



Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 46, Number 9
Celebrating 45 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

Sep 2018
Next Jam: Sep 2



President's Note

When you are reading this month's newsletter, I'll be "finding my voice" at Alasdair Fraser's Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddle Camp. What voices are you hearing lately? ... Scandinavian, Irish, Quebecois, Scottish, blues, jazz, bluegrass, old time, classical, English, or any other genre. The beauty of SCVFA is that all these voices

and more are always welcome.

Our next jam under the redwoods in Rose Garden Park is Sunday September 2 starting at 1:00 PM. **Come early to help save our site**, enjoy a picnic lunch, tour the rose garden and start jamming. **Bring a chair**, your instrument, your family, and your friends.

Bill Boiko and I will lead the slow jam. Bring a music stand and be ready for some fun. Tune Builder will take you on an adventure into the Scandinavian genre as expert Swedish Fiddler Sarah Kirton leads the group.

October's jam will NOT be at Hoover School. Most likely, we will have it in the park. Watch for details.

When I think of Labor Day, barbecue comes to mind, so I have chosen **Sam's Bar-B-Que** to eat, drink and be merry. We call this "Afters" where we take time to talk after our day filled with music. Come join us at Sam's. 1110 S Bascom Ave, San Jose.

Are you looking for an opportunity to perform music? SCVFA members are often invited to play at festivals, schools, nursing homes and private events. This is probably one of the most fun ways to raise money to support SCVFA. Performing is an important way to carry out SCVFA's mission to preserve, promote and play tunes handed down as old-time, bluegrass, and other traditional fiddling styles. If you wish to be notified of any performance opportunities, email

[Performances\[at\]fiddlers.org](mailto:Performances[at]fiddlers.org)

Thanks, everyone, for helping make our jams happen. Your efforts are truly appreciated and lessen the workload for everyone. Volunteers are what keeps SCVFA going and it's a great way to connect with more musicians.

It takes a village... Glad you are part of it.

Donations are always helpful, *especially* for the park jams. Municipal parks do not permit us to collect admission, but SCVFA still needs to meet expenses. Visit the membership table, donate as you are able and remind your friends to do the same.

Many local corporations offer **matching donations for non-profits**. Check with your employer and 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.

--- Susan

Email Delivery

We started delivering the *Fiddler's Rag* electronically to most members with the July issue. We hope it's working well for those receiving it that way. Please let us know if you encounter problems.

We're currently only accepting a single email address per member household for e-delivery, but hope to remove that restriction in a few months.

You can change the email address we use, or opt in or opt out of e-delivery at any time. Just contact Membership Chairman Pete Showman: email to membership [at] fiddlers.org, or call (408) 255-0297, or talk to Pete in person.

In This Issue:

Page

President's Message	1
SCVFA Happenings	3
Jam photos by Susan Goodis	4, 5
Article by Patrice Tanti: The World According to Old-Time Fiddlers	6
Tune: "Texas"	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.

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

Copyright 2018, Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association

The Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association is a non-profit member-supported organization.

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

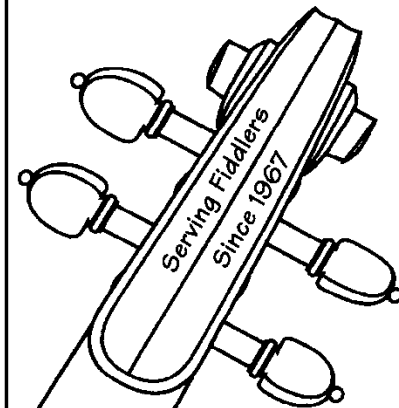
Donate as you are able
 and traditional music will reap the benefits.

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.



KAMIMOTO
 STRING INSTRUMENTS

“Fiddles
 for
 Every Style...”



- New & Old Instruments
- Repairs & Restorations
- One-hour bow rehairing (by appt.)
- Rentals: Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass

Hours: Mon-Sat 10:00 - 5:30

[408] 298-8168
www.kamimotostrings.com

609 North Fourth Street
 San Jose, CA 95112

[800] 892-3199

Fax: [408] 298-8198

SCVFA Happenings

SCVFA Slow Jam current tune list

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 at the next jam, 1:30 – 2:30.

Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming Events

8/31 8:00pm Alasdair Fraser at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium – 307 Church Street, Santa Cruz. More info at www.santacruzticket.com.

9/2 1:00 - 5:00pm Free SCVFA music jam at the Rose Garden Park. More info on page 8 and at www.fiddlers.org.

“Afters”: Sam's Bar-B-Que, 1110 S Bascom Ave, San Jose

9/22 – 9/23 Santa Cruz Mountain Sol Festival – Felton. More info at santacruzmountainsol.com.

10/7 - Prusch Farm old-time gig for SCVFA. We play at 11am. If you are playing, please let Susan know asap at [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org)

10/3 Mountain View - Down Hill Strugglers House Concert. Details and Reservations: [SV.houseconcerts \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:SV.houseconcerts[at]gmail.com). “The Down Hill Strugglers bring back the true spirit of Old Time Music”.

10/31 Mountain View - April Verch & Joe Newberry House Concert & Fiddle Workshop. Details and Reservations: [SV.houseconcerts \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:SV.houseconcerts[at]gmail.com)

Next SCVFA Board Meeting

Sunday September 9th - 7:00 PM, all are welcome

Contact [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org) for details

July Highlights

- Our primary URL is now fiddlers.org instead of scvfa.org.
- On Sat, July 7, SCVFA did a payout at Oakmont of San Jose, a senior center where former SCVFA President Fritz Buell resides.
- All went well with first Rag E-delivery issue. We ended with only about 20 copies needing to be mailed.
- At Susan's request, Trustees will think about opportunities for future jam performers.
- SCVFA is looking for a better and cheaper storage unit for the Jam equipment.
- Trustees Wes Mitchell and Bert Raphael have decided not to run for another term, and Anne Raphael may resign as secretary next year. A nominating committee will be formed to nominate candidates for the two trustee positions. Elan volunteered to be on the committee. We need nominees before the end of the year, to take office after the election at the annual membership meeting in February.

Recording Secretary Anne Raphael

Free Summer Jam in the Park

September 2nd

1:00 - 5:00 PM

Donations appreciated to keep SCVFA in the “green”

ROSE GARDEN PARK - San Jose

Naglee at Garden (2 Blocks from Hoover School)
OLD-TIME, BLUEGRASS, COUNTRY, CELTIC AND MORE.

ALL ACOUSTIC STRINGED AND COMPATIBLE
INSTRUMENTS ARE WELCOME

Jam with us Or Come To listen

Jamming Starts At 1:00

www.fiddlers.org

President - Susan Goodis: [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org)

Member Directory Correction

The Florida phone number listed for Jim Zimmerman is incorrect. "(352) 181" should be "(352) 481".

If you have other corrections, send them to Pete Showman, [membership \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:membership[at]fiddlers.org)

Jam Photos by Susan Goodis



George Bradshaw, it's a wrap



Handsome musicians' selfie



Break time



Dazzling Ol'time circle deep reflection: what shall they play next?

Jam Photos by Susan Goodis



It does takes a village... And some photo stitching to capture these colorful old time moments.



The World According to Old-Time Fiddlers

By Patrice Tanti



History from an Old-Time fiddler's perspective is simple yet diverse, peaceful but also highly competitive.

Colonization - somehow, in the mid to late 19th century, European colonizers brought primarily muskets. However, as you surely guessed, the settlers also brought fiddles to pass the time during these excruciating crossings. One difference though, the right to bear fiddles did not make it into the Constitution.

What happened before this migration does not matter. In some circles, you will hear people stating, "This is how it was played on the old continent". We listen politely and then return to how we play it here and now. No offense.

As far as the Old-Time fiddler is concerned, the world (world meaning anywhere in the continental US) splits into three areas, North, South and West.

If you want to know where your tune comes from, just read the title. The theme is a give-away. For example, Indian or gold stories: West. War stories: North or South (depending on your vantage point). Turkey and Sailing: North. Women and Booze: South. Finally, Bonaparte or Napoleon in the title is anyone's guess because it is always fair game to bash the French.

1920 Split - Following the colonization, fiddlers split into two groups: the true Old-Timers and everybody else (Blues, Ragtime, Bluegrass, Western Swing, Country, etc.). The musical world evolved, good and bad but the Old-Time fiddling did not. Time froze shortly after settling into the New World. Old-Time is a kind of reverse time machine. As time marches on, Old-Time

stays put. In his article "*Bluegrass Music and Old-Time Music: What's the Difference*," Wayne Erbsen characterizes Old-Time as "*Happy, upbeat and Danceable*", and also "*The fiddle dominates*". Well, Old-Timers are a democratic bunch: the banjo hammers the rhythm, the guitar strums the rhythm, the string bass anchors the rhythm, and the mandolin plays chords to keep the rhythm. One is never too cautious when it comes to rhythm. Then comes the fiddler who picks the tune, begins the tune, sets the rhythm and signals the other musicians when the tune will end. All is fair in love and fiddling.

Regionalization – This is the third and last period of Old-Time Fiddling history. This is when Old-Time fiddlers, while maintaining the common structure, blended a local but distinctive ethnic flavor into the genre. This happened because YouTube did not exist back then so people were still learning from their parents, neighbors, and local communities. The blending was local, hence a multiplicity of Old-Time regional styles such as Appalachian, Cajun, Irish, Scandinavian and so forth.



This brings us to a very special region we celebrate this week with the tune "*Texas*" on page 7. Texas declared the uniqueness and superiority of Texas-style Old-Time fiddling. The Texas Old-Time Fiddler's Association (TOTFA) states, "*The Texas Old-Time fiddler favors more complex tunes exceeding the two-part limit*". Well, this week's tune is a two-part only. If you really need a third, just play A,B and A again. Dancers won't mind.

Texas

Key: A Mixolydian

Traditional, from Henry Reed

♩ = 90

(aka New Castle, or sometimes Newcastle)

Arr. Pete Showman

This is more or less how I learned and play the tune. (This is also very similar to the version in Gene Silberberg's *Tunes I Learned at the Tractor Tavern*.) Note that it's crooked: an extra beat (17) in the first part, and only 13 beats in the second part (both repeated, for totals of 34 and 26 beats). The tune comes from fiddler Henry Reed via Alan Jabbour; see below.

Transcribed, arranged and typeset into ABC Plus by Pete Showman, Rev 1: 11/20/2017.

Texas

Key: A Mixolydian (mostly)

Arr. Alan Jabbour, Pete Showman

♩ = 90

(aka New Castle; Henry Reed version)

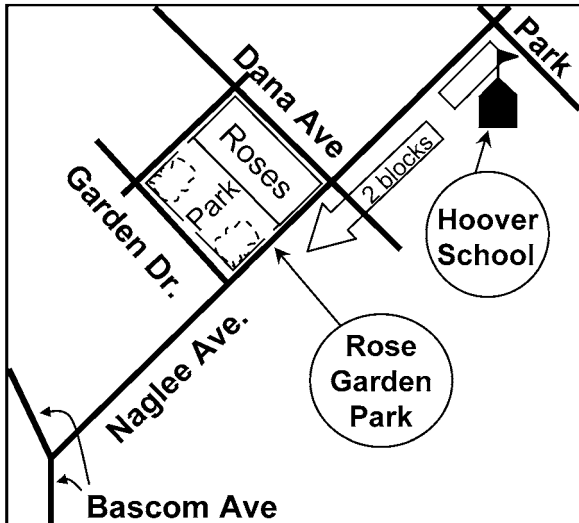
This is a slightly modified version of the transcription Alan Jabbour made from his field recording of fiddler Henry Reed, of Glen Lyn, Virginia (in cut time, chords added). Reed called the tune "Texas" the first time he played it for Jabbour, but called it "New Castle (the name of the county seat of nearby Craig County) during a later session. You can hear the original Henry Reed recording (at about 128 bpm) on the Library of Congress website: www.loc.gov/item/afcreed000134/

Typeset in ABC Plus by Pete Showman, r1: 11/20/2017

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

**Next Jam: Sunday Sep 2
at 1 pm
Rose Garden Park (see map)**

Directions to Rose Garden Park



Damaged or Missing Issue? Call us,
or email to: [newsletter \[at\] scvfa.org](mailto:newsletter[at]scvfa.org)



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