



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 44, Number 6
Celebrating 43 years

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

June 2016
Next Jam: June 5



President's Note

It was June of 2003 that SCVFA learned Hoover School would be closed for construction in July and August. Members were faced with the decision of where the next jams were to be held. The park in the nearby Rose Garden proved to be the best choice. The group held a jam - with no PA system - in the park. It was such a success that 2016 marks

our 14th year in the park. Spread the word and invite friends to come to play or simply to listen at our July and August jams in the Rose Garden Park.

The May 2016 jam included another KidFiddle. Two young folks, as well as one young-at-heart member, Paul Clarke, participated in the workshop led by Carol Spiker. A mini-concert by Carol included SCVFA board members performing on homemade rhythm instruments. Lots of fun was had by all.

Thank you for the May jam volunteers, Wes Mitchell as jam manager and Pete Showman leading Tune Builders.

I am proud to be president of SCVFA as we continue to evolve and grow.

Our new board, engaging and enthusiastic, is looking for another like-minded person to fill the trustee position that I vacated. Show how much you value SCVFA by volunteering as a trustee. Contact any board member to learn how to join the fun.

There are scores of easy ways to keep SCVFA healthy with minimal time expenditure:

- Come and jam with us every month
- Play on stage for the SCVFA open mic
- Take a few SCVFA business cards to hand out to fellow musicians
- Invite non-musician friends to be our audience and part of our community
- Offer assistance 1-2 times a year to transport sound equipment from storage locker

- Amazon purchases - initiate from SCVFA home page to give a small commission to us
- Photographers ... or wannabe's - share your talent by photographing memorable times at SCVFA - send to Patrice Tanti at [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter@fiddlers.org)
- Pass on performance inquiries to Dave Williams at [performances \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:performances@fiddlers.org)
- Attend a board meeting - all SCVFA members are welcome. For date and location, ask any Board member.
- Be a leader - Teach a tune at the monthly Tune Builder Circle

It takes a village to keep SCVFA running smoothly. Let's all do our part,

--- Susan Goodis

May Board Meeting Highlights

- Corporate report filed with the state of CA.
- Kamimoto Music renewed SCVFA sponsorship for the coming year.
- We have 147 active members, with 138 paid up and 11 overdue.
- Jam attendance reminder will be emailed to all members with email address on membership form.
- Discussions initiated about the Youth Fiddle Contest in November.

The July 3 jam will be at the Rose Garden, as usual. We expect the August 7 jam to be there too, and to return to Hoover School September 4. But check upcoming newsletters and the website for updates.

--- Anne Raphael

In This Issue:

Page

President's Message	1
Board Meeting Highlights by Anne Raphael	1
Kamimoto article by Dave Williams	2
SCVFA Happenings	3
Article: Rodney Miller by Susan Goodis	4
Photo from the May Jam and Kid Fiddle.....	5
Tunes: Sail Away Ladies (Two versions).....	6,7

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-Trustee	Susan Goodis	Newsletter Publisher ..	Charlotte Prater
Vice President	Élan Alford	Performances Contact ..	Dave Williams
Recording Secretary	Anne Raphael	Publicity	OPEN
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Membership Secretary	Pete Showman	Youth Programs Chair	OPEN
News Editor	Patrice Tanti	Youth Fiddle Contest ..	Pete Showman

Trustees

Seat 1: Pete Showman	Seat 3: Bert Raphael	Seat 5: Dave Williams
Seat 2: Élan Alford	Seat 4: Wes Mitchell	Seat 6: OPEN

To Contact the SCVFA:

Mail: P.O. Box 2666, Cupertino, CA 95015-2666

Email to Susan Goodis: [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president@fiddlers.org)

Newsletter Submissions & Comments: [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter@fiddlers.org)

Address changes: [membership \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:membership@fiddlers.org)

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

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Our Friends at Kamimoto String Instruments

By Dave Williams

For a number of years Kamimoto String Instruments has supported SCVFA through participating in events at our monthly jams, such as hosting demonstrations and workshops and contributing items for our silent auction fundraisers and also, very importantly, through supporting our newsletter The Fiddlers Rag with their monthly ad.

This month we would like to honor their commitment and friendship to SCVFA with this small feature and recommendation of their fine store and business.

As an organization, we value bringing beginners into our community and there is no better place than Kamimoto to send prospective fiddlers or other string players. Their store has large selections of instruments for all levels of players from professionals to beginners. Lessons are available as well.

Having a supportive neighbor and friend so close is a perfect fit for SCVFA. They are open on Sundays just a few minutes away from our jam and carrying a large selection of bows, strings and other accessories for convenience or emergency.

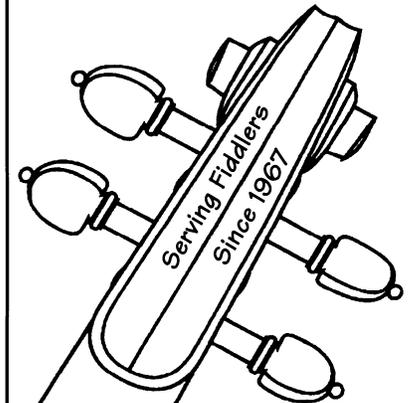
My personal experience with this business is that customer service is a value of theirs and it is evident if you have the opportunity to go into their store.

(Continued on page 4)

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SCVFA Happenings

SCVFA Slow Jam

The song list is:
D Angeline The Baker
D Arkansas Traveler
G Girl I Left Behind Me
G Hot Corn, Cold Corn
D Jaybird
D Liberty
D Mississippi Sawyer
D Over The Waterfall
A Red-Haired Boy
G Red Wing
D Soldier's Joy
A Squirrel Hunters
C Wildwood Flower

Check here first for songs: www.scvfa.org/tunes/

THANK YOU

SCVFA Performance at SIR Lunch at the San Jose Elks Lodge

Thanks to Dave Barton, Cindy Dinga, Wayne Grabowski, Mike Bell, George Bradshaw and Dave Williams who played a short set of Old Time Music after lunch for SIR's Ladies Day Lunch. Pete and Dinah Showmen were in attendance at the lunch with Pete joining us for a few tunes during the performance.

Rodney Miller Concert and Fiddle Workshop

Accompanied by Daniel Steinberg
Silicon Valley House Concerts
RSVP Email [SV.houseconcerts \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:SV.houseconcerts@gmail.com)
Mountain View, CA - June 23

Mountain View House Concerts

RSVP Email [concerts \[at\] instantharmony.com](mailto:concerts@instantharmony.com)
T Sisters: Sassy Sister Folk Music – June 1
SVER - Norwegian/Swedish Folk Trio - June 15

Redwood Mountain Faire

www.redwoodmountainfaire.com
Roaring Camp in Felton, CA - June 4-5

Second Friday Song Session

e-mail [jeremy.friedenthal \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.friedenthal@gmail.com)
Redwood City, CA - June 10-12

San Francisco Free Folk Festival

<http://sfolkfest.org/2016-new>
Everett Middle School - June 11

Bluegrass Train Jam

e-mail [Mary.kennedymk \[at\] comcast.net](mailto:Mary.kennedymk@comcast.net)
Santa Clara, CA Train Depot – June 11

CBA Father's Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival

www.cbaweb.org
Grass Valley, CA - June 16-19

Route 66 Bluegrass Festival

www.route66bluegrass.com
Victorville, CA - June 16-19

Julian Fiddle and Picking Contest

www.sandiegofiddler.org/fiddlepickincontest.html
Julian, CA - June 4 & 5

Palo Alto World Music Day

www.pamusicday.org
free music on University Ave - June 19

Susanville Bluegrass Music Camp - June 21-24 Susanville Bluegrass Festival - June 24-26

www.LassenCountyFair.org/InterimEvents
Lassen County Fairgrounds

Kate Wolf Music Festival

www.katewolfmusicfestival.com
Laytonville, CA - June 25-26

American Week Dance and Music Camp

Featuring 'Genticorum'
www.bacds.org/camps/amweek2016
Jones Gulch YMCA Camp in La Honda, CA
June 26 - July 1

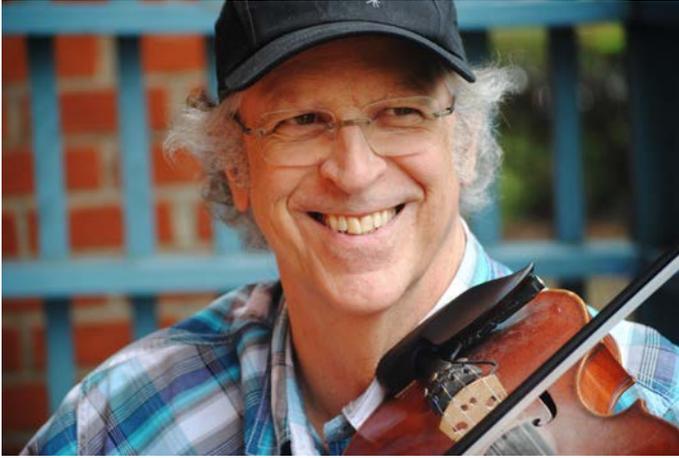
Festival of American Fiddle Tunes

www.centrum.org/festival-of-american-fiddle-tunes-the-workshop/
Port Townsend, WA - July 3-10.

Event lists above prepared by Allan French. E-mail [AFrench123 \[at\] comcast.net](mailto:AFrench123@comcast.net) or visit www.RailGrass.info for my "California Flyer," a list of museums, festivals, retail stores, music associations, from around the entire state. That PDF document fits conveniently onto one double-sided sheet when printed.

“Rodney Miller is an inspiration to me and is one of my favorite fiddlers”

By Susan Goodis



I know Rodney from contra dancing, music camps, and his contributions to the Portland Collection. I have a small collection of Rodney's CDs and enjoy listening to his music regularly.

As a child, Rodney was fortunate to have a fiddling grandfather, a musical mother, and a minister father who regularly attended Sunday fiddling picnics with his family. At age 7, Rodney was given his grandfather's full-size violin.

At the age of 18, he attended Oberlin college. "I was recruited to play basketball. I went for an interview my senior year of high school and found out that the fiddler in Oberlin's old time stringband was graduating, and they said 'You have to be our fiddler. You have to come.'"

He quit basketball and did just that. The rest is history.

Rodney Miller was designated a "Master Fiddler" in 1983 by the National Endowment for the Arts. He is widely considered to be the foremost exponent of New England style fiddling, a uniquely American blend of French Canadian and Celtic influences. Rodney is honored to have been appointed "Artist Laureate of New Hampshire" by Gov. Hassan and the NH Executive Council from March 2014 to 2016.

Rodney is also a talented violin maker. His instruments are acclaimed for their smooth, deeply resonant quality. Meticulously crafted, many of Rodney's instruments exhibit the ornate inlay of the 17th century Italian Brescian style.

Personally, I am impressed to know that Rodney has trained with physicist Carleen Hutchins, a pioneer of violin acoustical theories.

[American] Contra dance traditions must be preserved and be passed on to future generations as [they] so importantly help define who we are and what we are about as a people.

- Rodney Miller

I am delighted to announce that Rodney will conduct a fiddle workshop and perform a house concert at my home in Mountain View on June 23rd.

Our Friends at Kamimoto

By Dave Williams

(Continued from page 2)

A few years back my upright bass blew over in the wind at a Farmer's Market and broke the neck completely off. I took it to one of the premier bass luthiers in the bay area. He told me I should scrap it and use it for spare parts and firewood. Not choosing that option, I asked him to quote me what the repair would cost; he quoted a price more than I paid for it and was more interested in selling me a new bass than working on mine.

Many or you know my bass. It is a 1939 Kay with a very distinct reddish blonde finish. I own two other ones but only really play this one.

I told you that so I could tell you this. On the advice of another SCVFA bass player, I took my bass (in pieces) to Kamimoto to see if there was any hope for it. The bass tech took a look at it and said sure he could repair it and showed me in some detail how he would do it. The cost he quoted was very reasonable.

During the process, the tech called me with updates on a weekly basis and in about three weeks, I had my bass back and have been playing it ever since. The quality of the repair and the customer service was exceptional.

As their website indicates "*The Best Location in San Jose for Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass*" so if you are looking for a quality instrument, bow, case, or accessories please consider Kamimoto String Instrument and let them know that you were recommended by SCVFA. They are located at 609 N. 4th St in San Jose; phone: (408) 298-8168.



Above: Carol Spiker coaching KidFiddle students (Photo: Susan Goodis)



Above: Susan Goodis and Élan Alford perform on homemade rhythm instruments (Photo: Susan Goodis)



May Jam Photos

Left: Mike Bell and Paul Spiker impromptu band (Photo: Pete Showman)

Below: Norio Kawato, Susan Goodis, Élan Alford, Carol Spiker (Photo: Pete Showman)



Above: Gary Breitbard plays Stand-Up Stick (Photo: Pete Showman)

Key: D

Traditional

♩ = 90

Sail Away Ladies

("Sally Ann" version, with lyrics) From John Hartford, Bruce Molsky, et al.

A D (or G) Bm G D

1a. (Well) I got a home in Ten-nes-see, (Sail a-way la-dies, sail a-way)
 1b. If I _____ ev - er get my way, (Sail a-way la-dies, sail a-way)

5 D (or G) Bm G D

That's the place I want to be. (Sail a-way la - dies, sail a-way)
 Ten - nes - see is where I'll stay. (Sail a-way la - dies, sail a-way)

9 **B** D G D

Don't you ro-ck 'em da - dee-o,* Don't you rock 'em da - dee-o,

13 D Em G(7) D (D.S.)

Don't you ro-ck 'em da - dee-o,* Sail a-way la - dies, sail a-way.

* Or "die-dee-o"

- 2a. (If) Ever I get my new house done, (*Sail away ladies, sail away*)
 (I'll) give the old one to my son. (*Sail away ladies, sail away*)
- 2b. (If) Ever I finish this porch and stair, (*Sail away ladies, sail away*)
 (I'll) sit around in my rockin' chair. (*Sail away ladies, sail away*)

Chorus

- 3a. - Ain't no use to sit and cry, (*Sail away ladies, sail away*)
 you'll be an angel by and by. (*Sail away ladies, sail away*)
- 3b. - Come along boys** and go with me, (*Sail away ladies, sail away*)
 we'll go down to Tennessee. (*Sail away ladies, sail away*)

** Or "girls" or "children,"

Chorus

This basic tune seems the most common for *Sail Away Ladies*; it's essentially the same as *Sally Ann*. Lyrics and repeat patterns vary considerably; these lyrics were combined from various sources, and set up for an AABB pattern. As a song it's usually played with half-length verses in an AB pattern, or ABB, as Bruce Molsky does it (the second B being instrumental); see his *Lost Boy* album, or for example here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHyk2ILWvsQ (in C).

Transcribed (2005) by Pete Showman from various sources; typeset in ABC 2016 (rev. 2: 5/3/2016)

Key: G

♩ = 90

Sail Away Ladies

Arr. Pete Showman 2016

(Based on JP Fraley's version)

A Add D or A drones or chord-based double-stops liberally, e.g. as shown.

1 G C D G

5 G C D G

9 G C D G

13 G C D G

17 G C D7 G D

21 G C D7 1 G 2 G

JP Fraley's version of the tune, which he reportedly said he learned from his father, is quite different from the more common "Sally Ann" variant.

Transcribed and typeset in ABC by Pete Showman, from JP Fraley's "Wild Rose of the Mountain" CD.

Rev 2: 5/1/2016

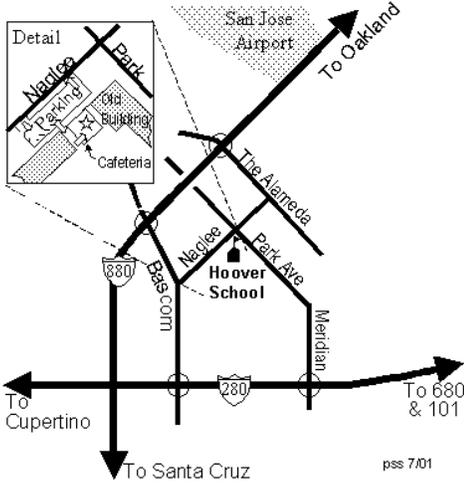
Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
P.O. Box 2666
Cupertino, CA 95015-2666



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.

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

**Damaged or Missing Issue? Call us,
or email to: [newsletter \[at\] scvfa.org](mailto:newsletter@scvfa.org)**



Show your pride in SCVFA
Get your wearable art in one of two designs



Email [sgoodis \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:sgoodis@gmail.com) for information

Keep SCVFA healthy, Invite non-musician friends to be our audience and part of our community