



FIDDLER'S RAG

The Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association

October 2001

Vol. 39, Number 7

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association

July 2011

Celebrating 38 years

www.scvfa.org or www.fiddlers.org

Next Jam: July 3, 2011



President's Message

by Richard Brooks

Continuing to show historical banners from our past issues, this one is from October 2001. It lacks the background dots of the July 2001 issue, used for our May 2011 Fiddler's Rag.

Last month, the South County Special bluegrass band put on a fabulous show for us. The musicians were Curtis Leslie (guitar), Linda Maki (bass), David Magram (banjo), Mark Wardenburg (fiddle), and new band member Nina Weisman (mandolin). They played standards and some originals written by Curtis and Linda. (See SouthCountySpecial.com)

July 3 and August 7 in the Rose Garden Park

On July 3 and August 7, we will meet at the famous Rose Garden Park. Located only one and a half blocks down the street from Hoover Middle School, it is an award-winning park with a beautiful garden.

Since we don't pay rent, there's no admission fee. Bring your friends and have lunch on the benches. If you can, come before 11 am to reserve a couple of tables in the shade. Don't forget your suntan lotion and water.

Twin Fiddling DVD still available

The DVD of Arthur Kee and Jack Sadler playing twin fiddles at the October 2010 jam can be yours for \$15. Help the club and take home a copy for your very own. The cover of the DVD (seen here) has the list of tunes. Arthur won the Senior Senior division in the national Weiser contest a few years ago. They sure worked up some mighty fine twin fiddling harmonies.

Newsletter Editor

If you enjoy writing, help us out by trying your hand as our editor. We'll be forever grateful.

SCVFA Twin Fiddling Spectacular 10-3-2010

(The DVD)



- Menu 1.....Richard Brooks' Intro
- Menu 2.....Arthur Kee's Intro
- Menu 3-1...Silver Bells
- Menu 3-2...Ashokan Farewell
- Menu 3-3...In the Garden
- Menu 3-4...Lady Be Good
- Menu 3-5...Josephine's Waltz
- Menu 3-6...Danny Boy
- Menu 3-7...Twinkle Little Star
- Menu 4.....Encore 1: Golden Slippers
- Menu 5.....Encore 2: I Ain't Got Nobody

Musicians (left to right)

- Arthur Kee (fiddle)
- Jack Sadler (fiddle, voc)
- John Lytle (guitar)
- Jim True (guitar)
- Norio Kawato (guitar)

Produced 10-2010 by
Richard Brooks, President
Santa Clara Valley
Fiddlers Association
www.scvfa.org

Ideas for New Events?

I welcome your ideas to keep us relevant and dynamic. Did you like our featured performer series? What about the band scramble? Our KidFiddle workshops help us achieve our mission with a youth focus. November's 10th annual youth fiddle contest will likely be our last without someone to help Pete and Dinah Showman.

- Richard Brooks

In This Issue:

Page

| | |
|---|---|
| President's Message | 1 |
| SCVFA Happenings | 2 |
| The Northwest Folklife Festival | 3 |
| Dave Barton Tune Wins Composing Contest | 4 |
| Tune: Too Late Schottische | 5 |
| July Event Calendar | 6 |

The Northwest Folklife Festival

by Pete Showman

The Northwest Folklife festival is held every Memorial Day weekend in the Seattle Center, home of the Space Needle and its rotating restaurant, in Seattle, WA. Dinah and I often combine a day at the festival with a visit to our son and his family, who live in the Seattle area. Northwest Folklife is billed as the largest free folk festival in the country. It runs from mid-day Friday through Monday, and often draws 200,000 or more people over the four days. So it's not a place for those who "want to be alone," to mis-quote Greta Garbo.

The festival includes music and dance events scattered across a couple of dozen venues, so it's impossible to see more than a small bit of what's going on. Besides the organized events there are many food booths, dozens (hundreds?) of buskers lining the walkways, and large areas reserved for jamming. Various ethnic styles are common. Usually there's a particular theme; this year it was Bulgarian music and dance, both of which are well-represented in the Seattle area.

The festival started in 1972, making the 2011 festival their 40th. We went on Saturday, as we usually do because of the Fiddlers' Showcase. The Showcase is

held in a small auditorium and features a number of well-known fiddlers from the Northwest and farther afield. This time we saw several we knew from previous times, or from "Fiddle Tunes" (the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes, held in July in Port Townsend, WA). These included Seattle Scottish fiddler Calum MacKinnon (www.calummackinnon.com); Jeff Anderson and Jane Johnson, who play Norwegian dance music – this time for a Norwegian dance troupe; and Métis (Montana native American) fiddler Jaime Fox and family (www.tinyurl.com/FoxFamilyInterview).

Though we sometimes try to visit several venues after the showcase, the people crowding around the food booths and watching the buskers can make for slow navigating between locations – especially in nice weather (yes, Seattle does have that!). This year there were several interesting afternoon performances in the same auditorium as the showcase, so we decided just to return there after lunch.

Our favorite was a performance by Phil and Vivian Williams, Seattle institutions generally credited as co-founders of Seattle Folklife. They are music historians and performers of traditional Northwest fiddle music. Vivian was also a many-time Washington State fiddle champion, and after many years clearly still has her "chops". Their website, VoyagerRecords.com, is a great source for traditional fiddle tunes, recordings and information.



Phil and Vivian Williams



Pete Showman photo

Jeff Anderson and his wife Jane Johnson play Norwegian music, accompanied by a flautist friend.

If you can make it to the Seattle area around Memorial Day weekend some year, I recommend you give it a try.



Richard Brooks photo

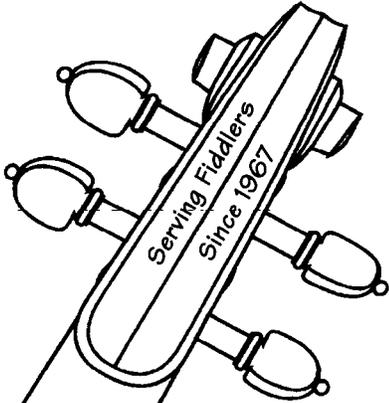
Bluegrass band **South County Special** entertained as our featured performers at the June 2011 jam.

Left to right: Dave Magram, Nina Weisman, Mark Wardenburg, Curtis Leslie and Linda Maki.

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Dave Barton Tune Wins Composing Contest

By Pete Showman

This month's tune, "Too Late Schottische," was written by member Dave Barton. He wrote it for the 9th annual Fiddle Tune Composition Contest put on by the Nebraska chapter of the American String Teachers Association. Dave's tune was recently awarded first place, with a prize of \$100. Congratulations, Dave!

The tunes are evaluated by having local musicians perform the tunes before a judging panel, so Dave thinks it's important that the tune appeal to the performers, as well as to the judges. The contest rules require the tune be written within the year preceding the submission deadline, and that it not have been previously published. Dave says he had put off writing it until the week before the deadline, prompted then by a reminder email from the contest organizers. So it was a fairly quick effort.

I asked Dave how he happened to write a schottische. Dave says he had played at a local Nordic dance the night before, so "Scandinavian music – schottishes, rhinelanders, and such — was still running through my head. And this one just popped out!" I wondered if the title was because the deadline was almost upon him. But no; he said "except perhaps in Nordic communities, schottishes have long since declined almost to vanishment. How many people do you know who still know how to schottische? So most places, it really is too late to compose a schottische!"

Dave also sent an MP3 file of his computer playing the tune, which is on the website at scvfa.org/Tunes/TooLateSchottische.mp3. Have a listen.

For those interested in learning more about the contest, I found a copy of the 2011 rules on this website:

launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/gpbotma-announcements/message/443.



Arthur Kee, Sam Morocco and Norio Kawato entertain at the June jam.

Richard Brooks photo

Too Late Schottische

2011 by David M. Barton

1. D7 G D 2. D7 G C

1. D7 G 2. to repeat tune. D7 G D 2. final D7 G

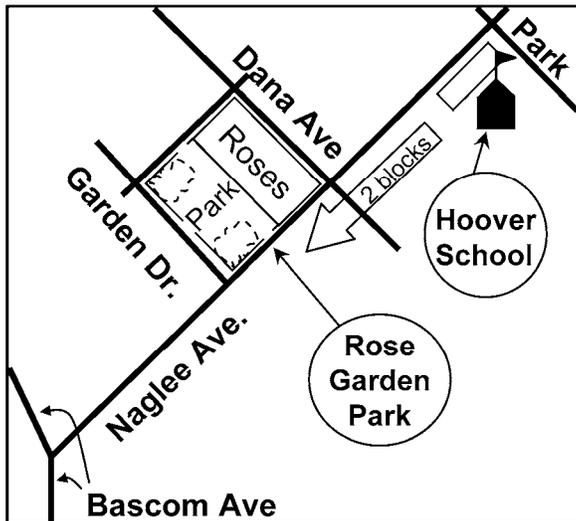
D.S.

rev. 6/5/2011

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

**Rose Garden Park
July and
August**

**Next Jam: Sunday July 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

July 2011 Event Calendar

Be sure to verify performers, times & dates before driving to an event, especially near holidays.

Weekly & Biweekly Events

- 7/1+ **Bluegrass and Country at Mission Pizza** in Fremont, 7-10. Info: (510) 651-6858, www.missionpizza.com. Most Fri. & Sat. +7/2, 8,9 15,16, 22,23, 29,30.
- 7/3+ **Irish Session, O'Flaherty's Irish Pub**, 25 N. San Pedro St., San Jose, Sun. 5-8pm. No children. Pub: (408) 947-8007. Moderated session. +7/10, 17, 24, 31.
- 7/4? + **Old-Time Jam at Fandango Pizza**, 3163 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto; Mondays 7-9. Info: showman.org/jams/oti. +7/11, 18, 25.
- 7/5+ **Irish Slow Session, Stephen's Green Pub**, 223 Castro St., MV. Tues. 7:30-9pm. www.sfpipersclub.org. (Pub info only: 650-964-9151) +7/12, 19, 26.
- 7/5+ **Bluegrass at Sam's BBQ**, 1110 S. Bascom Ave., Campbell, 6-9pm. www.samsbbq.com or (408) 297-9151. Bands every Tues. & Wed. +7/6, 12,13, 19,20, 26,27.
- 7/6+ **Peninsula Banjo Band** Wednesdays 7pm. **Cabrito's Mexican Bistro**, 685 E. El Camino Real, SV. Info: (408) 993-2263, www.peninsulabanjoband.org. +7/13, 20, 27.
- 7/6+ **Bluegrass Jam at Fandango Pizza** (see above) every Wed. 7:30-9. www.fandangopizza.com +7/13, 20, 27.
- 7/7+ **South Bay Folks Acoustic Open Mike, Mission City Coffee Roasting Co.**, 2221 The Alameda, Santa Clara; 7-10 every Thu.; signups at 6:45. www.SouthBayFolks.org; café info only: 408-261-2221. +7/14, 21, 28.

Monthly and Special Events

- 7/30 **Redwood Dulcimer Day, Bonny Doon**. More info: www.redwooddulcimerday.com. (Also: faculty concert Friday 7/29, 7:30 pm, Aptos.)
 - 7/29-8/6 **Lark Camp World Music & Dance Camp**, Mendocino. Many Instructors, styles. Mixed reviews. Info: www.larkcamp.com; Lark Camp, PO Box 1176, Mendocino, CA 95460; (707) 964-4826.
 - 7/31-8/7 **Rocky Mountain Fiddle Camp**, Estes Park near Denver. Week-long workshop with nationally-known instructors. Info: www.RMfiddle.com or 303-753-6870.
- Coming Up
- 8/12-14 **Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival - Bolado Park, Hollister**. Starts Friday 1pm. www.scbs.org/events/gof.
 - 8/13 **Ukiah Fiddle Contest**: 12:30 Sat. at the Redwood Empire Fair (www.redwoodempirefair.com).
 - 8/13-14 **Saw Players' Picnic & Music Fest at Roaring Camp, Felton**. Sat. eve. potluck; festival Sun. 10-6 with contest 11am; workshop 4pm. Info: www.SawPlayers.org.
 - 8/26-9/3 **Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School**, Alasdair Fraser. Info www.valleyofthemoon.org, or (415) 566-4355.
 - 9/1-5 **Strawberry Labor Day Music Festival**: Camp Mather, Sonora, CA. Info: www.strawberrymusic.com.

Got events? Email us at calendar@scvfa.org. More at NCBS: www.scbs.org and at South Bay Folks: www.SouthBayFolks.org