

Fiddler's Rag

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
Celebrating 39 Years!



May 2012 (Vol. 40, Number 5)

Next Jam: May 6

President's Note

By Richard Brooks

Our April 1 jam was lots of fun. Sarah Kirton led our Beginners' Circle (slow jam) and I enjoyed learning a Swedish polka called the Gear Shift Polka. She also taught Midnight on the Water. Thank you Sarah!



Arthur Kee and Jack Sadler treated us to more of their twin fiddling. A DVD video of their October 3, 2010 performance is available for a \$15 donation. You'll enjoy a fabulous performance of twin fiddle harmonies on such tunes as Ashokan Farewell, Josephine's Waltz, Golden Slippers, and six others!

Sidetrack, our Featured Performer, put on a rousing performance of old-time music and original songs. On stage were Page Brownton (guitar), Jessica Evans (bass), Paul Clarke (banjo), and Lee Birch (fiddle).

May's Featured Performer: Kitchen Help

Kitchen Help, a bluegrass band led by the talented Jennifer Kitchen will be our Featured Performer on May 6 at 3:00 PM. They are well known throughout Northern California and have performed at many festivals.

You could be a Featured Performer too and June is still open. At least one person must be an SCVFA member.

Cadwallader Elementary School Payout

A special thanks goes to Angelina Cress, Gorden Gibson, Paul Clarke, and Pete Showman for participating at the March 22 payout at Cadwallader Elementary School in San Jose. It was done at no charge for the benefit of the students

(President's Note continues on page 2.)

Art Deems, Rest in Peace

By Pete Showman

We were sorry to learn that long-time friend and "trick" fiddler Art Deems passed away on April 16, 2012 at the age of 89.

Art grew up in West Virginia. He told me that he'd started fiddling when he was very young, and as a teen-ager started performing gigs with older musicians and even on the radio. That is, until his father, concerned that fiddling (and maybe the company he was keeping) were keeping Art from his studies, asked to see his fiddle and then smashed it in front of him. Art said, "I cried, but it was the best thing that could've happened to me." He got back to his studies, went on to college, and eventually became a manager at Lockheed, where he worked until he retired.

For many years Art was a regular at our monthly jams and also at our "payouts" – the fund-raising performances that we do for various groups. Audiences enjoyed hearing him play what he called his "hillbilly junk" music, and he was especially noted for doing various kinds of trick fiddling.

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President's Note (Continued from page 1):

and their parents. It is our commitment to the community and part of our mission as a non-profit organization.

Valuables Found Without ID

If you care about your valuables, put your name and number on them. Once again valuable items were left in the cafeteria and outside without any identification (for example, we still have a cane someone left at a recent jam). Save us from the burden of tracking down the owner by including a business card or mailing label.

Bluegrass Country is Superb

Tom Mitchell's just-released *Bluegrass Country* CD is superb country and bluegrass with well known SCVFA members on it. It will be available at the jam for only \$10. All of the money is being donated to the SCVFA.

Helping Tom is Paul Indman (mandolin and CD producer), Susannah Wedgwood (guitar and harmony vocals), Dave McAnelly (Dobro), Dave Magram (banjo and pedal steel), Markie Sanders (bass and harmony vocals), Gail Reese (fiddle and harmony vocals), and Sam Morocco (bass).

— Richard



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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!

Correction, April 2012 issue:

In the paragraph about the Lincoln Glen Manor playout, it was stated that Paul Clarke was among the players. Paul was the coordinator of the event but did not participate in the playout.

Worth checking out: *The Violinist*, a magazine for teachers, students, makers, dealers and lovers of the violin, published in Chicago beginning in 1909, is available for viewing and free downloading at Google Books (go to <http://books.google.com>, then search for The Violinist Magazine 1909). The volumes contain many interesting articles, violin-related ads, poetry, and some funny jokes, such as:

“Yes,” said the amateur violinist, proudly, “I learned to play the fiddle at the age of five.”

“Wonderful!” exclaimed his friend; “and how old were you when you forgot?”

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 the SCVFA, sign up at the jam or visit www.fiddlers.org/join.

Officers and Chairs

President-Trustee	Richard J. Brooks
Vice President	OPEN
Treasurer	Janet Johnston
Membership	Pete Showman
Recording Secretary	Dinah Showman
Newsletter Editor	Mary Larsen
Newsletter Publisher	Charlotte Prater
Webmaster	(Pete Showman, acting)
Playout Coordinator	Paul Clarke
Youth Activity Coordinator	OPEN
Youth Fiddle Contest	OPEN
Publicity	Tom Clausen
Trustees	
Seat 1: Pete Showman	Seat 2: Gorden Gibson
Seat 3: Paul Clarke	Seat 4: Charlotte Prater
Seat 5: Dave Williams	Seat 6: Tom Clausen

Newsletter banner art by Hilary Cole

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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SCVFA Happenings

2012 Member Directories Available

A reminder: if you'll be at the May jam and haven't picked up your copy of the 2012 Member Directory, stop by the membership desk to get it.



Cadwallader Elementary School Playout, March 22, 2012

Left to right: Gordon Gibson, Angelina Cress, Pete Showman, Paul Clarke

SCVFA Meeting Notes

Trustees met on March 25, 2012, and took the following actions:

- Approved having a KidFiddle class at either the May or June jam if a teacher is available.
- Agreed to hold the July and August 2012 jams at the Rose Garden Park.
- Approved printing copies of a membership directory and distributing them to members.
- Approved taking the old P.A. equipment no longer needed to a consignment shop for sale.
- Agreed to continue an ad exchange with NCBS, under new terms based on their newsletter now being published bimonthly.
- Heard a report on our playout for students at Cadwallader Elementary School in San Jose and on requests for playouts at the Old Woodside Store (San Mateo County Historical Museum event) in May and at the Rose Garden Park (Costumers Guild) in July.
- Considered purchasing shelving for our storage locker.
- Set May 20 as the next tentative trustee meeting date.

— Dinah Showman, Secretary

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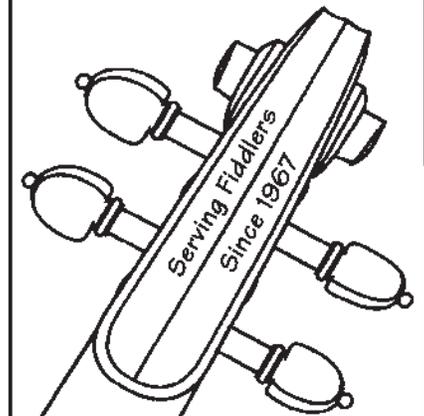


Photo: Dinah Showman

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Tic e tic e toc

Traditional Italian folk song

The score is written for Fiddle and Classical Guitar in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of four systems of staves. Roman numerals (I-IX) indicate fret positions for the guitar, and Arabic numerals (0-4) indicate fingerings. Special instructions include *1/2BV* (barre at 5th fret), *Fine*, and *D.C. al Fine*. A circled number 4 indicates the 4th string for a harmonic.

Roman numerals show what guitar fret positions to use starting with the index finger. Arabic numbers show what fingers to use for fretting the neck of the guitar (0 is an open string). *1/2BV* means to barre the guitar neck at the 5th fret using the index finger across only as many strings as necessary. Circled numbers show what strings to use for harmonics ◊ . I.E, (4) means to use the 4th (open D) string of the guitar.

Copyright © April 4, 2012 by Gorden Gibson. All rights reserved.

[Ed. note: An MP3 file of this tune is available on the SCVFA website: www.scvfa.org/Tunes/Tic-e-tic-e-toc.mp3.]

Art Deems (Continued from page 1)

Art would usually start by playing the fiddle while holding it upside-down, then behind his back, and then hold the frog of the bow between his knees while he moved the fiddle against it, continuing to play throughout. In his younger days Art would even form an arch, facing upwards while supported by feet and shoulders on the stage, and fiddle behind his back!

Art was also well-known at area fiddle contests, both as a contestant and an entertainer, including the Cloverdale contest, the California State contest and the National old-time contest in Weiser (ID), and took home prizes a number of times. (As a side note, Art generously donated some of his old trophies to be re-used when we were starting our Youth Fiddle Contest.)

In 2005 Art and his wife Lucy moved to Cumming, Georgia to be near their son. (Lucy passed away in 2009, after some 65 years of marriage.) We were sorry to see him go, but pleased to be able to see and play with him a couple of times when he returned to visit the Bay Area. But our loss was definitely Georgia's gain. Art kept fiddling and entertaining until recently; as an example, this YouTube video from an event in Georgia in April 2011 shows a couple of his fiddling tricks: www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-XAdi9GM8A



Photo: Dinah Showman

Art Deems, right, demonstrates some of his trick fiddling.

CERTIFY ON THE ROAD TO WEISER AT THE



15th Annual Nevada State Fiddle Contest

Friday and Saturday
June 15 & 16, 2012
Wells, Nevada

The Nevada State Fiddle Contest is certified by the National Oldtime Fiddler's Contest to be held the following week in Weiser, Idaho.

We have multiple divisions
and new prize money this year:

\$500 for Grand Champion
\$300 for 2nd place ■ \$150 for 3rd Place

For online registration, contest rules and judging information, a list of lodging and camping sites, and contact information, visit our website at

www.nvfiddlecontest.org

Hosted by the Wells Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 615 ■ Wells, Nevada 89835
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Contact Matt Holford
wellschamber@wellsnevada.com

Sponsored, in part, by



Highlights of the April Jam

Photos by Richard Brooks



Left: Sidetrack, our Featured Performer for April. Page Brownton, Jessica Evans, Paul Clarke, Lee Birch.

Center: Pete Showman, Dan Murphy, Dave Barton, Dave Wunsch, Warren Campbell.

Bottom: Barbara Rosner, Steve Kirtley, Arthur Kee, Jack Sadler, Darrell Phelps. This was a special twin fiddling performance with Arthur Kee and Jack. Barbara is a new member and is a very talented bass player.

(See p. 7 for another jam photo.)





The April Jam, cont.:
L-R: Clark Akatiff,
Tom Clausen, Dave
Wunsch, John Durbin.

Results of the California State Fiddle Contest, March 16-18, 2012 (partial list of categories):

Senior (ages 55-69)

1. Dan Touchstone, San Diego CA
2. Nicki Carlisle, Shingletown CA
3. Kathy Kampschmidt, Willows CA
4. John Pickering, Oakhurst CA

Senior Senior (ages 70 and up)

1. Ron Anglin, Oroville CA
2. Ernie Yoes, Alpine CA
3. **Charley Oveland, Saratoga CA (SCVFA member)**
4. Billy Smith, Fremont CA
5. Willie Randel, El Cajon CA

Peewee (ages 8 and under)

1. Elsa Crotty, Visalia CA
2. Lianne Huber, Oroville CA
3. Finneas Colscott, Mt. Shasta CA
4. Monica McDonough, Bangor CA
5. Love Powell, Chico CA

Junior Junior (age 12 and under)

1. Amanda Culbreath, Orland CA
2. Celeste Peña, Millville CA
3. Sophie Peña, Millville CA
4. Elizabeth McDonough, Bangor CA
5. Bryon Brushett, Redding CA

Young Adult (age 18-36)

1. Darrin Smith, Potter Valley CA
2. Holly Sternberg, Cromberg CA
3. Joseph Christensen, Clement CA

Adult (age 37-59)

1. Johnny McDonald, Quincy CA
2. Ben LiaBraaten, Marysville CA
3. Ginger Vogel, Chico CA
4. **Tom Clausen, San Jose CA (SCVFA member)**

Junior (age 17 and under)

1. Griffin Stoller, Belvedere CA
2. Christopher Culbreath, Orland CA
3. Amy Culbreath, Orland CA
4. Tallon Sandoval, Janesville CA
5. Francis McDonough, Bangor CA

Open (any age)

1. Eric Anderson, Lincoln CA
2. Julie May, Mt. Shasta CA
3. Drew Snodderly, Lodi CA

Junior Twin Fiddle (age 17 and under)

1. Christopher and Amy Culbreath
2. Juliann and Francis McDonough
3. Sophie and Celeste Peña
4. Monica and Elizabeth McDonough

Open Twin Fiddle (age 18 and up)

1. Tallon Sandoval and Johnny McDonald
2. Drew Snodderly & Joseph Christensen
3. Nicki Carlisle & Kathy Kampschmidt
4. Willie Randel & Billy Smith

Anything Goes (any age)

1. Eric Anderson
2. Johnny McDonald/Tallon Sandoval
3. Griffin Stoller
4. Allison Woodruff

Accompanist (any age)

1. Jim French, Weaverville CA (41X)
2. Eric Anderson, Lincoln CA (34X)
3. Al Myers, Redding CA (24X)
4. Dale Kirk, Red Bluff CA (9X)
5. Tom Spence, Redding CA (8X)

Fiddle Judges

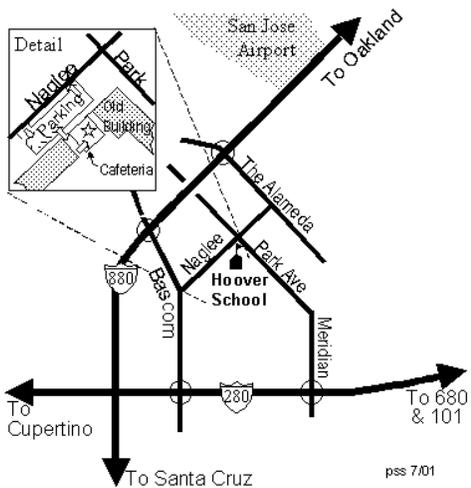
1. Randy Warner, Washoe Valley NV
2. **Katy Bridges, Petaluma CA (SCVFA member)**
3. **Arthur Kee, Brentwood CA (SCVFA member)**
4. **Anita Marley, Patterson CA (SCVFA member)**
5. Kate Busey, Redding CA

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, May 6, 1-5 pm
Hoover Middle School

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



Kitchen Help: Featured Performers at the May Jam

Left to right: Tom Cooper, banjo, Dobro, vocals; Alex Mayers, guitar, vocals;
Jennifer Kitchen, bass, vocals; Gail Reese, fiddle, vocals.

The half-hour show starts at 3 pm!