



# Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 47, Number 1  
Celebrating 45 years

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

Jan 2019  
Next Jam: Jan 6



## President's Note

December marked another successful holiday potluck with an abundance of great food, fun door prizes, and wonderful music played by awesome musicians.

An impromptu auction offered beautiful pine centerpieces, handcrafted by member Barb Pesavento, for a donation to SCVFA. Volunteers made it all happen. Thank you to all who

contributed their time and talents.

At a Toys for Tots Holiday Party at Harry's Hofbrau, sponsored by South Bay Scottish Society (SBSS), SCVFA members provided live music. Performances are how SCVFA generates necessary funding for the organization and follows its mission to share our music. For this good cause and in the spirit of the holidays, the performance was our "gift" to SBSS. I joined Anita Baldwin, Dave Thomas, Tony Becker, Jessica Ollmann, Bill O'Haren, and Weiwei Chen to share our traditional music as well as holiday music. Many thanks to all of you.

SCVFA teamed with Tony Becker of [AmeriCeltic.net](http://AmeriCeltic.net), the South Bay Scottish Society and St Andrew's Society of San Francisco to co-sponsor WinterDance Celtic Christmas Celebration at the Hoover Historic Theatre. The music, singing and dancing were excellent... a perfect way to welcome the holidays. Local business, co-sponsors, and members made donations of items or services which were raffled to raise funds for California fire victims. A special thanks for the handcrafted pine centerpiece and wreath goes to Barb Pesavento.

Everybody please give a warm welcome to our 3 new members, Andy & Barbara Cameron and Peter Abbey. I hope to see you regularly at SCVFA. You have come to the right place to make connections and continue your musical journey. Welcome back to David & Monika Cartwright and Rudy Posch. It's good to have you with us. There are often many new faces at SCVFA. I always try to greet each of you personally, but don't always

succeed. Come say hello when you see me at our monthly jam. I'm usually wearing a hat with feathers.

"Afters" is the time to put down your instruments and get to know one another. Join us immediately following the January jam at "The Pasta Market" for good conversation and good food. 579 Coleman Ave, San Jose.

Volunteers are what keeps SCVFA going and it's fun! This is a great way to connect with more musicians and support our organization. It takes a village... Let's all do our part.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy new year to all,

--- Susan

**Our annual Membership Meeting** will be held at the February jam. See pages 5 & 6 for a Bylaws change and Trustee candidates' statements.

Tell your friends and family about SCVFA. Encourage them to join in with the joy of music. There is no requirement to play an instrument. The open mic musicians love an audience.

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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 .....	OPEN
Recording Secretary ....	Anne Raphael	Publicity .....	OPEN
Treasurer .....	Dinah Showman	Webmaster .....	Pete Showman
Membership Secretary	Pete Showman	News Editor .....	Patrice Tanti

**Trustees**

Seat 1: Pete Showman	Seat 3: Bert Raphael	Seat 5: Peter Forrest
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](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org)  
**Newsletter Submissions & Comments:** [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter[at]fiddlers.org)  
**Address changes:** [membership \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:membership[at]fiddlers.org)  
 Website: [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org)  
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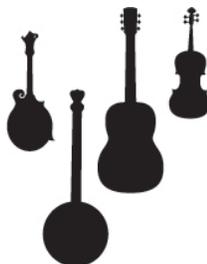
**Donations** to SCVFA are greatly appreciated and will assist in keeping traditional music alive by passing it on to the next generation.

**Many local corporations offer matched donations for non-profits.** Check with your employer... they may offer this benefit.

You can easily add SCVFA as a 501(c)(3) organization; our EIN is 51-0196154

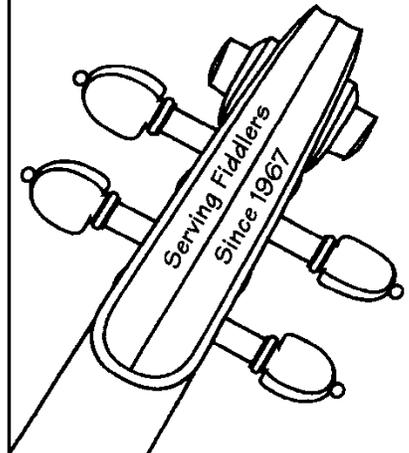
Donate as you are able and traditional music will reap the benefits.

SCVFA wants musicians to know that we are “not just for fiddlers”. The image to the right side of the Fiddler's Rag name on page 1 includes a mandolin, a banjo, a guitar and a fiddle, to illustrate the diversity of instruments played at our jams and events.



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# SCVFA Happenings

## SCVFA Slow Jam current tune list

[www.fiddlers.org/learning/#slowjam](http://www.fiddlers.org/learning/#slowjam)

Angeline The Baker (D)	Red-Haired Boy (A)
Arkansas Traveler (D)	Red Wing (G)
Barlow Knife (G)	Shoo Fly (D)
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)

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. We keep things at an easy pace and we often play breaks together (old time style) even on non-fiddle tunes. This makes it possible for you to join the jam wherever you are at in your development as a musician. So, come join us!

All the tunes we have played so far are fair game even if they are not on the active list. We can revisit tunes especially at the end when we have gone through the active list.

## New Year Resolutions for SCVFA Members

- \* Teach a tune at the monthly Tune Builder Circle.
- \* Take a few SCVFA business cards to hand out to fellow musicians.
- \* Come and jam with us every month.
- \* Share photos of SCVFA events - send to [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter@fiddlers.org).
- \* Attend a Board meeting - all SCVFA members are welcome - For date and location, ask any Board member.
- \* Pass on performance inquiries at [performances \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:performances@fiddlers.org).
- \* Help transport sound equipment from the storage locker.



## SCVFA Board Meeting

Please mark your calendar for the next board meeting on January 9, 2019.

All SCVFA members are encouraged to attend. Please contact any board member for specifics

## Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming Events

1/6 1:00 - 5:00pm **SCVFA music jam** at Hoover.  
More info at [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org).

1/10 - 13 Bakersfield. The California Bluegrass Association presents **The Great 48 Hour Jam**  
More info at [www.cbaweb.org/events/great48](http://www.cbaweb.org/events/great48)

1/19 **Medicine Line - Jamie Fox & Scotty Leach** concert. Metis/Native American Fiddling.  
Reservations: [SV.houseconcerts \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:SV.houseconcerts@gmail.com)

1/16 - 20 **Portland Old Time Music Gathering**  
Information at: [bubbaguitar.com/gathering](http://bubbaguitar.com/gathering)

It is important that each one 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.

**Show your pride in SCVFA, get your wearable!**  
Email [sgoodis \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:sgoodis@gmail.com) for information



## December Photos by Susan Goodis



SCVFA musicians play for the South Bay Scottish Society celebration with Toys for Tots



At the December Jam and Holiday Potluck

Are you a photographer, social media junkie, sound guru, or tech savvy? We can use your talent and skills. Wanna help... even in a small way? Come talk to Susan Goodis at the Jam or email *president [at] fiddlers.org*.

# A Bylaws Revision (to be Voted On at the February Annual Meeting)

by Pete Showman

Members in good standing (dues paid) who attend the February 3, 2019 Annual Membership Meeting will be asked to vote to ratify (or reject) the following Bylaws amendment, in addition to electing two Trustees as described on the next page.

**Background:** Because paper delivery of the newsletter is expensive, and dues for additional members in a household are intended to be small, the 2011 version of the SCVFA Bylaws prohibited delivering multiple copies of the member newsletter to a household. SCVFA began offering electronic delivery of the newsletter, the Fiddler's Rag, with the July 2018 issue. Because there is little cost associated with electronic distribution, we want to remove the Bylaws restriction for electronic delivery, so that when it becomes technically feasible, we can offer this service to our members.

To enable this, the SCVFA Trustees voted to amend the Bylaws at their November 2018 meeting. According to the Bylaws, such amendments made by the Trustees must be ratified by the membership at the next Membership

Meeting, which in this case will be held at the monthly jam to be held on February 3, 2019, to continue to be in effect.

The first part of Article III Section C was amended as follows (additions in underlined Italics):

The dues amount(s) per member shall be fixed from time to time by the Board of Trustees. Dues for the first member in a household shall entitle the member to receive the SCVFA newsletter. Dues for any additional members in the same household with the same renewal date may be set by the Board of Trustees to a smaller amount and will not entitle such additional members to receive a newsletter except as authorized by the Board of Trustees.

This change allows the Trustees to authorize sending more than one newsletter per household. At the November meeting, the Trustees also passed a motion to authorize sending multiple electronic deliveries to more than one member in multi-member household when requested (and when we are technically able to do so).

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## More December Photos by Susan Goodis



Tom Lawrence and Connie Curry



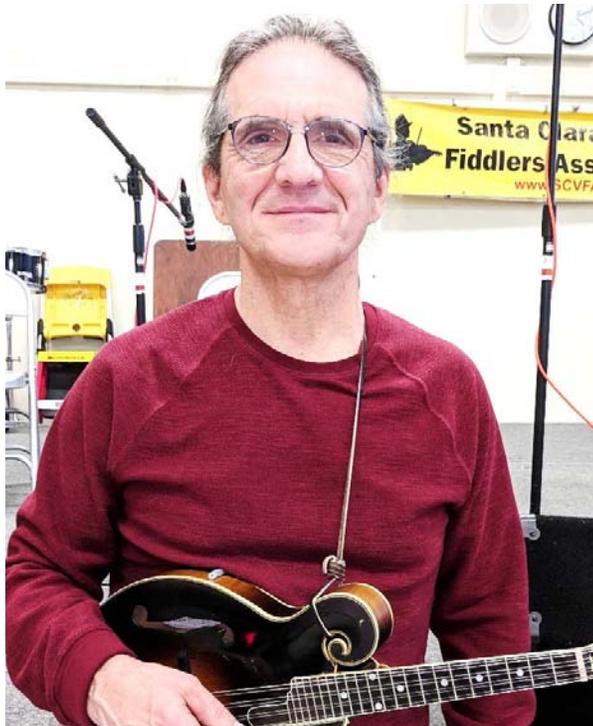
Lee Clarke and Cheri Palasek  
(Cheri chaired the holiday potluck)



Élan Alford and Charlotte Prater

## Trustee Election in February

As usual, we'll have our annual Membership Meeting at the February jam. The main items of business are the Bylaws amendment (page 5) and the election of two trustees to three-year terms. (There are six elected trustees, with two elected each year so their terms overlap.) The Board's Nominating Committee has nominated two candidates for 2019-2022: Dave Thomas for seat 4, and Sam Schillace for seat 3.



### Dave Thomas

I am semi-retiring in January 2019 and look forward to having more time to devote myself to playing and supporting traditional fiddle-based music, as well as deepening my fellowship with like-minded musicians. Becoming a trustee of SCVFA is a perfect opportunity to do this.

In the past, I have served as a board member and legal counsel to a number of nonprofit organizations. My hope is that, as trustee, I can bring some of that experience to help SCVFA meet its mission.

Generally, I would like to work towards strengthening SCVFA's place as a "hub" for fiddle based old-time and traditional music in the South Bay. In particular, I am interested in introducing younger musicians and new musicians to this music and to the fun and joy of connecting with others through jams and other musical gatherings.

### Sam Schillace

Hi, I'm Sam Schillace (pronounced Ski-lahch-ay if you want to say it in the original Sicilian). I'm not a native Californian - I grew up in Michigan, but I've lived here for 29 years, so I guess it's home now! That's me and one of the hounds in the picture - you can guess which is which!

I've been around music and musicians my whole life (my wife and brother are both professionals) but I'm a late bloomer - I never played until I picked up a mandolin we had sitting around the house two years ago. I thought it sounded great, and down the rabbit hole I went! Now I jam whenever I can find a group to play with.

I happily discovered that the Bay Area is filled with great groups like the SCVFA. This has been so helpful to me as a new student - a safe and friendly place to learn to play with others. I'm grateful for that and more than happy to help support and spread the word about acoustic music.



## (The) Growling Old Man and Grumbling Old Woman

Pattern: AABB (or ABB or AB)\*

Keys: A Dorian & A Mixolydian (*sort of\*\**)

♩ = 80

Traditional

Arr. Pete Showman

**[A]**

A Dorian Am G Am G Am

5 Am G Am 1 G Am 2 G Am

**[B]**

9 A Mix.\*\* A G A

13 A G ~A Dor. Am 1 Em Am

16 2 Em Am (to repeat tune)

\* This repeat-pattern is how I learned it, with 16 bars of both [A] and [B], squared up for dancing; the [A] part is essentially 4 bars played 4x. The Fiddler's Fakebook shows it as non-square, with only an 8-bar [A] part (four bars played twice) but with the 16-bar [B] part as above. Gene Silberberg's "Fiddle Tunes I Learned at the Tractor Tavern" has 8+8 bars: square, but shorter.

\*\* The mode of the [B] part wanders, with F always sharp but C both sharp and natural (i.e. A Mixolydian and Dorian), and even a G# (A Major?); then with the last two measures mixed: A Dorian notes (only F#), but the Em chord suggesting the (A) Minor mode.

Arranged and typeset into ABC Plus by Pete Showman. Rev. 1: 8/8/2017.

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association  
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**Next Jam: Sunday Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> , 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 \[at\] scvfa.org](mailto:newsletter@scvfa.org)**

