



# Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 41, Number 3  
Celebrating 40 years

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

March 2013  
Next Jam: Mar. 3



## President's Note

The turnout was surprisingly good on Superbowl Sunday. The weather was just perfect. Thanks to Tom Clausen and Charlotte Prater for bringing the sound system from the storage locker to the jam. Tom, the jam manager, did a

super job of making sure our listening audience enjoyed plenty of on-stage entertainment. Thank you, Tom!

We held our annual membership meeting in February. I am delighted to have George Bradshaw (elected), Charlotte Prater (re-elected), and Barbara Rosner (appointed) as trustees on our team.

Paul Clarke was acknowledged for his many years of service as my immediate past President, as a trustee, and as our playout coordinator. We need a contact person for playouts and you do not need to be a musician.

Dave Barton led our popular beginners' circle (slow jam) with four tunes: "Maggie in the Woods," "Little Judique," "Alouette's Waltz," and "Amelia." Dave says the first two are traditional Celtic or English, and the others are waltzes by Bob McQuillen. Thank you, Dave!

You too can lead our beginners circle. Just let me know.

## Celebrating our 40th Year

This month is the 40th anniversary of the SCVFA, founded in March 1973 by Bill Wein (see page 3). His motto, "*Music self-played is happiness self-made*" is on our stationary.

## Once-a-Year Help with Storage Locker

If you drive, we could use your help once a year or less to assist others to carry some supplies from the storage locker to the jam. It's an easy one-mile drive and you'll be assisting others.

## Newsletter Photos

Did you take photos at the jam? I encourage everyone to email their photos to acting newsletter editor Pete Showman. You will be acknowledged if he includes them in the Rag.

## KidFiddle Workshop

By popular request, **Luke Abbott** will again teach our KidFiddle workshop. It is for youths 17 and under who can play one or two tunes. It starts at 2:00. Tuition is \$5.00.

Variations of the tune **Julianne Johnson** may be taught.

Luke Abbott has been teaching music for over eight years and has been an instructor at five kids' music camps. His goal is to bring out the natural musicality in each student through an emphasis on playing by ear and musical awareness.

Luke teaches fiddle, guitar, banjo, mandolin, Dobro, bass, and singing in Santa Cruz.



Luke Abbott

## SCVFA is an All-Volunteer Non-Profit Organization

The SCVFA is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please help if you can.



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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).

**Officers and Chairs**

President-Trustee .....Richard J. Brooks  
 Vice President ..... OPEN  
 Recording Secretary .....Dinah Showman  
 Treasurer .....Janet Johnston  
 Membership Secretary .....Pete Showman  
 Newsletter Editor .....OPEN (*Pete Showman, acting*)  
 Newsletter Publisher .....Charlotte Prater  
 Playout Coordinator ..... OPEN  
 Publicity ..... Tom Clausen  
 Webmaster .....Pete Showman  
 Youth Activity Coordinator ..... Mary Kennedy  
 Youth Fiddle Contest Chair, 2013 ..... OPEN

**Trustees**

Seat 1: Pete Showman      Seat 2: Barbara Rosner  
 Seat 3: George Bradshaw      Seat 4: Charlotte Prater  
 Seat 5: Dave Williams      Seat 6: Tom Clausen

**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

Website: [www.scvfa.org](http://www.scvfa.org) or [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org)

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**Young Fiddlers Perform at the Jam**

We were pleased that Doniella Dumont (below left) and Rebecca Jaworski (below right) played on stage for us at the February jam. It's great to hear young fiddlers doing so well.



Pete Showman photos

Fiddlers **Doniella Dumont**, left, and **Rebecca Jaworski**, right, at the February 2013 jam, accompanied by **Steve Kirtley** (mandolin) and **Norio Kawato**.(guitar).

## SCVFA Happenings

### WANTED:

#### News Editor and Article Contributions

If the newsletter seems a little thin lately, that's because we don't have an editor. Also we've had very few article contributions lately. Please help! Contact Richard Brooks or Pete Showman.

## Upcoming Fiddle Contests

### California State Fiddle Contest

As noted last month, the annual California State Championship Fiddle Contest will be held in Oroville, California on March 14-16, 2013. There's some contact information on District 6's website, [www.csotfa.org](http://www.csotfa.org).

### Cloverdale Fiddle Contest

The Cloverdale Old Time Fiddle Festival and Contest has been moved from January to the first weekend in May. This year's contest will be May 4-5. On-site contest registration will be allowed this year. For details see [cloverdalefiddles.com](http://cloverdalefiddles.com).

### Topanga Banjo & Fiddle Contest

The 53<sup>rd</sup> annual Topanga contest will be held May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in Southern California at Paramount Ranch near Agoura Hills, California in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation area. For details see [www.topangabanjofiddle.org](http://www.topangabanjofiddle.org).

## Annual Meeting Highlights

The SCVFA held its annual member meeting at the February jam, Feb 3, 2013.

- The members elected George Bradshaw to Trustee Seat 3, for a term ending in February 2015.
- The members re-elected Charlotte Prater to Trustee Seat 4, for a term ending in February 2015.
- President Richard Brooks thanked Paul Clarke for his many contributions to SCVFA as trustee, payout coordinator and president, and reported on the state of the Association. We are financially strong, but as an all-volunteer organization we need more help from our members to keep all our activities going.

## Trustee Meeting Highlights

The new SCVFA Board of Trustees met immediately after the member meeting to appoint officers for the coming year.

- Richard Brooks was re-appointed President-Trustee.
- The officers and chairs listed on page 2 of the February Fiddler's Rag (and page 2 of this issue) were re-appointed.
- It was noted that the list shows several vacancies, including news editor, performance coordinator, vice president and 2013 contest chairman, and that we also need a new secretary or treasurer.

*Dinah Showman, Secretary*

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

## The Start of the SCVFA

*March 2013 marks SCVFA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary: we were founded in 1973 by Bill Wein. The following reminiscences are reprinted from the November 2008 Fiddler's Rag. The first is by Bill's son, Paul Wein. The second is by charter (and continuing) member #5, Jack Sadler.*

### Paul Wein:

My dad's teeth were clenched and a small vein bulged on his forehead. I knew that look. He was worried. Our 1973 Chrysler was packed to overflowing with speaker, amplifiers, endless cords and violins.

My dad was Bill Wein, founder of the SCVFA, and I was 13 years old, crammed into the front seat with my 12 year-old brother Charlie, headed to the very first SCVFA jamboree. A lot was riding on this day. We weren't wealthy and dad had laid out a lot of money on renting the auditorium, advertising and equipment. Countless hours of planning had gone into this day, and countless frustrations.

After setting up the sound equipment, Charlie and I took up our places behind a table near the entrance. On the table sat a cardboard box - "Donations - 50 cents," it read.

*(continued on page 4)*

*(The Start of the SCVFA, continued from page 3)*

My dad looked relieved and grateful as the people came in. Soon, the seats were filled respectably full and the music started. Toes were tapping and little kids were laughing to the strains of *The Orange Blossom Special*. My dad played *In Apple Blossom Time*. It was my mom's favorite. She was at home, sick, but I knew he was playing it for her, for all the sacrifices she had made to get his "baby" this far. A great time was had by all!

Even though it was a decidedly "uncool" way for a teenager to spend a Sunday, I never missed a meeting that first year or so. Coming home after one meeting, while driving the Chrysler, my dad doubled over and grabbed his stomach, letting go of the wheel. I reached over and grabbed it and we got to the side of the road. His teeth were clenched and that same vein bulged on his forehead. Cancer claimed the first SCVFA President a few months later.

It's been nearly 35 years since I've been to a meeting. Maybe I'm a little afraid of getting emotional and looking stupid.... I guess part of us stays thirteen forever.

I have a feeling Dad hasn't missed a one yet, though! If you listen really hard, I'll bet you hear an unseen toe a-tapping.

### **Jack Sadler:**

*(Also reprinted from the November 2008 Fiddler's Rag.)*

In 1973 I was interested in forming a Santa Clara County chapter of the California State Old Time Fiddlers Association and was in discussion with Bill Cummings, the CSOTFA president to accomplish this. About that time I read an article in the San Jose Mercury News that a local gentleman named Bill Wein was interested in forming a local fiddle club. Bill had been transferred to San Jose by General Electric Corporation from a New England state and was yearning for his beloved fiddle association back there.

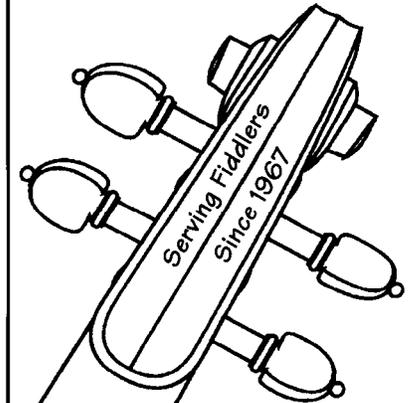
To the best of my memory, there were six men who showed up at Bill's house: Bill Wein, Ron White, Joe DuPuis, Ed Pagter, myself, and one other. Bill was not interested in the state association and persuaded us to form a local one. Using the same bylaws from his old fiddle association back east, we formed the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association and elected officers. I was pleased to see the fine turnout we had at our very first event in April 1973.

The SCVFA has given folks a chance to gather and perform, listen, learn, find new songs, and form groups. I would like to thank all the hard working folks who have carried on this association all these years. I am especially pleased at the attention given to the children. We all know that the future of our music lies in their hands.



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G major  
♩ = 90

# Hollow Poplar

Traditional  
Arr. Portland Collection I & Pete Showman

5 9 14

Arr. and typeset in ABC by Pete Showman 2006. Rev 2: 3/6/12.  
There's a link to a MIDI file of this arrangement at [www.showman.org/Tunes/](http://www.showman.org/Tunes/)



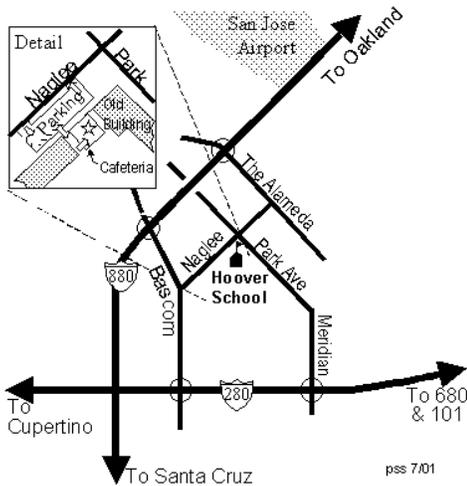
Pete Showman photo

Mike Bell and newly-elected trustee George Bradshaw at the February 2013 jam

**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: Sunday Mar. 3, 1-5 pm**  
**at Hoover Middle School**  
**KidFiddle Workshop 2-3 pm**



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

**WANTED:**  
**News Editor and Article Contributions**  
If the newsletter seems a little thin lately, that's because we don't have an editor. Also we've had very few article contributions lately. Please help!



**Mike Bell, Colleen Lethridge, Linda Maki, Steve Kirtley, Nancy Solomon and Norio Kawato (L-R)**  
entertain at the February 2013 jam.

Pete Showman photos