with a distinct, gifted voice, powerful lyrics and guitar arpeggios, the crowd went nuts. There is surely more to come from this young man. We will be watching his younger brother and mandolin player Michael as well.

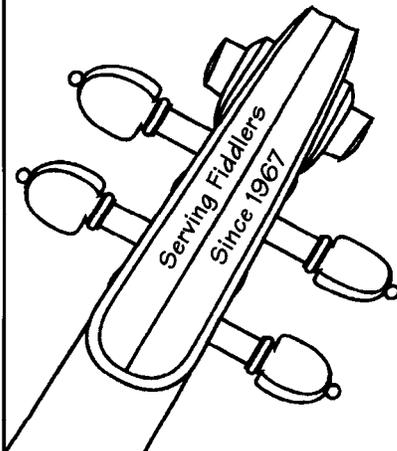


Photos: Patrice Tanti

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## SCVFA Happenings

### New Fiddler's Rag Editor

I'm pleased to announce that starting with the March issue, Patrice Tanti will take over as Editor. In fact Pat as already begun, having done two pages of this issue. We'll let him introduce himself next month.

### Annual Meeting & Trustee Election

Reminder: the SCVFA annual member meeting and election will be held beginning at 3 pm during the February jam. Anyone is welcome to attend, but only SCVFA members in good standing (i.e., dues paid up) may vote.

We will elect two trustees to three-year terms. There are two nominees: incumbents **Dave Williams** (seat 5), and **Susan Goodis** (seat 6). See the January issue of the Fiddler's Rag for the candidates' statements.

After the election President Richard Brooks will give us an update on the state of the association, and provide an opportunity for questions and suggestions.

### Slow Jam Tunes for February

Topher Heath writes: Here is the song list for February.

A Boil Them Cabbage Down  
G Girl I Left Behind Me  
C John Henry  
G Kesh Jig, The  
D Liberty  
A Old Joe Clark  
D Soldier's Joy  
G Worried Man Blues  
C Wildwood Flower

Here are some links for learning the two new songs. And of course if you have your own sources that is great, too!

- John Henry: [bluegrasslyrics.com/node/325](http://bluegrasslyrics.com/node/325) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9TUaHPRsq0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9TUaHPRsq0)
- Kesh Jig: [www.scvfa.org/Tunes/KeshJig\\_PS.pdf](http://www.scvfa.org/Tunes/KeshJig_PS.pdf)

### New Members: Got a Directory?

Every couple of years we print a member directory for use by members. The most recent is from about a year ago: March 2014.

All members at that time should have received a copy, and new members who joined since should also have received a copy. If you



### Trustee Meeting Highlights

The SCVFA Board of Trustees met January 18, 2015. The Trustees:

- Made plans for the Annual Membership Meeting at our February jam. Trustees for seats 5 and 6 will be elected, and president Richard Brooks will talk about the state of the association. A special trustee meeting to appoint officers for the next year will follow the membership meeting.
- Made plans for a one-hour concert and separate fiddle workshop to be given by well-known fiddler Blaine Sprouse at our March 2015 jam and agreed to admission charges for the concert and jam, and the workshop.
- Welcomed Pat Tanti, who has agreed to be our newsletter editor starting in March.
- Agreed to look into inviting other performers to future jams.
- Authorized the purchase of FileMaker Pro Advanced for use as a membership database. It will take some time to transfer the data into it, but it will allow easier and expanded ways for us to provide information to our members.
- Had discussion that the very slow jam has been a success and will be continued in addition to the beginners' circle. Tunes to be played will be listed in the newsletter if known in advance.
- Agreed that the signup sheet for help at the storage locker with our PA system seems promising and will continue to be used.
- Authorized the purchase of a new lock for the storage locker.
- Made plans for contacting retirement homes to offer playouts (SCVFA performances) to residents.
- Continued discussion about attracting new members and families and young people.
- Set March 15, 2015 as the proposed date for the next trustee meeting.

*Dinah Showman, Secretary*

*Trustee meetings are open to all SCVFA members. They are usually held on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://President@fiddlers.org).*

joined recently and did not receive a copy, check at the membership desk at the jam. Or if you can't attend a jam anytime soon, email us ([membership@fiddlers.org](mailto:membership@fiddlers.org)) and we'll mail you a copy.



The Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association Presents  
Phenomenal Bluegrass Fiddler

**Blaine Sprouse**

**Sunday, March 1, 2015**

**Fiddle workshop 2:00 PM & Concert 3:15 PM**

**(Workshop is for intermediate to advanced fiddlers.)**



Blaine Sprouse is an accomplished bluegrass fiddler and workshop instructor. He currently performs with Peter Rowan, the Roland White Band, and James Reames and the Barnstormers. He teaches workshops throughout the U.S.

Blaine has been on the Grand Ole Opry and played with Bill Monroe, Jimmy Martin, Osborne Brothers, Jim and Jesse, Charlie Louvin, Jerry Douglas, Bela Fleck, Roland White, and many Nashville session musicians.

At his workshop, you will learn new tunes and traditional bluegrass fiddling techniques to use in jam sessions. He will also teach Old-timey traditional Appalachian mountain tunes that he learned in West Virginia.

Website: [www.BlaineSprouseMusic.com](http://www.BlaineSprouseMusic.com)

**March 1, Hoover Middle School  
Naglee Ave at Park Ave, San Jose**

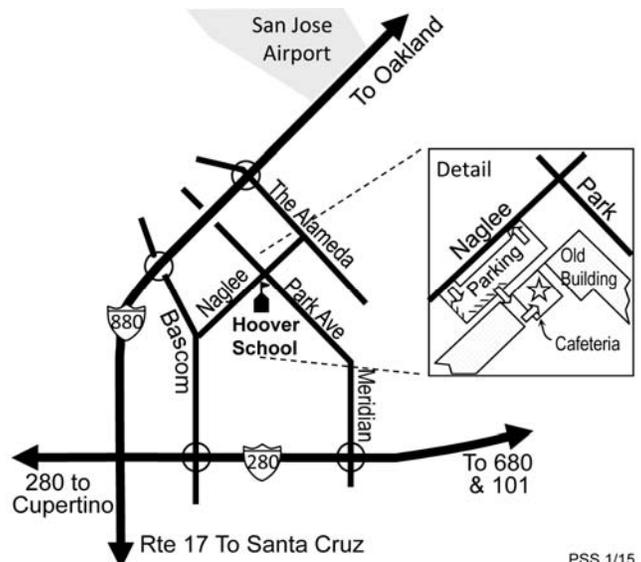
**Adult member and non-member admission:**

**Jam & Concert: \$15; with workshop: \$25**

**Youths 17 & under: Jam & Concert: \$5  
with workshop: \$15**

**Workshop attendance is limited to 30.**

More details and general SCVFA info at  
[www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org)  
or call Richard Brooks at (650) 328-3939.



PSS 1/15

# Fiddles and Other Sounds: Upcoming Events -- Allan French

I thought I'd share these events with SCVFA friends. Dulcimer fans: One event in particular is especially relevant to you. Contra Dance fans: The last item is especially relevant to you.

1/29 Mountain View House concerts present "**April Verch Band: Canadian folk trio**". e-mail Daniel Steinberg: Concerts at InstantHarmony.com for reservations, details, or to be notified of future events.

- At same location on 5/20: "Beverly Smith & John Grimm: Old-time & Country Duets."

1/31 screening of the "**Hearts Of The Dulcimer**" documentary in Woodside; dulcimuse.com.

- Also in Pacifica on 2/6.

2/1 SCVFA **Fiddlers Association monthly jam** 1pm-5pm; annual meeting at 3pm. URL: [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org).

2/1 "**Music Near The Hearth**" house concert by the "**Ten String Symphony**" (2 five-string fiddles), in Sunnyvale; [www.musicnearthehearth.com](http://www.musicnearthehearth.com).

- At same location on 3/15: "Dan Crary, Steve Spurgin, and Bill Evans".

2/7 RBA presents "**Keith Little and the Little Band**" (with fiddlers Luke Abbott and Blaine Sprouse and Steve Swan); [www.rba.org](http://www.rba.org).

- And three more shows in March thru May; some in Mountain View, some in Palo Alto.

2/14 Sunnyvale Evening of Cultural Arts presents "**James Garner: A tribute to Johnny Cash**" at

8pm. URL: [sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityServices/Arts/EveningsofCulturalArts.aspx](http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityServices/Arts/EveningsofCulturalArts.aspx).

- At same location: A Celtic band in March and a bluegrass band in May.

2/28 CBA's "**A Night at the Grange**" presents **Adkins and Loudermilk**, in Morgan Hill. [www.cbaontheweb.org/ourevents.aspx](http://www.cbaontheweb.org/ourevents.aspx).

3/1 SCVFA **Fiddlers Association monthly jam** 1-5pm; **Blaine Sprouse** concert 3:15-4:15pm. [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org).

## Also: Santa Clara House Concerts

I know of SCVFA and NCBS members who have attended past concerts there. (Typically one show every 4-6 weeks.) The hosts are contra dancers, so many of their presentations are oriented towards contra music.

You can subscribe to their mailing list to learn what bands will be there in the future. Email: [SantaClaraHouseConcerts@yahoo.com](mailto:SantaClaraHouseConcerts@yahoo.com)



Photo: Susan Godis



Photo: Janet Johnston

Above: Doniella and Sarah make their own entertainment, as (below) musicians play on stage: (L-R) **Dave Magram, Matt Small, Chip Curry, Bob Smith, Richard Brooks and Virgil Stanford.**

Photos from the January 2015 Jam



Photo: Pete Showman



Photo: Susan Goodis



Photo: Richard Brooks



Photo: Richard Brooks



Photo: Pete Showman

Top left: **Bob Smith**. Top right: **Matt Smith, Amy Morton, baby Joylu**. Center, on stage: **Tom Clausen, Patti Bossert, Sam Morocco, Jean Avram, Susan Goodis, Élan Alford, Bill O’Heron and Larry Joba**. Bottom left: **Warren Campbell** on stage. Bottom right: Part of an old-time jam, with **Bert Raphael, Tom Clausen, Dave Barton, Cindy Dinga and Storms Moody**.

Key: D

# Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss

Traditional

♩ = 90

(Susannah Gal)

[A] Chorus and example verse

Fly a-round my pret-ty lit-tle miss, fly a-round my dai-sy,  
 Cheeks as red as a blo-om-in' rose, eyes of dark-est brown; I'm

Fly a-round my pret-ty lit-tle miss, you al-most drive me cra-zy.  
 going to see my pret-ty lit-tle miss, be-fore the sun goes down.

[B] Instrumental:

9 D G D A

13 D G D A 1 D 2 D

Some more verses -- sing them as you like in the A part, more or less alternating with the chorus:

The higher up the cherry tree  
 the riper grows the cherry;  
 The more you hug and kiss the girls,  
 the sooner they will marry

Coffee grows on white oak trees,  
 the river flows with brandy  
 If I had my pretty little miss  
 I'd feed her sugar candy

I'll put my knapsack on my back,  
 my rifle on my shoulder  
 I'll march away to Mexico  
 and there I'll be a soldier

(Now I) reckon you think, my pretty little miss,  
 that I can't live without you  
 I'll let you know before I go, that  
 I don't care about you

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

**Next Jam: Sunday Feb. 1, 1-5 pm  
at Hoover Middle School  
Annual Membership Meeting at 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**

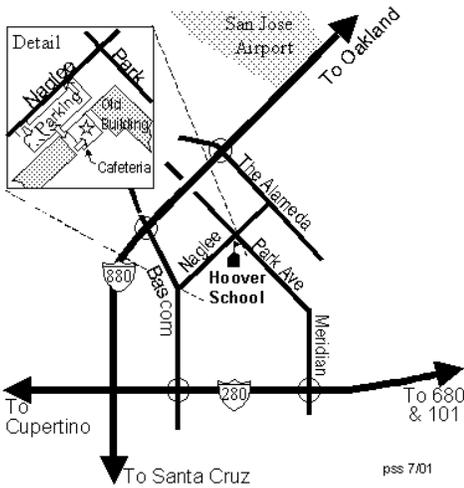


Photo: Storms Moody

At the January jam, **Mike Bell** (left), **Pete Showman** and **Paul Clarke** entertained with some old-time tunes.