



# Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 43, Number 5  
Celebrating 42 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association  
[www.scvfa.org](http://www.scvfa.org) or [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org)

May 2015  
Next Jam: May 3



## President's Note

Fewer folks than usual came to our April jam but our on-stage entertainment filled the whole day. Dave Magram, Jennifer Kitchen, John Kornhauser and I played some bluegrass. Chip Curry and I played some western

swing. Gary Breitbard and Jena Rauti played old-time tunes and several old-time musicians filled the stage.

Pete Showman was our jam manager. Richard Grace and Élan Alford helped at our storage locker. If you drive, please sign up to help with this task so we can bring all of our supplies and equipment to the school.

Topher Heath led his "Real Slow Jam" for beginners who can play chords at a steady rhythm.

Gary Breitbard, Jena Rauti, and Peter Tommerup performed at a Celtic house party on March 14 on our behalf. On April 18, Gary, Jena, Paul Clarke, and Sarah Kirton played for the Bay Area Costumers Guild in *Gone with the Wind*. I want to see their period costumes. They all deserve our greatest appreciation!

After careful consideration, the board decided to have our September jam at the Hoover School.

Pat Tanti is doing a great job as our new newsletter editor. Let's all thank him for his hard work!

**First-Time Visitors Can Get a Free Door Admission**  
First-time visitors can get a free door admission in May and June if accompanied by a member.

### Share Your Photos

Share your photos and we will include your name if they are used in the Rag. Email them to newsletter editor Pat Tanti at [newsletter at fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter@fiddlers.org).

### Donate CDs for our Door Prize

Donate a CD you don't need for our door prize winners.

### Amazon Buyers

On the lower left side of our [www.fiddlers.org](http://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

## You Don't Want to Read about Bow Bugs While You're Eating

By Diane Bruce

If you are currently eating, you should click away from this article and read it later. If you are eating, then dermestids are eating too... and their appetite is pretty nasty. If you're lucky, they'll only be eating your wool sweater. But they might be eating feathers or they might be eating your dead skin. They might be devouring an animal carcass somewhere. And if you're very unlucky, they might be eating the hair on your bow. Thankfully, we have a solution and prevention strategy for these pests.

Dermestids (or "bow bugs") are a family of 500-700 beetles that are a couple of millimeters in size. Most dermestids happily eat shrubs as adults, but as larva, they enjoy natural fibers, such as bow hair. These beetles are everywhere; they are in your house right now. You probably don't see them much (or at all) because they prefer munching in dark places that you are not likely to notice, such as under your bed or in your attic. When they are snacking on bow hair, they usually eat near the tip or the frog. They aren't considerate enough to just eat one hair in its entirety; they will take little bites out of several hairs so that your bow hair will be everywhere in your case except attached to your bow.

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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](http://www.fiddlers.org/join).

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Website: [www.scvfa.org](http://www.scvfa.org) or [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org)  
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**Walker Creek Music Camp**

*By Dave Williams*

A number of our members attended the Walker Creek Music Camp held in the coastal hills between Petaluma and Point Reyes. The camp ran from Thursday April 9 through Sunday April 12.

Twice a year, Ingrid Noyes puts together a great 4 day / 3 night camp bringing in only the highest quality instructors for three days of hands-on instruction for all acoustic instruments, vocals and performance classes.

This spring, the instructors included Blaine Sprouse and Brad Leftwich for fiddles, bluegrass and old time respectively, Jack Tuttle led a bluegrass jam class, Jim Nunally and Scott Nygaard on guitars, Keith Little vocals and even a jug band performance class led by Morgan Cochneuer. These are just a handful of the talented instructors involved in the camp.

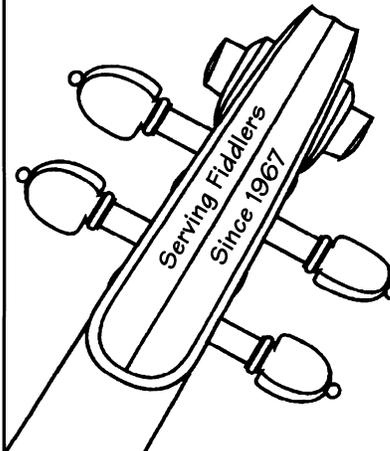


Some of our favorite fiddlers!  
 Photo: Dave Williams

*(Continued on page 3)*

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(Walker Creek Music Camp, Continued)

On Friday evening after dinner the staff performed for the students and on Saturday night the students performed for the staff (and everyone). These performances are part of the camp culture.

The setting, a beautiful ranch owned by the Marin County Board of Education is primarily a setting for education. Having camps and conferences contributes to supporting the education programs. There is shared indoor lodging and plenty of camping.

Did I mention jamming? Jams are set up each night for various levels and styles of music and often continue well into the night. In the morning, you wake up to a flock of wild turkeys patrolling the grounds.

The next camp is in the fall from October 8-11 with registration beginning in July. You can find out more at [www.walkercreekmusiccamp.org](http://www.walkercreekmusiccamp.org).

## SCVFA Happenings

### Snacks for the Jam

On your way to the jam? Please bring a snack to share. Healthy choices are always appreciated!

### Slow Jam Tunes for May

Topher Heath writes:

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). To participate, you should be able to tune your instrument, play chords at a steady pace, and work up melodies / leads.

The song list is:

- D Arkansas Traveler \*NEW in April
- G Cripple Creek \*NEW in April
- G Girl I Left Behind Me
- G Irish Washerwoman \*NEW in March
- G Kesh Jig, The
- D Liberty
- G Mountain Dew \*NEW in May
- A Old Joe Clark
- D Soldier's Joy
- G Worried Man Blues
- C Wildwood Flower
- A Will The Circle Be Unbroken \*NEW in May

Check here first for songs:  
[www.scvfa.org/tunes/](http://www.scvfa.org/tunes/)

Note: if you would like to be added to (or removed from) the Slow Jam mailing list, just send a note to: [topher.heath at xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:topher.heath@xxxxxxxx).



Pete Showman on stage at the April Jam

Photo: Dinah Showman

A big thanks to Pete Showman, for feverishly working on the transcription from Blaine's unedited Roxanne's Waltz manual script (picture below) into the ABC format (the music notation system that Pete uses for all the Fiddler's Rag tunes, including the one on page 7). Pete finished it right on time for insertion into last month's Rag. In case you missed it or



misplaced your copy, the PDF and MIDI files are available on the SCVFA website, on a new tunes page at [www.fiddlers.org/tunes/](http://www.fiddlers.org/tunes/) (which also has the tunes from the Beginners' Page).

# Photos from the May 2015 Jam



Photo: Dinah Showman

Mike Bell, Warren Campbell, Pete Showman, Larry Joba



Photo: Richard Brooks

Gary Breitbard and Jena Rauti playing old time tunes.



Photo: Janet Johnston

Dave Magram, Jennifer Kitchen, John Kornhauser, Richard Brooks.



Chip Curry playing some western swing.



Photo: Richard Brooks

Photo: Allan French

Real slow jam circle with **Todd Dickson** and his two sons **Caedmon** and **Ethan**, **Claudette Earl**, and **Topher Heath**.

## Photos from the May 2015 Jam (Continued)



Photo: Élan Alford

Good jam on April 5<sup>th</sup> with musicians clockwise in top picture: **Mark Hopkins, Craig Mitchell, Larry Joba, Chris Cochran, Paul Barnett** and standing behind Craig, **Dancin' John**.

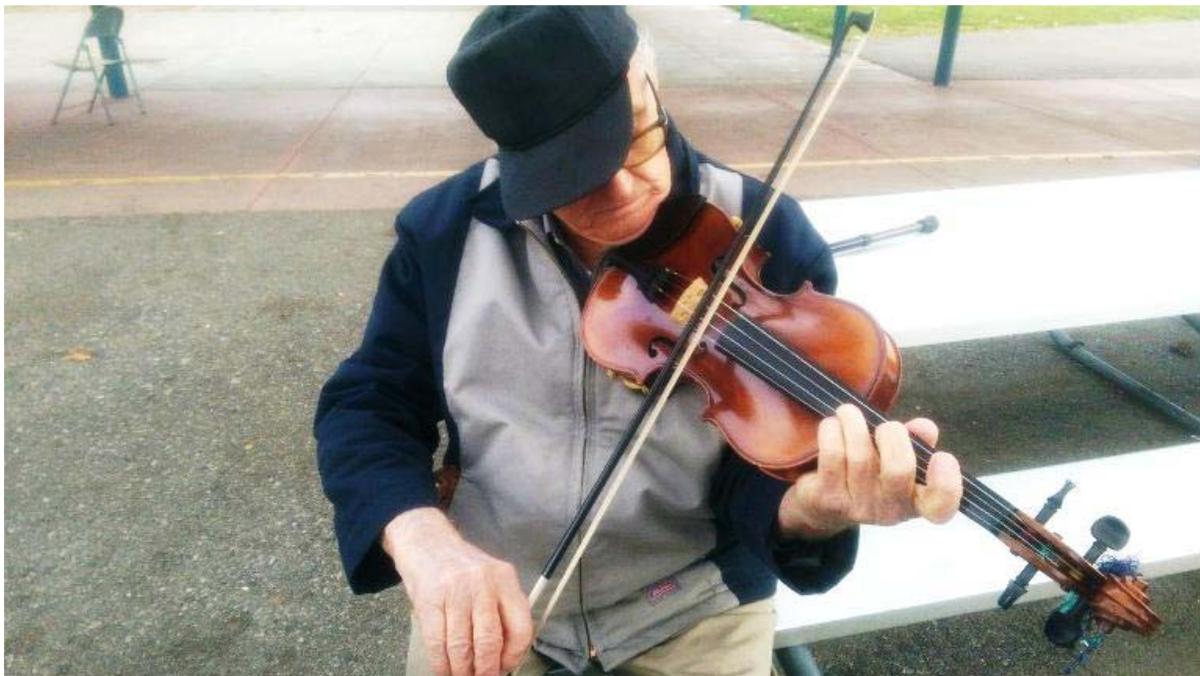


Photo: Susan Goodis

*(You Don't Want to Read about Bow Bugs While You're Eating - continued)*

Oftentimes, when people bring old instruments into our shop for repairs, bow bugs have been at work for so long that the case has bow hair sticking out in all directions.

Since bow bugs like dark, uninterrupted spaces, it should stand to reason that the best way to obtain bow bugs is by leaving your case closed. You don't have to do anything else; bow bugs will come to you. It only takes a couple days for a bow bug or two to find their way into your case and start noshing, molting, and noshing some more. The best way to prevent bow bugs is to play your instrument regularly. The daily exposure to light should be enough to keep bow bugs at bay.



How do you know you have bow bugs? Cases with bow hairs hanging out are a great indicator of bow bugs, but if you have not played for just a brief period of time, the evidence might be more subtle. Sometimes you can open up your case and find a newly acquired bow bug at work. While they don't like light, they don't necessarily instantly flee when they are exposed to it. If you see a grub-like creature on your bow hair, you can be sure you've seen one. If

they are elsewhere in the case, you may see them burrow into the linings. Sometimes live bugs are not readily visible. If you don't see a live bug, you may very well see casings. Bow bugs molt, leaving behind a reddish-brownish segmented shell. If you are not sure whether or not you have bugs, it is always safest to err on the side of caution.

What can you do if you've acquired bow bugs? The first thing to do is to take a deep breath and remain calm. These bugs are gross, but they are not going to hurt you. It can help your nerves to bear in mind that an infestation of bow bugs is not the same as an infestation of ants; you probably only have a few bow bugs in your case. Once you are ready to remove the bugs, you should vacuum out your case. After your case has been vacuumed, it should be left open in the light for a few days. If there are any bow bugs remaining in the case, they will leave the case to find some other dark place in your house. Above all, do not spray pesticide in your case. This can damage your instrument.

If too much bow hair is eaten by bow bugs, unfortunately, you will need to get your bow re-haired. This is no cause for embarrassment; we see bow bugs and bow bugged hair all the time. As with any pest, we understand that sometimes you did something to attract them and sometimes you did very little. We won't ask if it was your short vacation or a general lack of practicing that caused you to acquire them. However, we will advise you on how to prevent bow bugs from eating your hair in the future; as much as we like the money from re-hairing your bow, bow bugs are really gross to us, too!

Article used with the author's permission. Diane Bruce's original article is located at <http://masterhandviolin.com/Blog13.html>, Please also check her blog at [www.masterhandviolin.com](http://www.masterhandviolin.com), from the *Master Hand Violin Shop* in Wheaton, IL.

# Billy in the Lowground

Traditional

Key: A Major

♩ = 90

Adapted by Pete Showman from a transcription at [abcnotation.com](http://abcnotation.com) (r3: 9/9/2013).

# Billy in the Low Land

Traditional

Key: G major

♩ = 90

(Henry Reed)

Transcr. & Arr. Pete Showman  
from Henry Reed's playing

\*\* The last time, Reed played measure 13 as a slide not quite reaching high B, more or less like this:

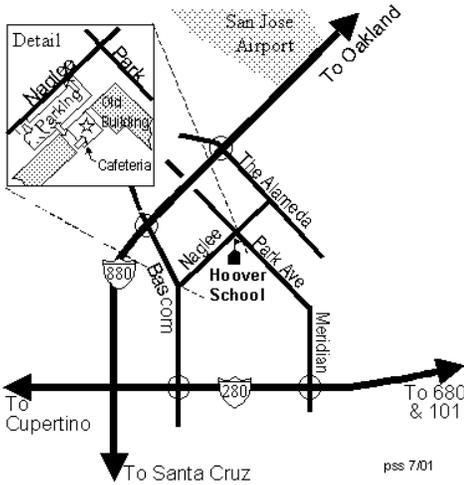
Based on Alan Jabbour's recording and transcription of Henry Reed's playing. You can hear Alan Jabbour and Ken Perlman playing it here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmWNHgrGMTU>. Both the original recording and Alan's transcription are available as part of the Henry Reed Collection at the U.S. Library of Congress: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/reed/title.html>. Arr. and typeset in ABC by Pete Showman (r2: 2/15/2015).

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

**Next Jam: Sunday May 3, 1-5 pm  
at Hoover Middle School**

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.

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



**Lee Clarke (center) and Jena Rauti (right) get some members of the audience involved.**

Photo: Susan Goodis