



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 42, Number 8
Celebrating 41 years

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

August 2014
Next Jam: Aug. 3

President's Note



July 6 was a perfect weather day for our jam in the Municipal Rose Garden Park, which was very well attended. Sarah Kirton did a wonderful job leading our Beginners Circle. Thank you, Sarah!

We were approached by the City Parks and Recreation Department staff and told that we need a "Special Use Permit" to use the park for our jams. We've been having them there during the summer months since 2003 without incident. A permit request was submitted even though it appears we do not need one based on the website's criteria. No word yet, as of press time.

On September 7, we return to Hoover Middle School.

Reunion of the Overlook Mt. Boys and Lone Prairie

This issue completes my spotlight on Jack Sadler, one of our most influential and illustrious members.

Don't miss our October 5 reunion of Jack's two bands: The Overlook Mt. Boys (bluegrass) and Lone Prairie (western / cowboy). We hope to have a list of band alumni participating in this historic event on the website.

Rhythm Roundup Opens GOF Festival on Aug. 8.

On Friday, August 8 at 3:00 PM, **Rhythm Roundup**, my band, is the first main stage band at the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival at Bolado Park in Tres Pinos (south of Hollister). **Sam Morocco** (bass), **Mike Schwartz** (guitar), **Chris Rogers** (mandolin) and I will play bluegrass, western swing and swing jazz standards. Visit www.ncbs.us for details.

Share Your Photos

Share your photos and we will include your name if they are used in the Rag. Email them to the editor (currently Pete Showman): newsletter at fiddlers.org.

Amazon Buyers

On the lower left side of our www.fiddlers.org website we have a link to Amazon. If you click on it to go to Amazon, we get a small commission if you make a purchase. It costs you nothing and it really helps us.

- Richard Brooks

Jack Sadler - Member Spotlight (Part 2 of 2)

By Richard J. Brooks

Plane Builder and Pilot

In 1975, Jack bought a wrecked plane that once served in WWII, then became a crop-duster, and finally became a pile of parts after it crashed.



It took 7 1/2 years for him to rebuild his WWII U.S. Navy Stearman biplane. Jack gave it the buzz number (nickname) "659." The "6" stood for June, the month he got married, and the "59" stood for 1959, the year he graduated from dental school.



Jack got his pilot's license and enjoyed giving rides to friends



and family. He was in the Rainbow Squadron performing in air shows where four planes took off and landed simultaneously. The Watsonville airport still displays a painting of Jack with his "659." He enjoyed the hobby for 15 years and sold the biplane in 2000.

(Continued on page 4)

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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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Newsletter Submissions & Comments:

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 Website: www.scvfa.org or www.fiddlers.org
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Some Musician Jokes

(from the Web and Dave Williams)

Q: What does a musician do after winning the lottery?

A: Keep on gigging until the money runs out.

Q: How do you become a millionaire as a musician?

A: Start with two million.

Q: What's the difference between a musician and a savings bond?

A: The savings bond matures and earns money.

Q: And between a musician and a pizza?

A: A pizza can feed a family of four.

Q: What's the difference between a banjo and a chainsaw? **A:** You can tune a chainsaw.

Q: What's the definition of perfect pitch?

A: Getting the violin in the trash can on the first try.

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Since 1982 the Northern California Bluegrass Society has promoted bluegrass and old time music in the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay areas. This highly active club has nurtured the development of bands and venues. The NCBS hosts the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival each August, an event that solely features California bands. We sponsor festivals, concerts and jams all over the area. Members receive the Bluegrass By the Bay magazine each quarter. Please join us!

Q: What's the difference between a violin and a fiddle?

A1: A fiddle is fun to listen to.

A2: No-one minds if you spill beer on a fiddle.

Q: How long does it take to tune a hammered dulcimer?

A: Nobody knows.

Q: What happens if you play blues or country music backwards?

A: Your wife returns to you, your dog comes back to life, and you get out of prison.

Q: What do you get when you play New Age music backwards?

A: New Age music.

Q: What does it mean when a [musician of your choice] is drooling out of both sides of his mouth?

A: The stage is level.

"Haven't I seen your face before?" a judge demanded, looking down at the defendant.

"You have, Your Honor," the man answered hopefully.

"I gave your son violin lessons last winter."

"Ah, yes," recalled the judge. "Twenty years!"

Two musicians walk past a pub.

- *That's it, folks*

SCVFA Happenings

August Jam at the Rose Garden

In spite of the possible requirement to get a permit, (see p.1) we still plan to hold the **August 3** jam in the Rose Garden Park, two blocks down Naglee Ave. from Hoover Middle School (see the map on the back page). But we still have not heard from the Parks Dep't what new requirements, if any, there might be. Check our website for any updates.

No open mike performances at the park, and no admission charge. We just have a bunch of fun. The jam nominally runs from 1:00 to 5:00 as usual, but often a few stay later to get in a few more tunes.

There are picnic tables and barbecues in the area where we congregate, so bring a lunch and come early; it's a chance to sit and talk with other members.

2014 Youth Fiddle Contest?

We will soon be checking with the families and teachers on our KidFiddle email list, to see if there's enough interest in a 2014 Youth Fiddle Contest. In some recent years we've had to work hard to get enough contestants. If interest is high enough, Pete Showman has agreed to organize our 13th contest.

If you're interested, don't wait. Email Pete at this year's contest address, ContestInfo14 at fiddlers.org, to let him know.

Other Upcoming Events

A reminder about the events mentioned last month:

Redwood Dulcimer Days on **August 8, 9 and 10** at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 5271 Scotts Valley Dr., Scotts Valley. It includes a film Friday evening (\$10), mountain dulcimer workshops on Saturday (\$70 at the door), and a concert Saturday evening. See communitymusicsschool.org/dulcimer_day/, or phone the Community Music School: 831-426-9155.

The 37th Annual Sawplayers' Festival (free) is the same weekend, **August 9-10**: Saturday afternoon jam at 1:00 pm at the Scribner Statue in Santa Cruz; Saturday evening jam and potluck at 6 pm at Roaring Camp in Felton. Roaring Camp events on Sunday include a contest at 11, a concert, and a workshop at 4:25. See www.sawplayers.org/festinfo.html.

Scottish Fiddle Concert: Alasdair Frasier and the students from the Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddle Camp will perform **Friday, August 29, 2014** at

Trustee Meeting Highlights

The SCVFA Board of Trustees met July 20, 2014.
The Trustees:

- Made plans for our featured performers at the October jam: the reunion of members of The Overlook Mountain Boys and Lone Prairie (several of whom were and are SCVFA members).
- Accepted with regret the resignations of Trustee Tom Clausen and KidFiddle coordinator Mary Kennedy. Their efforts to help SCVFA are appreciated. Members interested in helping in these or other roles are encouraged to talk with Richard Brooks or other trustees.
- Decided to hold the Youth Fiddle Contest this year (November) only if it seems we are likely to have sufficient entrants; decision to be made by early September.
- Noted that our plan is to hold the August jam at the Rose Garden Park, if allowed. The September jam will be at Hoover Middle School.
- Considered and will look into suggestions for meeting locations for trustee meetings. If anyone would like to host a meeting, please let Richard Brooks know.
- Considered ideas for how best to encourage youth and people of all ages to enjoy traditional music (and SCVFA).
- Considered ideas for publicizing SCVFA through radio, social media, flyers, etc.
- Were informed that the membership directories not already distributed have been mailed to members.
- Noted that the required tax and reporting forms were filed with the IRS and the state of California in June.
- Set September 21 as the proposed date for the next trustee meeting.

Dinah Showman, Secretary

Trustee meetings are open to all SCVFA members. They are usually held on 3rd Sundays of odd-numbered months (subject to change due to conflicts). If you'd like to attend a meeting, contact Richard Brooks: President at fiddlers.org.

8:00 pm at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, 307 Church Street, Santa Cruz. Other featured musicians include fiddlers Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh, Jeremy Kittel, and Catherine Mackintosh, singer Laura Cortese, dancer Nic Gareiss, and cellist Natalie Haas.

Tickets are available at www.SantaCruzTickets.com, at the Civic Box Office, or by phone (831) 420-5260 (subject to box office service charges). In advance: \$20 adults; \$17 students and seniors; children 8 and under are free. \$10 in advance for groups of 10+.

(Jack Sadler, continued from Page 1)

Lone Prairie – a Western Cowboy Music Band

Jack retired from his dental practice in 1990 and was able to devote more time to music. In 1993, he and friends Joe Kimbro and Paul King began to work on vocal trios in the western cowboy music style of the Sons of the Pioneers. In 1994, Lone Prairie became a formal band with Jack (harmony vocals, 2nd fiddle), Joe Kimbro (lead guitar), Paul King (rhythm guitar), Ed Neff (lead fiddle), Karen Quick (bass), and Barbara Ann Barnett (accordion).

Their first CD “Desert Flower” was recorded in 1996, and is named after the love song Jack wrote for Janet. Both the title song and the album were nominated for best of the year by the Western Music Association.

Their second CD “Back on the Dusty Trail” was recorded in 2007. It was named after a song written by band member Paul King. The album has Mark McCornack on banjo replacing accordion player Barbara Ann Barnett.

Lone Prairie performed at festivals in Sebastopol and throughout California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. They were regular performers at the annual Western Music Association’s convention in Tucson where they even sang “Happy Trails” on stage with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Jack became WMA’s Yodeling Champion in 1999 by singing “Yodelin’ Crazy.” It was the first and only time he entered a yodeling contest.

Lone Prairie continued to perform through 2010 until Joe Kimbro could no longer perform due to illness. Sadly, he died in 2011.

Desert Flower by Jack Sadler

Music: www.scvfa.org/Tunes/DesertFlower.mp3

Chorus in three part harmony:

If the desert’s bloom would be,
Called a floral symphony,
You’d be like ten thousand trumpets in compare.
(pause)

I’ll be seeing you in June,
When the desert roses bloom,
And the fragrance of their blossoms fill the air.
(pause)

Jack sings the verse:

The old cowboy turned his head,
As he rested on his bed,
And watched his desert flower walk through the door. (pause)

He thought she looked so grand,
As she carried in her hand,
Love letters written many years before. (pause)

Jack sings the refrain:

And then she read those letters he had written to her then,
When destiny would keep them far apart.
He looked at her and knew that she was still that lovely when
These precious words flowed freely from his heart.

Chorus and instrumental to end



Richard Brooks photo

Jack accepting his Lifetime Achievement Award given by the NCBS on 2-16-2008



Lone Prairie (L to R): Karen Quick, Paul King, Joe Kimbro, Jack Sadler, Ed Neff, Mark McCornack (front)

Bow Maker

Jack made five bows. He applied the same care and skill that he learned as a dentist towards making bows with delicate inlaid frogs decorated with abalone and mother of pearl, and with windings of gold and silver.

His bow-making teacher was his friend Jack English, a well known bow maker. His favorite bow was made by William Salchow, a famous New York bow maker. Jack plays a violin made in 1929 by J. F. Auer and Son.

SCVFA Supporter

Jack was on SCVFA's first board of trustees. He was a judge for our Youth Fiddle Contest in 2002-2004 and 2006-2012. He even renewed his SCVFA membership for 10 years, figuring it was a lifetime's worth.



Richard Brooks photo

L to R: Arthur Kee, Jack Sadler, John Lytle, Jim True on 10-3-2010

Passion for Music Continues

In September 2005, Jack, Arthur Kee, John Lytle, and I attended Johnny Gimble's Swing Week in Taos, New Mexico. It was a fantastic week of western swing music hosted by Johnny Gimble, one of the most revered western swing fiddlers in the world.

Jack still attends our jams to sing harmony with and play second fiddle along side his long-time friend Arthur Kee, a national fiddle champion. In October 2010, Jack and Arthur were SCVFA's Featured Performers playing twin fiddles on eleven tunes. The video of them is available on DVD. You can see a list of the tunes with a photo of the DVD's cover in our July 2011 Fiddler's Rag on our website.

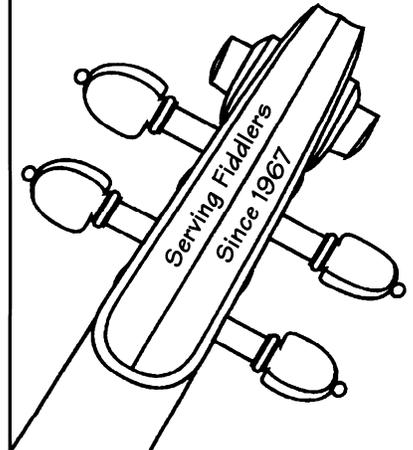
Jack and Janet celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on June 11, 2014. Jack's goal is to continue to live life to the fullest, to enjoy his children and grandchildren.



Jack and Janet celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary

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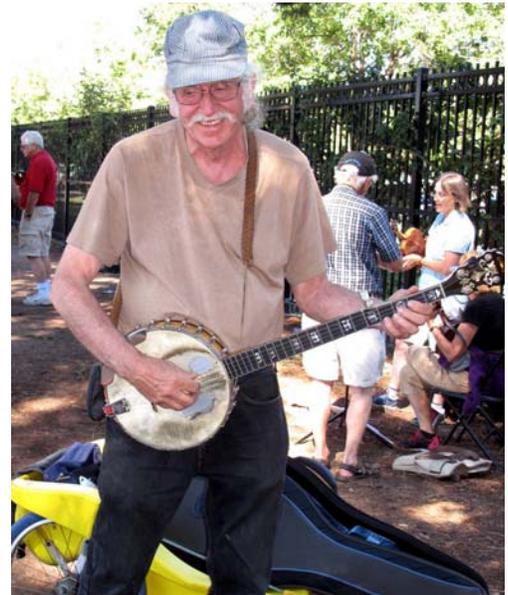
Fax: **[408] 298-8198**

Photos from the July Jam



Élan Alford photo

Paul Clarke seems to be playing two banjos! He's ready for whatever comes – especially with his 3rd banjo nearby.



Richard Brooks photo

Is it the name? **Clark Akatiff** also plays banjo, and sings too.



Pete Showman photos

Dorian Martinka (fiddle) and Trustee **Élan Alford** (banjo) prepare to join in.



Allan French and **Karen O'Neal** compare mountain dulcimer techniques.

Big Eyed Rabbit

Key: A

Traditional
Arr. Pete Showman; lyrics from Jena Rauti

Verse:

A D

1. Yon - der comes a rab - bit, ___ fast as he can run;
 2. Yon - der comes a rab - bit, ___ Slip - pin' through the sand,
 3. Yon - der comes my dar - lin', ___ how ___ do I know?

5 D A

If that rab - - bit don't watch out, gon - na
 If that rab - - bit don't watch out, gon - na
 Tell her* by her* pretty blue eyes, _____

* Or "him" and "his", if you prefer....

7 A E A

Shoot him wi - th my gun, I'll shoot him with my gun.
 Fry him i - n my pan, I'll fry him in my pan.
 Shin - in' bri-ight like gold, _____ Shin - in' bright like gold.

Chorus:

11 A E A

Big - eyed ra - - bit's gone, boys, big - eyed rab - bit's gone;
 Big - eyed ra - - bit's gone, boys, big - eyed rab - bit's gone.

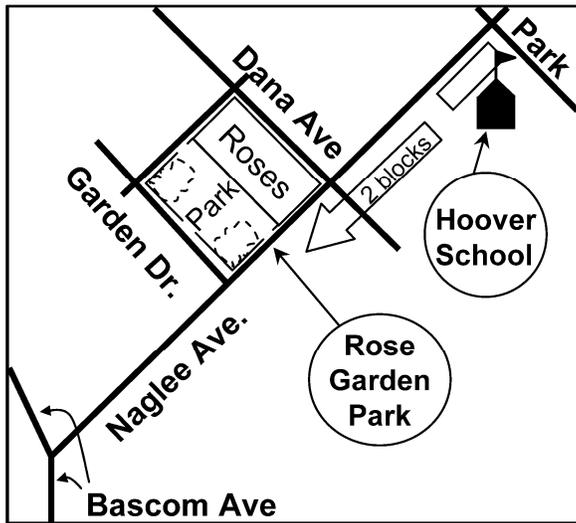
Arr. and typeset in ABC by Pete Showman: rev. 2 7/22/2014.

There are lots of lyric variations on the Web, e.g. at mudcat.org.

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

**Rose Garden Park
July & August
2014**

**Next Jam: Sunday Aug. 3 at 1 pm
Rose Garden Park (see map)
Look for us under the trees!**



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



Pete Showman photo

The July jam featured a lot of musicians! In the foreground, an old-time circle with (L-R) Sarah Kirton (behind Paul), Paul Barnett, John Gregorin, Sue Torngren (guitar), Barbara Rosner (bass) and Wes Mitchell (fiddle).