



# Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 41, Number 12  
Celebrating 40 years

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

December 2013  
Next Jam: Dec. 1



## President's Note

It's that holiday time again when we can get to know our fellow jammers over delicious food and drink. This year's potluck is organized by Cheri Palasek and Lee Clarke.

We do not have permission to use the kitchen facilities or sinks, or electrical food warmers. Bring enough food to share with 4 times the number of people you're coming with. We need more side dishes than desserts. If you can't bring food to share, pay only \$5 for all you can eat. We supply the turkey, ham, drink, and eating utensils.

## Youth Fiddle Contest – Another Success

Our 12th Youth Fiddle contest was a great success with 17 contestants. Pete Showman, contest chair, and Dinah Showman deserve credit for making it happen.

Trustee **Dave Williams** did an outstanding job as jam manager and stage manager. **MaryAnn Clausen** was a wonderful MC announcing the names, divisions, and tunes that every contestant played. Other essential people were **Janet Johnston** and **Charlotte Prater** at the admission desk, **Sarah Kirton** guiding incoming families, **Allan French** at the start-here desk, **Dinah Showman** and **Eric Berseth** at the check-in and scoring desk, **Mary Kennedy** for rounding up contestants, **Luke Abbott** and **Norio Kawato** as accompanists, **Mike Johnson**, **Joshua Paaske** and **Tom Clausen** for creating and painting the first-place trophies, and our judges: **Sarah Kirton**, **Dave Barton**, **Tom Clausen**, **Charley Oveland**, and myself.

## Performance at Memorial

Cindy Dinga, performing on behalf of the SCVFA, was the fiddler at a memorial service in Redwood City on Saturday, Nov. 16, for which SCVFA will receive a payment. We thank you very much for your dedication.

## Less Than Two Hours a Month

For less than two hours a month, won't someone help publicize the SCVFA, or help with performances in the community at senior centers and music events? Our small performance fee is an important source of income.

- Richard Brooks



## Join us for the SCVFA Holiday Potluck Sunday, December 1

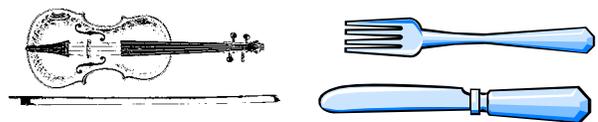
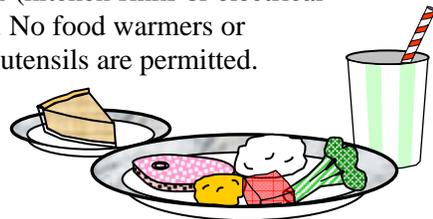
- Jamming and stage performances from 1-3 PM
- Potluck Dinner starts at 3 PM

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 four people. 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.



## In This Issue:

## Page

President's Message .....	1
For Music Lovers and For Others .....	2
SCVFA Happenings: potluck; successful youth fiddle contest; trustee candidates for Feb..	3
SCVFA Youth Fiddle Contest 2013 (photos) .	4
Tune: Hammars Gånglåt (and photos) .....	5

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 ..... Richard J. Brooks  
 Vice President ..... OPEN  
 Recording Secretary ..... Dinah Showman  
 Treasurer ..... Janet Johnston  
 Membership Secretary ..... Pete Showman  
 Newsletter Editor ..... OPEN (*Pete Showman, acting*)  
 Newsletter Publisher ..... Charlotte Prater  
 Performances Contact ..... Dave Williams  
 Publicity ..... OPEN  
 Webmaster ..... Pete Showman  
 Youth Activity Coordinator ..... Mary Kennedy  
 Youth Fiddle Contest Chair, 2013 ..... Pete Showman

### 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 at fiddlers.org Phone: (650) 328-3939

### Newsletter Submissions & Comments:

Email: newsletter at fiddlers.org

Website: [www.scvfa.org](http://www.scvfa.org) or [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org)

Copyright 2012, Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association

## For Music Lovers – Think Fast!

From *The Independent* (U.K.): “New research has shown that individuals who play an instrument are more capable at identifying errors and correcting mistakes, and that these benefits apply to amateur musicians as well as professionals.”

The article reports on a study by Dr Ines Jentzsch for the University of St Andrews (U.K.), which tested the cognitive abilities of musicians and non-musicians. The study, reported in the journal *Neuropsychologia*, suggests a correlation between musical training and mental speed. *The Independent* reports that unlike earlier studies, this one focused on amateur musicians, and that it also concluded that “learning an instrument could ‘slow or even prevent’ the mental decline associated with aging.”

You can read the full article on The Independent's website: [www.tinyurl.com/BenefitsOfPlayingMusic](http://www.tinyurl.com/BenefitsOfPlayingMusic).

From Marin to Monterey, Tracy to Tiburon...  
...we're in the heart of bluegrass country



THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
BLUEGRASS SOCIETY  
[www.ncbs.us](http://www.ncbs.us)

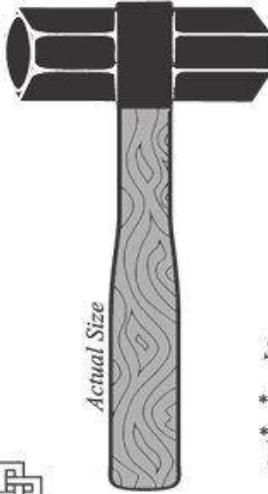
Since 1982 the Northern California Bluegrass Society has promoted bluegrass and old time music in the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay areas. This highly active club has nurtured the development of bands and venues. The NCBS hosts the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival each August, an event that 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!

## For the Others:

— SINCE 1887 —

# J. HENRY & CO.

MUSIC SUPPLIES  
OAK MOUNTAIN, AL.



*Actual Size*

## BANJO MUTE

**\$19.95 ea.**  
Shipping weight 9lbs

\*Up to 100% sound reduction  
\*Also suitable for Dulcimers and Autoharps

Looks like it would work on fiddles, guitars, mandolins too.

Attributed on Facebook to “a post by Jubal Ben Lamech in Clawhammer Banjo.” A similar picture is available as a T-shirt: [www.zazzle.com/banjo+mute+tshirts](http://www.zazzle.com/banjo+mute+tshirts).  
 (Thanks to my sister Jane Benfey for these tidbits – PS)

## SCVFA Happenings

### December Holiday Potluck

Don't forget the SCVFA Holiday Potluck on Dec. 1. It's always a lot of fun, and is a great way to get to talk to some of those people you've been playing music with all year. See the notice on page 1.

### Successful Youth Fiddle Contest

SCVFA's twelfth annual Youth Fiddle Contest was held November 3<sup>rd</sup> during the regular monthly jam. This year we had only 17 contestants and all had pre-registered (thank you!), so on-site registration and the contest itself both went fairly quickly. In fact we finished by 4:00, an hour early.

The winners in the three divisions were:

#### Division 1 (8 and under)

- 1st: Doniella Dumont (8)
- 2nd: Matteo Quale (7)
- 3rd: Katherine Kline (8)
- 4th: Casey Kendrick (8)
- 5th: Ayana Wilmot (8)

#### Division 2 (11 and under)

- 1st: Khushi Parikh (10)
- 2nd: Helen Ludé (10)
- 3rd: Miles Quale (9)
- 4th: Ruksana Varma (10)
- 5th: Gilford Ting (9)

#### Division 3 (17 and under)

- 1st: Elvin Hsieh (14)
- 2nd: Edward Ross (12)



Contestant **Edward Ross** performing in Division 3. (Allan French photo)

Our congratulations to all!

We couldn't hold the contest each year without a lot of help. See Richard's message on page 1 for a list of people who helped this year.

You can see the winners from all 12 contests on our website, at [www.scvfa.org/youthprograms/](http://www.scvfa.org/youthprograms/).

### Trustee Candidates for February

Based on recommendations from the nominating committee, the SCVFA Board has selected two members to run for the two open Trustee positions in the February election. Pete Showman has agreed to run again for Seat 1, and Élan Alford has agreed to run for Seat 2, replacing Barbara Rosner who decided not to run again. We'll have more information about the candidates in the January Fiddler's Rag.

### Trustee Meeting Highlights

The SCVFA Board of Trustees met Nov. 9, 2013. The Trustees:

- Agreed that Élan Alford be nominated as a candidate in the February 2014 trustee election. Pete Showman has agreed to run again in the election as well. Barbara Rosner is stepping down as trustee when her term ends in February.
- Amended the budget for the potluck at the December jam. Cheri Palasek and Lee Clarke are organizing the event, assisted by Karen Bradshaw.
- Agreed to charge everyone a reduced fee of \$5 for door admission to the December jam. If people don't bring food for the potluck but want to eat, they can purchase a meal ticket for an additional \$5.
- Heard Pete Showman's report on the Youth Fiddle Contest. There were 17 entrants. The event went smoothly; Pete thanked everyone who helped.
- Discussed two requests for playouts (outside performances by SCVFA), one in November and one in February. Cindy Dinga agreed to play the November event, for which SCVFA will receive our usual payment.
- Discussed how to handle playout requests and organize playouts without an overall playout coordinator. Dave Williams has agreed to serve as the initial contact for people requesting a playout. An event manager would then be identified for each event and would handle further communications and coordination for that playout. Special circumstances may require additional consideration.
- Agreed that the envelopes used for mailing the newsletter are working well.
- Began discussion of how to attract new people to participate in SCVFA.
- Set January 19, 2014 as the next tentative trustee meeting date.

*Dinah Showman, Secretary*

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

The Bylaws also permit nominations by written petition signed by at least 3 members in good standing, submitted along with a written statement from the nominee agreeing to run, to the President (Richard) or Secretary (Dinah Showman) by 24 days before the election, i.e. by January 9, 2014. Such nominations may be mailed to the SCVFA mailing address on page 2, postmarked by the above date.

**SCVFA Youth Fiddle Contest 2013**



Contestant photos: Eric Bersteth



**The contestants (L-R): Div 1 (top):** Jacob Bull, Doniella Dumont, Casey Kendrick, Elizabeth Kline, Katherine Kline, Matteo Quale, & Ayana Wilmot, with Pete Showman & Richard Brooks.

**Div 2 (middle):** Pete; Aaron Bull, Rebecca Jaworski, Rachelle Lang, Helen Ludé, Khushi Parikh, Miles Quale, Ruksana Varma, & Gilford Ting; Richard.

**Div 3 (right):** Edward Ross & Elvin Hsieh.

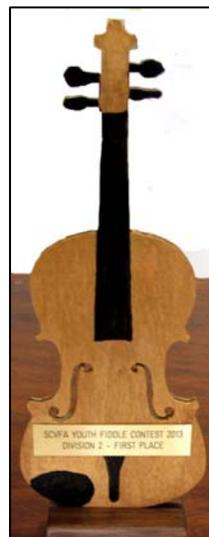


Dave Williams photo



**The Judges:** Top: for Div 1, Richard Brooks, Sarah Kirton and Dave Barton. Bottom: Div 2/3 judges Charley Oveland, Sarah Kirton and Tom Clausen.

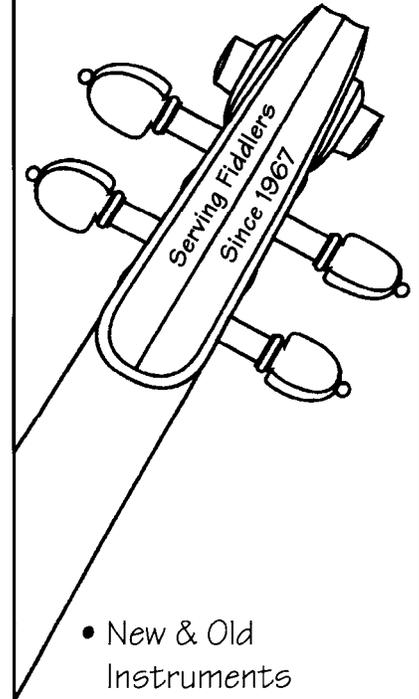
Richard Brooks photos



One of the first-place trophies

**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](http://www.kamimotostrings.com)

609 North Fourth Street  
San Jose, CA 95112

**[800] 892-3199**

**Fax: [408] 298-8198**

# Hammares Gånglåt

AB.AB.

A Gånglåt is a stately walking tune

♩ = 75

From the Village of Skattungbyn  
(near Orsa, Dalarna, Sweden)

Arr. Sarah Kirton, Pete Showman, Steven Block

Hammares Gånglåt (or Gånglåt efter Hammare) is a Swedish gånglåt (walking tune) that's a bit crooked. The tune has become a popular choice with some of the Monday-night old-time jammers at Fandango Pizza in Palo Alto. Sarah Kirton, who taught us the tune, writes "I think Hammare must have been a person, or a farm name (or both - often the case) because it's from the village of Skattungbyn -- so Hammare couldn't be the village."

Arranged and typeset in ABC by Pete Showman; r2 1/29/13. You can hear a MIDI at [www.showman.org/Tunes](http://www.showman.org/Tunes).

## More Photos from the November 3 Jam and Contest

Right: a plate of scrumptious-looking goodies at the snack table. They reportedly disappeared quickly after the kids spotted them.



Allan French photo



Richard Brooks photo

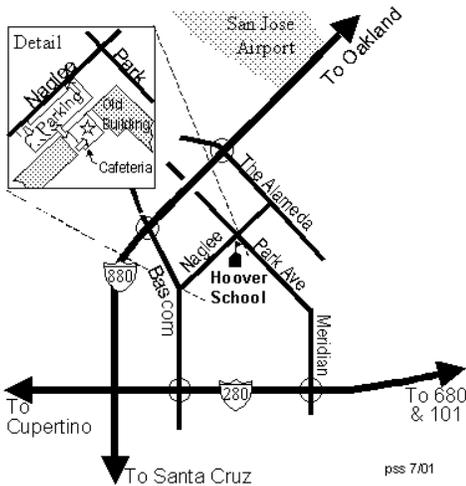
Larry Joba, Barbara Rosner, Tom Clausen, Sarah Kirton, Paul Clarke and George Bradshaw entertain the audience while the scoring team figures out who won, and prepares the prizes.

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 Dec. 1, 1-5 pm  
at Hoover Middle School  
\*\* Holiday Potluck at 3 pm \*\***

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



Barbara Rosner photo

Contest volunteers pose for a photo after the event. L-R: **Richard Brooks, Janet Johnston, Dave Williams (rear), Charlotte Prater, Mary Kennedy, Pete Showman (rear; chairman), Mary Ann Clausen, Tom Clausen, Dinah Showman and Eric Berseth.** Not available for the photo: Allan French, Judges Sarah Kirton and Dave Barton, trophy makers Mike Johnson and Joshua Paaske, and accompanists Luke Abbott and Norio Kawato.