



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 42, Number 3
Celebrating 41 years

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

March 2014
Next Jam: Mar. 2



President's Note

Congratulations to Élan Alford for being elected to our board of trustees and to Pete Showman for being reelected. Trustees are the heart of our organization. They make decisions about what we do, how we do it, and how we spend our funds. Every year, two trustees are elected or reelected. Any member can be nominated. We do have other open positions so if you have a little time to contribute, please see page 2.

Host a Meeting?

If you can host a three hour trustee meeting for 10 people from 2:00 to 5:00 PM on March 16, please let me know. It's an opportunity to learn about how our organization is managed. We start and end on time, and we bring snacks.

February Jam

Our February jam was great fun. We owe our thanks to George Bradshaw for being the jam manager and to George and Élan Alford for bringing our PA equipment from the nearby storage locker. Gary Breitbard led our popular Beginners Circle slow jam. Thanks everyone!

KidFiddle Workshops in April and May

Our KidFiddle coordinator, Mary Kennedy, arranged for Jack Tuttle to teach our April KidFiddle workshop and for Luke Abbott to teach one in May.

Upcoming Cross-Tuning Workshop

Wes Mitchell will teach a free cross-tuning fiddle workshop on May 4 at 3:15 PM after our KidFiddle workshop. Let's thank Wes for providing it at no cost.

Share Your Photos

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

Audio CD of the 2013 Youth Fiddle Contest

An audio CD of the entire 2013 youth fiddle contest, including the announcements, the performances and the award presentations, is available as our gift for a \$10 donation.

- Richard Brooks

SCVFA Youth Programs

April KidFiddle

Jack Tuttle will return to teach our first spring KidFiddle workshop at the April jam. Afterwards the students will play on stage, showing us what they've learned. As a special treat, Jack's kids' jam-band will perform for us.



KidFiddle workshops are intended for advanced-beginner to intermediate fiddlers ages 17 and under. Participants should at least be able to play one or two tunes. Tuition is only \$5. Though you can sign up at the door, we'd appreciate it if participants would register in advance, email KidFiddle coordinator Mary Kennedy, at KidFiddle at fiddlers.org.

May KidFiddle

On May 4, **Luke Abbott** will teach our second spring KidFiddle workshop.

Sign up for both workshops!



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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.

Officers and Chairs

President-Trustee Richard J. Brooks
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 Treasurer Janet Johnston
 Membership Secretary Pete Showman
 Newsletter Editor OPEN (*Pete Showman, acting*)
 Newsletter Publisher Charlotte Prater
 Performances Contact Dave Williams
 Publicity OPEN
 Webmaster Pete Showman
 Youth Programs Chair OPEN
KidFiddle Coordinator Mary Kennedy
 Youth Fiddle Contest Chair, 2013 Pete Showman

Trustees

Seat 1: Pete Showman Seat 2: Élan Alford
 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 or www.fiddlers.org

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Left: **Sam Morocco** is so often in the background in our open-mike photos that we thought we should bring him to the front for once. And (right) he knows his banjos too; here he's reviewing the finer points of a vintage plectrum banjo with **Dave Magram**.

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THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
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 WWW.NCBS.US



Pete Showman photos

SCVFA Happenings

Pick Up Your Member Directory

We hope to have the 2014 Member Directories ready for the March jam. Stop by the Membership desk at the jam to get yours. One booklet is provided to each member household.

These directories are for your personal use, to help you know and contact fellow members, and are not to be used for any commercial, political or religious purpose.



KidFiddle Workshops: April, May

The first Spring *KidFiddle* workshop has been rescheduled: it will be held at the **April jam**, led by **Jack Tuttle**.

We also plan to offer a *KidFiddle* workshop at the **May jam**, to be led by **Luke Abbott**. See page 1 and the website for more info.



Help Still Wanted

- **Secretary** (take minutes at board meetings)
- **Newsletter Editor** (create the *Fiddler's Rag* pages, send to the publisher)
- **Publicity Chair** (help spread the word about the organization and our events)
- **Performance Coordinator** (organize "playouts")

Membership Meeting Highlights

The SCVFA's annual membership meeting was held at 3:00 PM at the monthly jam on February 2, 2014.

- The members elected Pete Showman (seat 1) and Élan Alford (seat 2) to three-year terms as trustees.
- President Richard Brooks reviewed the state of the Association, noting that we are in good shape financially but suffering from a lack of volunteers in some key areas. Not having enough volunteers means we cannot do all the activities we'd like to.
- Richard also named members of the SCVFA who have been members continuously for 20 years or more. [See the updated list on page 4.]

Dinah Showman, Secretary

Special Trustee Meeting Highlights

The new SCVFA Board of Trustees held a special meeting immediately following the membership meeting on February 2, 2014. The Trustees:

- Re-appointed Richard Brooks as president-trustee.
- Re-appointed current officers; see the list on p. 2.
- Authorized re-scheduling the previously-approved March *KidFiddle* workshop to be held in either March or April, and authorized a second spring *KidFiddle* workshop to be held in May or June.

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 depending on conflicts). If you'd like to attend a meeting, contact Richard Brooks: President at fiddlers.org.



L-R: **Bob Palasek** started off the February open-mike, aided by **Sam Morocco** and **John Durbin** (and others out of sight).



Chris Rogers and **Becky Hendricks** follow up, later in the day.

Pete Showman photos

Long-Time SCVFA Members

When you get down to it, the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association *is* its members. We'd like to thank those members who have stuck with us for 20 or more years – and in one case, since the very beginning. Thanks to all our members, but especially to these steadfast supporters!

<u>Years*</u>	<u>Name(s)</u>	<u>Years*</u>	<u>Name(s)</u>
41	Jack & Jan Sadler**	24	Warren Campbell
40	Arthur Kee	24	Paul & Lee Clarke
39	Sam Morocco	24	Ann Whitesell
39	Bill & Bertha Rogers	23	Bill & Pamela Avellino
37	Pete & Dinah Showman	23	Marylou Brooks
36	John & Cynthia Lytle	23	Chris Cochran
34	Peggie Fuczak	23	John W. Durbin
33	Arsie Bigby	23	Ken & Lynda Jones
33	Lee Anne Welch	20	Paul & Laura Barnett
32	Marilyn Johnson	20	Dave Barton
32	John J. Wayne	20	Norio Kawato
27	Steve Joynes	20	Charley & Ruth Oveland
27	Thomas Layton	20	Phil & Anne Pflager
26	Denise Morgan	20	Rob Roberts
25	Fritz & Marge Buell		

* Years as of March 15, 2014
 ** Charter member #5 (March 1973)



Ducks on the Millpond and Emmett Lundy

This month's tune is Ducks on the Millpond (next page). Note this is a completely different tune from Ducks on the Pond (*Fiddler's Rag*, 9/13); only the names are similar.

We have two rather different versions. The first is a transcription of a 1941 Alan Lomax recording of Virginia fiddler Emmett Lundy (1864-1953), who is often credited as the modern source for the tune. As noted on the transcription, in this recording Lundy played it two different ways, first omitting and then playing the syncopated middle "X" part.

The second version is a transcription of a much more recent recording, by fiddler Rayna Gellert. Her melody is slightly simpler, but she plays two strings throughout, at blazing speed.

According to the Old-Time Fiddlers Hall of Fame (link on page 5 below Lundy's transcription), Lundy was born in 1864 near Galax, Virginia,

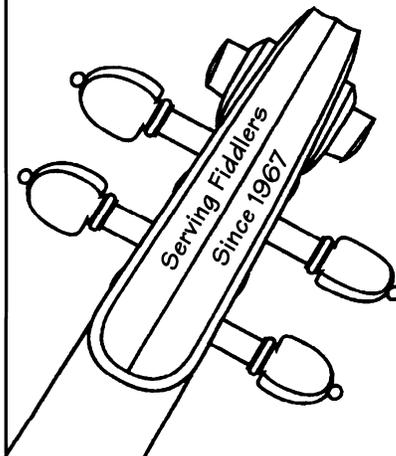
into a family that had emigrated from England some 180 years before. He became interested in fiddling as a young man, and said he learned mainly from an older fiddler called Greenberry "Green" Leonard (1810-1892). Thus many of Lundy's tunes dated from before the Civil War. (It's not clear to me whether Ducks on the Millpond was one of the tunes Lundy learned from Green Leonard.)

Joe Wilson of the National Council for the Traditional Arts (quoted in an article by Amy Boucher at www.galaxyscrapbook.com) says "We [still] know the tunes that [Green] Leonard learned when Andrew Jackson was president of the United States ... that are still played by fiddlers here in Galax. They play them not because of their antiquity but because they're good tunes."

Listen to the original recordings, and try the transcriptions. Hope you like them!
 - Pete Showman

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Ducks on the Millpond I

Emmett Lundy version

Transcribed & arr. by Pete Showman

♩ = 100

Lundy omits this extra part (a variation on A) the first two times, then plays it the 3rd and 4th times:

* These strong hits on the open D string are very brief but then let the string ring, almost like pizzicato (but bowed).
 Small note-heads on open D are not emphasized. Notes in () are sometimes played, sometimes omitted or changed.

Transcribed 2/2014 from a 1941 recording of Emmett Lundy: (audio from the Library of Congress; on YouTube at tinyurl.com/DotM-EmmettLundy). Lundy (Galax, VA; 1864-1953) is generally credited as the modern source of the tune. You can read more about him at www.oldtimemusic.com/FHOF/Lundy.html. (Rev. 1: 2/19/2014)

Ducks on the Millpond II

Rayna Gellert version

Transcribed & arr. by Pete Showman

Key: D Maj.
 ♩ = 100

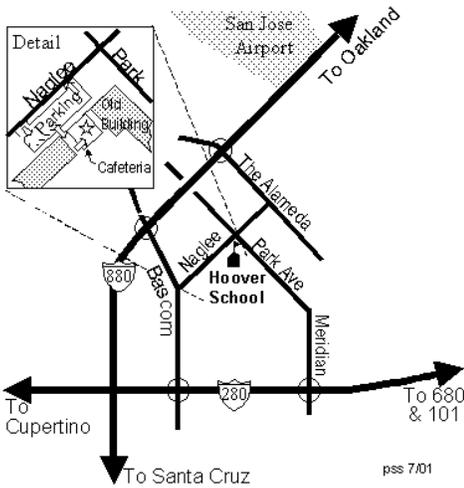
You can hear a clip of Gellert's 130 bpm version at Amazon, from which this was transcribed: tinyurl.com/DotM-Gellert. She plays drones (or doublestops?) throughout, not shown. (Rev 1: 2/19/2014)

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
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**Next Jam: Sunday March 2, 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)



Susan Goodis photo

Making music on a cold February day. L-R: **Jean Avram, Chris Cochran, Dave Earl and Patti Bossert.**
Chris, weren't you cold?