



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 40, Number 11
Celebrating 39 years

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

November 2012
Next Jam: Nov. 4



President's Note

by Richard Brooks

October was a busy month! We played at the Prusch Farm Park Harvest Festival on 10/6. If you would like to be in playouts, let me know. They are a major source of revenue.

Participating were Barbara Rosner on bass; myself, Pete Showman and Art Friedman on fiddles; and John Durbin, Tom Mitchell, and Jim Reynolds on guitars. Tom and Jim had the audience laughing with humorous songs like "I Don't Look Good Naked Any More."

Luke Abbott taught a successful KidFiddle workshop at our October jam, with seven kids who did a great job playing on stage.

The 'bout Time bluegrass band, our Featured Performer, treated us to a wonderfully diverse set of songs and instrumentals. Dillard's material is a favorite of mine.

Gary Breitbard and Jena Rauti led our beginners' circle (slow jam) with eleven participants.

November 4 – our 11th Youth Fiddle Contest

Our 11th annual Youth Fiddle Contest is happening on November 4. Encourage fiddling youths 17 and under to participate. Contest rules and an application are at www.fiddlers.org/contest.

If you can help Jaclyn Chiew, the Contest Chair, or Pete Showman, please let them know. It's a big job!

Holiday Potluck dinner

December 2 is our annual holiday potluck dinner. As usual, we will provide the turkey and ham, sparkling apple juice or cider, and eating utensils. Bring enough food to share with 4 times the number of people coming. We need more side dishes than desserts. Invite family and friends and contribute to the entertainment.

Donate CDs for door prizes

Do you have CDs that you no longer need and that you think others would enjoy? If so, consider donating them for our door prize drawing. It would be nice to have a more diverse selection of fiddling and traditional music.

Possible Changes You Might Notice

All of the activities mentioned above only happen because of dedicated volunteers. We are going through changes that are likely to impact what we do and how we do it. You can help.

♪ Less (or no) sound equipment at the jam

The locker where we store our sound equipment and supplies is about a mile from the jam. Two cars can bring the equipment. The trustees are currently the only ones doing this task. I'm asking for your help on a very occasional basis to help one of the trustees. With help, we can bring all the equipment and supplies.

♪ Smaller newsletter

We are without a permanent newsletter editor. We have templates in Word to make the job easier, or you can use whatever program you want. Without help, the Rag may be fewer pages and may lack articles, music or photos.

Two open trustee positions

There are two open trustee positions. Gorden Gibson resigned and Paul Clarke decided not to run again after years as a trustee, president, and playout coordinator.

Trustees set the future direction of the organization by deciding how to carry out our mission – our activities and funding. Trustee meetings are held for three hours usually on the third Sunday of odd numbered months.

Playout coordinator

We need a person to organize our playouts. This person is the contact for those wanting us to play for them, and arranges for musicians and the repertoire.

- Richard Brooks

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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.

Officers and Chairs

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 Newsletter Publisher Charlotte Prater
 Payout Coordinator Paul Clarke
 Publicity Tom Clausen
 WebmasterPete Showman
 Youth Activity CoordinatorMary Kennedy
 Youth Fiddle Contest Chair Jaclyn Chiew

Trustees

Seat 1: Pete Showman Seat 2: OPEN
 Seat 3: Paul Clarke Seat 4: Charlotte Prater
 Seat 5: Dave Williams Seat 6: Tom Clausen

To Contact the SCVFA:

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

Newsletter Submissions & Comments:

Email: newsletter at fiddlers.org
 Website: www.scvfa.org or www.fiddlers.org
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From Marin to Monterey, Tracy to Tiburon...we're in the heart of bluegrass country



Since 1982 the Northern California Bluegrass Society has promoted bluegrass and old time music in the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay areas. This highly active club has nurtured the development of bands and venues. The NCBS hosts the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival each August, an event that solely features California bands. We sponsor festivals, concerts and jams all over the area. Members receive the Bluegrass By the Bay magazine each quarter. Please join us!

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BLUEGRASS SOCIETY www.ncbs.us

October KidFiddle Workshop

Mary Kennedy's debut as our Youth Programs Coordinator was a successful *KidFiddle* workshop at the October jam, with seven young fiddlers ranging in age from 4 to 14. Our instructor was multi-instrumentalist **Luke Abbott**. A photo of the group performing on stage after the workshop is below.



Richard Brooks photo

Students from the *KidFiddle* workshop led by Luke Abbott perform on stage at the October jam. L-R above: Rek Hiems (14), Doniella Dumont (7), Lexie Cofferele (4), Amanda Ting (12), Rebecca Jaworski (9), Gilford Ting (8), Lili Newberry (8) and Luke.

SCVFA Happenings

Calling All Young Fiddlers! Sign Up for our 11th annual SCVFA Youth Fiddle Contest November 4, 2012

Young fiddlers, parents, teachers —
time to sign up for the contest
and get a couple of tunes ready!
Be sure to register early: time
limits us to 25 contestants.

Everyone — come cheer
on these young fiddlers!



Three age divisions:

8 and under, 11 and under, 17 and under.

- Cash prizes for 1st through 5th in each division.
- Custom-made fiddle trophies for first place.
- Participant ribbons for all.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

Full details and the entry form are on our
website: www.fiddlers.org/contest. Questions?
Call Pete Showman: (408) 255-0297.

Special Trustee Meeting Held Oct. 7

President **Richard Brooks** called a special meeting of the SCVFA trustees at the October jam to discuss how to get more help transporting the PA system, and what to do if we can't. See Richard's message on page 1. We would like to organize a group of people willing to help once or twice a year, on a rotation basis.

Oct 3 Payout at Prusch Farm Park



On October 3rd a half dozen SCVFA musicians were welcomed to the stage at the annual Harvest Festival at San Jose's Prusch Farm Park. We performed a variety of tunes and songs. The musicians were **Richard Brooks, John Durbin, Art Friedman, Tom Mitchell, Jim Reynolds, Barbara Rosner and Pete Showman.** Tom and Jim

are performing one of their novelty songs in this photo by Janet Johnston. There's another photo on page 4.



Join us for the SCVFA Holiday Potluck Sunday, December 2

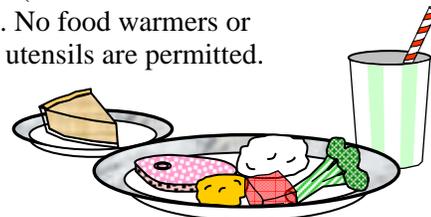
- Jamming and stage performances from 1-3 PM
- Potluck Dinner starts at 3 PM

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 4 others. 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 ticket for just \$5.

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



Potluck Help Needed

Potluck co-chairs **MaryAnn Clausen** and **Lee Clarke** will need help before and especially during the Holiday Potluck at the December jam. If you can help out, please contact one of them, or any board member.

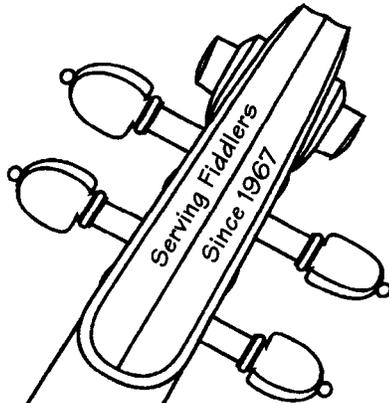
'bout Time Performs at October Jam

October jam attendees were treated to a fine performance by the bluegrass band *'bout Time* as our Featured Performer. The band comprises **Mike Omodt, Pete Hallesy, Dave and Linda Williams and Mark Searles.** See the photo on the back page.



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Photos from the October Jam and Playout

Top: Art Kee and his young friend Joseph do some twin fiddling, accompanied by Norio Kawato and Barbara Rosner. **Middle:** Autumn Rose, Steve Joynes, Mike Maurier, Barbara Rosner and Jonathan Horne entertain during our open mic (*Richard Brooks photos*). **Bottom:** Playout at Prusch Farm Park: L-R: Barbara Rosner, Pete Showman, Tom Mitchell, Art Friedman, Richard Brooks, John Durbin and Jim Reynolds (*Janet Johnston photo*).



Snouts and Ears of America

Old-Timey, from the Bayard (Sarah Armstrong) collection

arr. 2012 by Dave Barton, from a recording of Marc Renard at his 8-16-12 workshop in Saratoga, CA

A

6

B

11

16

D.S.

rev. 8/19/2012

Note: when Marc repeats the tune, he throws in some improvs, especially on the E-string.

This tune came from Pennsylvania fiddler Sarah Armstrong, via Prof. Samuel Bayard. Bayard recorded a number of her tunes in 1943 and included them in a collection he published not long afterwards.

Several of us learned it at a tune workshop led by Missouri fiddler Marc Rennard in August. (Thanks to Chip Curry for organizing that.) As described in our October issue, Tom Clausen and Sydney Roberts passed it on to the participants at our September Beginners' Circle. We published a link to an MP3 of Marc playing the tune in the October Fiddler's Rag, and as promised there, here's a transcription, thanks to Dave Barton.

You can hear my recording of Marc playing the tune on our website:
www.fiddlers.org/Tunes/SnoutsAndEarsOfAmerica_MarcRennard.mp3.

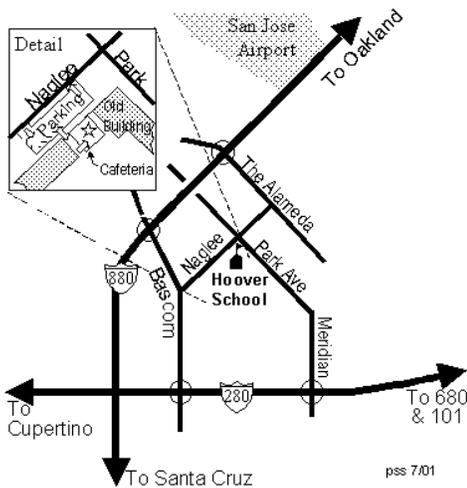
- Pete Showman

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 and Youth Fiddle Contest:
Sunday Nov. 4, 1-5 pm,**
Hoover Middle School.**

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



**** Remember that Daylight Saving ends the morning of our November jam. Sleep in!**

The bluegrass band **'bout Time** put on a great show at the October jam as our Featured Performer.

L-R: Mike Omodt,
Pete Hallesy ,
Dave Williams,
Linda Williams
and Mark Searles.



Richard Brooks photo