



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 44, Number 9
Celebrating 43 years

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

September 2016
Next Jam: Sept. 4



President's Note

As you read this month's column, I am in Black Rock City for the annual Burning Man Festival. Art of every form is abundant, including musical art. In addition to my role at the contra dance camp, I will be lending my expertise (thanks to my SCVFA training) on the sound stage at Center Camp. Here, entertainment

never stops. Musicians perform all original work in all genres, all day and all night for a solid week. Friends, at the September jam, please play "Dry and Dusty" and think of me in the desert.

At least a dozen SCVFA members spent Aug 12-14th in Bolado Park at the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival, creating a fine presence for SCVFA. We had a table with literature and free SCVFA stickers. Throughout, the weekend, SCVFA members spoke to festival attendees to make them aware of our organization and invite them to our monthly jams. We even signed up one new member. Welcome, Myriam.

The Municipal Rose Garden Park again was an ideal setting for the August jam.

Thank you to our members who volunteered their time and skills: Elan Alford for managing, Dave Barton for leading the Tune Builder, and Topher Heath for leading the Slow Jam. As a special addition to the August jam, John Gregorin and Sue Torngren led a well-attended Portland Collection Jam.

The SCVFA Board held a special meeting at the Park Jam to appoint our newest trustee. Welcome, Cindy Dinga. Our next board meeting will be Wednesday September 7th. We start at 6 pm with a pot luck dinner. SCVFA members are welcome to attend.

The September Jam will be back at Hoover Middle School.



"The Municipal Rose Garden Park again was an ideal setting for the August jam" (Photo: Susan Goodis)

Bert Raphael will be the jam manager. Topher Heath will lead the popular Slow Jam. Sarah Kirton will teach Scandinavian tunes as she leads this month's Tune Builder Circle.

Make this Labor Day weekend jam a special event. Bring your family and some friends to enjoy the music or join in the jamming. Start developing a set list now and plan to take the stage for the Open Mic.

SCVFA is now on Facebook. Search for:
"Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association SCVFA"

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

Susan Goodis

Are you itchin' to get involved?

- Play on stage for the SCVFA open mic.
- Offer assistance 1-2 times a year to transport sound equipment from the storage locker.

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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.

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

To Contact the SCVFA:

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

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

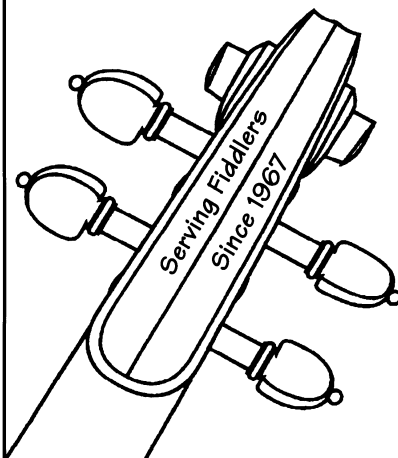
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From Marin to Monterey, Tracy to Tiburon...
...we're in the heart of bluegrass country

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!

Get involved!

- Board meeting - all SCVFA members are welcome - For date and location, ask any Board member.
- Amazon purchases – go to Amazon from the SCVFA home page to give a small commission to SCVFA.
- Take a few SCVFA business cards to hand out to fellow musicians.

SCVFA Happenings

Pass on performance inquiries to Dave Williams at performances [at] fiddlers.org

Share your talent by photographing memorable times at SCVFA events.

Be a leader - Teach a tune at the monthly Tune Builder Circle.

SCVFA Slow Jam

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. 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 where ever you are at in your development as a musician. So, come join us!

All the tunes we have played so far are fair game even if they are not on the active list. We can revisit tunes especially at the end when we have gone through the active list.

The active song list is:

Angeline The Baker (D)
Arkansas Traveler (D)
Girl I Left Behind Me (G)
Jaybird (D)
June Apple (A Mixolydian)
Liberty (D)
Mississippi Sawyer (D)
Over The Waterfall (D)
Red-Haired Boy (A)
Red Wing (G)
Soldier's Joy (D)
Squirrel Hunters (A Mixolydian)
St. Anne's Reel (D)
Swallowtail Jig (E Dorian)
Whiskey Before Breakfast (D)
Wildwood Flower (C)

Check here first for songs:

www.scvfa.org/tunes/

If you have trouble finding a song, feel free to contact me for ideas.

Note: To add or remove yourself from the email list for the Slow Jam, send a request to topher.heath [at] yahoo.com.

Topher Heath

Board Meeting Highlights

- President Susan Goodis reported that the list of email opt-ins for monthly jam reminders is growing. She also announced that all three of the required government filings are now complete for the year.
- Dinah went over the numbers for May 1 through July 12, income and expenditures and upcoming bills.
- Central Self Storage has increased the monthly rental price from \$42 to \$46 (for our PA closet).
- Pete reported that the July jam in the rose garden went well, but that we were told not to lean our banners against the trees.
- Membership continues to decline slowly, "please rejoin" emails will be sent to lapsed members
- The membership directory costs came in at \$206; the board had authorized up to \$300.
- Pete has updated the website for events and the slow-jam tune list, and newsletter back issues are now current through May 2016.
- We will not host a youth fiddle contest this year, instead, we plan to have a "KidFiddle" event with a paid instructor about every other month.
- We discussed Rose Garden alternatives, but decided that we would not try any place else this year.
- Next meeting date: Sept 7th

Anne Raphael
Recording Secretary

Silicon Valley House Concerts presents

Tuesday September 20th, 2016

Spencer and Rains

House Concert 8 PM

Fiddle Workshop 4-6 PM

Sunday October 9th 2016

Megan Lynch Chowning and Adam Hurt

House Concert 6 PM

Jam with the musicians immediately following

Reservations: SF.houseconcerts [at] gmail.com

A Fiddle-Filled Summer

Article and photos by Maria and Chris Quale



"Don't you guys get tired?" is a common question that our family gets when people hear about our lives.

As our 3 boys Niko, Matteo and Miles (7, 10 and 12) have progressed in their journey as acoustic musicians, more and more of our family time has become music time. And driving time. And practicing time. And performing time. And contest time. This summer was no exception.



The older boys, Miles and Matteo, play fiddle and mandolin, respectively, in Rambling Minors (www.ramblingminors.com), along with Daisy Kerr, 11 (guitar and vocals) and Andrew Osborne (13, bass and vocals).

Our summer began with Rambling Minors' performance at the CBA Father's Day Bluegrass Festival in Grass Valley, CA. The kids played a

rollicking set that had the crowd on their feet. Soon after their set ended we had to hit the road to start the first leg of a trip that the boys had been looking forward to all year long: the National Oldtime Fiddlers Contest & Festival (www.fiddlecontest.org) in Weiser, Idaho.

Our boys started fiddling in contests (including several times at the SCVFA fiddle contest) about 4 years ago.

Contest fiddling is synonymous with Texas style fiddling, which features a canon of hoedowns, waltzes and "tunes of choice" played in an intense but swingy and laid back (with respect to the beat) style.

The annual contest at Weiser and the Grand Master Fiddler Championship (www.grandmasterfiddler.com) in Nashville, TN are considered to be the national championships for contest fiddling. The contest has several age categories starting with Small Fry (8 years and under) all the way up to Senior-Senior (70 and above).

Each contest round consists of 3 tunes - a hoedown, a waltz and a tune of choice; there is a strict 4 minute time limit for all divisions except for the Open division, which has a 5 minute time limit.





Miles Quale (center), 6th Place, 2016 Weiser, Jr-Jr div - with Luke Price and Tristan Clarridge

Miles and Matteo competed in the Junior-Junior division (ages 9-12) and Niko in the Small Fry division (8 and under).

Our mantra for contests is not to worry as much about what place you get, rather: (1) Did you prepare your tunes as well as you could have? (2) Did you play as well as you could? and (3) Did you improve from the last time that you played? On all three fronts, the kids succeeded.

The boys played much more complicated and interesting tunes than the previous year, and sounded great on stage. In terms of results, the boys placed 4th (Niko, Small Fry), 5th (Teo, Junior-Junior) and 6th (Miles, Junior-Junior).

As parents, my husband Chris and I were intensely proud of how well they played (see www.tinyurl.com/Weiser2016-QualeBoys for some videos of their rounds).

In addition to the action in the concert hall, the jamming that takes place in the campgrounds at Weiser (the football field of Weiser High School) is legendary. There are bluegrass, old-time, western swing and Texas style jams echoing throughout the campgrounds until the wee hours of the morning.

With the boys one year older and a bit more able to withstand the late nights, the boys were able to participate in some great jams (where they were often the only kids), and turned some heads as a result of the big sound coming out of (relatively) little guys.



Niko Quale,
4th Place,
2016 Weiser,
Small Fry div.



2016 Weiser, Fiddletown Twin Fiddle Contest



2016 Weiser, Stickerville Jam



Teo Quale (Left),
5th Place,
2015 Weiser,
Jr-Jr div (and youngest!)

The boys benefit greatly from the tutelage of several great fiddlers, including Tashina and Tristan Clarridge as well as Luke Price.

Between the three teachers, they have won the Weiser contest 7 times, and are considered to be among the finest Texas style fiddlers of all time.

Tristan is Miles and Teo's regular teacher, and has a deep understanding of Texas style fiddling (and many other styles of music) and has been incredibly generous in sharing his wisdom and passion with the boys.

Through their experience at Weiser, the boys have been introduced to several inspiring musicians (young and old). Now that they have made several friends among the contestants, Weiser has become like a family reunion that happens to have fantastic music associated with it. Having experienced Weiser for a couple of years now, we can't imagine our summer without it!



Miles, jamming with Lucas Brinkerhoff, Tristan Clarridge and Luke Price

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association KidFiddle Workshop and Mini-Concert Sunday October 2nd, 2016



Instructor: Elizabeth Dequine

KidFiddle Workshop: 2:00-3:00 PM

After the workshop, students are invited to play what they have learned on stage and then join others in a Youth Jam.

KidFiddle workshops are intended for **advanced beginner to intermediate** fiddlers, 17 and under.

Tuition is only \$5 Youth admission to the jam is free

Advance sign-ups are encouraged but not necessary:

[kidfiddle /at/ fiddlers.org](http://kidfiddle/at/fiddlers.org)

(Tuition payment and on-site registration will be at the Jam admission desk.)

Slow Jam starting at 1:30 - Come early to warm up

Mini-concert starting at 3:30 PM

Youth Jam after mini concert - led by trustee, Wes Mitchell

Elizabeth is a musical powerhouse of energy, talent, and flair, having been on stage for as long as she can remember. As the lead of her family's nationally and internationally acclaimed band, Celtic Spring, Elizabeth was a world-traveled, veteran performer before she was through her teens.

Audiences are drawn by Elizabeth's captivating stage presence and ease of expression—high-energy, rhythmic, and exuberant, she performs with a flair that suggests she was made for the stage.

Elizabeth resides in the South Bay and continues teaching and performing. She looks forward to sharing her talents both in the limelight of the stage and in the ease of her teaching. celticspringband.com

SCVFA KidFiddle Workshop

Hoover Middle School

Sunday October 2nd, 2016

With Fiddle Instructor and Performer

Elizabeth Dequine

www.CelticSpringBand.com

Jam 1-5 pm Slow Jam 1:30-2:30

KidFiddle Workshop 2-3 pm

Mini-Concert 3:30

****NEW** Youth Jam after mini-concert**

Open Mic before and after mini-concert

Admission (jam and mini-concert):

\$6 for SCVFA members, \$8 non-members

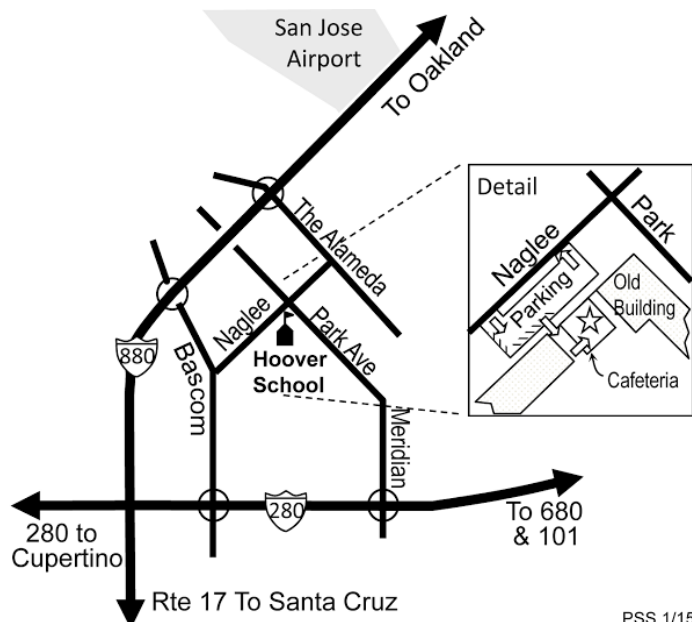
Youths 17 & under free

Workshop tuition \$5.00

Sign up at [KidFiddle /at/ fiddlers.org](http://KidFiddle/at/fiddlers.org)

More details: www.fiddlers.org,

or email Susan: [president /at/ fiddlers.org](mailto:president/at/fiddlers.org)



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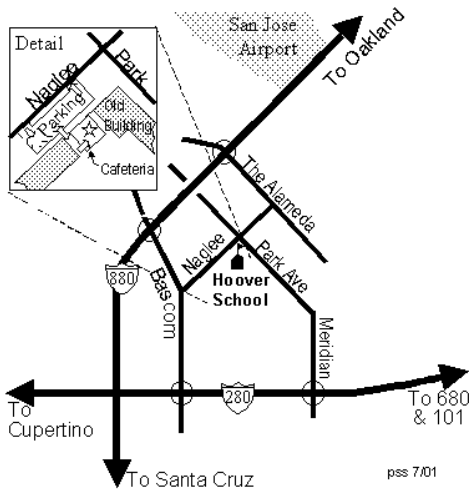
Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
P.O. Box 2666
Cupertino, CA 95015-2666



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 Sept. 4th, 1-5 pm
at Hoover Middle School**

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



Fun at the San Jose Rose Garden August 2016 Jam
(Photos: Ken Jones (top) and Susan Goodis)
o Come and jam with us every month.