



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 41, Number 4
Celebrating 40 years

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

April 2013
Next Jam: Apr. 7

President's Note



The March 3 jam was great. Dave Barton led our beginners circle (slow jam) with nine attendees. It has become very popular. You can lead one too. There is lots of music to use on our website or you can teach something new.

The appearance of the Celtic Soul band was a pleasant surprise – especially for St. Patrick's Day! We would have mentioned it in the Rag with some notice.

Luke Abbott taught our KidFiddle workshop again with six youths participating. Five of them got on stage for a wonderful performance.

We were honored by the appearance of guitarist Bob Wilson, who visited us for the first time. Invited by member Herb Engstrom, Bob, who is blind, is a player of multiple styles and used to perform as a duo with banjo player Rick Shubb, inventor of the Shubb capo.

It was a treat to see Bill Hall singing Sierra Swing, his hallmark song, and Mark Llewellyn doing a wonderful job fiddling in his own set. Besides Bob, Bill, and Mark, they were joined on stage by Tom Clausen on fiddle and Ken Smith on mandolin. It was a great jam day!

Transport help

On April 7, George Bradshaw, the jam manager, will need someone to help him carry some supplies from the storage locker to our jam about a mile away. He cannot carry everything without help.

Newsletter Photos

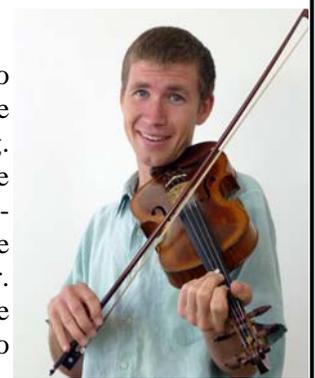
Do you enjoy the photos we include in the Rag? It's nice to see friends having fun jamming. Keep our Rag filled with photos by sending yours to Pete Showman, our acting newsletter editor. You will be acknowledged if they are included in the Rag.

Performance requested for Colonial Day

We have been asked to perform for a 5th grade class for Colonial Day on May 17 in Los Altos around 1 PM. If you are a member and would like to participate, please let me know.

May KidFiddle

Luke Abbott will return to the May jam to teach the final KidFiddle this spring. KidFiddle workshops are intended for advanced-beginner to intermediate fiddlers 17 and under. Participants should be able at least to play one or two tunes. Tuition is only \$5.



Luke Abbott

Sign up in advance with youth programs coordinator Mary Kennedy: email KidFiddle@scvfa.org

Performance Coordinator(s) Needed

Our performances in the community (aka "playouts") are an important source of revenue. We need someone for outsiders to contact who explains who we are, the type of music we play, and what we charge for a performance. This is usually all done by email.

We also need someone to contact our volunteer musicians to see who is available to perform and what tunes they would like to sing or play. This can also be done by email.

For each performance the coordinator or one of the participants needs to make a set list, and if needed, to arrange to get the PA system from and return it to the storage locker. This task can rotate among participants.

These are not difficult to do, so help us out if you can.

Newsletters are on the Website

Pete Showman, our webmaster and acting newsletter editor, has put the 2011 and 2012 issues of the Rag on our website. Go to www.fiddlers.org and click the Newsletter menu item.

- Richard Brooks

In This Issue:

Page

President's Message	1
California State Fiddle Contest	2, 3
SCVFA Happenings	3
Music Notes (Allan French)	4
Tune: Kitchen Girl	5
Photos from the March Jam	6, 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-TrusteeRichard J. Brooks
 Vice President OPEN
 Recording SecretaryDinah Showman
 TreasurerJanet Johnston
 Membership SecretaryPete Showman
 Newsletter EditorOPEN (*Pete Showman, acting*)
 Newsletter PublisherCharlotte Prater
 Playout Coordinator OPEN
 Publicity Tom Clausen
 WebmasterPete Showman
 Youth Activity Coordinator Mary Kennedy
 Youth Fiddle Contest Chair, 2013 OPEN

Trustees

Seat 1: Pete Showman Seat 2: Barbara Rosner
 Seat 3: George Bradshaw 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@fiddlers.org Phone: (650) 328-3939

Newsletter Submissions & Comments:

Email: newsletter@fiddlers.org

Website: www.scvfa.org or www.fiddlers.org

Copyright 2012, Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association

California State Fiddle Contest

Tom Clausen

Thanks to Tom Clausen for this report, as we await publication of the official results. If you know of other SCVFA members who participated (or medaled), please let us know: newsletter@fiddlers.org.

The California State Old Time Fiddlers Association (CSOTFA) held its annual State Fiddle and Picking Championships at the Municipal Auditorium in Oroville on March 14-16. Several members of the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association made the trip and brought home a few medals in reward for their efforts.

CSOTFA President Patrick DeLuca welcomed the enthusiastic crowd, which was wowed by the musicians from 6 years old on up in the various age

(Continued on p.3)

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



Dinah Showman photo

Charlotte Prater and Al Hoffman dance to the music of Celtic Soul at the March jam

SCVFA Happenings

WANTED:

News Editor and Article Contributions

If the newsletter seems a little thin lately, that's because we don't have an editor. I'm sure one of you could take it on! In the meantime, thanks to Richard Brooks, Tom Clausen, Allan French and Dinah Showman for their contributions to this issue.

KidFiddle Workshops Approved

The SCVFA trustees have approved funding for three KidFiddle workshops during the next 12 months, to be held at the May and October 2013 jams, and at a jam early in 2014. (Usually the first Spring KidFiddle is offered in March, but it depends on what other jam activities are scheduled.)

As noted on page 1, the May KidFiddle will again be led by Luke Abbott, who has been working with Youth Programs Coordinator Mary Kennedy and the SCVFA Board to help refine the program.

What do you think about KidFiddle?

We'd love to get feedback, especially from families of kids who have participated (or might participate). Among the questions that have been raised are the balance between consistency and variety in the workshop leaders, offering workshops for non-fiddlers (how?), and how to handle the sometimes very wide range of expertise among the students. Send your thoughts to kidfiddle@fiddlers.org.



(California State Fiddle Contest, continued from p.2)

categories (pee-wee, junior-junior, junior, young adult, adult, senior, senior-senior and open).

The town of Oroville rolled out the red carpet, as there were banners welcoming the musicians to town and discounts at many of the shops and eateries. For the first time in many years the weather was sunny and clear, which meant that there was plenty of good jamming out on the levee right behind the auditorium. The contest is a good place to meet and play with musicians from other parts of California, since the CSOTFA has ten districts that cover the

Trustee Meeting Highlights

The SCVFA Board of Trustees met March 17, 2013, and took the following actions:

- Authorized funding for the next three KidFiddle workshops, to be held at the May and October 2013 jams and in early 2014 on a date to be determined.
- Agreed to sell a fiddle that Connie Curry donated to us.
- Agreed to hold the July, August and September jams at the Rose Garden Park.
- Considered moving the SCVFA annual membership meeting from February to March next year, but decided to keep it in February but perhaps hold the meeting a little earlier in the afternoon.
- Agreed to create a list of people who could be called upon to help trustees transport the PA equipment to and from the storage locker for each jam. Also discussed the fall-back strategy of taking less equipment if we cannot find helpers.
- Discussed the need for a payout (performance) coordinator to organize our outside performances for other groups, and considered whether the tasks could be divided among two or more people.
- Heard a report from youth activity coordinator Mary Kennedy about the March KidFiddle class, and discussed the direction of our youth program and how we can be supportive so kids will be encouraged to play regularly.
- Set May 19, 2013 as the next tentative trustee meeting date.

Dinah Showman, Secretary

Trustee meetings are open to all SCVFA members. They are usually held on 3rd Sundays of odd-numbered months (subject to change depending on conflicts). If you'd like to attend a meeting, contact Richard Brooks: President@fiddlers.org.

entire state and every district had at least a few musicians in attendance. Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association's own Art Kee medaled in the Senior-Senior Division and Tom Clausen in the Senior Division, and John Durbin and Bob Palasek took turns on stage dishing out tunes to the appreciative audience (and discriminating judges!) In addition, contest registration and logistics ran very smoothly due to the efforts of a team of volunteers directed by SCVFA members Ruth and Charlie Oveland.

Please consider participating with us next year! Mark your calendars (March 13-15, 2014) and join the fun in Oroville.

Music Notes

by Allan French

Allan French submitted several items originally published in the CBA's "Bluegrass Breakdown" (see www.cbaontheweb.org/breakdown.aspx), that he wrote between 2009 and 2012. Here are two of them.

Mim's The Word

I recently learned about the Musical Instrument Museum – the MIM – which is located in Phoenix, Arizona. The name alone should give you an idea of what the museum is about. Of course, I hope someday to make it to Nashville Tennessee and Owensboro Kentucky, to see the many bluegrass-oriented events and exhibits there. For folks in the southern segment of California (and those heading to the annual festival at Lake Havasu, Arizona), you might add the MIM to your travel itinerary.

There are frequent concerts held at the MIM, of numerous musical styles. There was a bluegrass act in February; Suzy Bogguss performed there in March, for example [*and again in March 2013*]. In addition to static displays of instruments and historical artifacts to LOOK AT, the museum offers exhibits to LISTEN TO, by wearing wireless headsets as you tour the facility. There is also a hands-on gallery, where you can bonk, bang, strum, strike, pick, plink, pluck, and poke, to your heart's content. (Woodwinds and brass instruments aren't feasible to share and try, for sanitary reasons.) The museum's website is www.themim.org.

[Dave Barton has also highly recommended it to me, several times. – PSS]

The Value of Music

On the CBA website, for a "Welcome Message" a while back, Rick Cornish shared an article entitled "The Value of Music," from a talk by pianist Karl Paulnack. I found it quite moving, and will quote a few passages here. This and several others of Paulnack's writings can be found online; this one is at www.bostonconservatory.edu/music/karl-paulnack-welcome-address.

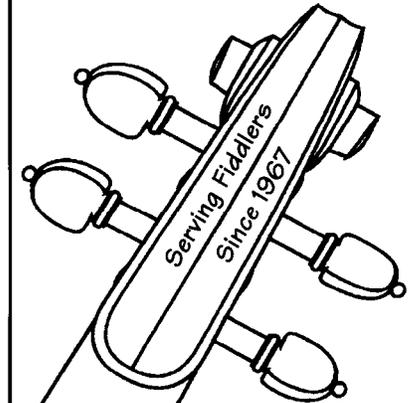
"The ancient Greeks said that music and astronomy were two sides of the same coin. Astronomy was seen as the study of relationships between observable, permanent, external objects, and music was seen as the study of relationships between invisible, internal, hidden objects. ..."

"Why would [composer Olivier Messiaen, while detained in a WWII concentration camp] waste time and energy writing or playing music? ... In a place where people are only focused on survival, on the bare necessities, the obvious conclusion is that art must be, somehow, essential for life. The camps were without money, without hope, without commerce, without recreation, without basic respect, but they were not without art. Art is part of survival; art is part of the human spirit, an unquenchable expression of who we are...."

"If you were attending a lab class as a med student practicing appendectomies, you'd take your work very seriously because you would imagine that some night at 2 a.m., someone is going to waltz into your emergency room and you're going to have to save their life. Well, my friends, someday at 8 p.m. someone is going to walk into your concert hall and bring you a mind that is confused, a heart that is overwhelmed, a soul that is weary. Whether they go out whole again will depend partly on how well you do your craft."

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

A Mixolydian & A Dorian

♩ = 90

The Kitchen Girl

Traditional New England (arr. Pete Showman)

A A mix.
A G A E

5 A G A G E | 1 A | 2 A

B A Dorian
Am G Am Am E

13 Am G Am G | 1 Am | 2 Am

Here the 'A' and 'B' parts are in different modes, Mixolydian and Dorian (C# in 'A', C natural in 'B'). The Fiddler's Fakebook has a variant with the 'B' part also written in Mixolydian, with C#s.

A MIDI representation of the tune is available at www.showman.org/Tunes/ – along with a PDF as above. Arr. and typeset in ABC by Pete Showman 3/3/07; revised 3/25/13.



Richard Brooks photo

Dave Barton leads the Beginners' Circle slow jam in March, teaching *Hollow Poplar*, the tune we printed in last month's Fiddler's Rag. The slow jam is held from 2-3 pm most months when we meet at Hoover School.

Photos from the March 2013 Jam

We had a number of great performances on stage, and plenty of good music outside as well.



Richard Brooks photo

Alison Kline (left) performs with the band **Celtic Soul** at our March jam. Our audience enjoyed hearing some Irish music as Saint Patrick's Day approached.



Warren Campbell and **Mike Bell** show their stuff.

Richard Brooks photos



Ken Jones entertains the audience.

March 2013 Jam, Continued

We were pleased to see old friends Mark Llewellyn and Bill Hall, and new friends Bob Wilson and Ken Smith.



Richard Brooks photo

Tom Clausen, Mark Llewellyn, Bill Hall, Bob Wilson and Ken Smith perform.



Dinah Showman photo

Charley Oveland, Dave Barton and Dorian Martinka work on some tunes after the Beginners' Circle



Richard Brooks photo

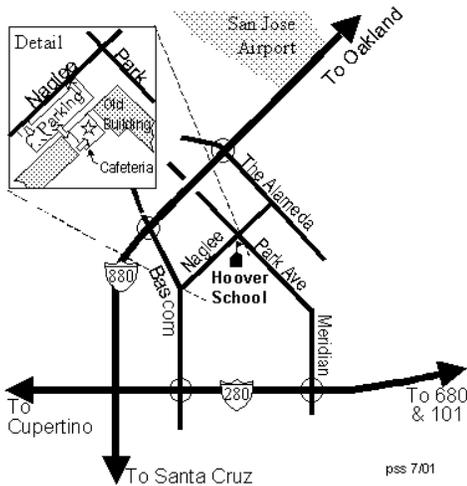
Workshop leader **Luke Abbott** teaches young students at the March KidFiddle workshop.

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

**Next Jam: Sunday April 7, 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@scvfa.org**



WANTED: NEWS EDITOR

Editing the newsletter isn't that hard. I'm sure many of you could do it. But on top of being membership secretary, webmaster, trustee and sometimes contest chairman, it's a bit much for me. Please consider helping out. Questions? newsletter@fiddlers.org



Richard Brooks photo

Several of the students from our March KidFiddle workshop demonstrate what they learned, accompanied by instructors **Luke Abbott** and **Bronwyn Ciccone**