



Fiddler's Rag

Mini-concert! Apr 7 Jam
See info on page 3

Vol. 47, Number 4
Celebrating 46 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

Apr 2019
Next Jam: Apr 7



President's Note

The SCVFA jam has come alive with not only musicians, but an artist, dancers, and a couple of spinners. What a beautiful sight!

It's important to bring in new musicians to our group and to keep our traditional music alive.

Let everyone know about SCVFA and encourage them to join us. As we see with artists, dancers,

and spinners, there is no requirement to play an instrument. We all get energized with an audience.

Our music is mainly played on acoustic stringed instruments... most often being fiddles, guitars, banjos, mandolins, and standup basses. But frequently folks will play complementary instruments such as accordion, ukulele, viola, cello, penny whistle, and harmonica. Unusual instruments are not so unusual at our jams. It's always exciting to hear the nyckelharpa, autoharp, banjolin, washtub bass, giant bass guitar, dobro, charango, concertina, and occasionally a clarinet. It is truly a joy to behold such diversity!

Special guests, The Wildcat Mountain Ramblers, will be joining SCVFA on April 7th to play a mini-concert. Come to enjoy their fun performance and be ready for jamming with the musicians after the concert. Spread the word so others can hear their music and get to know SCVFA.

Once again, our website project has taken a detour. Project leader and long-term member Wes Mitchell is moving on to greener pastures... San Diego to be exact. Best wishes to Wes for a good move. I am currently working with a few people with expertise in WordPress but will welcome others to become part of the team.

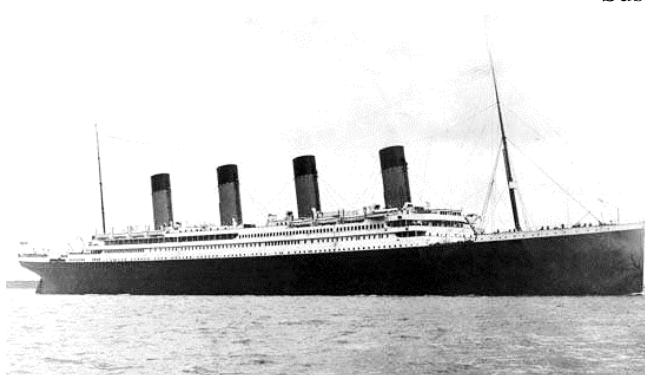
March "Afters" at "Sam's Bar-B-Que" was attended by 8 folks, a small but good group. We all get the opportunity to catch up on everything. In April, when the jamming is over, join us at **The Pasta Market** at 579 Coleman Ave. in San Jose. It's a great way to get to know one another, and there is always plenty of good conversation and good food.

If you are a photographer, social media junkie, sound guru, or tech savvy, we can use your talent and skills. Wanna help... even in a small way? Come talk to me or email [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org).

SCVFA is an all-volunteer organization. **We** are the ones who make the jam happen. Volunteers are what keep SCVFA going and it's a great way to connect with more musicians. Thanks to everyone who helps at the jams.

It takes a village... Let's all do our part.

- Susan



One hundred and seven years ago in April 1912, the Titanic sank off the coast of Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. Over 1,500 of the 2,240 passengers and crew lost their lives in the disaster. Among them, 8 musicians continued to play on deck even as the ship was going down. None survived (See the article on page 6 and the musicians' names on page 8).

"Music is the greatest communication in the world. Even if people don't understand the language that you're singing in, they still know good music when they hear it."

Lou Rawls

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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.

Officers and Chairs

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Seat 2: Élan Alford	Seat 4: Dave Thomas	Seat 6: Cindy Dinga

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

Website: www.fiddlers.org

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The Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association is a non-profit member-supported organization.

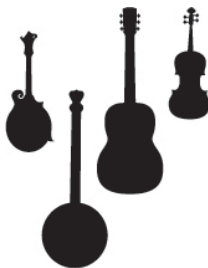
Donations to SCVFA are greatly appreciated and will assist in keeping traditional music alive by passing it on to the next generation.

Many local corporations offer matched donations for non-profits. Check with your employer... they may offer this benefit.

You can easily add SCVFA as a 501(c)(3) organization;
our EIN is 51-0196154

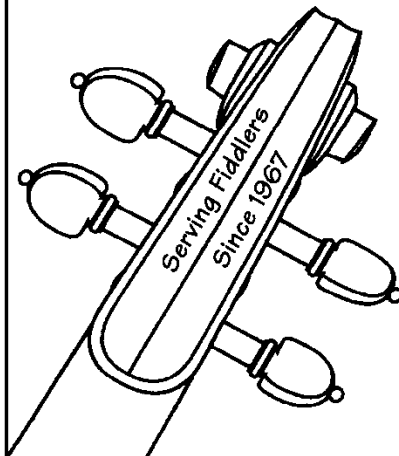
Donate as you are able
and traditional music will reap the benefits.

SCVFA wants musicians to know that we are “not just for fiddlers”. The image to the right side of the Fiddler's Rag name on page 1 includes a mandolin, a banjo, a guitar and a fiddle, to illustrate the diversity of instruments played at our jams and events.



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SCVFA Happenings

SCVFA Slow Jam current tune list

www.fiddlers.org/learning/#slowjam

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

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).

Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming Events

4/7 1:00 - 5:00pm SCVFA music jam and mini concert at Hoover. More info at www.fiddlers.org.

4/10-14 Julian Family Fiddle Camp in Julian, CA. More info at www.familyfiddlecamp.com.

4/13-14 CSOTFA State Fiddle and Picking Championships at the Lodi Grape Festival Fairground. More info at www.csotfa.org.



5/4 Cloverdale Fiddle Festival. More info at www.cloverdalefiddles.com.

5/9-12 Parkfield Bluegrass Festival (Monterey County). More info at www.parkfieldbluegrass.org.

Mini-concert 3:00pm at the SCVFA
April 7th Jam
 with special guests:

The Wildcat Mountain Ramblers

Folk/Bluegrass

From the Summit of the Santa Cruz Mountains and out of the redwoods come the Wildcat Mountain Ramblers. They are a bluegrass/Americana band that ventures into folk, rock, Cajun, country and honky-tonk.

Join the fun!



Thursday April 4th - 7:30 PM
Kathy Kallick Band House Concert
HOT BLUEGRASS & COOL ORIGINALS!
 Reservation:
[SV.houseconcerts \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:SV.houseconcerts[at]gmail.com)

4/12-14 Temecula Valley Bluegrass Festival.
 More info at www.temeculabluegrass.com



SUPPORTING MUSIC EDUCATION

Chris Cerna & The Bluegrass Republic
 Salty Suites - MohaviSoul - Wimberly Bluegrass
 Bluegrass Brethren - Vulcan Mt Boys
 Rusty Gait - The Bluegrass Ghosts - Damascus Road
 BK Nicholson & Desperado - Gone Tomorrow
 Blue Creek Band - Sweet Tidings Gospel Jam - Grasslands

LATE NIGHT MAIN STAGE JAM!

Kids Under 12 free! / Kids Paint Classes / Workshops

March Jam Photos by Susan Goodis



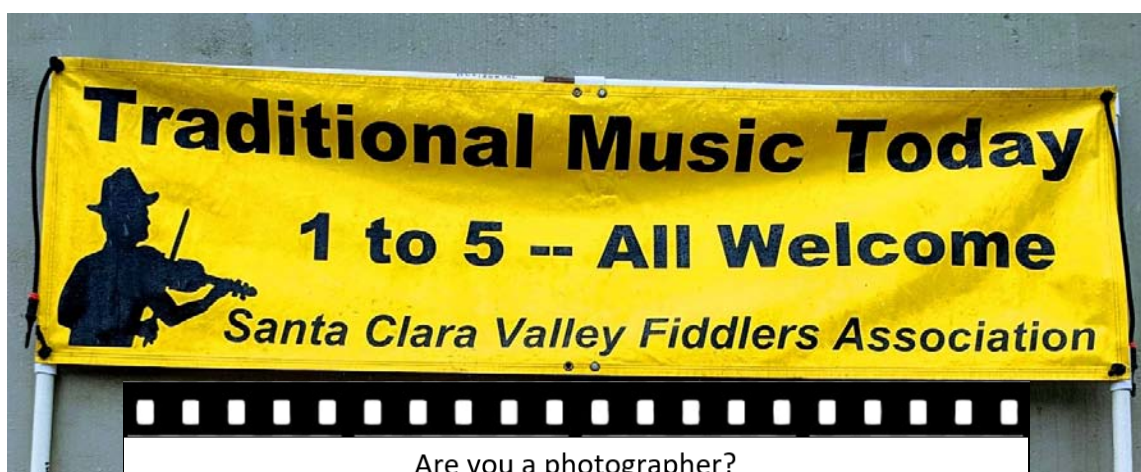
Pete Showman leads the tune builder



Jo Ann and Mike



Large group of musicians undeterred by the weather



Are you a photographer?
Come talk to Susan Goodis at the Jam
or email [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org).

March Jam Photos by Susan Goodis



Doc on the guitar



Chris Cochren fiddling



Fiddle duet with Arthur Kee and Chip Curry



Lee Clarke spins with Derek Faux



John Alsop on a nyckelharpa

Wanna help... even in a small way?
We can use your talent and skills.
Come talk to Susan Goodis at the Jam
or email *president [at] fiddlers.org*.



Spinning isn't just for the dance floor

My Heart Will Go On

by Patrice Tanti



It was pouring down rain during the SCVFA March Jam. Some of us retreated into the kitchen to play old-time fiddle tunes. The happy sound of strings in unison barely covered the humming of the massive refrigerators around us. Someone commented that it felt like the “Titanic Third Class dance” scene, you know in James Cameron’s movie where Jack and Rose dance at a party the crew is throwing deep into the giant ship’s guts before the tragic encounter with the iceberg.



Speaking of iceberg... A bit later I chatted with Dinah and Pete Showman who mentioned an interesting article about ice fiddles. Literally! In fact, this is about an entire ice orchestra in Sweden, where musicians perform on instruments crafted out of blocks of ice in a “Gigantic Cosmic Igloo” kept at -5°C. You can read about this amazing craft at:

www.mnn.com/lifestyle/arts-culture/blogs/ice-orchestra-performs-in-gigantic-cosmic-igloo and listen to a National Geographic documentary on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=YL-8zxvuuyE.

Its creator, American ice sculptor Tim Linhart says: “*The ice instruments are made of frozen water and we’re made of melted water and that physical connection opens the door for a spiritual connection*”.



Speaking of spirituality... A 2017 *Scientific Report* study concludes that music creates pleasure in part by acting upon the brain’s opioid system, releasing substances such as dopamine naturally produced by the brain that act like heroin. These chemicals are also involved in pleasure from activities like sex, gambling, eating ice cream or on the safer side, meditation. See www.nature.com/articles/srep41952. Meditation and music (or better: playing a musical instrument) share the same effect of bringing us into the present, a happy place free from stress, sorrow and troubles. For more on this topic, check the article “*Neuroscience shows listening to music has kind of the same effect as meditation*” by Darin McFadyen.

SCVFA folks would have played.

There are many accounts about what made the Titanic band keep playing even as the ship sank. Steve Turner, a freelance journalist wrote about this in a book: “*The Band That Played On: The Extraordinary Story of the 8 Musicians Who Went Down with the Titanic*”. It was the band leader and violinist Wallace Hartley who, realizing the dangerous situation, called his musicians together and began to play. As Hartley’s friend John Carr later put it, Hartley often said that music was a bigger weapon for stopping disorder than anything on earth.

A favorite of long-time SCVFA member Joy Birdsley. You can find variants performed by various artists on YouTube

Key: G

♩ = 90

Button Up Your Overcoat

(from "Follow Through")

Words and Music by B.G. DeSylva,
Lew Brown and Ray Henderson (1928)

G **E7** **A7**

But - ton up your o - ver - coat when the wind is free.

D7 **Ddim7** **D7** **G** **Em** **Am** **D7**

Take good _ care of your - self _ you be - long to me. _ _ _

G **E7** **A7**

1. Eat an ap - ple ev - 'ry day; _ get to bed by three.
2. Wear your flan - nel un - der - wear _ when you climb a tree.

D7 **Ddim7** **D7** **G6**

Take good _ care of your - self _ you be - long to me.

Dm7 **G7** **C** **G**

_ Be care - ful cros - sin' streets, oo - ooh! Don't eat meats, oo - ooh!
_ Don't sit on hor - nets' tails, oo - ooh! Or on nails, oo - ooh!

Em7 **A9** **D7**

Cut out sweets, oo - - ooh! You'll get a pain, and ru - - in your tum - tum!
Or third rails, oo - - ooh! You'll get a pain, and ru - - in your tum - tum!

G **E7** **A7**

Keep a - way from boot - leg hooch _ when you're on a spree,
Don't go out with col - lege boys[girls] _ when you're on a spree,

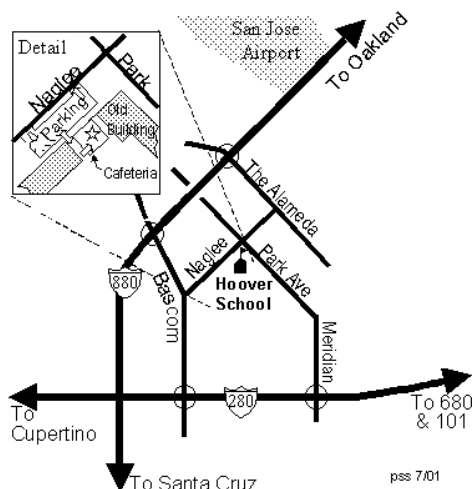
D7 **Ddim7** **G** **C7** | 1 **G** **Am7** **D7** | 2 **G**

Take good _ care of your - self _ you be - long to me. me.

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 Apr. 7th, 1-5 pm
at Hoover Middle School

Mini-concert at 3pm:

The Wildcat Mountain Ramblers

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



Titanic Musicians – April 15, 1912

Theodore Ronald Bradley – Pianist
Roger Marie Bricoux – Cellist
John Frederick Preston Clarke – Bassist
Wallace Hartley – Bandmaster, Violinist

John Law Hume – Violinist
Georges Alexandre Krins – Violinist
Percy Cornelius Taylor – Cellist
John Wesley Woodward – Cellist