



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 43, Number 7
Celebrating 42 years

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

July 2015
Next Jam: July 5

President's Note



Everyone seemed to have a great time at our June 7 jam. It was a special treat to have Ben Jackson perform for us and play twin fiddles with Arthur Kee. Ben entered our Youth Fiddle Contest

from 2004 through 2009, and won the first place prize in Division 3 in 2009. This fall, Ben is starting his music studies at University of Michigan.

Dave Williams was the jam manager in June, and did a great job keeping musicians on stage. An appreciative audience enjoyed lots of bluegrass and old-time music.

Ralph Stark and Paul Clarke were kind enough to help bring our storage locker supplies to and from the jam.

To honor Pete and Dinah Showman's 50th wedding anniversary, our old-time jammers played *Dinah's Waltz*, written by Pete, while Pete and Dinah waltzed to the tune. That was very special.

July and August at the Rose Garden Park (FREE)

Our July 5 and August 2 jams will be in the beautiful San Jose Rose Garden Park just down the street from the Hoover School on Naglee.

It is FREE because we do not pay to rent the park. The San Jose Parks and Recreation Department is supportive of our mission as a non-profit community-benefit all-volunteer organization.

Share Your Photos

Share your photos and we will include your name if they are used in the Rag. Email them to newsletter editor Pat Tanti at [newsletter at fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter@fiddlers.org).

Donate CDs for our Door Prize

Donate a CD you don't need for our door prize winners.

Amazon Buyers

On the lower left side of our 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



Photo: Richard Brooks

Dinah and Pete Showman dancing to Dinah's Waltz being played by the old-time jammers on stage.

In This Issue:

Page

President's Message	1
SCVFA Happenings	3
SCVFA Board Meeting Notes.....	3
Article: The Dang Kids by Allan French.....	4
Photos from the June 2015 Jam	5,6
Tune: The Arkansas Traveler	7

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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:

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

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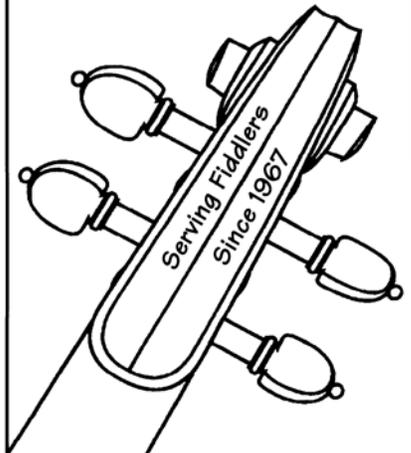
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Grace Clark (Photo: Patrice Tanti)

Snacks for the Jam

On your way to the jam? Please bring a snack to share. Healthy choices are always appreciated!

SCVFA Happenings

Coming soon... Save these dates

13th Annual Centralia Campout

It's that time of the year again! Get ready to spend days and days of playing tunes down on the banks of the Skookumchuck River (45-mile long river located in southwest Washington) with old friends and new. Mark your calendar for August 9-16, 2015 and save that time for attending the Centralia campout. You'll be glad you did! Go to www.centraliacampout.com for more info or call Ray at 360-269-8833.

House Concerts at the home of Susan Goodis in Mountain View

For more information and to be added to the Silicon Valley House Concerts Group email list, send your email to Susan at [SGoodis \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:SGoodis@gmail.com).

- Sept 24, 2015 Canote Brothers
- Sept 26, 2015 Canote Brothers: Guitar & Fiddle Workshops at Gryphon Music
- Dec 5, 2015 Megan Lynch Chowning: afternoon fiddle workshop & evening house concert

Slow Jam Tunes

Topher Heath writes:

Hello! Thank you all for participating in the slow jam. The slow jam is for beginners who want to participate in a slow-paced jam (60-90 BPM).

To participate, you should be able to tune your instrument, play chords at a steady pace, and (optionally) work up melodies / leads.

The jam was very well attended in June and all the musicians had a good time.

I continue to hear stories from developing players about the frustration of trying to learn to play with others in a standard jam setting. My own experience with this and hearing from others who have shared similar experiences is what motivates this slow jam. We keep things at an easy pace and we often play breaks together (old time style) even on non-fiddle tunes. This makes it possible for you to join the jam wherever you are at in your development as a musician. So come join us!

D Arkansas Traveler (Tune included page 7)
G Cripple Creek
G Girl I Left Behind Me

Fiddler's Rag July 2015

Hot Corn, Cold Corn *NEW in June
G Irish Washerwoman
G Kesh Jig, The
D Liberty
G Mountain Dew * NEW in May
A Old Joe Clark
D Soldier's Joy
G Worried Man Blues
C Wildwood Flower
A Will The Circle Be Unbroken * NEW in May

Check here first for songs:

<http://www.scvfa.org/tunes/>

If you have trouble finding a song, feel free to send me a note at [topher \(dot\) heath \(at\) yahoo \(dot\) com](mailto:topher.heath@yahoo.com).

SCVFA Trustee Meeting Highlights

At their regular meeting on May 17, 2015, trustees

- Authorized the purchase of a new microphone to replace one that was broken.
- Agreed to work toward offering a one-hour concert by a performing group at an SCVFA jam in the fall.
- Discussed finances: yearly insurance was paid, we paid the yearly fee for our P.O. box, received small monthly rebate payments from Amazon for purchases people have made from Amazon by going through the SCVFA website, and received payment for a recent payout (performance) by SCVFA for the Bay Area Costumers Guild.
- Heard Pete's report about his work to re-do the frame for the indoor SCVFA banner to make assembly easier.
- Discussed and agreed to continue looking into possible designs for SCVFA t-shirts and other items.
- Discussed our beginners jams (our newer very slow jam, and our beginners' circle that is a tune-building jam) to consider what to call them.
- Agreed to look into the cost of having our older newsletters scanned.
- Agreed to order more nametags for the jams and more SCVFA business cards.
- Learned that our school use permit request has been approved for the next school year at Hoover for our jams (July and August 2015 jams to be held at the Rose Garden Park).
- Set July 19, 2015 as the proposed date for the next trustee meeting.

Dinah Showman, Secretary

The Dang Kids

By Allan French. Adapted from two past columns in the CBA (California Bluegrass Association) "Bluegrass Breakdown" newspaper.

My teenaged nephew is learning to play the guitar. (Maybe; sort-of; possibly). He was seriously injured late last year. He is pursuing the guitar because he can't play any sports right now and he's not supposed to strain his eyes staring at video games and iPhone screens. I don't know where he got the idea to play guitar, but his choice obviously pleases me.

He has a teacher but does not have any musicians in his immediate family, so I try to help him as best I can from this remote location. (Here, "help him" means that I cross my fingers, hold my breath, and send him pep-talk e-mails.) In the first message, I described the pleasant events in my life that arose from being a new musician and hanging out with more experienced ones. (Ummm, that may include you!) I will share a few passages here, slightly edited.

To convey to him how playing music can be fun for people of all ages, I sent him a photo from a SCVFA jam circle. I showed the contrast between seasoned member Connie Curry and two youth fiddlers jamming together at Topher Heath's Slow Jam. *"Notice the lady with the banjo, who is probably in her 70s. Notice that across the circle, the brothers are perhaps 8 and 11 years old."* I also showed him a jam at last year's FDF (Father's Day Festival). *"Of the 9 people in the scene, 4 of them are teenagers. In music, whether you are young or old, skinny or fat, slightly weird or mostly normal, nobody really cares. There's an expression that 'We're here to make music, so shut-up and pick.'"*

To compare success in music to success as an athlete, I told my nephew *"One really neat thing about playing music is that YOU (and perhaps your music teacher) get to define whether you're winning or losing and YOU set your own goals and deadlines. In a ball-game, you might play very well yet lose the game because of ineffective teammates or very skilled competitors."*

It is doubtful that my words of wisdom will influence his effort to learn and play. At least the seed was planted, and maybe in ten or twenty years it will germinate. I didn't touch any instruments from my mid-teens until I was in my forties. While I am not especially "good," I enjoy it in a deeply satisfying way, very different than when I was a dang kid.

During my latest Christmas visit to his home, everyone played the game Pictionary, at which my nephews do pretty well. However, on one turn, the 14 year old selected a card that assigned him to draw a "cassette." He read the card and then turned to an adult team-mate, perplexed. *"What is a cassette?"* Ughh; I resisted the urge to smash his iPod upon his head! On the other hand, this culturally-deprived kid, who has never listened to a mix tape, is now (sort-of) learning to play guitar!



Topher Heath Slow Jam (Photo: Allan French)

It is with great sadness that we report that **Mona Campbell**, Warren Campbell's wife of 63 years, passed away on Wednesday, June 17, at the age of 84.



"People Playing Music" drawn by Hilary Cole

Photos from the June 2015 Jam



Susan Goodis, Dave Williams and Patti Bossert (photo: Richard Brooks)

Rick Myers the Singing Cowboy (photo: Richard Brooks)



Dane Carlson, Alanna and Alexis Geren, Dave Williams, Gary Geren (not Tom!), John Sellers (Photo: Patrice Tanti)

Photos from the June 2015 Jam (continued)



Top: Alex Mayers, Bob Smith, John Kornhauser, Naomi Dumont (back), Jennifer Kitchen, Dave Magram, John Sellers, Todd Townsend (mostly hidden), and Joe (Photo: Richard Brooks).

Below: Élan Alford (left), Wes Mitchell (right) (Photo : Paul Barnett)



Top: Ken Jones and Bill O'Haron (Photo: Pete Showman)



Norio Kawato, Arthur Kee, Ben Jackson, Jim True and Mike Schwartz (Photo: Richard Brooks).

The Arkansas Traveler

D major
♩ = 90

Traditional, arr. Pete Showman

1. Once upon a time in Arkansas, an old man sat in his little cabin door,
And fiddled at a tune that he liked to hear, a jolly old tune that he played by ear.

It was raining hard but the fiddler didn't care, he sawed away at the popular air,
Though his roof-tree** leaked like a water-fall, it didn't seem to bother the old man at all.

2. A traveler was riding by that day, and stopped to hear the fiddler play;
The cabin was afloat and his feet were wet, but still the old man didn't seem to fret.

So the stranger said: "Now it seems to me, you'd better mend your roof," said he.
But the old man said, as he played away: "I couldn't mend it now, it's a rainy day."

3. The traveler replied: "That's all quite true, but this, I think, is the thing for you to do;
Get busy on a day that is fair and bright, then pitch the old roof till it's good and tight."

But the old man kept on playin' at his reel, and tapped the ground with his leathery heel:
"Get along," said he, "for you give me a pain; my cabin never leaks when it doesn't rain!"

** A roof-tree is a ridgepole running along the peak of the roof.

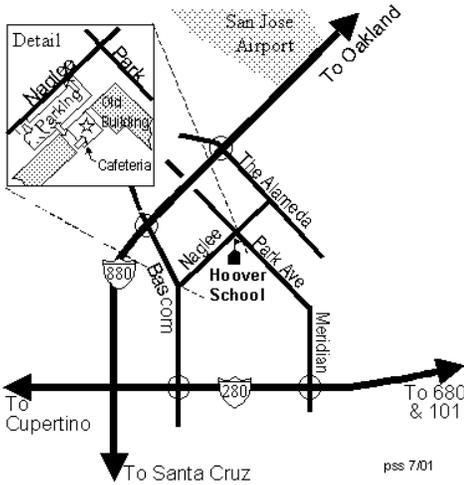
Arr. and typeset in ABC by Pete Showman 1/24/06; rev 3: 6/1/13

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

**Next Jam: Sunday July 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](mailto:newsletter@scvfa.org)**



Paul Clarke, Dave Williams and Ralph Stark setting up the stage (Photo: Pat Tanti)