



Fiddler's Rag

Vol. 44, Number 12
Celebrating 43 years

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

December 2016
Next Jam: Dec. 4



President's Note

November at SCVFA was simmering with activity. In fact, some folks did not want to end the day and continued playing into the sunset, long after everyone had left. Ahhh, what a feeling...

Guests Harry Liedstrand (fiddle), Cindy Liedstrand (guitar) and Terry Barrett (mandolin) led a special edition

of the Tune Builder Circle. The workshop attendees consisted of mostly fiddlers, but a few mandolin players, guitarists, a cellist, and a couple of bass players also joined in. We learned "Cottonwood Reel", "Texas Barbed Wire" (see page 5), and "Sandy". The entire workshop group then took the stage and performed these new tunes for the open mic.

This was followed by short and fun mini-concert by Harry, Cindy, and Terry, who then joined us for some jamming. Expect to hear a lot more of Harry's tunes being played at SCVFA. I am still glowing from the workshop.

Thanks everyone for pitching in to set up, take down and do whatever needs to be done at each monthly jam. There is no need to sign up in advance, just join in. Many hands make small work.

Topher Heath was back to lead the popular slow jam. Dave Williams, jam manager, made sure the jam ran smoothly all day. Dinah and Charlotte were there, as usual, to greet members and new folks at the admission and membership desk. Thank you all.

SCVFA held one very special playout this month for Trustee Bert Raphael in honor of his 80th birthday. We had a nice-sized community band, joined by Erik Hoffman as the contra dance caller, to add to the festivities. Happy birthday Bert, and many more.

Special guests Charlie Walden and Patt Plunkett will be joining us for the December jam and holiday potluck.

They have offered to play a mini-concert and lead the Tune Builder Circle. Let's hope their flight arrives on time.

Music plays an immense role our lives. In times of stress, that we all face for various reasons, music is therapy. This month, in particular, many groups have gotten together to sing, dance, and play music to heal wounds and celebrate community. Together, we are all stronger.

SCVFA now has a Facebook Page. Look for: "Santa Clara Fiddlers Association SCVFA". Share with your friends and invite new friends to get to know our music community. Share our events on your own page. You never know which one of your friends may join SCVFA next month. Posts are encouraged, but limit the content to that which is directly related to SCVFA.

It is important that each one of our members talks about SCVFA and shares our enthusiasm with fellow musicians, family, and friends. Take a few business cards and share them when the opportunity presents itself.

It takes a village to keep SCVFA running smoothly. Let's all do our part,

Susan Goodis

♥ Amazon purchases – go to Amazon from the SCVFA home page to give a small commission to SCVFA.

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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.

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Violin Memory by Allan French

Not long ago, I got a phone call where the Caller ID read "Violin Memory" and the phone number had my local area code. I figured maybe it was a musician friend with a humorous identifier, in place of their real name, so I answered the phone.

It turned out to be no-one I know. But the overly-excited recorded female voice told me I had been selected for an exclusive opportunity to stay at the Marriot Hotel where I could ... [click, I hung up].

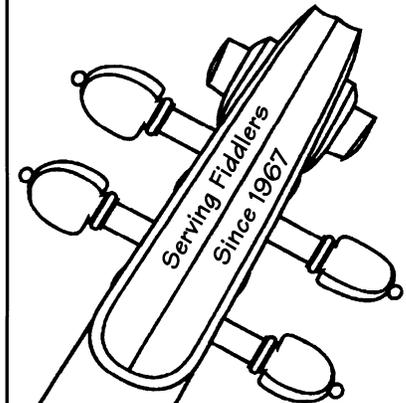
I looked again at the CID, in case I had misread it. Maybe the ID name of a teaching technique, like Suzuki? Or a music-oriented gift shop or antiques business? Maybe it said violent movies? Or violet mammy or violets many?

Nope. Someone simply used my affinity for music as a ruse to get me to pick up the receiver. They FIDDLE-d with their Caller ID settings but probably did not VIOLA-te any laws in the process. Keep this in mind if you someday see a Caller ID that reads "Pear Melodrama" or "Antique Desktop."

- ♥ Be a leader - Teach a tune at the monthly Tune Builder Circle.
- ♥ Take a few SCVFA business cards to hand out to fellow musicians.
- ♥ Come and jam with us every month.
- ♥ Share photos of SCVFA events - send to [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter@fiddlers.org)

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SCVFA Happenings

SCVFA Slow Jam – Active song list

Angeline The Baker (D)	Red-Haired Boy (A)
Arkansas Traveler (D)	Red Wing (G)
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)

Dec. SCVFA Jam Special Guests: **Charlie and Patt**

Harrington Valley Two Step, Shoot Two Bits, Lamplighters, Tomahawk, Good Neighbor Waltz, Norma Lou's Waltz, and Jefferson & Liberty Quadrille are tunes you will often hear played at our SCVFA monthly jam. All were learned from Charlie Walden.

After twenty plus years of playing traditional music together, **Patt Plunkett** and **Charlie Walden** (aka Patt & Possum) have learned a thing or two about getting along musically. So while some couples might bicker about the bills or where to go out to eat, these two battle over chord progression and set lists.

Charlie and Patt both grew up listening to and playing traditional mid-western fiddle music. Charlie learned as a teenager at the feet of some of Missouri's finest old time fiddlers, including Pete McMahan, Taylor McBaine and Cyril Stinnett and was encouraged by countless others. Along the way he developed an interest in Canadian fiddle tunes as the fiddling in the Ottawa Valley is similar in style and shares some common repertoire with Missouri. As such, other important influences through recordings were Graham Townsend, Don Messer and Ned Landry.

(Continued on page 7)

Fiddle, Banjo, & Guitar **Oldtime Music Weekend Camp**
Mountain View - Jan 6-8, 2017
Details and sign up at www.JaniesJumpstart.com

Found at the November Jam: A small amount of cash. If you think it might be yours, check with Dinah Showman at the admission desk.

- ♥ Board meetings - all SCVFA members are welcome - For date and location, ask any Board member.
- ♥ Pass on performance inquiries to Dave Williams at [performances \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:performances[at]fiddlers.org).
- ♥ Offer assistance 1-2 times a year to transport sound equipment from the storage locker.

Join us for the SCVFA Holiday Potluck Sunday, Dec. 4th



- 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 for just \$5.

Note: We do not have permission to use the kitchen facilities (kitchen sinks or electrical outlets). No food warmers or electrical utensils are permitted.

November Board Meeting Highlights

We discussed membership numbers and how to increase attendance at the jam.

It only costs \$150 to get SCVFA volunteers to play for events, so think about old timey and bluegrass music for your next big party! A couple playouts examples: for Bert Raphael's 80th birthday party (see photos on page 4) and for Fritz Buell's move with his wife into a retirement center.

We're looking for a chair for PUBLICITY! We want to develop a flyer for parents to encourage preschool and other really young kids into music like ours, and we need to regularly get mentions in local papers.

We discussed timelines for booking KidFiddle instructors and jam entertainment, and decided that we need to plan about 6 months out so the board can discuss and approve arrangements without needing emergency sessions. KidFiddle programs are now authorized through next June, and Susan will be making the arrangements.

Anne Raphael - Recording Secretary

November 2016 Jam

String Band Workshop with Harry Liedstrand

The String Band Workshop led by Harry and Cindy Liedstrand and Terry Barrett at the November jam was very well attended. Harry taught us three tunes: *Cottonwood Reel* (from the Happy Hayseeds), *Texas Barbwire*, and *Sandy* (*My little dog won't bite me ...*), the latter two from California mandolinist and fiddler Kenny Hall. Transcriptions of the first two tunes can be found on page 5 of this issue, and PDFs and MIDI files for all three can be found at www.fiddlers.org/tunes/.

- Pete Showman



Terry Barrett, Harry and Cindy Liedstrand
(Photo: Pete Showman)



Harry Liedstrand workshop class outdoor
(Photo: Pete Showman)



Stage photo, left to right:
Mike Bell, George Bradshaw, Dovie Wylie, Susan Goodis, Beverly Tracey, Bert Raphael, Bill O'Haren
(Photo: Pete Showman)



Another successful event:
Bert Raphael's 80th birthday.

Left, foreground:
Susan Goodis, Sue Torngren, John Gregorin, Sarah Kirton and Bob Palasek

Background standing:
John Alsop, Liz Alsop, Leslie Field, Patti Bossert, Cindy Dinga, Sam Morocco, Jean Avram



(Photos: Susan Goodis)

Pattern: AA BB CC (short B)

Cottonwood Reel

Traditional?

Keys: D and G

(More or less as taught by Harry Liedstrand)

(From the Happy Hayseeds)

♩ = 90

Transcribed, arranged and typeset in ABC Plus by Pete Showman, from the playing of Harry and Cindy Liedstrand and Terry Barrett at a workshop at the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association, November 6, 2016. Rev. 2: 11/14/2016.

Pattern: AA BB

Texas Barbed Wire

Traditional?

Key: G

(More or less as taught by Harry Liedstrand)

From Kenny Hall

♩ = 90

Fiddlers can bow the syncopated first part various ways -- e.g. using either the long or shorter slurs shown dotted in measures 1 and 2. Try to arrange the first beat of each of these measures to be a strong, emphasized, down-bow.

Transcribed, arranged and typeset in ABC Plus by Pete Showman, from the playing of Harry and Cindy Liedstrand and Terry Barrett at a workshop at the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association, November 6, 2016. Rev. 2: 11/14/2016.

Supporting the Source: Junior Appalachian Musicians (JAM)

By Dovie Wylie



Eddie Bond teaching
(Photo: Iboya Pasley)



My mother's family is from southwestern Virginia - Wythe and Bedford counties - which is probably why I like bluegrass and old-time music so much. In the last year or so, I've been back there visiting. I've gotten reacquainted with the Blue Ridge, and I've had a chance to hear the music at its source.

There's an organization in that area that I think is worthy of support. Aiming to keep alive the tradition, a group of teachers, musicians, and other supporters have formed a regional nonprofit called Junior Appalachian Musicians, or JAM. Their goal is to make sure that children in Appalachia have an opportunity to learn to play the music - and to sing and to dance - and for this, they need instruments and the chance to learn.

JAM refers both to the umbrella organization and to affiliates throughout the Southern Appalachians. JAM currently supports some 40 affiliate organizations spread over the mountains of the Carolinas, Virginia, and Tennessee. This year, they are serving about 1500 children and teachers with everything from teacher training to instruments - fiddles, banjos, guitars, mandolins, dulcimers - all without charge.

The counties where JAM has affiliates are among the poorest and most impacted by shifts in manufacturing and in where we get our energy. It's true that the cost of housing there is far lower than in our part of California. But from what I've seen, just about everything else costs

the same as it does in the Santa Clara Valley: groceries, vehicles, clothing, and so forth. According to the most recent census data, the median family income in Galax, VA is about \$36,800. Surry County, NC, is home to the community of Round Peak, which has its own distinctive style of old-time music; the county median is \$38,900. Hancock County, TN has a median family income of just \$25,400. Pickens County, SC has a median of \$36,200.

In these areas, a substantial number of children under 18 live below the poverty line. Contributions to JAM, whether to the umbrella organization or an affiliate, make music and traditional folk arts possible for children whose families have no way to afford instruments or instruction.



**Junior
Appalachian
Musicians®**

I like to contribute directly to one of the affiliates, the Alleghany JAM, in Sparta, North Carolina. This was the original JAM, founded in 1999 by Helen White, then a guidance counselor at an elementary school in Sparta. She's also a fiddler and guitarist, a performer, and an instructor at the California Coast Music Camp. And I've had the good fortune to meet her and to jam with her at the courthouse in Independence, VA. The Alleghany JAM is now directed by Lucas Pasley, an English teacher at Sparta High School.

(Continued on page 7)

JAM (Continued from page 6)



Photo: Iboya Pasley

December is the time of year to be thinking about making charitable donations.

Both JAM and its affiliates are set up for tax-deductible contributions at their websites - see www.jamkids.org.

For those of us who cherish traditional music, supporting JAM is an excellent way to ensure that

it continues, going forward, fed by its source, the heart and home of the musical styles we all love.



Photo: Mary Taylor

Dovie Wylie has been a member of SCFVA for three years. She played folk guitar a little in the late '70s, life intervened, and then she returned

to music four years ago, now playing mostly bluegrass and old-time. She'll be happy to show you her brand-new guitar, custom built for her by Elizabeth Jayne Henderson in Rugby, VA.

Charlie and Patt (Continued from page 3)

Patt started out by playing piano for her grandfather, Carl Voorhees, who was a seasoned Illinois square dance fiddler. She went on to play Irish-style piano accompaniment and formed a ceili band in Chicago, which won the local Fleah Ceol twice. She is also a professional music educator and trained singer. Patt's love of music and natural ability as a dancer led her to take an interest in square and contra dance calling and instruction along with individual clogging and step dance performance.

Charlie and Patt are active contra and square dance musicians, performing for numerous such events each year. They serve as instructors at several music camps, giving instruction on fiddle, piano styles, traditional dance and vocal music. Patt and Possum completed their third tour of Australia in November 2013.

When asked about advice to those learning fiddle, Charlie says:

I'd just like to tell people who are aspiring to learn to play the fiddle, and who play now, that you ought to get out and find your local source musician, your local old timer, and learn whatever they can show you, because we're really at the end of an era, I think, in

that a lot of styles of fiddling are just going to go completely by the board. If you're sitting home learning off records and there's a guy five miles away who's been playing for fifty years, you better go learn some tunes from him. Because you'll get much more enjoyment in years to come from playing the instrument, from playing the music you learned from someone in that way, I think, than you'll ever get from something you learn off a record.

Charlie and Patt will be our guests at the December SCVFA Jam. Charlie will be the Tune Builder workshop leader. We are also in for a treat as Charlie and Patt take the stage to share some of their music in a mini-concert.

Charlie will be teaching a fiddle workshop at Gryphon Strings on December 10th from 1:00-3:00.

That same evening, Charlie and Patt, aka Patt and Possum, will be performing for the Palo Alto Contra Dance starting at 8:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church on Hamilton Ave. in Palo Alto. Come join the dance or simply to listen to the music.

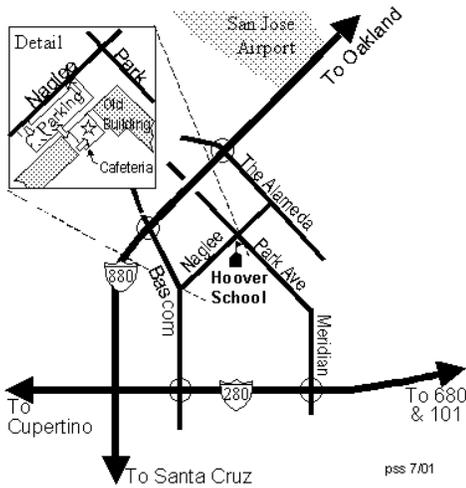
Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
P.O. Box 2666
Cupertino, CA 95015-2666



**Next Jam: Sunday Dec. 4th, 1-5 pm
at Hoover. Holiday Potluck at 3 pm**

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 \[at\] scvfa.org](mailto:newsletter@scvfa.org)**



Pic taken by Susan Goodis at 5:30 pm as people were leaving: *“These folks were having too much fun to stop!”*



♥ Show your pride in SCVFA, get your wearable art in one of two designs.
Email sgoodis@gmail.com for information.

