



Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 47, Number 9
Celebrating 46 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

September 2019
Next Jam: September 1



President's Note

September is almost here. Kids are back in school. Labor Day boasts the last of the summer music festivals and SCVFA hosts the final 2019 summer jam in the Rose Garden Park. Many people first learn of SCVFA at these summer jams as we share our music with the community. Invite as many people as possible to see and hear what we are about.

This jam is FREE, however donations help sustain the organization.

REMEMBER TO BRING CHAIRS!!!

Most of you remember a Bob Dylan tune entitled, "*The Times, They Are A Changin'*". Well that certainly applies to SCVFA. At the August board meeting, we discussed a few important changes.

In order to build the quality of our bluegrass jams and to encourage more participation, we plan to establish bluegrass jam circles which will be hosted by well-known local bluegrass players. No worries, there will be plenty of notice to let folks know when this will begin.

To allow our beginner - intermediate players to take full advantage of all learning opportunities, the starting time for the Tune Builder workshop will be moved. To avoid conflict with the slow jam, Tune Builder will now run from 3:00 - 4:00PM. When there are special events, Tune Builder will be cancelled to allow more time for jamming. The Slow Jam will continue to be held from 1:30-2:30. These time changes will first take place at the October jam.

A majority of the board voted for the elimination of the door prize. While some of our members truly enjoy this long standing tradition, many members have expressed annoyance that jamming time is interrupted.

Élan Alford and Pete Showman will be stepping down from their position as trustees in February. Élan will be

finishing her 6th year as well as her 3rd year as my vice-president. Pete has been a trustee for more years than I can remember and has served as president and countless other positions. He has and continues to be an immense force with unending passion for SCVFA. Pete plans to continue as webmaster, membership chair, and will often be seen at the membership table. Thank you both for all you have done for this organization. Now it's time to pass the torch to others with the strong passion for SCVFA. Dave Thomas, Peter Forrest, and Sam Schillace have accepted positions on the nominating committee. They will be looking for members who share our desire to lead SCVFA into the future and endeavor to keep traditional music alive. Contact any of them to join our team.

Thanks to Gary Breitbard and Jena Rauti for leading Tune Builder in August. Those playing sure did not sound like they just learned the tune moments ago. Join the group in September and learn a couple of new tunes to expand your repertoire.

Labor Day is barbeque time. Join us immediately following the September jam (just 2 miles away and a 7 minute drive) at "Sam's Bar-B-Que" for conversation and good food. Put down your instruments and get to know one another at "Afters". You'll be glad you did.
1110 S Bascom Ave, San Jose.

Volunteers are what keep SCVFA going and it's fun! This is a great way to connect with more musicians and support our organization.

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

- Susan

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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: Sam Schillace	Seat 5: Peter Forrest
Seat 2: Élan Alford	Seat 4: Dave Thomas	Seat 6: Cindy Dinga

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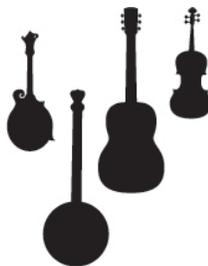
Donations to SCVFA are greatly appreciated and will assist in keeping traditional music alive by passing it on to the next generation.

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

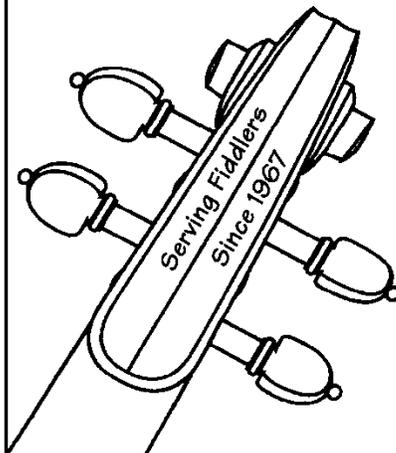
Donate as you are able
 and traditional music will reap the benefits.

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

9/1 1:00 - 5:00pm **Free SCVFA music jam** at the Rose Garden. More info at www.fiddlers.org.



9/18 – Silicon Valley House Concerts presents **Earl White and Adrienne Davis**. 4:30 Fiddle and guitar workshop. 6:00 Potluck for workshop attendees. 7:30 Concert. Reservations: [SV.houseconcerts \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:SV.houseconcerts[at]gmail.com).

9/20 – 9/22 **Santa Cruz Mountain Sol Festival** – Felton. More info at santacruzmountainsol.com.

EARL WHITE AND ADRIENNE DAVIS

will perform on 9/18 at the Silicon Valley House Concert in Mountain View (see detail in the above events List).

Traditional African American fiddlers are a rarity, as explained by African American fiddler and writer Tony Thomas in a fascinating article entitled “*Why Black Folks Don’t Fiddle*” at bluegrasswest.com/ideas/why_black.htm.

Thomas explains: “*As far as anyone knows, Joe Thompson of Mebane, North Carolina remains the last traditional African American fiddler, though a small group of younger African Americans like Earl White ... are trying to continue the tradition in revivalist bands*”.

SCVFA Board Meeting - August Highlights

- SCVFA representatives attended the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival and gained new members and publicity for our group.
- Discussion of the importance of increasing jam attendance, whether paying for a Meetup subscription brings in new people, and the importance of bringing bluegrass players to the jam.
- Decision to stop giving out tickets and having a door prize at jams due to a lack of interest and dislike of jam disruption by many attendees.
- Decided to schedule the Tune Builder circle from 3:00-4:00 so that it does not overlap with the slow jam. No Tune Builder when there are special events.
- Discussion of proposed ways to spend \$2000 SV Creates grant that will promote SCVFA’s mission. Dave presented three possibilities including bringing in leaders to a bluegrass only jam circle, moving forward with a youth oriented fiddle event, and having free educational playouts at schools, libraries or community centers.
- A nominating committee has been formed to replace exiting trustees.

Next board meeting: Wednesday, October 23.

Jessica Ollmann – Recording Secretary



Earl White is well known for his extensive repertoire of American fiddle tunes and songs.

His spouse, Adrienne Davis, with an Old Time background, completes his sound with steady rhythm and bass runs.

August Photos at the San Jose Rose Garden

Photos on this page by Susan Goodis



Anne Raphael



Lorin Guy



Jennifer Bailey



Jamming in the park (Photo by Colleen Huston)



Bluegrass in the park (Photo by Colleen Huston)



Paul Clarke (Photo by Patti Bossert)



Slow jam in the park (Photo by Susan Goodis)

Space Jam

By Patrice Tanti

In case you missed it, there is a car orbiting the sun (Elon Musk's Tesla roadster launched February 2018), with its sound system looping the Bowie songs "Space Oddity" and "Life on Mars?" No one can hear it of course since sound waves can't travel without air.

This reflection came to me recently when NASA canceled its 1st all-female spacewalk last March (which just happened to be Women's History Month) due in part to space suit availability.

I can understand the disappointment of those initially selected who trained for the mission. I can also imagine what it would be like to float into the infinite void and that thought triggered a bout of anxiety. Not sure there is a word for this type of phobia specifically. Agoraphobia or kenophobia don't quite apply to space walks. The dark outer space is utter isolation, silence and death. Let's face it, our earthly breathable air layer is merely a couple of miles thick, that's it! Music as we know it only makes sense within this "thin" layer of air on planet earth. We humans and our music are optimized for the environment we evolved in: Earth's land mass.

Wait a second, not quite so! A whole lot of jamming has indeed taken place on the International Space Station (ISS). As of now, there is on board one harmonica, one flute, one guitar, one keyboard, one saxophone and one didgeridoo (Indigenous Australian wooden trumpet). What's going on up there in the "tin can"? What's next? Contra dance? First we need to get a fiddle up there. Ok, a banjo and a mandolin would be nice too. Forget the full size bass.

Amnon Govrin, a veteran software engineer and violinist posted a blog on *spacepirations.com* on Nov 14, 2009 about aspiring to be the first violinist in space. He touches on some interesting aspects of potentially fiddling in zero gravity such as the need to compensate for the lack of gravity with extra pressure. Also, bouncing bow techniques will require adaptation. Another issue would be rosin spewing into the microgravity environment. Yikes! NASA actually tested outgassing¹ on each musical instrument allowed on board. "Houston, we have a fiddle problem!"

So here is a call for innovation to all SCVFA jammers: design a **rosin-free fiddle for astronauts**. Please submit your ideas to *newsletter [at] fiddlers.org* and we will make sure it gets to NASA.

Assuming this is all taken care of, musical instruments on the ISS sound just the same as on Earth since an artificial

1 Outgassing: release of a gas that was dissolved, trapped, frozen, or absorbed in some material. This can present a health hazard for astronauts in confined environments.

sea-level environment is maintained. But what about Mars, where the atmospheric pressure is only 1% of Earth's? Good news: pressure difference has a relatively minimum effect on the pitch. Now the bad news: it will be difficult to hear since sound is much attenuated in the thin atmosphere. For more info check out: www.thenakedscientists.com/articles/questions/would-things-sound-different-mars.

To celebrate NASA's Curiosity rover's first birthday on August 5, 2013, engineers at Goddard Space Flight Center programmed an instrument called SAM (Sample Analysis at Mars) to "sing" Happy Birthday to Curiosity. Check out the video: <http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/goto?11331>. This makes the popular song the first human tune to resonate on a different world.

The next frontier is Mars. Modern-age settlers must have a fiddle for the trip. Heck, I'd use a rosin-free bow even here on Earth.

So, Suggestions anyone?



Astronaut Catherine Coleman
(Wikipedia photo)



Astronaut Chris Hadfield (Wikipedia photo)

Key: D

♩ = 55

Fly Me to the Moon

(Originally "In Other Words")

Music & Lyrics: Bart Howard (1954)

Bm7 Em7 A7 DM7

1. Fly me to the moon, ___ and let me play a - mong the stars, ___
 2. Fill my heart with song, ___ and let me sing for ev - er more, ___
 3. (instrumental)

5 G C#m F#7 Bm B7

Let me see what spring ___ is like on Jup - i - ter and Mars. ___ In
 You are all I long ___ for, all I wor - ship and a - dore. ___ In

[1]

9 1 Em7 C#7 F#m7 B7

oth - - er words, ___ hold ___ my hand; ___ in

13 Em7 A7 Gdim D6 C#m7 F#7b9

oth - er words, ___ dar - - ling kiss me. ___

[2]

17 2 Em7 C#7 [] F#m7 B7 BM7

oth - - er words, ___ please ___ be true; ___ in

21 Em7 G A9 D (add 9) 3

ot - her words, ___ I ___ love you.

[3]

25 3 Em7 C#7 [] F#m7 B7#9

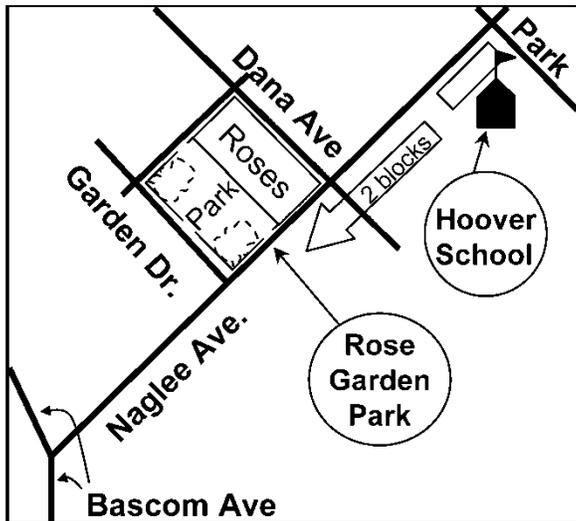
29 Em7 A9 A7b9 D6 (Tag)

Written and first recorded (Kaye Ballard in 1954, Johnny Mathis in 1957) as "In Other Words". Recorded in 1965 by Frank Sinatra as "Fly Me to the Moon", perhaps, as Wikipedia suggests, because of the Apollo program, then underway. Tempos varied widely: Ballard: 42 bpm; Mathis: 25 bpm; Sinatra up-tempo at: 56 bpm (all if written in cut time). Generally played with some sort of tag at the end.

Typeset (and ending arranged) by Pete Showman in ABCPlus in July 2019, based on an unknown jazz fakebook; lyrics added based on Kaye Ballard's lyrics. Rev 3: 8/18/2019

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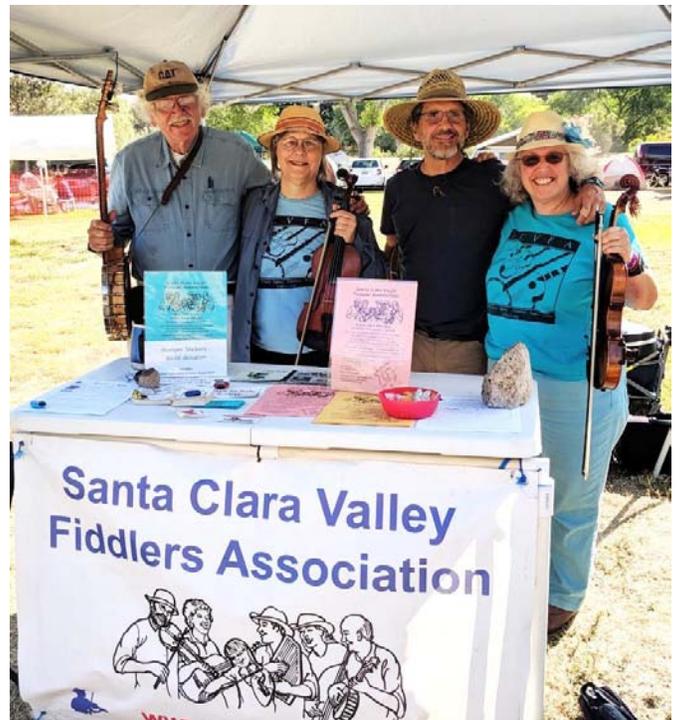
Rose Garden Park July, August and September 2019



**Next Jam: Sunday September 1st
Rose Garden Park (see map)
Look for us under the trees!**

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

Clarke Akatiff, Patti Bossert, Dave Thomas and Susan Goodis
at the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival
(Photos by
D.B. Pacini-Christensen)



Show your pride in SCVFA, get your wearable!
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We also have bumper stickers - \$5.00 donation to SCVFA

