



# Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 42, Number 6  
Celebrating 41 years

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

June 2014  
Next Jam: June 1

## President's Note



Our May 4 jam was great fun. The weather was picture perfect though the turnout was less than our usual. Two youths were in our KidFiddle workshop led by Luke Abbott. Thank you Luke. Attendance has been very low at our KidFiddle workshops. Let me know if there is

another program that might be more popular.

Wes Mitchell's workshop on fiddle cross-tuning was well attended and the feedback was very good. If you would like to have a follow-up workshop, please let me and Wes know. Thank you Wes!

We are always looking for other fun activities to do. We've had a silent auction, a jam scramble, a bow rehairing workshop, and a fiddle clinic. Suggest others.

Dave Barton did another great job leading our popular Beginners Circle slow jam. Thank you Dave!

### Richard Pizzorno

We will miss SCVFA member Richard Pizzorno who died on May 2. He was a generous donor who helped us out when our equipment was stolen in December 2010.

### June is COWGIRL DUO MONTH

At 3:00 PM, cowgirl duo Grace and Lisa perform.

### Sagebrush Swing – Rare CD is available here

I have acquired some very rare Sagebrush Swing "Western at Heart" CDs recorded on the CowGal Jazz record label in 2000. Barbara Ann Barnett, a 30 year SCVFA member, on accordion and Audrey McLaughlin on guitar perform wonderful western music duets. Their only CD is our gift to you for a \$10 donation.

### Share Your Photos

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

### 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

## Featured Performers: Cowgirl duets, western swing, & bluegrass with Grace and Lisa.

Grace Clark and Lisa Burns delight audiences with their cowgirl harmonies and instrumentals. Grace plays guitar, 5-string banjo, and Dobro (resonator guitar body with a banjo neck). Lisa Burns plays bass fiddle. Grace led the Wild Rye and Brushy Peak bluegrass bands (Livermore) and Lisa is in the legendary bluegrass band Sidesaddle & Co. Both have performed at numerous festivals in several western states. Grace teaches 5-string banjo and vocals. Lisa teaches bass.



Grace Clark and Lisa Burns

## Sagebrush Swing "Western At Heart" CD



### In This Issue:

### Page

President's Message .....	1
Featured Performer and Sagebrush Swing ....	1
Photos .....	2, 4, 6
SCVFA Happenings (member directories mailed, next jams: Hoover and the park ....	3
May Board Meeting Highlights .....	3
Remembering Rich Pizzorno .....	4
Tune: Peeler Creek (a waltz) .....	5

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

Copyright 2014, Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association



**Norio Kawato and Pete Showman** closed out the afternoon at the May jam with Dinah's Waltz (written by Pete for his sweetie).

From Marin to Monterey, Tracy to Tiburon...  
...we're in the heart of bluegrass country

**THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BLUEGRASS SOCIETY**  
[www.ncbs.us](http://www.ncbs.us)

Since 1982 the Northern California Bluegrass Society has promoted bluegrass and old time music in the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay areas. This highly active club has nurtured the development of bands and venues. The NCBS hosts the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival each August, an event that solely features California bands. We sponsor festivals, concerts and jams all over the area. Members receive the Bluegrass By the Bay magazine each quarter. Please join us!



Richard Brooks photos

**Dan Murphy (L) and Dave Barton** jamming on some old-time tunes.

## SCVFA Happenings

### Member Directories Mailed

We have mailed the remaining 2014 Member Directory booklets to members in good standing who didn't pick theirs up at one of the jams.

New members who joined since March should also have received a booklet when they joined.

If you don't think you've received one, check with Pete or Dinah showman. We've kept a list.

- Pete Showman, Membership Secretary

### Last Hoover Jam until Fall

As noted on page 1, the **June 1 jam** will feature Grace Clark and Lisa Burns performing cowgirl duets, western swing and bluegrass pieces. Join the fun!

### Get Ready for the Park

The **July 6** and **August 3** jams will be held at the Rose Garden Park, just two blocks down Naglee Ave. from Hoover Middle School.

As most of you know we don't have the open mike at the park (no stage, and no power). We just have a bunch of fun. The jam nominally runs from 1:00 to 5:00 as usual, but often a few people stay later to get in a few more tunes. The park is open until sunset.

There are picnic tables and barbecues in the area where we congregate, so bring a lunch and come early; it's an opportunity to sit and talk with other like-minded members.



We had two workshops at the June jam: **Wes Mitchell** (left) showed several of us how to cross-tune our fiddles and then play a tune. **Luke Abbott** (right) led our second spring *KidFiddle* workshop.

Richard Brooks photos

### Trustee Meeting Highlights

The SCVFA Board of Trustees met May 18, 2014. The Trustees:

- Made plans for "Cowgirl Month," with Grace Clark and Lisa Burns as our featured performers at the June jam at Hoover, and agreed to offer Sagebrush Swing (group that included Barbara Ann Barnett) CDs for a \$10 donation to SCVFA.
- Made plans to hold the July and August jams at Rose Garden Park. The June and September jams will be at Hoover School.
- Agreed to have the reunion of members of Overlook Mountain Boys and Lone Prairie as our Featured Performer at the October jam.
- Wes Mitchell's cross-tuning workshop was successful and may be continued at a future jam.
- Agreed to suspend KidFiddle workshops due to low participation while we consider how best to encourage youth and people of all ages to enjoy traditional music (and SCVFA).
- Agreed to have a signup sheet at the desk for people to indicate what kinds of workshops they would like, and what tunes they would like offered at the beginners' circle.
- Considered whether to have a Facebook page for SCVFA and will look into it.
- Agreed that the remaining membership directories not picked up at jams will be mailed to members.
- Have paid a yearly bill for our insurance coverage.
- Set July 20 as the proposed date for the next trustee meeting.

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



## Remembering Rich Pizzorno

by Barbara Rosner

Rich Pizzorno, a member of the SCVFA, passed away on May 2, 2014. He was a real friend to many in the acoustic music community for his generosity and for his love of the music we all play. Rich opened his home to a small group of bluegrass players looking for a weekly place to jam. For those whom he befriended he provided a comfortable place to learn the bluegrass repertoire and have a good time. Rich encouraged budding musicians by example with his own enthusiasm for playing and listening to music and for learning guitar. In particular he was passionate about bluegrass, blues and swing/rockabilly.



Richard Brooks photo

Rich's Thursday night invitational jams included all sorts: young people still in high school as well as adults, working or retired, some of whom, like myself, were newly come to play acoustic music because Rich created the opportunity for us. All of us shared the same passion and joy for this music as he did.

Rich attended quite a few of the monthly SCVFA jams at Hoover school and at the Rose Garden. He regularly attended Ed Cirimele's pre-RBA concert series jams in Mountain View. He also participated in local music workshops and various music camps including the CBA camp during one Father's Day Festival at Grass Valley.

Rich was a familiar person to those down at Gryphon Stringed Instruments and at Steve Swan's guitar and bass shop, as he knew a good instrument, and wasn't averse to bringing home a new guitar on occasion! Rich was studying guitar in the blues and acoustic traditions at Gryphon in the last couple of years, notably with Jack Tuttle until recently.

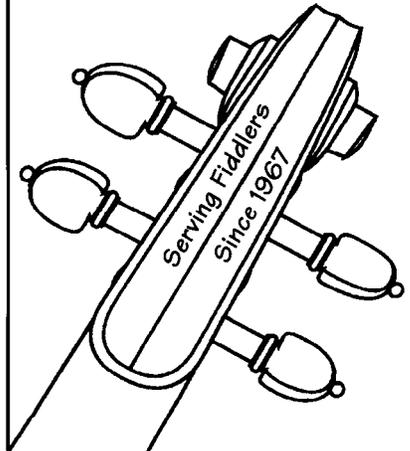
He was always practicing, intent on becoming more proficient on guitar and vocals, and his work with Jack really paid off in growing his confidence and musicianship. His progress was amazing, as was his innate ability to coach the rest of us, keeping a motley crew of musicians in line making good music and building friendships at his home. His group of jammers, dubbed the Dartmouth Mountain Boys, miss him sorely, as do his family and friends.

*Deep Elem Blues*, *Feast Here Tonight* and *The Wreck of the Old 97* are three songs we'll always associate with Rich, and I will never pick up my bass fiddle without him in my mind and heart.



## KAMIMOTO STRING INSTRUMENTS

“Fiddles  
for  
Every Style...”



- New & Old Instruments
- Repairs & Restorations
- One-hour bow rehairing (by appt.)
- Rentals: Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass

Hours: Mon-Sat 10:00 - 5:30

**[408] 298-8168**

[www.kamimotostrings.com](http://www.kamimotostrings.com)

609 North Fourth Street  
San Jose, CA 95112

**[800] 892-3199**

Fax: **[408] 298-8198**

# Peeler Creek

Key: G

♩ = 145

(aka Kenny Hall's "Feed Your Babies Onions")

*Transcribed & arr. by Pete Showman  
from a Skip Gorman / Ron Kane recording*

Reportedly collected by Kenny Hall while in Texas; also played as a mazurka in Ireland. This version is from a nice recording by Skip Gorman and Ron Kane, on their Powder River CD. They do a twin fiddle version the 2nd time (and then add The Clayhole to make it a medley). Transcribed, arranged and typeset in ABC by Pete Showman, r1 5/15/14. Thanks to Bob Palasek for bringing the Gorman/Kane recording to my attention in 2004.

Some lyrics Kenny Hall apparently used to sing for Part A:

Oh, feed your babies onions so you can find them in the garden after dark,  
Feed your babies onions so you can find them in the dark.

A couple of recordings (the first is a sample of the Powder River track from which this was transcribed):

[www.amazon.com/Peeler-Creek-The-Clayhole/dp/B00FGIE7D2](http://www.amazon.com/Peeler-Creek-The-Clayhole/dp/B00FGIE7D2)

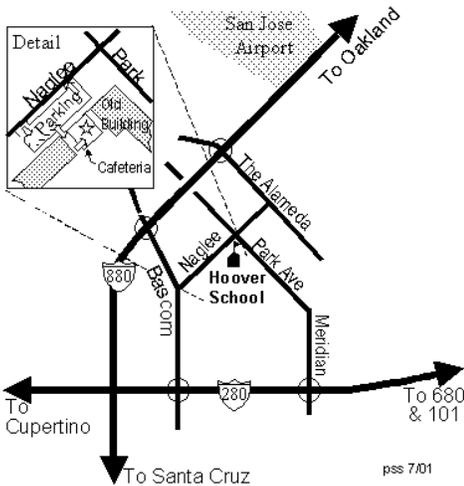
[www2.maine-fiddle.org/peeler-creek/peeler-creek-2/](http://www2.maine-fiddle.org/peeler-creek/peeler-creek-2/)

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 June 1, 1-5 pm  
at Hoover Middle School**

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



Richard Brooks photo

The introductory group on stage at the June jam (L-R): **Mike Bell, Patti Bossert, Dave Barton, Beth Moody, Michael Maurier (mandolin), Jerry Friedman (banjo), Storms Moody and George Bradshaw.**