



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 45, Number 11
Celebrating 44 years

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

November 2017
Next Jam: Nov 5



President's Note

Northern California has been devastated by wildfires. Our hearts go out to all those who have been affected. Many of us know people who have lost everything. Let friends and music be healing forces in their lives.

The search is on for a trustee to serve on the SCVFA board for a term commencing in February. Volunteers are what keep SCVFA running. Consider saying Yes when the nominating committee asks you to join the board.

Our next board meeting will be November 8th at my home in Mountain View, starting with socializing and a potluck dinner at 6 PM. Join us to see how we operate and be a part of the process. Contact me, President at Fiddlers.org, for more information.

Walker Creek Music Camp was early this year, which caused half dozen SCVFA members, including me, to miss the SCVFA October jam. We all spent a long weekend learning and jamming. This camp caters to both bluegrass and oldtime musicians twice yearly. It is an awesome place to immerse yourself in music. Try it sometime.

The Mountain Music Festival at Prusch Farm Park had quite a few of our SCVFA members performing for the event. Wes Mitchell, Bob Palasek, Jean Avram, Sam Morocco, Paul Clark, Cindy Dinga, Bert and Anne Raphael and Bev and Steve Tracey performed an old-time set. Lee Anne Welch played in Sidesaddle and was joined by Linda Maki playing in The Goat Hill Girls. From what I hear, everyone had lots of fun. Thanks to all those who participated. I'm proud that SCVFA was well represented by so many fine musicians. Paid performances like this help keep SCVFA in the black.

Even with these other events, I'm told the jam was exciting as usual. John Gregorin, accompanied by Sue Torngren, led the Tune Builder Circle. A couple of new folks joined in as they were taught "Dogs in the Dishes" and "Twin Sisters". Bill Boiko led the Slow Jam. Élan Alford was the jam manager and Dinah Showman and Charlotte Prater managed the admission and welcome desk. Thanks everyone and to all those who pitched in for all your hard work, energy, and enthusiasm.

Topher Heath, who has been leading the Slow Jam, informed me that due to his move to Utah, he regretfully must withdraw from the leadership role. Thank you Topher for creating this very successful jam for SCVFA. Many musicians have learned a solid repertoire with your gentle guidance. Passing it on is what the folk music tradition is all about.

"Afters" was attended by five people at the Pasta Market. It's always good to take the time to talk to the folks you play music with. "Afters" following the November jam will be at Sam's Bar-B-Que at 1110 S Bascom Ave, San Jose. Join us there.

It takes a village to keep SCVFA running smoothly. 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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Seat 2: Élan Alford	Seat 4: Wes Mitchell	Seat 6: Cindy Dinga

To Contact the SCVFA:

Mail: P.O. Box 2666, Cupertino, CA 95015-2666

Email to Susan Goodis: [president /at/ fiddlers.org](mailto:president/at/fiddlers.org)

Newsletter Submissions & Comments: [newsletter /at/ fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter/at/fiddlers.org)

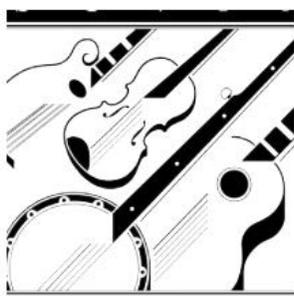
Address changes: [membership /at/ fiddlers.org](mailto:membership/at/fiddlers.org)

Website: www.scvfa.org or www.fiddlers.org

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NEW

The Facebook group has been replaced. After several months' trial, SCVFA is shifting all Facebook content to a Facebook Page. Find the page on Facebook by entering www.facebook.com/Fiddlers.org or SCVFA - Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association. Remember to "Like" the page, share it on your personal Facebook page and invite friends and family to "Like" it too.

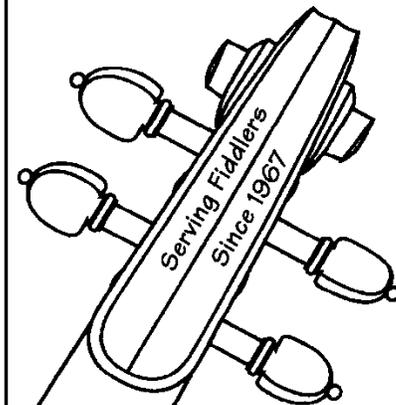


IMPORTANT

Help SCVFA keep costs down. We will be billed extra rental fees if members enter the facility early or stay late. Do not enter the cafeteria before 12:30 pm. Return any chairs from the schoolyard back into the cafeteria and remove any instrument cases from the cafeteria by 5:15. Everyone and everything must be totally out of the cafeteria before 5:30. You may stay in the schoolyard as long as you would like.

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SCVFA Happenings

Did you know that SCVFA receives a significant commission on every Amazon purchase when you initiate your item search from the SCVFA website's homepage (www.fiddlers.org)? Always initiate your Amazon item searches through the SCVFA Home Page and ignore Amazon's suggestion to support SCVFA through Amazon Smile (for which we get nothing).

SCVFA Slow Jam

The active song list is:

Angeline The Baker (D)	Red-Haired Boy (A)
Arkansas Traveler (D)	Red Wing (G)
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)

Upcoming Events

Silicon Valley House Concerts - Mountain View
Nathan Rivera & Jessie Andra Smith
Wednesday, November 1, 2017 - 7:30pm

Nicholas Williams and Laura Risk
Saturday, November 18, 2017 - 8:00pm

Email [SV.houseconcerts /at/ gmail.com](mailto:SV.houseconcerts@gmail.com) for information

District 9 of the California State
Old-Time Fiddlers Association (CSOTFA)
December Holiday Jam: December 10 (*second*
Sunday), 1:30-5:00pm.
See www.csotfa9.org/

San Francisco Folk Music Club's "Camp
Harmony"
December 27, 2017 to January 1, 2018;
Location TBD due to Napa fire.
See www.sffmc.org/harmony_body.html

California Banjo Extravaganza

Berkeley - Freight and Salvage Coffee House

Bill Evans, Charlie Cushman & Bob Carlin
Saturday, November 11, 2017
Doors open 7:00pm - Show 8:00pm
See www.billevansbanjo.com/schedule.php

Join us for the SCVFA Holiday Potluck Sunday, Dec. 3rd



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

Please bring lots of side dishes and a few desserts. The SCVFA will provide turkey, ham, beverages, eating utensils and decorations.

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

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

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



Fiddler on the Roof Jr.

San Jose - Montgomery Theatre

Young performers of Children's Musical Theater
Friday-Sunday, November 10-12, 2017
And Thursday-Sunday, November 16-19
Performance times vary, call 408-792-4111
(10-5, M-F) or see
www.sanjosetheaters.org/theaters/montgomery-theater/

It is important that each one of our members continues to talk about SCVFA and shares our enthusiasm with fellow musicians, family, and friends. Take a few business cards and share them when the opportunity presents itself.

October Photos (1 of 2)



John Gregorin and Sue Torngren lead the Tune Builder group (Photo: Élan Alford)



(Photo: Élan Alford)



Sam Morocco, John Sellers and Norio Kawato (Photo: Élan Alford)



Left: George Bradshaw in chaps and spurs at Almaden Quicksilver Park where SCVFA members provided unofficial entertainment for Pioneer Days (Photo: Susan Goodis)



SCVFA members had a great time performing at Prusch Farm Park (Photos: Susan Goodis)

October Photos (2 of 2)

Thanks Wes, Élan, Patti and Susan for this month's photos submissions!

To anyone with a smart phone or camera: please take photos at SCVFA events and send to newsletter /at/ fiddlers.org



Dovie Wylie, Bob Palasek, Clark Akatiff, Bert Raphael, Jean Avram, Anne Raphael and Julianna Bozsik
(Photos: Wes Mitchell)



“When you're in the band, it's hard to take pictures of the band or the dancers! But this is a try with Erik Hoffman, Susan Goodis, Cindy Canedy Dinga, Bert Raphael, Anne Raphael, and a multitude of others in the band! Had a great time!”

Patti Bossert with friends at the Hayward Contra Dance (regular monthly dances, 4th and 5th Sundays 4-7pm) <http://bacds.org/series/contra/hayward/>
(photo: unidentified helper on Patti's camera)

Edited Comments from the Fiddle-L

By Patrice Tanti

I discovered in some decade-old Fiddler's Rags the edited comments from the Fiddle-L email list that Dave Barton (SCVFA member since 1994 and regular Jam attendee) used to compile for the SCVFA on a regular basis. The website is running to this day and offers a treasure-trove of information. What follows are two interesting exchanges this past summer. Read more at: listserv.brown.edu/archives/cgi-bin/wa?A0=FIDDLE-L Webmaster Pete Showman found the original title page of the booklet mentioned in the second article at: www.abdn.ac.uk/radicalism/display.php?id=RAD155

Young Fiddle Students

Hi All, Just wondering if anyone could offer any suggestions as to what to teach young fiddle students young defined as under 7 years of age? I am in the unenviable position of introducing the student to the fiddle until an appropriate instructor can be found. Any suggestion welcome.

Tom Keller

If they've never played before, then you will need to spend some time first on how to hold the instrument and grasp the bow. Just getting a single open string to sound without hitting the adjacent string can be a big thing. Some simple exercises in switching between strings can be useful; give it a name and call it a "song" so they can say they've learned a tune. Learning one octave scales in D or A with open strings will allow them to play some simple nursery-rhyme tunes -- "Twinkle, Twinkle" or "The Farmer in the Dell" -- by ear. After a few lessons you can introduce them to the standard notation, whole notes and half notes, writing out some of the things they've learned by ear. The hardest thing about teaching youngsters is that they have a short attention span and get easily discouraged. Find easy things they can master. There are some free materials on line. Do a Google search, maybe "child violin music" or something along those lines.

Neil Rossi

My daughter started taking lessons when she had just turned four, and attention span was definitely the biggest obstacle. I don't mind telling you I learned a lot from watching the lessons. Her teacher was basically a Zen master, really adept at keeping things on track without being overbearing. She also knew when to call it a day, if the child simply wasn't into it.

Bo Bradham

Mr. Alexander Thom's Hornpipe

Does anyone out there know the story behind "Mr. Alexander Thom's Hornpipe"? And can anyone point me to a lead sheet of the tune?

Michael Mendelson

The Fiddlers Companion says: www.ibiblio.org/fiddlers MR. ALEXANDER THOM'S. Scottish, Reel. F Major. Standard tuning. AABB'. A 19th century composition by James Daniel. Source for notated version: Winston Fitzgerald (1914-1987, Cape Breton) [Cranford]. Cranford (Winston Fitzgerald), 1997; No. 43, pg. 16.

Michael Pravan

A little Google searching revealed:

James Daniel was a fiddler and an Aberdeen music engraver, editor and composer, known for one 39 page 1840 publication: "A Collection of original music, consisting of Slow Airs, Strathspeys, Reels, Quadrilles, Waltzes, Hornpipes, &c. &c. adapted for the Piano Forte, or Violin and Violoncello, by A Citizen". Here's the only complete online sheet music I found: <http://www.math.mun.ca/~bshawyer/musicpdf/Mr%20Alexander%20Thom's%20Hornpipe.Reel.Violin.pdf>

My guess is Mr. Alexander Thom may have been: Alexander Thom (1801-1879), born in Aberdeenshire, known as "The Queen's Printer in Ireland" <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=36822917> or perhaps: Alexander Thom (1775-1845), an army officer, surgeon, mill owner, Justice of the Peace, judge, and politician; probably born in Aberdeen, moved to Canada by 1815, and died in Perth, Ontario.

http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/thom_alexander_7E.html

Michael Mendelson



It does seem likely that the 19th century Scottish/Irish publisher is the correct Alexander Thom, especially since James Daniel was a Scottish engraver of that era (I imagine it never hurts for an engraver to name a tune after a nearby publisher, and to call him mister to boot), but there's a remote chance it refers to Alexander Thom Cringan, a composer and music professor who was born in 1860, educated in England, and who eventually settled in Canada.

Drew Beisswenger - University of Arkansas

Key: G major
♩ = 90

Turkey in the Straw

Traditional
Arr. Pete Showman

A

Section A consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. It contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. Above the staff, a box labeled 'A' is positioned above the first measure. Chord symbols 'G' and 'D' are placed above the second and fourth measures respectively. The second staff continues the melody, starting with a measure number '5' above the first note. It features two first endings, each enclosed in a box and labeled '1 (D)' and '2 (D)'. The first ending contains the chord symbols 'G D G' and the second ending contains 'G D G'. The section concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

B

Section B consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. It contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. Above the staff, a box labeled 'B' is positioned above the first measure. Chord symbols 'G' and 'C' are placed above the second and fourth measures respectively. The second staff continues the melody, starting with a measure number '13' above the first note. It features two first endings, each enclosed in a box and labeled '1 D G' and '2 D G'. The section concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by the text '(to repeat tune)'.

This is mostly how I learned the tune. See *The Fiddler's Fakebook* or *The Phillips Collection* for some variations. Arranged and typeset into ABC Plus by Pete Showman, March 2006 for the SCVFA Beginners' Circle. Edited (rev 2) 10/20/2017.



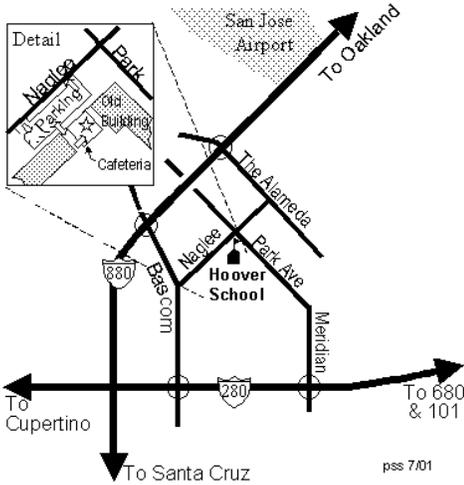
Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
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Cupertino, CA 95015-2666



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 Nov. 5th, 1-5 pm
at Hoover Middle School**

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or email to: [newsletter /at/ scvfa.org](mailto:newsletter@scvfa.org)**



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