



Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 47, Number 10
Celebrating 46 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

October 2019
Next Jam: October 6



President's Note

It's Back to School time... that is... Hoover Middle School. Everyone loves the summer jams beneath the redwoods, but our location at the school offers additional amenities. At the school we have the open mic, local band mini-concerts, holiday celebrations, workshops, and more. While there are no redwoods, we have plenty of shade and space for many jam groups. I hope to see all of you

there in October

Reminder of changes starting in October: For our beginner--intermediate players to take full advantage of all learning opportunities, the starting time for the Tune Builder workshop will be shifted by 30 minutes. 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**.

Although the door prize has been a long standing tradition, SCVFA will no longer hold this drawing. Many members have expressed annoyance due to jamming time being interrupted. My apologies to those members who love this tradition.

Member performances are happening every month and are an important source of fundraising for SCVFA. Pete Showman, Bill O'Haren, Cindy Dinga, Mike Bell, Sam Morocco, Jean Avram, & Stevie Dale played for a 100th birthday celebration in August. The guest of honor, Sam Seibert, is believed to be the oldest living retired firefighter in the Bay Area. It was an honor to have SCVFA as part of the celebration.

As a collaborative effort with the Bay Area bluegrass players, SCVFA members formed two pick-up bands that played on separate nights prior to the "Bright Star" bluegrass musical in Palo Alto. Autumn Rose, Mary Kennedy, Peter Forrest and Dave Wilson played for opening night and it went well! Lots of compliments, plenty of applause and someone in the lobby started

waving them in since they held a pretty large crowd outside. On the 26th, Dave Thomas, Cata Fitzgerald, Mike Bell, Ann Whitesell, Derek Faux, and I played prior to the show. Thanks everyone for your participation.

In October, another group is scheduled for a neighborhood pumpkin decorating event. They will dress up in costume for this performance. Let your family and friends know that we will play for their special events. Payment for our music is how SCVFA keeps our costs down.

Thanks to Vickie and Michael for leading Tune Builder in September. It's wonderful to have you share the Scottish traditional music.

The Slow Jam was hugely successful and continued for the entire afternoon. Jean Avram and I started as leaders of the group with other members in supportive roles. Thanks to both Warrens (Campbell and Nokleberg), Anne Raphael, and Dave Thomas for taking turns leading the jam throughout the afternoon.

Join us immediately following the October jam at the [Pasta Market](#) for good food (the best Seafood Cioppino) and better conversation. Put down your instruments and get to know one another at "Afters". You'll be glad you did. **579 Coleman Ave, San Jose.**

Not a great fiddler? Not a top notch guitar player? Could you use more work on mandolin skills? No worries... let me know what else you do best. Everyone has an area of expertise and *that* may be just what we are looking for. Come talk to me or email *president [at] fiddlers.org*.

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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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

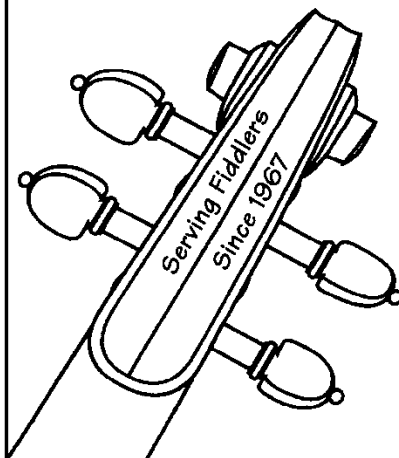
Donate as you are able
and traditional music will reap the benefits.

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

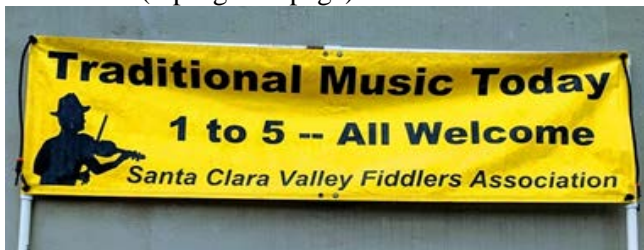
www.fiddlers.org/learning/#slowjam

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

10/6 1:00 - 5:00pm **SCVFA music jam** at Hoover School. More info at www.fiddlers.org
See NOTE (top right of page).



10/2 Silicon Valley House Concerts presents:
Sugar & The Mint, Telluride Bluegrass Festival
Winners. Reservations at
[SVhouseconcerts \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:SVhouseconcerts[at]gmail.com)

**THE OLDER THE
FIDDLER, THE
SWEETER THE
TUNE.**

QUOTEHD.COM

Pope Paul VI

NOTE: on Jam day at Hoover, the Santa Clara Valley Square Dance Association will be having a function in the school gymnasium.

Expect parking challenges!

10/12-13 **Santa Barbara Old Time Fiddlers' Convention and Festival** see our link in
www.facebook.com/Fiddlers.org/

**SANTA BARBARA OLD-TIME
FIDDLERS' CONVENTION & FESTIVAL**

Performances by
Rafe Stefanini (PA)
Todolo Shakers (CA)
(featuring Eric & Suzy Thompson)
Art Rosenbaum (GA)
Hog-Eyed Man (GA)
Jim & Jamie Fox (MT)
Traditional Indigenous Fiddling

10/4-6 **Hardly Strictly Bluegrass 2019** Golden Gate
Park San Francisco. More info at
www.hardlystrictlybluegrass.com/2019/



11/1-4 **Walker Creek Music Camp** – more info at
www.walkercreekmusiccamp.org/





Old Time Music in the Capital of Appalachia

by Élan Alford (OT banjo player)

East End Appalachian Jam, Sundays at Hambone's, in Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville neighborhood (photo: Élan Alford)

I was recently traveling and got an unexpected but welcome dose of old-time music. Did you know that Pennsylvania is the state with the largest area of the Appalachian Mountains¹ in the US? Or that Pittsburgh is referred to as the capital of Appalachia²? I didn't realize these things, even though I spent 6 years as a young adult living in that lovely city.

I went to Pittsburgh, PA for an August vacation. My plan was that the vacation would include, first, time for my hobby interests in beer/home brewing, by attending Fresh Fest, a celebration of black brewers and beer lovers. Second, I would spend most of the visit with my wife's family in Kane, PA, which is nestled at the edge of the Allegheny National Forest. And third, I'd have time to do a few iconic regional activities like revisiting old haunts from my undergraduate days at University of Pittsburgh and eating REAL buffalo chicken wings from the source (i.e., in and around Buffalo, NY), and seeing Niagara Falls.

While I did all those planned things, I also stumbled across some unplanned events that fed my old-time music obsession. What a delight! On my first day in Pittsburgh, Liza and I went out for breakfast in the Strip District neighborhood on Saturday morning. We got there just early enough to beat the brunch crowds and as we walked to the restaurant, I noticed a well-prepared busker on the corner. He was out there for the long haul, with amplification, a tablet, etc. He sang classic rock songs, played guitar, and had his backing tracks going.

After breakfast, we walked one of the main drags of the Strip, Penn Avenue. The Strip District is like an international bazaar. We ended up getting Greek candy and anise soda. We purchased candies, snacks, and spices at the Asian market and wandered the street window-shopping. During our wandering, we passed other buskers too. There was a solo accordion player in front of a market. Best of all, we came upon a duo, fiddling a little down the street. One fiddler sang, flat-footed on a board, and played. The second fiddler was backing.

Here was my chance to get an unexpected old-time music fix. We stopped to listen, I threw a few dollars in their case and I inquired about where to catch more of the local scene. I learned that there would be an old time payout at the farmers market in Squirrel Hill the next morning, Sunday. I also heard that there was a regular jam at a bar, Hambone's, in the Lawrenceville, every 1st, 3rd, and 4th Sunday afternoon³.

It was going to be the 2nd Sunday of the month during this part of our visit, so no Sunday afternoon jam would be happening. Liza and I headed on our way out of town Sunday morning and we decided that we would have time to catch a few moments at the Squirrel Hill Farmers Market that we heard about. We caught a few moments of tunes as we browsed the Market. I recall two fiddlers, 3 banjos, mandolin, and guitar. At least one person showed up in the midst of playing and was welcomed into the jam circle. There was a sign about donations going to a good cause; I think it was for a food bank.

Because we were visiting family for a week in the rural Allegheny Mountains, we spent it steeped in the country lifestyle, sights, and sounds. While in Kane, I heard about an old time gathering that would be in Bradford, PA in late August, Crooktop⁴, but with our timing, I was going to miss it. This year it featured Mark Tamsula, who is reviving the southwest Pennsylvania fiddle tunes of the Samuel Bayard collection⁵.

After time in Kane, we had to return to Pittsburgh for our flight out. That gave us the chance to catch up with the 3rd Sunday old time jam at Hambone's. This group has a Facebook page called East End Appalachian Jam. Liza and I dropped in the bar, ordered a beer from the colorful bartender, who displayed a heaping dose of Pittsburgh charm. Then we went to the dining room area to listen to the music.

The group had just changed key to G when we sat down, and apparently they had spent the first two hours in D. Here we found a jam with many folks. I recall 3-4 fiddlers, including the one who was busking the weekend prior. She remembered us and popped over to our table to say a quick "hi" and told us that even with all the development and condos going up in the neighborhood, this bar was "keeping it Appalachia". There were 3 autoharpists, a bass, several guitars, mandolins, a harmonica player, maybe 2 banjoists, and some dancers. I didn't have an instrument, so I just listened. However, the group played several tunes that are common in the South Bay jam circles, like Magpie, The Girl I Left Behind Me, Nail that Catfish to the Tree, Turkey in the Straw, Leather Britches, and Ora Lee. It was so refreshing to get a dose of old time music in Pittsburgh and learn about the local scene! Below are some additional notes to check out, if you are so inclined.



Twin fiddles, busking in the Strip District, Pittsburgh
(Photo: Elan Alford)

Further Reading:

1. <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appalachia>
2. <https://themoderatevoice.com/pittsburgh-capital-of-appalachia/amp/>
3. <http://www.newoldtimes.appalachianmusic.net/Jams.htm>
4. <https://crooktop.com/wp/>
5. Mark Tamsula podcast:
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/get-up-in-the-cool/id1131463879?i=1000416108188>



David Wilson on right of photo said on Facebook
(<https://www.facebook.com/Fiddlers.org/>):
"We had a wonderful time today jamming under the Redwoods at the San Jose Rose Garden, with a nice cool breeze and a lot of fantastic musicians. We started at one and played all afternoon, a good time was had by everyone! Thanks to the Santa Clara Fiddler's Association!"

(photo by Colleen Huston)

September Photos at the San Jose Rose Garden



"Sunday, Sept 1, 2019 - Rose Garden Jam. The redwoods provided excellent shade and kept us all cool even with all the 'hot' music" (post and above photo by Susan Goodis).

Check out all the photos on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Fiddlers.org/>.



(photo by Colleen Huston)

Key: C major
♩ = 90

Five Foot Two

Music by Ray Henderson (1925)
Words by Sam Lewis and Joe Young

C E7 A7

Five foot two, eyes of blue, But oh! what those five foot could do, Has

5 D7 G7 C G7

an - y - bo - dy seen my gal? [boo boo boo pi doo]

9 C E7 A7

Turned up nose, Turned down hose, Flap -per, yes sir, one of those! Has

13 D7 G7 C C

an - y - - bo - dy seen my gal? Now if you

17 E7 A7

run in - to a five - foot two, Cov -ered with fur,

21 D7 G7

Dia -mond rings and all those things, Bet your life it is -n't her, But

25 C E7 A7

could she love, could she woo? Could she, could she, could she coo? Has

29 D7 G7

an - y - bo - dy seen my gal? _____

1 (to repeat) 2 (to end)

C F C G GM7 G7 C

A favorite of long-time SCVFA (and Banjo Band) member Joy Birdsley.
Typeset in ABC Plus by Pete Showman 8/6/08

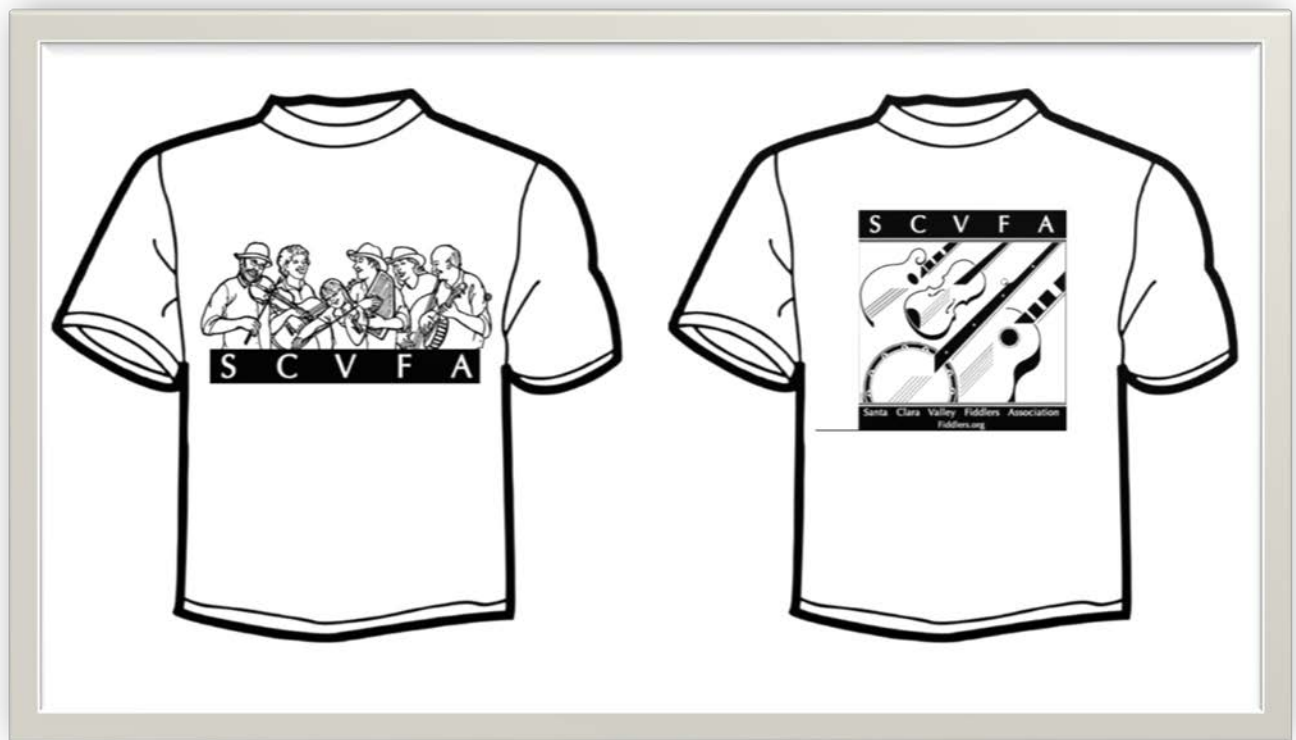
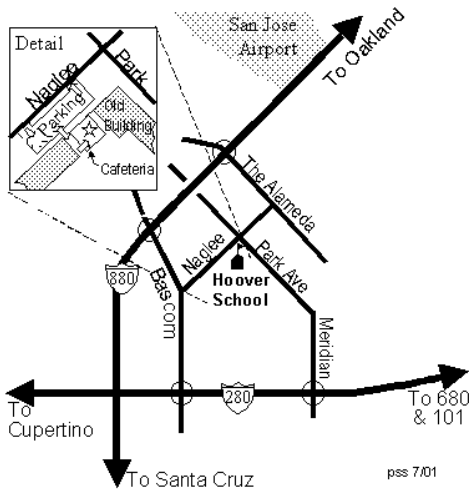
Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
P.O. Box 2666
Cupertino, CA 95015-2666



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 October 6th,
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!
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