



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 43, Number 10
Celebrating 42 years

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

October 2015
Next Jam: Oct. 4

President's Note



Great talent played on stage at our September 6 jam and the stage was filled almost the entire time thanks to Élan Alford, trustee and jam manager. We can thank her and George Bradshaw for bringing our

storage locker supplies to the jam and back.

More people are needed to help bring our supplies to each jam from our storage locker a mile away. A trustee will be there, but we need two cars to bring everything. Loading takes 15 minutes and driving takes 10.

Scandinavian Fiddling Special Oct. 4th at 3:00 PM

Don't miss this special **Scandinavian Fiddling** concert. **Jeanne Sawyer** and **Anders Holtsberg** will perform "Folk Music from Scandinavia" in the traditional style of two fiddles played in close harmony. You'll also hear Jeanne play her 9 string Hardanger fiddle. The concert starts at 3:00 PM. There is no extra charge.

Two Trustee Openings Starting in February 2016

There are two trustee openings in February because Charlotte and George decided not to run again. If you want to help determine SCVFA's future by being a trustee or president, tell trustees Élan Alford, Dave Williams, or Pete Showman.

No 14th Youth Fiddle Contest This Year

There will not be a 14th Youth Fiddle Contest this year. Pete Showman, the contest Chairman for the past 13 years, almost single-handedly organized every detail of this event. Please read the article on page 3.

Moving to El Cerrito

Janet and I are moving back to El Cerrito where we lived before moving to Palo Alto. I will continue as President until the trustees appoint a new President at February's annual membership meeting.

Amazon Buyers

On the lower left side of our 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



MAKE MISTAKES, TAKE RISKS, AND HAVE FUN

BY SCOTT HOUSTON

Most people think of skydivers and bungee jumpers as "daredevils" with no fear. To my utter amazement, a majority of people learning to play piano see those who learn to improvise in that same light.



Life is risky – end of story. The only way to avoid risk is to stay in bed 24/7, and even then you risk your house collapsing on top of you. Risk is a reality that we all share. You simply can't escape some level of risk.

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Officers and Chairs

President-Trustee .. Richard J. Brooks	Newsletter Publisher .. Charlotte Prater
Vice President OPEN	Performances Contact .. Dave Williams
Recording Secretary Dinah Showman	Publicity OPEN
Treasurer Janet Johnston	Webmaster Pete Showman
Membership Secretary Pete Showman	Youth Programs Chair OPEN
News Editor Patrice Tanti	Youth Fiddle Contest Pete Showman

Trustees

Seat 1: Pete Showman	Seat 3: George Bradshaw	Seat 5: Dave Williams
Seat 2: Élan Alford	Seat 4: Charlotte Prater	Seat 6: Susan Goodis

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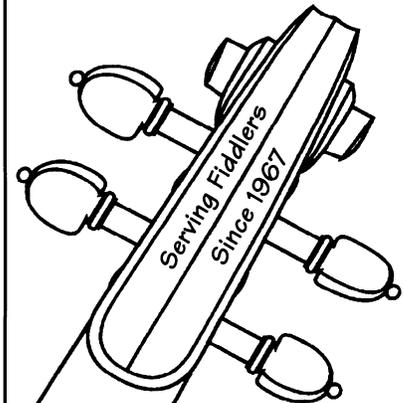
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Upcoming jams

October 4th Folk Music from Scandinavia

Anders Holtsberg and Jeanne Sawver will present tunes that represent the dance styles from different parts of Sweden, Norway and Finland. Anders grew up playing fiddle near Stockholm, lived for many years in Skåne, and now lives in the Bay area. His big teenage rebellion was to play folk music instead of classical! Jeanne started dancing when she was in high school, and jumped into playing Scandinavian music in the early '90's. Both are singers as well, so the performance will likely include some singing

November 1st Hillbillies from Mars concert

The Hillbillies combine their love of and dedication to Celtic and American traditional fiddle music with a healthy dose of their own "folk roots" of rock 'n' roll, swing, Latin and African beats, forging a new tradition of dance music.

December 6th Potluck

We're delighted that Cheri Palasek and Lee Clarke have agreed to organize the 2015 Holiday Potluck, to be held at the December 6th jam. We hope you all can come! It's a great opportunity to get to know more of your fellow SCVFA members. Details will be announced in upcoming issues of the Fiddler's Rag, but we expect it to follow the usual pattern: SCVFA will provide sliced ham and turkey, beverages and tableware. Members who wish to participate should bring one side dish, sized to serve four times as many people as are in their group.

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SCVFA Cancels the Youth Fiddle Contest for 2015

By Dave Williams

For the previous 13 years, our organization has held a Youth Fiddle Contest in the fall. The SCVFA leadership, in alignment with our mission, supported the contest to encourage the enjoyment of traditional music by young people and further their participation at our jams.

At our July trustees meeting, we voted to not have the contest this year due to a lack of volunteers - in particular, someone to lead or help organize the event.

Pete Showman, the Contest Chairman for all 13 consecutive Youth Fiddle Contests, along with the help and guidance of Dinah Showman, have spent a significant amount of time in preparation of each event including recruiting contestants and judges through to the design and procurement of the trophies and ribbons. The preparations also included updating the contest rules as required and putting in place the organization and equipment to run the contest efficiently on the day of the event.

As you all should know, Pete and Dinah volunteer significant amounts of their time to keep SCVFA running smoothly. Pete is the Membership Chair and Webmaster and until a few months ago the newsletter editor. Dinah is the organization's secretary and historian, and spends the entirety of every jam at the sign-in desk each month.

We have also felt that interest in the contest has waned; in recent years we've had to work harder to get enough contestants signed up in advance.

This year Pete decided that it is time to step away from the task of running the Youth Fiddle Contest. He has kept the contest going for the last 3 or 4 years on the hope that someone would step forward to learn how to run it. SCVFA has been trying but has not been able to find a successor. Consequently, the Trustees decided to cancel the 2015 contest.

To reinstate the contest, a leader needs to step forward. If you value the contest and want to see it continue, then please let any of the trustees know. The good news is that Pete has a very thorough and well documented process including a timeline for preparations, contact names, contest forms, judging forms, day of the event assignments and all the contest rules, etc.

Again, if anyone has the time and inclination to make the Youth Fiddle Contest happen in 2016, please let us know and we will help you get it started.

SCVFA Meeting Notes

At its regular meeting on September 13, 2015, trustees

- Made plans for the October jam at which Jeanne Sawyer and Anders Holtsberg, who play Scandinavian music, will perform.
- Made plans to have Hillbillies From Mars perform at the November jam.
- Made plans for our traditional Holiday Potluck at the December jam. Cheri Palasek and Lee Clarke will coordinate the event.
- Agreed to charge everyone \$5 admission to the December jam and potluck, and to charge an additional \$5 for the meal for those not bringing a potluck dish.
- Appointed a nominating committee to find candidates for the two trustee positions that will be open as of our February election meeting. The committee is Élan Alford, Pete Showman, and Dave Williams. Members are encouraged to provide suggestions to them for these and other volunteer positions.
- Learned that the fiddlers.org website has been updated to include a tunes page and a learning page.
- Agreed that as a special program for all jam attendees, we will charge a reduced rate of \$5 admission for members and nonmembers for the January, February, and March 2016 jams.
- Agreed to look into purchasing items with SCVFA designs for sale at our jams.
- Have ordered and received more SCVFA business cards.
- Set November 15, 2015 as the proposed date for the next trustee meeting.

Dinah Showman, Secretary

Photos from the September 2015 Jam



Jerry Friedman, Ralph Stark, Dennis Gayle, Jonathan Horne
(Photo: Richard Brooks)



Matt Small
(Photo: Richard Brooks)



Matt Small, Jennifer Kitchen, George Bradshaw, Paul Indman, John Kornhauser (fore), Alex Mayers (back)
(Photo: Richard Brooks)



Chip Curry and Pat Tanti
(Photo: Richard Brooks)

Photos from the September 2015 Jam



Tune Builder Workshop lead by **Sarah Kirton**
(Photo: Richard Brooks)



Sam Morocco, Connie Curry, Jean Avram, Tom Lawrence, John Martin
Jean Avram volunteered to lead the September Slow Jam in **Topher Heath's** absence.
(Photo: Richard Brooks)



Norio Kawato, Sam Morocco, John Sellers, Gail Hall
(Photo: Richard Brooks)

