



Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 50, Number 8
Celebrating 49 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

August 2022
Next Jam August 7th



President's Note

I'm cured! Well, almost.
As musicians, we are all prone to injuries due to biomechanics and repetitive stress.

At times, this prevents us from doing what we love the most, playing music. Since last September, I've been seeing various practitioners for a shoulder injury. After months at an in-network physical therapist and worsening mobility and pain, it looked like surgery, with many months of recovery, was going to be the next step. Fortunately, I found physical therapists who offer treatment that is miles ahead of most others. CFMT's, Certified Functional Manual Therapists, are folks who have mastered the curriculum and approach taught by the Institute of Physical Art (IPA). I am overjoyed to be working with Mark McMahon, DPT, OMT, CFMT and Lauren Mindel, DPT & in training for CFMT at Revolutions in Fitness in Mountain View. They both have worked "magic" on me to restore mobility and stop the pain. I'm just one of many success stories. Every day, I am amazed at what they have done for me in such a short time and would love to chat with anyone wishing to know more. Share this information with others you know. The IPA website has an [interactive map](#) where one can locate all the CFMTs in the country.

Would you like to perform with a friendly group of musicians? Our next event is 4:00 - 8:00pm on Wednesday, August 31st in Santana Row. Come play for some or all this event. Many members love performing and letting others know about SCVFA. Tell your friends, family, and co-workers that we are available to bring energetic music to their event. To request a performance or to join in the fun of being a performer, email [performances \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:performances[at]fiddlers.org).

The **First Sunday Jam** is at the Municipal Rose Garden Park on August 7th, just a short distance from Hoover School. We gather inside the fence under the redwoods near the corner of Garden Drive and Naglee Ave. Come early or stay late for as much high energy jamming as you wish. Music is meant to be shared. Invite your friends,

family, co-workers and others to join in the free fun. Remember to Donate at the jam or [online via Paypal](#). COVID is still out there, so please stay home if you do not feel well.

"AFTERS" on August 7th will be at [Sam's Bar-B-Que](#). Join us to relax and get to know one another after a full day of music making. Who doesn't enjoy a good Bar-B-Que! 1110 S Bascom Ave, San Jose.

The summer is ripe with many music opportunities. Go forth and play! I'm heading to Clifftop, WV for the Appalachian Stringband Festival. For those on Staycation, join the SCVFA on August 21st in Palo Alto at Mitchell Park for the **3rd Sunday jam**.

As always, thank you for being part of SCVFA, a community of people who love to make music together. Your continuing support of SCVFA is keeping traditional music alive.

-- Susan



1st Sunday Jam in July at the Rose Garden

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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-the-scvfa/.

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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.



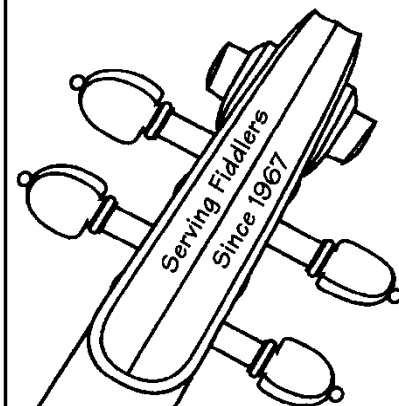
Quote of the Month

"I'm cured!"

Susan Goodis about musicians repetitive stress injury and the alternative to surgery (see Susan's column on page 1 of this edition)

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SCVFA Happenings



1st Sunday Jam: August 7th 1:00 to 5:00 at the Municipal Rose Garden park, Naglee Ave. at Garden Dr. in San Jose.

Slow jam 1:30-2:30: learning by ear is encouraged since old time music is an aural tradition. Developing your ear does take time, but it is a worthwhile skill. If you need a little help, tunes are available on our [SCVFA website](#).

“AFTERS” will be at Sam’s Bar-B-Que on August 7th immediately after the jam. The fun doesn’t stop when the jam is over. Join us for dinner, drinks and conversation. Located 1110 S Bascom Ave, San Jose, CA.

3rd Sunday Jam: August 21st 1:00 to 3:00 at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto

IMPORTANT

- **DO NOT Attend These Gatherings if You Feel Sick.**
- Anyone who develops COVID-19 within 7 days after attending should notify me (president [at] fiddlers.org) as soon as possible.

Support the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

Go to smile.amazon.com



SCVFA is supported by SVCreates, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara.

SCVFA Wordle:

<https://mywordle.strivemath.com/?word=xzlh4>



SCVFA Mission Statement

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association (SCVFA) preserves traditional music genres that feature fiddle and other acoustic instruments. SCVFA takes pride in ‘passing it on’ to musicians and listeners of all ages, ethnicities, gender identities and cultural backgrounds.

SCVFA Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held via ZOOM on August 23rd. For info, contact Susan Goodis at *president [at] fiddlers.org*.

— Jessica Ollman,
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Events Nearby

NCBS Good Old-Fashioned Festival (signups are closed)
– San Benito County Historical Park, Aug 11-14.
<https://ncbs.info/events/gof/>

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival – Free outdoor performance series this summer at the Yerba Buena Garden in San Francisco. <https://ybgfestival.org/events/>

Stern Grove Festival in San Francisco – Free concert series until Aug 14. <https://www.sterngrove.org/>

Jazz and Blues by the Bay – Sausalito, Aug 27. Outdoor live music series. <http://www.jazzandbluesbythebay.com/>

Black Women’s Blues Festival – Berkeley, Aug 22, 2pm. Free live stream viewing. <https://kpfa.org/event/black-womens-blues-festival/>

Petaluma Music Festival – Aug 6, 11:30 am – 9:30 pm
<https://www.sonomacounty.com/sonoma-events/petaluma-music-festival>

Support Traditional Acoustic Music

Spread the word and let others know about the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association.

As a member you are part of a long tradition of supporting and sharing live music with friends, the local community and beyond.

Invite someone to join today!

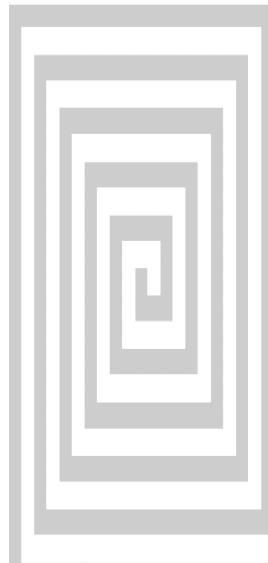
July Photos by Susan Goodis
More content at www.facebook.com/Fiddlers.org/



Third Sunday jam on July 17th at Ocean View Park in Santa Cruz



"AFTERS" at Dia de Pesca in San Jose



First Sunday jam in the park, July 3rd
at the Rose Garden in San Jose



CHAMP Farmers Market in San Jose on July 17th





Photo from Wikipedia: Andy Cutting backstage at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall in 2016

Tune of the Month

By Liz Alsop

This tune is called Flatworld by Andy Cutting

Here is a video of him playing it Em on accordion

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEYR5F_j7sU

but many people play it in Am

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJvIc5mqIf8>

and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXSGwCgwUbM>.

Susan Goodis heard it played at a contra dance a few months ago and we spent an entire evening trying to find it online. There was almost nothing. But since then, the tune has gone viral, and there are many recordings there. Am seems to be a key it is played in a lot. It is a fiddle, flute and whistle friendly key.

Flatworld

Andy Cutting

Jake Blount



is an award-winning musician and scholar based in Providence, RI. He is a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist who draws upon old-time, bluegrass, and blues influences. A specialist in the [early folk music of Black Americans](#), Blount is a skilled performer of spirituals, blues and string band repertoire. Blount's upcoming record, *The New Faith*, will be released on September 23, 2022 as part of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings' African American Legacy Series (*), in collaboration with the National Museum of African American History and Culture. (Ref.: [Wikipedia](#) and [jakeblount.com](#))

(*) [Smithsonian Folkways Recordings](#) is the nonprofit record label of the Smithsonian Institution: "We are dedicated to supporting cultural diversity and increased understanding among peoples through the documentation, preservation, and dissemination of sound."



Hicks' Licks: Pentatonics

By Pete Hicks

Years ago, I was playing in a country band in Alaska, and a friend brought Vassar Clements in to see us while we were rehearsing. Vassar was in town for a festival, which was two days away. Since he had a couple of free days, we asked him to play with us for two nights. To our delight, he agreed, and I had the wonderful experience of playing about ten sets with Vassar in the band. I was on cloud nine. During a break, I asked Vassar where he found all those great notes he was playing. He replied, "Well, they are all right under your fingers." I laughed and didn't think much more about it at the time. Now I realize that Vassar's comment was no joke. All of those cool notes are right under your fingers, if you know your way around the fingerboard.

This month we are looking at three pentatonic (5-note) variations in the key of B. The first is very easy, and the other two are a little more difficult.

Our first example is the B minor pentatonic scale, which is identical to the pentatonic D major. In other words, you play the same notes you would in the key of D but start and end on the B note. In many very lonesome bluegrass songs, this is the preferred mode to use in B major. If you wish, you can play D# instead of D natural.

Example 2 is the B major pentatonic scale and is more difficult to play. There are no open strings in this scale variation. This is an essential pattern to master for the bluegrass fiddler or mandolinist. The B major scale is usually played in this position as well.

In example 3 we have our "Bill Monroe" pentatonic variation in 2 octaves in B. Example 4 shows a lick that uses this variation.

I suggest learning these variations and then playing around with them in B. You can mix and match these patterns with the major scale and/or arpeggios. Another good idea is to jam along with your favorite bluegrass CDs.

Happy Fiddling!

This column was first run in the June 2010 Fiddler's Rag.

Pete performs with *Bean Creek*, a smooth, solid traditional bluegrass band. With his rough-hewn fiddle strokes, honky-tonk voice and edgy mandolin he conjures up a great old-time spirit.



Performers Wanted!

Email [performances \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:performances[at]fiddlers.org) to request a performance or to be a performer. Performances are a very important part of our mission and SCVFA is always happy to provide music for parties, gatherings, or any type of event.

Pentatonic Variations in B

with fingerings and mandolin / fiddle tab

Pete Hicks

Ex. 1: B Minor Pentatonic Scale

Musical notation for Ex. 1: B Minor Pentatonic Scale. The staff shows a treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. The scale is written in a single line, starting on B2 and ending on B3. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above the notes. The TAB line below shows the fret numbers: 4, 0, 2, 4, 0, 2, 5, 0, 2, 5, 7.

Ex. 2: B Major Pentatonic Scale

Musical notation for Ex. 2: B Major Pentatonic Scale. The staff shows a treble clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, and G#), and a 4/4 time signature. The scale is written in a single line, starting on B2 and ending on B3. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above the notes. The TAB line below shows the fret numbers: 4, 6, 1, 4, 6, 2, 4, 6, 2, 4, 7.

Ex. 3: Bill Monroe Variation (B Maj.)

Musical notation for Ex. 3: Bill Monroe Variation (B Maj.). The staff shows a treble clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, and G#), and a 4/4 time signature. The variation is written in a single line, starting on B2 and ending on B3. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above the notes. The TAB line below shows the fret numbers: 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 6, 0, 2, 6, 7.

Ex. 4: A Lick Using Bill's Variation

Musical notation for Ex. 4: A Lick Using Bill's Variation. The staff shows a treble clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, and G#), and a 4/4 time signature. The lick is written in a single line, starting on B2 and ending on B3. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above the notes. The TAB line below shows the fret numbers: 4, 1, 4, 2, 1, 4, 2, 1, 4, 2.

Typeset by Pete Showman 5/18/2010

Listen: www.fiddlers.org/Tunes/Hicks/PentatonicVarB.mid

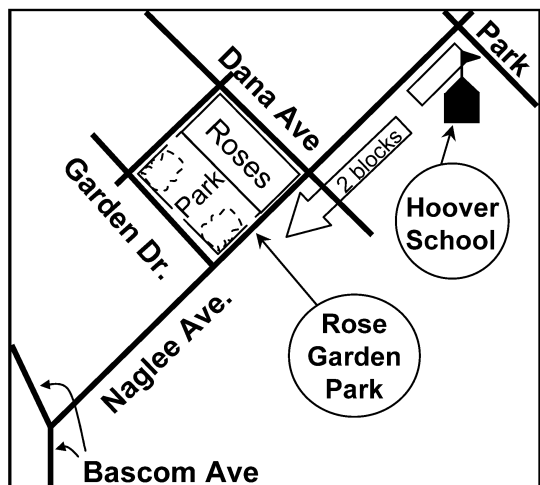


SCVFA
P.O.Box 2666
Cupertino, CA 95015-2666

**Next Jam: Sunday August 7th
at 1 pm Rose Garden Park**

See Map on the left and other info on pages 1 and 3

Directions to Rose Garden Park



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

Join Today!

SCVFA To-Do List for August

- Have experience with WordPress or want to learn it, to help manage our website? Email [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org).
- Shop at smile.amazon.com to benefit SCFVA.
- Attend the **SCVFA Jam** on August 7th, 1:00pm at the Rose Garden.
- Invite a friend to join SCVFA at: www.fiddlers.org/join-the-scvfa/
- Email selfies (or unselfies) to [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter[at]fiddlers.org), no later than August 20th to be published in the September Rag.
- While you're at it, wear your SCVFA tee-shirt.
- If you are not a member yet and would like to support traditional acoustic music, join today at <https://www.fiddlers.org/join-the-scvfa/>



SCVFA has a [Youtube channel](#). Take a look, listen and subscribe. Jam and outside performance videos are posted here.