



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 39, Number 11
Celebrating 38 years

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

November 2011
Next Jam: **Nov. 6**



President's Message

by Richard Brooks

This month we're having our 10th Youth Fiddle Contest. Sam Morocco first proposed the idea when he was a trustee (2002-2005). Our first contest

was held in 2002 with then President Pete Showman agreeing to be the contest chairman. He and Dinah Showman have done an amazing job over the years.

Our 10th Youth Fiddle Contest

Notice that we no longer refer to the contest as our "annual youth fiddle contest." That is because this will be our last unless someone volunteers to be the chairperson. Many folks are willing to help but someone needs to be in charge. After this one, Pete will have done it for a decade.

It would be greatly appreciated if you can help Pete before or during this year's contest. Please let him know.

Age Limit now 17!

The contest age limit is now 17. Tell all your friends, families, and neighbors! The contest rules and an application are at www.fiddlers.org/contest.

Jam Manager

Trustee Charlotte Prater deserves our thanks for doing a great job as the October jam manager. She is also our newsletter publisher and does all the printing, collating, stapling, folding, tabbing, stamping and mailing!!

New Sound Equipment

Last month was the first time we tried out our new sound equipment. Comments were favorable and on-stage monitors will be a nice addition.

Programs of Interest to You

Let me know if you have suggestions for special 2012 programs you would enjoy.

- Richard Brooks



L to R: Mike Bell, Pete Showman, Dan Murphy

Richard Brooks



Norio Kawato and Paul Barnett

Richard Brooks



L to R: Norio Kawato, Sam Morocco, Jean Avram
Tom Mitchell and Randy Wiesendanger

Richard Brooks

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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

President-Trustee Richard J. Brooks
 Vice President OPEN
 Treasurer Janet Johnston
 Membership Pete Showman
 Recording Secretary Dinah Showman
 Newsletter Editor *(Pete Showman, acting)*
 Newsletter Publisher Charlotte Prater
 Webmaster *(Pete Showman, acting)*
 Playout Coordinator Paul Clarke
 Youth Activity OPEN *(P. Showman & R. Brooks, act.)*
 Youth Fiddle Contest Pete Showman & Sarah Kirton
 Publicity Shared
 Calendar Pete Showman
 Jam MC Evelyn McCuiston

Trustees

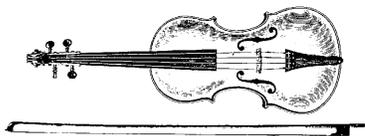
Seat 1: Pete Showman Seat 2: Gordon Gibson
 Seat 3: Paul Clarke Seat 4: Charlotte Prater
 Seat 5: Dave Williams Seat 6: Steve Joynes

To Contact the SCVFA:

Mail: P.O. Box 2666, Cupertino, CA 95015-2666
 Email: president at fiddlers.org Phone: (650) 328-3939

Newsletter Submissions & Comments:

Email: newsletter at fiddlers.org
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November Trustee Meeting

The next regular Trustee meeting will be held **Sunday November 13**. Among other topics, we will be reviewing the contest and planning the upcoming potluck and Trustee election.

Any SCVFA member is welcome to attend. Contact Richard Brooks, (650) 328-3939 for info.

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Volunteering for SCVFA

To continue all our current activities we need a few more volunteers. If you can help, or would like to learn more, please contact any board member (see box to the left).

We are especially looking for:

- **Recording Secretary or Treasurer** – The Secretary records and distributes the official minutes of our Trustee meetings. The Treasurer records income and expenses, manages our bank account, disburses payments, and keeps records.
- **Youth Program Coordinator** – helps plan youth activities (e.g. lining up teachers for KidFiddle), maintain the KF email distribution list, acts as the contact for parents with questions.
- **Vice President** – assists the President, substitutes when he or she is unable to lead meetings, etc.
- **Youth Fiddle Contest Chairman** for 2012. Organizes and oversees the contest for next year. We usually have many volunteers to help out at the event, but we need someone to be in charge if the contest is to continue.
- **Publicity Chairman** – helps publicize our events by making and distributing flyers, notifying media outlets such as local radio stations, updating online listings, and so on.

SCVFA Happenings

Still Calling All Young Fiddlers!

Sign Up for the Tenth

SCVFA Youth Fiddle Contest

November 6, 2011

At press time we still have room for more contestants. So if you know a young fiddler who hasn't signed up but would like to try it, give Pete a call (see below).



Everyone — come cheer on these young fiddlers!

Three age divisions:

8 and under, 11 and under, and now 17 and under.

- Cash prizes for 1st through 5th in each division.
- Custom-made fiddle trophy and a 1-year SCVFA membership for first place in each div.
- Participant ribbons and certificates for all.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

Full details and the entry form are on our website at www.scvfa.org/contest. Questions? Call Pete Showman at (408) 255-0297.

PA System – Almost Done!

At the October jam we tried out the main parts of the new PA system: the 12-input powered mixer, donated main speakers with lightweight stands, and four new good-quality condenser microphones. We did not yet have stage monitor speakers, which made it hard for people in large groups to hear each other.

We now have two new monitor speakers. (We also have a new mixer; we exchanged the first one because it was dented). So we'll have a complete new PA system starting in November for the Contest, and for our next open mike in December. Please let us know how you like it.

This completes the key purchases, replacing most of what was stolen. We may still upgrade one or two of our old mikes, and make some other changes to improve portability – but we have the essential parts. This same system will also be used for playouts.

Thanks again to all the people who donated or offered money or equipment. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and concern.



Join us for the SCVFA Holiday Potluck Sunday, December 4

- Jamming and stage performances from 1-3 PM
- Potluck Dinner starts at 3 PM

Bring **SIDE DISHES**. The SCVFA provides turkey, ham, beverage, and eating utensils. We need more side dishes than desserts.

Specifically, bring one dish to feed four times as many as are in your group. So, if you come alone, bring enough for 4 others. If you come as a couple, bring enough for 8. Please bring your own serving utensils and tape your names on your serving dishes so we know who they belong to.

Can't bring a dish? Come anyway, and buy a meal ticket for just \$5.

Note: We do not have permission to use the kitchen facilities (kitchen sinks or electrical outlets). No food warmers or electric utensils are permitted.



December Potluck Organizers Needed

We need a few people to organize the Potluck. please contact Richard Brooks if you can assist, as overall coordinator or just to help out.

We're also looking for some entertainment before and after dinner. Let Richard know if you can contribute some music.

Trustee Position Open in February

We elect two of the six regular Trustees every February. Trustee **Dave Williams** plans to run again but **Steve Joynes** has decided not to, so there will be an open seat to be filled.

If you are interested in being a Trustee please contact Richard Brooks or any board member (see p.2). We'll pass your name along to the nominating committee.

Being a Trustee is a great way to learn about the SCVFA, and help guide it. Trustee meetings are normally held every other month, for about three hours. Trustees also take on various assignments as needed to keep the association running.

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association

Youth Fiddle Contest



November 6, 2011



At SCVFA's Sunday Afternoon Jam

(Check in 1:00; contest begins 1:45 with 8-and-under division)

at Hoover Middle School
Naglee Ave. at Park Ave., San Jose

Register early! Due to time constraints a maximum of 25 contestants will be accepted. Additional registrants will be placed on a waiting list.

Three age divisions: 8 and under, 11 and under, and 17 and under.
Trophies for first place in each division. Cash prizes as follows:

8 and under:	11 and under:	17 and under:
1 st Prize \$40	1 st Prize \$50	1 st Prize \$60
2 nd Prize \$25	2 nd Prize \$35	2 nd Prize \$45
3 rd Prize \$20	3 rd Prize \$25	3 rd Prize \$35
4 th Prize \$15	4 th Prize \$20	4 th Prize \$25
5 th Prize \$10	5 th Prize \$15	5 th Prize \$20

Other Prizes in Each Division

The top five winners will receive winner certificates and place ribbons.
All participants will receive participation certificates and ribbons

Registration fee \$5 if received by Wed Nov. 2, \$10 afterwards. Includes one free adult admission for parent, accompanist or any other adult. Additional adult admissions are \$6 for SCVFA members, \$8 for non-members.

For more information contact Pete Showman at (408) 255-0297, or ContestInfo11@scvfa.org. See the SCVFA web site, www.fiddlers.org/contest for information and registration form.

Contestants will play two tunes: one tune in a traditional fiddle style and one tune of player's choice.

The playing time for the two tunes should be no more than four minutes total.

Each contestant may have up to two accompanists, who may not play the melody.

At press time there's still plenty of room in Sunday's Youth Fiddle Contest. If you know a young fiddler encourage him or her to give it a try. Download the full-sized flyer, rules and entry from our website: fiddlers.org/contest.

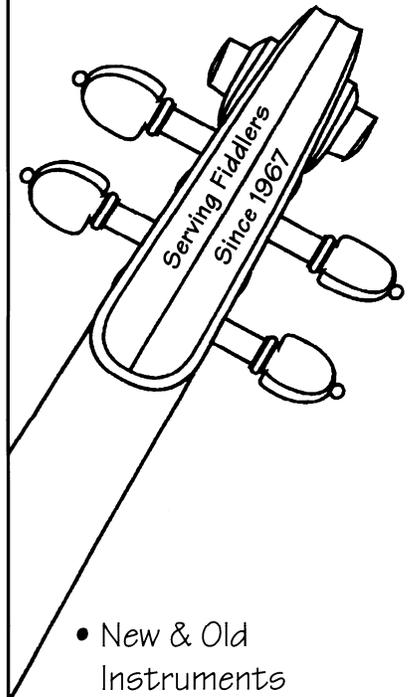


Division 2 contestants from the 2010 Youth Fiddle Contest

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Kiowa Special

Traditional?

$\text{♩} = 100$

A

1 **D** **G** **D** **G** **D** **A**

5 **D** **G** **D** **G** **D** | 1 **A** **D** | 2 **A** **D**

B

9 **Bm** ** **F#m**

13 **Bm** **F#m** ⊗ **Bm** | 2 *D.C. al coda* **Bm** **A**

10 ** *Alt. B2:*

10 ** *Or this:*

16 **Coda** **Bm**

As I learned it from John Gregorin at the Fandango old-time jam, around Dec 2010 — except that I've added a few slides, the 2nd alternate for meas. B2 (the way I usually play it), and the Coda (I like to stop without the modulation back to D, but I think I'm in the minority). Also I'm more likely to play an A (or nothing) rather than the F in the B-part first ending.

To me the B part evokes lonesome Native American chanting, rather than trains as the word "Special" suggests to some. Could it be the Kiowa tribe's lament for the loss of their ancestral homelands near Yellowstone?

Mikey Abraham has a mandolin arrangement at www.flatpick.com/lessons/august2008.html.

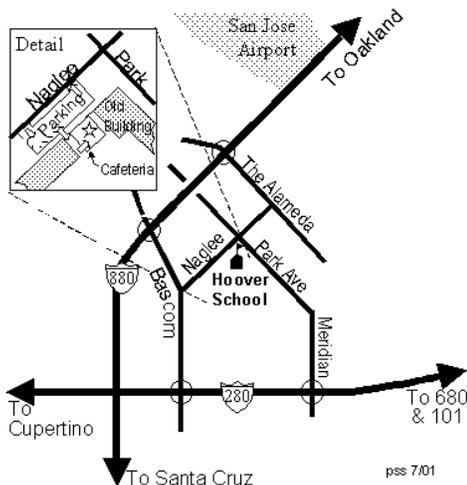
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Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
P.O. Box 2666
Cupertino, CA 95015-2666

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 and Youth Fiddle Contest:
Sunday Nov. 6, 1-5 pm,**
Hoover Middle School.

Damaged or Missing Issue? Call us,
or email to: newsletter at scvfa.org



**** Remember that Daylight Saving ends that morning.**

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Miss the Calendar? Let us know.