



# Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 43, Number 1  
Celebrating 41 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association  
[www.scvfa.org](http://www.scvfa.org) or [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org)

January 2015  
Next Jam: Jan. 4



## President's Note

Our holiday potluck was another success thanks to Cheri Palasek, our organizer, and Lee Clarke, who purchased the table decorations. And fine decorations they were. Thank you Cheri and Lee!

Tophier Heath led our first **Real Slow Jam**. He proposed it for beginners to advanced beginners who can play chords at a steady rhythm pace by vamping or chopping. He will continue the real slow jams because of the overwhelmingly positive feedback. Thank you Tophier!

Ralph Stark deserves our thanks for helping me at the storage locker. Thank you Ralph!

## Storage Locker Help is Needed

If you drive, please sign up to help a trustee bring our supplies and equipment to the jam from the storage locker about one mile away. It takes 15-20 minutes to load and 10 minutes to drive to the jam. Without help, we'll have to bring our "minimal" system.

## First-Time Visitors Can Get a Free Door Admission

From January through June 2015 (except in March) we will give first-time visitors accompanied by a member a free door admission. We hope you bring friends, family, and neighbors to see what we are all about.

Our March 1 jam is special. **Blaine Sprouse**, a famous bluegrass fiddler ([BlaineSprouseMusic.com](http://BlaineSprouseMusic.com)), will give a concert and teach a fiddle workshop. Details in February.

## Donate CDs for our Door Prize

Donate a CD you don't need for our door prize winners.

## Share Your Photos

Share your photos and we will include your name if they are used in the Rag. Email them to the editor (currently Pete Showman) at newsletter at fiddlers.org.

## Amazon Buyers

On the lower left side of our [www.fiddlers.org](http://www.fiddlers.org) website we have a link to Amazon. If you click on it to go to Amazon, we get a small commission if you make a purchase. It costs you nothing and it really helps us.

- Richard Brooks

## Newsletter Editor Urgently Needed

I urgently request that someone volunteer to take over as editor of the Fiddler's Rag. This makes my 44<sup>th</sup> issue as "interim" (i.e. temporary) editor.

Editing the newsletter is really not difficult. I use Microsoft Word but you can use any editor you like to create a PDF of the newsletter, which is then printed and (after a couple months' delay) posted on our website. Charlotte Prater currently prints and mails each issue.

The newsletter's content and layout are planned and carried out by the editor, with input and review by the president and/or other board members. If you have writing and editing skills, please step forward.

SCVFA has been publishing the Fiddler's Rag monthly for almost 42 years, with many members having served as editor. Our bylaws specify that we provide a regular newsletter to members. But without help we will not be able to continue the Fiddler's Rag as we know it.

- Pete Showman

## Upcoming SCVFA Events

The **February Jam** will include our annual membership meeting and trustee election. See page 3 for information on the election and this year's candidates.

As Richard noted in column 1, the **March Jam** will include two special events: a bluegrass fiddle workshop and a concert, both by well-known bluegrass fiddler **Blaine Sprouse**. We're still working out some details; look for a complete description in the February issue of the Fiddler's Rag.

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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](http://www.fiddlers.org/join).

**Officers and Chairs**

President-Trustee ...	Richard J. Brooks	Newsletter Publisher ..	Charlotte Prater
Vice President .....	OPEN	Performances Contact ..	Dave Williams
Recording Secretary	Dinah Showman	Publicity .....	OPEN
Treasurer .....	Janet Johnston	Webmaster .....	Pete Showman
Membership Secretary	Pete Showman	Youth Programs Chair .....	OPEN
News Editor	OPEN ( <i>Pete Showman, act.</i> )	Youth Fiddle Contest	Pete Showman

**Trustees**

Seat 1: Pete Showman	Seat 3: George Bradshaw	Seat 5: Dave Williams
Seat 2: Élan Alford	Seat 4: Charlotte Prater	Seat 6: Susan Goodis

**To Contact the SCVFA:**

Mail: P.O. Box 2666, Cupertino, CA 95015-2666  
 Email to Richard Brooks: 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)  
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**New "Slower" Jam Group in December**

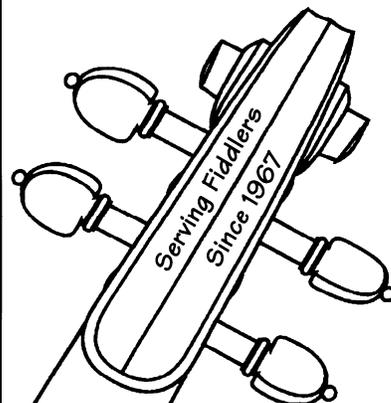
As announced last month, **Topher Heath** (center, below, playing guitar) has offered to coordinate a slower jam most months. This is in addition to the Beginner's Circle, which some beginners are finding is too fast. As you can see, there were quite a few participants. We hope to offer both slowish jams most months. And we're still looking for good names for the two groups.



Photo: Richard Brooks

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# SCVFA Happenings

## Trustee Election in February

As usual, we'll have our annual Member Meeting at the February jam. The main item of business is election of two trustees to three-year terms. (There are six elected trustees, with two elected each year so their terms overlap.)

The board of trustees has nominated two candidates for 2015-2018: **Dave Williams** (incumbent) for seat 5 and **Susan Goodis** (incumbent) for seat 6.

## Member Nominations

The Bylaws also permit nominations by written petition signed by at least 3 members in good standing (dues paid up), submitted along with a written statement from the nominee (who must also be a member in good standing as of the election) agreeing to run. Such petitions must be submitted to the President (Richard Brooks) or Secretary (Dinah Showman) by 24 days before the election, i.e. by January 8, 2015. Nomination petitions may be mailed to the SCVFA mailing address on page 2, postmarked by the above date.

## Candidates' Statements

### Dave Williams

My name is David Williams and I have served as a Trustee for SCVFA for over six years.



SCVFA continues to achieve success in promoting acoustic music in the Bay Area and in the

Santa Cruz area, as well. The 1st Sunday of the month jams are the key to this organization. Many styles of music are represented in jams and often end up on the open mic stage. All levels are welcomed and encouraged. As a trustee, I feel that it is a primary responsibility to make sure that the jams thrive. Good jams bring out more people and more people help recruit volunteers and leaders for this organization. I have experience as a trustee or board member in various organizations including school boards, credit unions, bluegrass clubs, and youth athletic leagues. This serves me well as I work with the dedicated board members, officers, and volunteers of SCVFA as we strive to continue to improve our organization so that

our members can continue to enjoy the benefits of our extraordinary club.

### Susan Goodis

Twelve years ago, I was asked to join in 4th grade Suzuki music lessons with my daughter. That's all the inspiration it took for me to purchase my first fiddle for \$100.00, case included. After 2 months of Suzuki, I found the Pittsburgh Folk Music Society, Calliope, which was offering Old Time Fiddle Classes. So, in



between working full time as a pharmacist, raising 3 children and weekend step-parenting to my husband's 3 children, I started on my musical journey, albeit rather slowly.

Old Time Week at Augusta Heritage Festival was a transforming experience. As good fortune would have it, I went to the Appalachian String Band Music festival, otherwise known as 'Clifftop', for 3 years. Ahh, how I long to go back, now as a more seasoned musician.

Never in my wildest dreams did I expect to move to California, but my husband decided to follow his own dreams. Life as I had known it, including music, went on hold for the next 1 ½ years to study, move and get re-licensed in California. We arrived to call California our new home in June 2011.

Thanks to Google, I discovered the jams at Fandango and SCVFA. The beginners circle at SCVFA was the spark to inspire me to gather a group of new friends for a monthly slow jam, now called the NSS (Not So Slow) jam. In this jam, we challenge each other to learn familiar tunes well, at a moderate pace, and also bring in new tunes to learn mostly by ear.

My interest in becoming a trustee for SCVFA is my love for oldtime music and this organization that fosters community and musical growth. Most importantly, I would like to bring in new members of all ages and skill levels. I hope to add new ideas and energy to an already successful organization.

## Lost and Found



At a recent jam: **A blue handled sharp knife**, marked "Picnic Time Stainless".

If it's yours, check with Dinah Showman or any of the staff at the back table.

Photos from the December 2014 Jam, before the Potluck



Photo: Richard Brooks

A large group played on stage before the potluck: (L-R) **Sam Morocco** (bass), **Mike Bell**, **George Bradshaw**, **Len Abrams** (harmonica), **Susan Goodis**, **Dovie Wylie**, **Dennis Gale**, **Jerry Friedman** and **Ralph Stark**.



Photos: Michael Sue BrownKorbel

**Left:** An old-time group with a good variety of instruments. We're not sure who was playing the harp, but the other musicians (clockwise from left) are **George Bradshaw**, **Dorian Martinka** (fiddle), **Dave Earl**, **Bob Palasek**, **Dave Bogdanoff**, **Susan Goodis**, **Patti Bossert** and **Peter Tommerup**. **Right:** Pete Showman (center) led an informal Beginners' Circle, with (L-R) **Bert Raphael**, **Susan Goodis** (foreground), **Patti Bossert** (background) and **Liz Herzfeld**.



Potluck Chair **Cheri Palasek** (L) and **Charlotte Prater** (R) set up the dessert section before the potluck.



Photos: Michael Sue BrownKorbel

**Gary Breitbard** and **Lee Anne Welch** play a tune as **John Sellers** and **Jena Rauti** look on.

## December 2014 Potluck, continued



Photo: Pete Showman

### Dinnertime!



There were various music activities after dinner.

Above: **Jena Rauti** takes over the accordion as **Gary Breitbard** and **Pete Showman** fiddle an Eastern European tune, while **Sam Morocco** looks on.

Right: Lee Anne Welch and Lee Clarke dance.

Below: **Mike Bell**, **Pete Showman**, **George Bradshaw** and **Larry Joba** performed on stage to close out the jam.



Photos: Michael Sue BrownKorbel

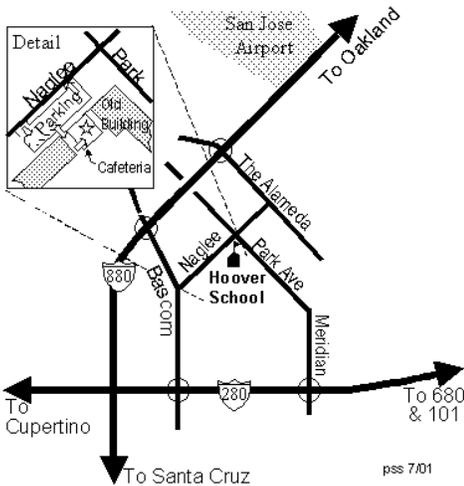


Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association  
P.O. Box 2666  
Cupertino, CA 95015-2666

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.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**Next Jam: Sunday Jan. 4, 1-5 pm,**  
**Hoover Middle School.**

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



Photos: Michael Sue BrownKorbel

The December Jam included our annual **Holiday Potluck**. Left: There was plenty to choose from at the serving table, all delicious. Right: After dinner, President **Richard Brooks** and helpers **Doniella Dumont** and **Sarah Boiko** drew tickets for the door prizes, which were the table decorations such as the poinsettia shown.