



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 44, Number 11
Celebrating 43 years

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

November 2016
Next Jam: Nov. 6

President's Note



All went well at the SCVFA jam in October. It was exciting to see twelve bluegrass musicians fill the stage. They had lots of fun and provided some fine entertainment. I challenge everyone to take the stage for the open mic. Many folks come to SCVFA just to listen. We are the entertainment for them.

Elizabeth Dequine, Cape Breton and Irish fiddler, led a fun **KidFiddle Workshop**. Five students of varying musical abilities participated and learned "My Heather Hills", a lovely jig. A few Irish fiddling ornaments were taught, as well as "chopping" to create the percussive sound. The children played beautifully as they performed on stage following the workshop.

Elizabeth then performed for a sizeable audience. She even danced while playing a Cape Breton Tune. As one might imagine, this performance was welcomed with hearty applause.

Tom Clausen did a great job leading the Tune Builder Circle. Barbara Pratt filled in for Topher at the slow jam. Wes Mitchell, jam manager, made sure the jam ran smoothly all day. Élan Alford, along with Charlotte, sat in for Dinah at the membership table. Thank you all and thanks to everyone who pitches in to set up, take down and do whatever needs to be done.

Coming up in November, we will have an accomplished musician, Harry Liedstrand, join us in jamming. He will lead a special edition of Tune Builders, a Stringband Workshop. Fiddle, guitar and mandolin players are encouraged to participate. There is no extra charge for this workshop. Come join the workshop, then take a short break to hear Harry play a mini-concert.

Join us and share your thoughts at the next SCVFA board meeting on November 2nd. This is open to all of our members. We even take time to socialize with a

potluck dinner starting at 6:00pm prior to the meeting. For details, email: [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president@fiddlers.org).

NEW - Youth Jam! Wes Mitchell will guide our youth in a jamming circle of their own. Pass on the word to the young musicians you may know.

SCVFA now has a Facebook Page. Look for: "Santa Clara Fiddlers Association SCVFA".

Share with your friends and invite new friends to get to know our music community. Share our events on your own page. You never know which one of your friends may join SCVFA next month. Posts are encouraged, but limit the content to that which is directly related to SCVFA. All posts will be moderated in keeping with the best interests of SCVFA.

It is important that each one of our members talks about SCVFA and shares our enthusiasm with fellow musicians, family, and friends. Take a few business cards and share them when the opportunity presents itself.

It takes a village to keep SCVFA running smoothly. Let's all do our part,

Susan Goodis

❖ Show your pride in SCVFA, get your wearable art in one of two designs. Email [sgoodis \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:sgoodis@gmail.com) for information.

In This Issue:	Page
President's Message	1
Article: "Walker Creek Music Camp" by Susan Goodis	2
SCVFA Happenings	3
Photos from the Oct. Jam	4
Harry Liedstrand Workshop and Miniconcert ...	5
Article: "And the Music Will Stop" by Patrice Tanti.....	6
Tunes: "Jaybird", "Mississippi Sawyer"	7

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.

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Address changes: [membership \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:membership@fiddlers.org)

Website: www.scvfa.org or www.fiddlers.org

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Walker Creek Music Camp

Article by Susan Goodis

October 6-9th was a wonderful weekend of music, workshops, jamming and socializing in a relaxing rural setting. Walker Creek Music Camp hosts both bluegrass and oldtime artists, who perform, jam, and teach workshops to “pass it on”. There are barn dances in the evening with the opportunity to play in the community band.

Quite a few SCVFA members attended: June Nishimoto, Bev Tracey, Wayne Grabowski, Patti Bossert, Liz Alsop, John Alsop, and me. I hope I didn't miss anyone. Classes were taught by Tom Sauber for fiddle, Adam Hurt for banjo, and Megan Lynch Chowning for beyond beginning fiddle.

The final evening was the opportunity for student performances. Patti Bossert and our new friend, Roke, took the stage to play “Springfield”.

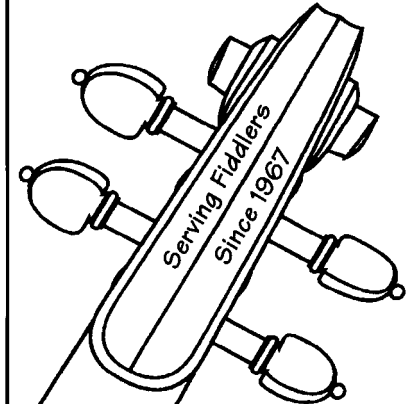
Our friends Dinah and Noah Stroe performed a tune written by Mike Bell, “Slippin’ On Ice”. People could not resist dancing and moving to the beat.



Susan Goodis and Patti Bossert
(Photo: Patti Bossert)

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SCVFA Happenings

SCVFA will do a ployout for **Bert Raphael's** 80th birthday party, with **Erik Hoffman** calling contras. It's at Congregation Etz Chayim, 4161 Alma St., Palo Alto, 3:00 to 6:00 pm on Saturday, Nov. 19, and all SCVFA folks are welcome to come and bring instruments for jamming.

RSVP to anne [at] raphaelconsulting.com to ensure enough food and drinks for all!

SCVFA Slow Jam

Barbara Pratt filled in for Topher at the October slow jam. Topher was attending his father's 88th birthday party this month. Barbara Pratt graciously agreed to lead the jam in his absence.

The active song list is:

Angeline The Baker (D)	Red-Haired Boy (A)
Arkansas Traveler (D)	Red Wing (G)
Girl I Left Behind Me (G)	Soldier's Joy (D)
Jaybird (D) *	Squirrel Hunters (A)
June Apple (A)	St. Anne's Reel (D)
Liberty (D)	Swallowtail Jig (E)
Mississippi Sawyer (D) *	Whiskey Before Breakfast (D)
Over The Waterfall (D)	Wildwood Flower (C)

* included on page 7 of this newsletter

Mountain View - Saturday, November 19, 2016

Redwood Bluegrass Associates presents

Front Country

Jamming starts at 5:00pm, Doors Open at 7:00pm,
Showtime is 7:30pm

"Front Country blends everything from high-lonesome mountain music to new-wave power pop, newgrass picking, oldgrass harmonies, and just plain glorious musicality. This is Americana at its best: music with deep roots and wide-ranging vision." - Popatunes

www.RBA.org

Felton - Sunday, November 6, 2016

6275 Hwy 9, Felton

Don Quixote's International Music Hall presents

The Lonely Heartstring Band

Soaring bluegrass. "They made my hair stand on end." ~ Darol Anger

Showtime is 7:00pm

Tom Miller 831-335-2526 tmm [at] cruzio.com



Join us for the SCVFA Holiday Potluck Sunday, Dec. 4th

- Jamming and stage performances from 1-3 PM
- Potluck Dinner starts at 3 PM

Please bring lots of side dishes and a few desserts. The SCVFA will provide turkey, ham, beverages, eating utensils and decorations.

Bring one dish to feed four times as many as are in your group. So if you come alone, bring enough for four people. If you come as a couple, bring enough for 8. Please bring your own serving utensils and tape your name on your serving dishes so we know who they belong to.

Can't bring a dish? Come anyway, and buy a meal for just \$5.

Note: We do not have permission to use the kitchen facilities (kitchen sinks or electrical outlets). No food warmers or electrical utensils are permitted.



Santa Cruz - Friday, November 11, 2016

Kuumbwa Jazz Center

California Banjo Extravaganza

Featuring

Joe Newberry, Bill Evans & Danny Barnes

Showtime 7:30pm

Call Patty at 831.479.9421 for availability

- ❖ Offer assistance 1-2 times a year to transport sound equipment from the storage locker.
- ❖ Photographers - share your talent by photographing memorable times at SCVFA events - send to newsletter [at] fiddlers.org

October 2016 Jam (Photos Susan Goodis)



Larry Joba, Jean Avram, Tom Clausen



Mike Bell



Peter Forrest front guitar, Len Abrams harmonica



John Durbin, Elizabeth Dequine and Ana Myriam Castillo



President Susan Goodis joins the KidFiddle workshop participants, led by Elizabeth Dequine



Left to right: Mike Bell mandolin, Dennis Gale banjo, Vic Corsiglia mandolin, guitar player from CSOTFA (California State Old Time Fiddlers Association) District 9, Dave Williams bass, Resonator guitar player, fiddler from CSOTFA District 9, guitar standing in the back, Bill Hall guitar, Peter Forrest guitar, Len Abrams harmonica, Jerry Friedman banjo

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
Special Guest
Harry Liedstrand
Stringband Workshop and Mini-concert
Sunday November 6, 2016



Stringband Workshop 2:00-3:00 pm

2-3 fiddle tunes will be taught during the one hour workshop. Guitar players are welcome. Cindy Liedstrand will demo the chords and talk about backing up fiddle tunes. Mandolins are also welcome. (This replaces Tune Builder Circle)

Mini-Concert : 3:30 pm

****Workshop & Concert included with admission**

\$6.00 SCVFA members, \$8.00 Non members

Free: Youths 17 years and under

Jam and Open Mic: 1:00 - 5:00

Where: Hoover Middle School

1450 Naglee Ave, San Jose, CA 95126

www.fiddlers.org

Harry Liedstrand is an accomplished fiddler and acoustic musician whose performances of American and Celtic traditional music are inspired and energetic. Able to swing gracefully between Appalachian, New England, Irish, and California styles with technical skill, Harry infuses each concert with radiant qualities that are positive and uplifting.

Harry's fiddling style has emerged from a broad range of different influences. He learned many tunes and songs from Kenny Hall. He also visited great American fiddlers like Tommy Jarrell, Burl Hammons, and Louis Beaudoin, and he learned Irish tunes from accordionist Kevin Keegan. Collecting tunes and performing traditional music eventually led to the completion of a Masters Degree in Folklore/Ethnomusicology at CSU Fresno in 1983.

Besides occasional concert performances Harry uses music on a daily basis as a teacher. Students in his classes enjoy beginning each day with a happy melody. Music creates an atmosphere of harmony and delight for the rest of the day. With the understanding that music helps improve learning in all academic and social areas he often finds himself and his students whistling while they work and turning work into play.

"The only thing more fun than playing fiddle is laughing."

And the music will stop ... (briefly)

by Patrice Tanti

Nashville is the place to be on Monday, Aug. 21, 2017, when the first total solar eclipse sweeps across the entire United States for the first time in 99 years. As the largest US city in the eclipse path, Nashville will watch day turn to night and the music will stop as the moon completely obscures the sun for about 2 minutes.

Should you decide to go, plan early as Nashville will coincidentally celebrate a number of anniversaries in 2017, including:

- 50th Anniversary for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum
- 50th Anniversary for the Nashville International Songwriters Association
- 60th Anniversary for the Historic RCA Studio B
- 125th Anniversary for the Ryman Auditorium
- 70th Anniversary for the Nashville Symphony
- 35th Anniversary for the Bluebird Cafe

Surely the “Music City” will produce some songs on the occasion of the Great American Eclipse.

You can of course enjoy the eclipse closer to home with a short trip to Oregon, the first state to experience total solar eclipse that day. But once again, plan your trip now as hotel and campground reservations are filling up fast across the country.

During the eclipse, total darkness will last less time (1:50 min) than it takes Pink Floyd to play “Eclipse” (2:10 min). Yet,

“A solar eclipse is an impressive sight to behold. Even thousands of years ago, people were spellbound by it and devised all kinds of myths to account for this phenomenon. It is even said that wars were won or lost when the new moon slowly slid across the sun’s disk. In the 18th and 19th centuries, researchers became increasingly interested in studying total eclipses. And in 1919, observations of such a cosmic game of shadows even reinforced Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity.”

Helmut Hornung, M.A.
Max Planck Society, Munich

The Milliner-Koken Collection of American Tunes lists some Moon-inspired traditional songs: “The Moon Behind the Hills” by Melvin Wine, “Moonlight” by Bruce Greene and “Moonlight” by Ed Barnes.

Other familiar songs on this topic will surely bring memories: “Moonshadow” by Cat Stevens, “Total Eclipse of the Heart” by Bonnie Tyler, “Ain’t No Sunshine” by Bill Withers, “Under Cover of Darkness” by The Strokes, “Total Eclipse” by Iron Maiden, and many more.

Will you come up with a new song for the occasion? Or play your favorite tunes, with or without Moon or Sun in the title? As the narrow 60-mile wide Moon shadow travels coast-to-coast at 1600 miles/hour, I bet it will silence in its path banjos, mandolins, fiddles, Dobros, bass and guitars for a few seconds. Then the music will resume, with a wave of renewed energy.



If you can't make it to the eclipse path, a banjo will do!



2017 total solar eclipse path

A final note: with the safety of eclipse glasses, you will still be able to observe the partial eclipse from the Bay Area with a 75% Moon-Sun overlap. So mark your calendar and order eclipse glasses on-line before they run out.

Key: D Major
♩ = 90

Jaybird

Traditional, arr. Pete Showman

Transcribed and arr. by Pete Showman 10/6/2015.

Key: D Maj.
♩ = 90

Mississippi Sawyer

Traditional,
Arr Pete Showman

(to repeat tune)

I've heard (and play) lots of variations on this tune; this is one of the ways I play it, with a mix of shuffle bowing (e.g. meas. 1, 3 and 5) and individual eighth notes (e.g. meas. 6, 7 and 10). You can also play it an octave low for variety.

Arr. and typeset in ABC by Pete Showman 2/2006; r2 2/9/2014.

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
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Cupertino, CA 95015-2666



**Next Jam: Sunday Nov. 6th, 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.

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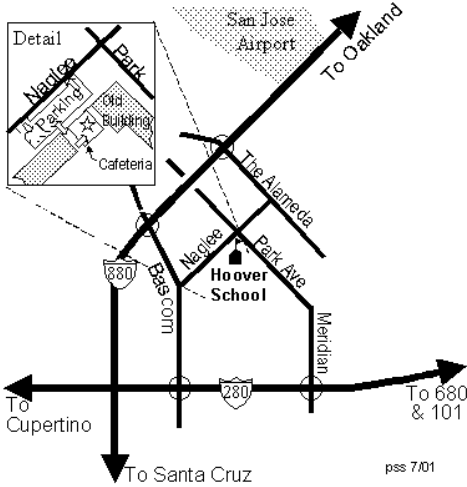


Photo break at the October Jam: **George Bradshaw, Wes Mitchell, Mike Bell,
Sue Torngren, John Gregorin and Patti Bossert**

(Photo: Susan Goodis)

- ❖ Amazon purchases – go to Amazon from the SCVFA home page to give a small commission to SCVFA.
- ❖ Pass on performance inquiries to Dave Williams at [performances /at/ fiddlers.org](mailto:performances@fiddlers.org)