



# Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 43, Number 6  
Celebrating 42 years

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

June 2015  
Next Jam: June 7

## President's Note



Our May 3 jam was great fun on a clear sunny day. The outdoor jams were going strong and Topher Heath's "Real Slow Jam" attracted an ever-growing crowd of folks who can play chords at a steady rhythm.

Our indoor stage performances were just as good with lots of old-time, bluegrass, and country represented. Susan Goodis was the jam manager. Virgil Stanford helped at our storage locker.

Dave Williams is our June jam manager. With his lifting limited, he needs two people to help him take our storage locker supplies to the jam and back to the locker. For a complete stage setup, we need your help.

**Participating on stage is a service to those who cannot walk around outdoors or who prefer to sit and listen to us play.** When our jam manager asks you to play on stage, please remember that it is only for 15 to 20 minutes out of a four hour afternoon of fun.

Contact the jam manager to sign up to perform on stage. The jam manager's photo is on table near the door.

### First-Time Visitors Can Get a Free Door Admission

First-time visitors can still get a free door admission in June if accompanied by a member. This is the last month of this program.

### Share Your Photos

Share your photos and we will include your name if they are used in the Rag. Email them to newsletter editor Pat Tanti at [newsletter@fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter@fiddlers.org).

### Donate CDs for our Door Prize

Donate a CD you don't need for our door prize winners.

### 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

## Johnny Gimble (5-30-1926 to 5-9-2015)

Johnny Gimble, one of the greatest and most famous western swing fiddlers died on May 9 at 88. He joined Bob Wills' Texas Playboys in the late 1940s and performed with Merle Haggard, Chet Atkins, Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, George Strait, Mark O'Connor, and many others. He and Danish jazz violinist Svend Asmussen, now 99, performed together on the Praire Home Companion radio show in November 1986. Svend is my very favorite musician.

He received two Grammy awards, was awarded Country Music's Fiddle Player of the Year nine times, and appeared on TV many times.

I had the good fortune to meet Johnny several times. Arthur Kee, Jack Sadler, and I attended Johnny's Swing Week camp in September 2005 (see photo below). He was also an instructor at Mark O'Connor's fiddle camp in July 2007. In October 2008, Janet and I saw him perform with his family at Guero's Taco in Austin, TX.

Johnny is renowned for his fantastic use of double stops on his signature tunes Fiddlin' Around, and the Gardenia Waltz. YouTube has videos of him playing both tunes and you will be amazed at what he can do.

- Richard Brooks



Arthur Kee, Jack Sadler, Johnny Gimble (9-22-2005)

Richard Brooks photo

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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).

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#### To Contact the SCVFA:

Mail: P.O. Box 2666, Cupertino, CA 95015-2666  
 Email to Richard Brooks: president at fiddlers.org Phone: (650) 328-3939

#### Newsletter Submissions & Comments:

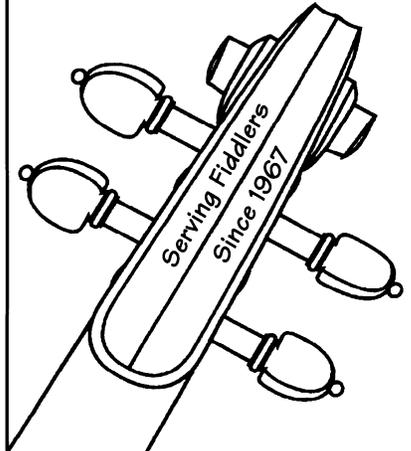
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## Citizen Schools

By Patrice Tanti

My plan was simple: as a **Citizen School** volunteer, a non-profit after school program, I was going to teach the “Ambition Musician” apprenticeship, with a bit of music theory, a few chords and rhythm on ukuleles and a field trip to one of the **SCVFA** jams. This would get **Joseph Georges Middle School** in north San Jose into jamming ... or was supposed to. Reality check twelve weeks later, the musical divide turned out to be wider than expected. While we made a great deal of progress during the spring program, it will take a few more semesters to be performance ready. If you feel like teaching/inspiring middle school students in this context, feel free to contact me at newsletter at fiddlers.org.



Photo: Susan Goodis

**Bill Boiko with daughter Sarah and Doniella Dumont**

## SCVFA Happenings

### Coming soon... Save these dates

- Sept 24, 2015 Canote Brothers House Concert

Greg and Jere Canote are identical twins whose music is all about having a good time. They do, you will. It's steeped in vintage Americana -- forgotten fiddle tunes, swing classics, and quirky novelty songs -- but with their own twists (and a few of their brilliant original takes on the world around us). They're fabulous musicians, moving effortlessly among fiddle, guitar, banjo, ukulele, and various hybrids, and their genetically-matched voices recall brother duets from the Blue Sky Boys to the Everlys.

- Sept 26, 2015 Canote Brothers: Guitar & Fiddle Workshops at Gryphon Music
- Dec 5, 2015 Megan Lynch Chowning: afternoon fiddle workshop & evening house concert

Here is just a giant list of things Megan has done. Bullet points of her career, if you will...

- \*Six Time National Fiddle Champion
- \*Six Time California State Fiddle Champion
- \*One or more State Fiddle Championships from the following states - Kentucky, Georgia, Minnesota, and Colorado
- \*Member of the National Show Choir Champion ensemble Enterprise Starship
- \*Winner of multiple Vocal Jazz Festival Ensemble and Solo Championships
- \*Began teaching fiddle at age 14
- \*Helped organize and was the first teacher for SCVFA's KidFiddle program

These concerts will be held at the home of Susan Goodis in Mountain View. For more information and to be added to the Silicon Valley House Concerts Group email list, send your email to Susan at SGoodis at gmail dot com.

### Snacks for the Jam

On your way to the jam? Please bring a snack to share. Healthy choices are always appreciated!

### Slow Jam Tunes for June

Topher Heath writes:

Hello! Thank you all for participating in the slow jam. The slow jam is for beginners who want to participate in a slow-paced jam (60-90 BPM).

To participate, you should be able to tune your instrument, play chords at a steady pace, and (optionally) work up melodies / leads.

The song list is:

- D Arkansas Traveler \*NEW in April
- G Cripple Creek \*NEW in April
- G Girl I Left Behind Me
- G Irish Washerwoman \*NEW in March
- G Kesh Jig, The
- D Liberty
- G Mountain Dew \*NEW in May
- A Old Joe Clark
- D Soldier's Joy
- G Worried Man Blues
- C Wildwood Flower
- A Will The Circle Be Unbroken \*NEW in May



Check here first for songs:  
<http://www.scvfa.org/beginners/>

If you have trouble finding a song, feel free to contact me for ideas.

Note: if you would like to be added to (or removed from) the Slow Jam mailing list, just send a note to: topher.heath at yahoo dot com.

### Marin County Fair



The Marin County Fair will be holding a Fiddle Contest on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Entry forms are due by Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, but the deadline will be extended until Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, if the contest is not full. You may enter online at [www.marinfair.org](http://www.marinfair.org), or email Pat at newsletter at fiddlers.org for a PDF of the flyer and entry form.

## A Special Occasion

By Susan Goodis

Pete Showman wrote the tune featured on the next page for his wife Dinah in 2010. Pete and Dinah, long-time dedicated contributors to the SCVFA, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this month.

Pete and Dinah have served the organization for many years in numerous capacities. I'm not sure what the organization would be without them... two long term volunteers, trustees, officers, web master, membership chairman, newsletter editor, etc

--- Dave Williams

Lee and I have known Pete and Dinah since the mid 1980's; over thirty years, I think. Learning that their 50th anniversary is coming up has startled me a bit. I don't know why it should, since we and they seem similar in age, and Lee and I are not far behind. Pete and Dinah, congratulations on reaching that golden marker!

--- Paul Clarke

Pete has played a major role in the SCVFA at least since the mid-1990s, when I first joined the club. My first impression: whenever something needed to be done, he'd be among the first volunteers. Sometimes he picked up the sound system from storage, set it up, operated it and returned it to storage. As most folks arrived, Pete was often one of the first to play music onstage.

Not so long ago, Pete became club president. He served in that capacity for many years, yet still volunteered to handle other needed chores.

Pete long served as editor of our monthly newsletter, "Fiddlers'Rag." And when another member accepted that task, Pete continued to produce or edit much of the sheet music that appears in it.

Pete's work on our annual youth fiddle contest is another of his contributions. I find it difficult to imagine how SCVFA could have grown so successful without Pete's efforts.

Dinah always finds needs and fills them. One such is her service on "greeting table" crew.

---Dave Barton

Besides Pete and Dinah's many roles in the SCVFA, Pete also plays fiddle with other SCVFA participants Dave Barton, Gary Breitbard, Jena Rauti, and Dave Bogdanoff, (also two other non-SCVFA members) in a band called Večernica, (a word that is Serbo-Croatian for "Evening Star"). Somehow Pete and Dave Barton manage to lead the fiddles in dance music from the Balkans (which often has very irregular rhythms) to the British Isles, Israel, Scandinavia, and South America. Of course, the band does play an occasional contra for the International Dancers -- you'll recognize Old Joe Clark, Ragtime Annie and St. Anne's Reel!

--- Jena Rauti

I am a new comer to the SCVFA. About 5 years ago, I came out to one of the jams and remember Dinah and Pete welcoming and encouraging me, since I hadn't really picked up my fiddle in 30 years! It turns out that Pete was also the web master and responded to my questions over email and pointed me to different resources. He was also instrumental in starting the Beginner's Circle and in uploading sheet music and tunes onto the website so that newbies, like myself, could learn the tunes. Teachings from the Beginner's Circle and the music on-line have kept me coming and increased my confidence, playing, and friendships. Congratulations to Dinah and Pete for 50 years!

--- Patti Bossert



Photo: Ken Showman

Dinah is a long-time volunteer with the local, school-district, county and California State levels of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). She has served in many offices including President (of all but the State organization), parliamentarian, secretary and many others. She served as Editor of the monthly SCVFA newsletter, the *Fiddler's Rag* from 2001 to 2005. She has been Recording Secretary since 2008 (to present).

Pete is an electrical engineer, programmer and system and software architect; he worked for 33 years at Hewlett Packard, from 1967 to 2000. Since retiring he spent much of his spare time in fiddling-related activities and various family activities. Pete served as SCVFA President (along with many other "acting" positions) from June 2001 to February 2007, and has continued on as Membership Secretary, Webmaster, Contest Chairman and in other positions.

All this and more. I'm glad I have received such a warm welcome from Pete and Dinah into the SCVFA family. It is a delight to be a part of the organization to which they both are such active contributors. Pete has been a facilitator of growth for many a budding musician, including myself. Dinah is one of the first to welcome newcomers at the door for the monthly jams. Congratulations on 50 years together!

---Susan

# Dinah's Waltz

(Dinah's New Year's Waltz)

Pete Showman  
January 1, 2010

The musical score is written in treble clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of nine staves of music. Chords are indicated by letters above the notes. The score includes first and second endings, a 'To Coda' instruction, and a 'D.S. al Coda' instruction. The piece concludes with a 'Rit.' (ritardando) marking and a final chord.

**Staff 1:** Chords: D, A7, D, G. Measure 1 has a first ending symbol.

**Staff 2:** Chords: D, Bm, G, A.

**Staff 3:** Chords: D, A7, D, G.

**Staff 4:** Chords: D, A, D. Includes first ending (1) and second ending (2,3). Text: "repeat 1st time only".

**Staff 5:** Section B starts. Chords: G, D, A, D.

**Staff 6:** Chords: G, A, Bm, A.

**Staff 7:** Chords: D, A7, D, G. Text: "To Coda last time".

**Staff 8:** Chords: D, A, G. Includes first ending (1) and second ending (2). Text: "D.S. al Coda".

**Staff 9:** Chords: D, A, G, D/F, A/E, D. Text: "(Last time)", "Rit.".

© 2010, Pete Showman. Written for my wife Dinah on New Year's Eve 2009 and and New Year's Day 2010  
Rev. 1/1/10, 9/25/10

# Photos from the May 2015 Jam



Top: Dave Magram, Bob Palasek, Linda Maki, Ken Smith, Richard Brooks, Jim Burnhart, Paul Indman (Photo: Janet Johnston).

Right: Sam Morocco, Art Kee, Jim True (Photo: Richard Brooks).

Bottom: Frank Fox, Sam Morocco, George Bradshaw, Jean Avram, Tom Clausen, Bill O'Haron (Photo: Richard Brooks).



# Photos from the May 2015 Jam (continued)



Top: **George Bradshaw, Ann Whitesell, Susan Goodis, Patti Bosert, Wes Mitchell, Larry Joba** (Photo: Richard Brooks).



Center: **Pete Showman, Tom Clausen**, background: **Jean Avram**, foreground: **Paul Barnett, Dave Bogdanoff and Chris Cochran** (Photo: Susan Goodis).



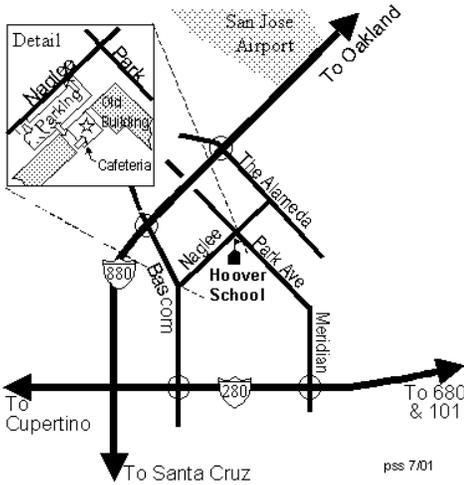
Bottom: **Richard Brooks, Bob Palacek, Linda Maki, Ken Smith, Dave Magram** (Photo: Susan Goodis).

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

**Next Jam: Sunday June 7, 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@scvfa.org](mailto:newsletter@scvfa.org)**



**Topher Heath's Real Slow Jam (Photo: Richard Brooks)**