



# Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 45, Number 2  
Celebrating 43 years

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

February 2017  
Next Jam: Feb. 5



## President's Note

Light attendance at the January Jam was made up for by the energy and awesome music as always. As musicians, we need real interactions with other musicians and an audience to keep our passion for music blossoming, now more than ever. To start the New Year, I was the jam manager. Keeping the stage active by being part of the talent added to the fun. The

audience, dancers, and admission desk volunteers enjoy hearing our mix of live music. The stage provides a safe arena in which to expand musically and develop self-confidence and poise in performance. Take advantage of this opportunity and sign up to play for the SCVFA open mic. Share music you love or maybe even a piece you may have written.

Cindy Dinga led the New Year's Day Tune Builder circle with two great jigs: "Out On the Ocean" and "The Rose in the Heather". Dinah and Charlotte, as they have done for years, warmly greeted members and new folks at the admission desk. Thank you to all the volunteers involved in the many activities it takes to get started at each monthly jam. There is no need to sign up in advance, just join in. Many hands make small work.

**February 5th is the annual election for the SCVFA board. Members, please be present at the jam to engage in the voting process and for a brief presentation on the state of our association. We must have quorum to conduct the election. This makes it crucial for members to make every effort to attend and participate in this process. Voting is limited to members in good standing (dues paid up) -- check and pay if necessary at the Membership Desk.**

Would you like to learn to play a hambo? A schottisch? Join our very own master Scandinavian Fiddler and SCVFA member, Sarah Kirton, to learn some unique hambos utilizing the fun technique of finger plucking.

I am delighted to announce KidFiddle workshops in March (Flyer on page 2) and April. Gary Breitbard will lead in March and Erik Hoffman will lead in April, and we hope Erik will play a few tunes for us afterward as well. Please pass on the word, as this is a wonderful learning opportunity for young musicians.

Bagels, lox, smoked salmon, OJ, coffee, tea, and a chance to chat preceded the SCVFA board meeting on Sunday, Jan 22 (see the highlights on page 3). SCVFA holds a potluck social and our board meeting every other month (odd months). Members are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to socialize, share ideas and become more involved with SCVFA.

On January 13, another musical great, Alan Jabbour, passed away. As members of the SCVFA organization, we are all engaged in learning music and sharing it as a way to 'pass it on' and keep it alive. SCVFA is unique in that we perform and teach a wide variety of styles including old-time, country music, bluegrass, western swing, Celtic, Scandinavian and other traditional styles. Each one of us is involved in passing on this musical tradition. As stated by Alan Jabbour, "Bands are for a while, but circles and tunes are forever."

**Our next SCVFA jam will be on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2017.** This will be a good time to make some of the New Year's resolutions (see the last page of this issue).

It takes a village to keep SCVFA running smoothly. Let us all do our part.

*Susan Goodis*

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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).

**Officers and Chairs**

President-Trustee .....	Susan Goodis	Newsletter Publisher ..	Charlotte Prater
Vice President .....	Élan Alford	Performances Contact ..	Dave Williams
Recording Secretary ....	Anne Raphael	Publicity .....	OPEN
Treasurer .....	Dinah Showman	Webmaster .....	Pete Showman
Membership Secretary	Pete Showman	Youth Programs Chair .....	OPEN
News Editor .....	Patrice Tanti		

**Trustees**

Seat 1: Pete Showman	Seat 3: Bert Raphael	Seat 5: Dave Williams
Seat 2: Élan Alford	Seat 4: Wes Mitchell	Seat 6: Cindy Dinga

**To Contact the SCVFA:**

Mail: P.O. Box 2666, Cupertino, CA 95015-2666  
 Email to Susan Goodis: president [at] fiddlers.org  
**Newsletter Submissions & Comments:** newsletter [at] fiddlers.org  
**Address changes:** membership [at] fiddlers.org  
 Website: [www.scvfa.org](http://www.scvfa.org) or [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org)  
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**KidFiddle Workshop**  
**Hoover Middle School**  
**Sunday March 5th, 2017**  
 With Fiddle Instructor and Performer  
**Gary Breitbart**



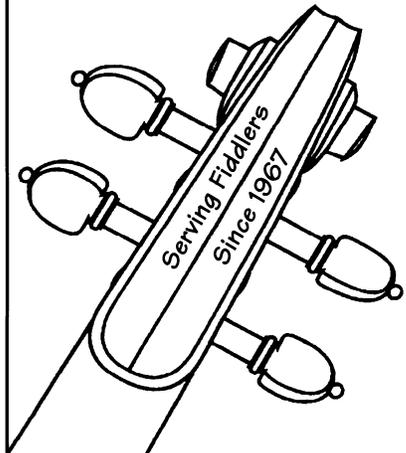
**KidFiddle Workshop 2-3 pm**  
**Participants perform at about 3:15**  
 Open Mic as usual, except during  
 the participants' performance

**Jam Admission:** \$6.00 members \$8.00 non-members  
 Youths 17 & under Free  
**Workshop tuition \$5.00**

**Sign up at:** [KidFiddle/at/fiddlers.org](http://KidFiddle/at/fiddlers.org)  
 Advance registration appreciated.  
**More details:** [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org)  
**Or email Susan Goodis** president[at]fiddlers.org

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# SCVFA Happenings

## SCVFA Annual Membership Meeting

Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Hoover School

A brief meeting will be held to elect trustees and hear remarks on the association by President Susan Goodis. See the candidates' statements in the January Newsletter.

## SCVFA Slow Jam

### Active song list

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)

## Feb. Non-Recurring Events

By Allan French

2/2 Santa Clara House Concerts presents "Hoot and Holler"

2/4 Sunnyvale Evening of Cultural Arts presents "California Guitar Trio"

2/18 Redwood Bluegrass Associates presents "Rob Ickles & Trey Hensley" (Dobro/Guitar duet)

2/23 "WinterGrass Festival" Bellevue, WA

## SCVFA Special Events

3/5 Music Jam and Open Mike at Hoover School, plus a KidFiddle workshop with Gary Breitbard

4/2 Music Jam and Open Mike at Hoover School, plus a KidFiddle workshop with Erik Hoffman

## Silicon Valley House Concerts

Mar 10th

Evie Ladin Band w/ Keith Terry & Erik Pearson  
neo-trad kinetic trio house

Reservations: SV.houseconcerts [at] gmail.com

## Got Cards?

Stop by the Admission Desk at the next jam

It is important that each of our members continues to talk 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.

## January Board Meeting Highlights

The SCVFA board held a brunch meeting on Sunday, January 22 at the home of President Susan Goodis.

Treasurer Dinah Showman led us through the boring-but-essential numbers of membership, income and past and projected expenses so we all agreed on a budget for the coming fiscal year.

We're allocating money to do at least 3 mini concerts at jams and 4 KidFiddle workshops, plus paying for the equipment storage locker, the school site rental for the jams, routine equipment repair and many other expected costs.

We're also budgeting for printing and mailing the Fiddler's Rag, our monthly newsletter.

But after many board discussions (many, many hours over the past 5 or 10 years!) we agreed that our Membership Secretary, Pete Showman, should convert the whole membership file so that we can use email to deliver an up-to-date, even better version of the Rag, with crisp color photos.

We'll still print and mail some copies to members who prefer paper or do not have easy access to a computer. Since our printing and mailing costs now are more than a quarter of our total annual budget, we hope that we can use some of that cost savings on even better jam programs, without having to increase admission costs.

Anne Raphael, Secretary

## 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.



Share any performance opportunities with Dave Williams at performances [at] SCVFA.org, and let him know if you would like to be included as a performer.

# January 2017 Jam Outdoor Photos

Photos: Patrice Tanti



Dave Williams, Patti Bossert, Tom Clausen and Warren Campbell.



Cindy Dinga (left) leads the Tune Builder circle.



Winter sun and palpable energy on the ground at Hoover. Pete Showman commented: *“Interesting that the old-time, bluegrass and country players all combined into one big jam in January!”*

# January 2017 Jam Indoor Photos

Photos: Patrice Tanti



Pete Showman and Paul Clarke take the stage.



Linda Grace sings “Stagger Lee”, a Lloyd Price 1959 favorite.



Mike Bell, Susan Goodis, Tom Clausen, Fred Pekkonen, Warren Campbell and Rick the “Singing Cowboy”.



Dear Santa Clara Valley Fiddler Association,

I cannot thank you enough for your support of Sunday Friends. We are grateful to you for the caroling performance at the holiday programs at Santee and Lowell. It means a lot to our families to be able to receive various items and services from the program. Your caroling brought so much joy to children and adults in attendance.

With Warmest Regards,  
Ali Barekat  
Executive Director

## Farewell, Alan Jabbour

by Pete Showman

Alan Jabbour died January 13. In the 1960s he made and transcribed many field recordings of old-time musicians (mostly fiddlers, and particularly Henry Reed, who was then in his 80s).

Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan\\_Jabbour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Jabbour)) notes that "In 1976 Alan Jabbour became the founding director of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress, continuing in that position for twenty-three years ..."

He also was a key member of the 1960s old-time

*Hollow Rock String Band*, who made a couple seminal records back in the day, from which I learned a number of tunes. (There's an article by Alan about the band and the music, taken from his notes for the CD re-release, at [www.earlyblurs.com/hrsb.htm](http://www.earlyblurs.com/hrsb.htm).)

All current old-time musicians owe Alan a debt of gratitude for helping preserve some of that music, and for helping make it available to the general public both as original field recordings (some of which can be heard at the LoC's website) and via the HRSB recordings.

## To the Best of Our Knowledge

by Allan French

The radio program "To the Best of Our Knowledge" covers all sorts of fascinating topics. Their January 15 show had three segments about music, including one with fiddle emphasis.

[www.ttbook.org/book/nothing-left-do-write-songs](http://www.ttbook.org/book/nothing-left-do-write-songs)  
"While pregnant with her first child, Amanda Shires was playing fiddle on the road for her husband, the country superstar, Jason Isbell. Near the end of her pregnancy [...] she stayed home, alone, for weeks... with nothing to do but write songs." In the interview, she fiddles, and talks about how pregnancy inspired her new album.

[www.ttbook.org/book/machine-music-theory-101](http://www.ttbook.org/book/machine-music-theory-101)  
Discusses how recent advances in machine learning are enabling computers to compose music.

[www.ttbook.org/book/protest-music](http://www.ttbook.org/book/protest-music)  
This contains five related topics. "We explore the secret history of protest music. Songs and social movements you might have missed -- from the early days of rock and roll to the non-violent hip hop message of *FM Supreme*." They play and discuss a protest song recorded by Ralph Peer during his seminal "Bristol Sessions" in 1927.

## RBA is relevant to SCVFA

by Richard Brooks

Peter Thompson, President of the Redwood Bluegrass Associates ([www.RBA.org](http://www.RBA.org)), described several reasons why the RBA is closing down its concert series at the end of this 2016-2017 season after decades of showcasing local talent and several nationally famous bands and performers. <http://www.bgsignal.com/redwood-bluegrass-associates---reflections.html>

Our organization is different in several ways, but some of the reasons he cites seem relevant to us.

In the early to mid-1970s, the SCVFA was one of the few places in the area to go for a traditional music jam. Pete, Sam, and Jack Sadler are the historians of the group and can confirm that the jams were so popular that folks used to come early to sign up to play on stage. Although there are other musical opportunities, I think our programs like the slow jam, the Tune Builder circle, and KidFiddle are great and will help ensure continued relevance.

Pattern: AA.BB A'A'.BB etc.

# Sandy

From Kenny Hall; traditional?

Key: D

(My Little Dog ....)

More or less as taught by Harry Liedstrand

♩ = 105

(sing to 2nd 'A' part) (My little) dog, he won't bite me. My little dog, he won't bite me. Cha-ses

5 - - - - - My little poss-ums up a tree. My little dog, he won't bite me. [And]

9 When we're herd-in' cat-tle and we're trav-lin' through the fields, he is

13 right there be-hind them just a - - yap-pin' at their heels. (al-ways)\* (snap-pin')\* (to repeat tune high) (to repeat tune low)

\* Upper words are what Harry taught; lower (in parens) are those in Kenny Hall's book.

Note: The [A] part above is an octave higher than in Kenny Hall's book. Harry suggested playing it high (as above) the first time, and then an octave lower (i.e. as Kenny wrote it out, and as shown below), "almost like a [C] part", alternating AA.BB A'A'.BB etc. (Singing, especially for men, might be an octave lower than shown for the 'B' part as well.)

17 - - - - -

21 - - - - -

For his book, Kenny said "This is another Texas tune I got from Mrs. Clara Desmond in 1946" [along with Hobb Dye, among others].

Transcribed, arranged and typeset in ABC Plus by Pete Showman 11/13/2016, from the playing and singing of Harry and Cindy Liedstrand and Terry Barrett at a workshop at the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association, November 6, 2016, with additions from *Kenny Hall's Music Book* (Mel Bay, 1999). Rev. 2: 12/17/2016.

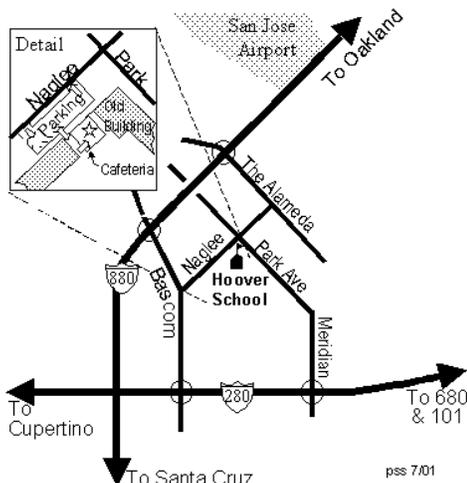
**Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association**  
**P.O. Box 2666**  
**Cupertino, CA 95015-2666**



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 Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>,  
 1-5 pm at Hoover.**

**Damaged or Missing Issue? Call us,  
 or email to: newsletter [at] scvfa.org**



### New Year's Resolutions

In 2017 I will:

- Attend the monthly jam.
- Play on stage for the SCVFA open mic.
- email jam photos to newsletter [at] fiddlers.org
- Teach a tune at the monthly Tune Builder circle.
- Take a few SCVFA business cards to hand out to fellow musicians.
- Offer assistance to transport sound equipment from the storage locker.
- Go to Amazon from the SCVFA home page for my Amazon purchases.
- Pass on performance inquiries to Dave Williams at performances [at] fiddlers.org.
- Attend one or more SCVFA Board meetings (For date and location, ask any Board member).

**2017 Sunday Jam Calendar**

<b>1-Jan</b>	<b>2-Apr</b>	<b>2-Jul</b>	<b>1-Oct</b>
<b>5-Feb</b>	<b>7-May</b>	<b>6-Aug</b>	<b>5-Nov</b>
<b>5-Mar</b>	<b>4-Jun</b>	<b>3-Sep</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>

**Annual Membership Meeting**

Article submission deadline: 2 weeks prior to Jam