



Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 54, Number 08
Celebrating 53 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

August 2026
Next Jam August 2nd



President's Note

By Ray Chen

Hello, SCVFA!! I had to miss the July jam, but I hear people had a fun time.

Apparently, there was a big party happening where we usually set up, so folks moved over to the next set of trees. The Basic Bluegrass workshop and the regular bluegrass jam met together. There were about 20 participants, and it went very well. There were newcomers there, and people in the park came by to listen.

There was a large Slow Jam with some people playing different instruments than they usually play. After the Slow Jam ended, the jam circle stayed and started playing faster tunes.

There was also a small Old-Time jam and at least one other small jam.

We'll be back at the Rose Garden the first Sunday of August, and I hope to see you there!

Speaking of jams, we need some help with jams and other things. There are a small number of people currently doing the lion's share of the work that has to be done to keep things going, and the situation simply isn't sustainable. We need help. So please read the list of volunteer opportunities below. If you think you can help with any of these for even some of the time, please send email to *president [at] fiddlers.org*. Thanks!!

Jam Setup: Help set up the front desk area. Put the big banner up. If at Hoover: put jam signs up and move chairs to the outdoor jam areas. Arrive 20 minutes early so you can set up before the jam starts.

Jam Teardown: Clean up and put away the front desk area. Take pictures of the sign up and membership renewal sheets and send them to a

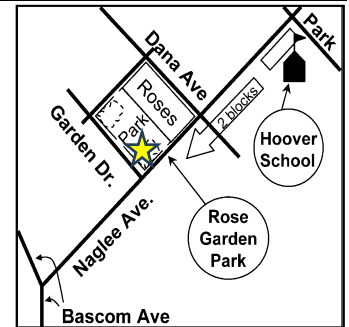
Board member. Put the big banner away. If at Hoover: put the jam signs away and put the chairs away. Make a last sweep for anything left behind.

Jam Stuff Pickup: Take jam materials (signs, front desk stuff, white board, etc.) from the storage locker or whoever has them and take them to the jam. Arrive at the jam 20 minutes early. (The locker is about 10 minutes away from Hoover.)

Jam Stuff Drop-off: Take jam materials from the jam to the storage locker or hand them over to whoever should have them next.

Staffing Front Desk: Greet people. Answer questions. We need the front desk staffed for the first 2 hours of the jam. It's fine to jam at the desk as long as you can keep an eye out and stop (even during a tune) when someone comes up.

Newsletter Photo Editing: Photos are a charming part of this newsletter. It takes me an hour or so a month to pick photos, get them into Word, crop, arrange, and adjust the color settings to get them to look right. Anyone with Microsoft Word on a Windows or Mac computer can do this. We can
(continued on page 3)



1649 Naglee Avenue, San Jose

Future Playouts / Performances

We have numerous opportunities throughout the year.
For more info visit: <https://www.fiddlers.org/open-band>

Sep 13th – Los Gatos Farmers Market, 9 – 1 pm

Oct 31st – Saratoga Farmers Market, 9 – 1 pm

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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. Membership includes electronic delivery of the Fiddler's Rag.

To join, sign up at the jam or see www.fiddlers.org/join-the-scvfa

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Seat 2: Michelle Tan	Seat 4: Open	Seat 6: Cliff Riggs

Newsletter Reviewers: Pete Showman, Dinah Showman, Vicki Parrish, Susan Goodis, Jennifer Kitchen

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Newsletter Submissions & Comments: [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter[at]fiddlers.org)

Address changes: [membership \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:membership[at]fiddlers.org)

Website: www.fiddlers.org

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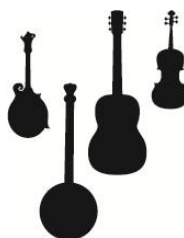
Donations to SCVFA are greatly appreciated and will assist in keeping traditional music alive by passing it on to the next generation.

Many local corporations offer matched donations for non-profits. Check with your employer... they may offer this benefit.

You can easily add SCVFA as a 501(c)(3) organization;
our EIN is 51-0196154

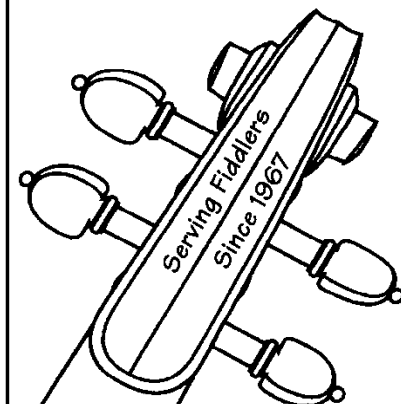
Donate as you are able
and traditional music will reap the benefits.

SCVFA was founded in 1973 to support fiddling but supports and welcomes musicians other than fiddlers. The image to the right side of the Fiddler's Rag name on the first page includes a mandolin, a banjo, a guitar and a fiddle, to illustrate the diversity of instruments played at our jams and events.



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SCVFA Happenings

SCVFA Mission Statement

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association (SCVFA) preserves traditional music genres that feature fiddle and other acoustic instruments. SCVFA takes pride in “passing it on” to musicians and listeners of all ages and abilities.

Diversity Statement

SCVFA believes that our mission is fundamentally improved by diversity and inclusion. SCVFA is at all times committed to providing an open, safe, and welcoming environment for all our members and guests. We celebrate the varied abilities, ethnicities, sexualities, ages, gender identities, religions and cultural backgrounds of our community, and do not tolerate discrimination based upon these differences.

First Sunday Jam: August 2nd 1 to 5 pm at San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. Suggested donation: \$5.00 – more or less as you are able. [Click here to donate online.](#)

Old-Time Jam: 1 – 5 pm

Slow jam: 1:30-2:30 pm – Tunes are available on our [SCVFA website](#).

Bluegrass Jam: 1:30 – 5:00 pm

No Basic Bluegrass Jam. It will return next month!

“AFTERS” Join us at [Five Guys](#).
1205 The Alameda, #10, San Jose.

3rd Sunday Jam: August 16th, 1-3 pm
[Mitchell Park](#), 600 E. Meadow Dr., Palo Alto

(Mostly) Old-Time Jam, Mondays, 7 - 9 pm.

[Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto.](#)

Requested donation – \$2 – \$4. Email [banjoclarka \[at\] yahoo.com](mailto:banjoclarka[at]yahoo.com) for more details.

Good Old-Fashioned Bluegrass Festival,
August 6–9, [San Benito County Historical Park](#),
Tres Pinos.

Golden Old-Time Campout, Aug 20 – 23, [Camp Russian River](#),
Guerneville.

Berkeley Old-Time Music Convention, Sept 16-20.

Santa Barbara Old-Time Fiddlers Festival,
October 3. Paul Brown, Rafe Stefanini, Hog-eyed Man, Spencer & Rains, Black Banjo Reclamation Project. Contests, concerts, workshops, and jams.

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teach you whatever you don't already know how to do. And it's fun! You get to play with photos!

Trustee: Trustees help set the direction of the organization and ensure that the day-to-day stuff that matters gets done. It's a hard job to accurately describe. Certainly, we need you to attend the once every other month zoom meeting. We'd like you to be responsive to emails. We'd like you to take on tasks that we think of in the meetings that have to get done that are a good fit for what you are able and willing to do.

You also don't need to commit to anything right away. We'd like you to come to a couple of Board meetings, first. That will give you an idea of what the job is really about and whether you'd like to take it on.

We *really* need at least one and preferably two new Trustees. And if one of our current Trustees moves out of the area (which is quite possible), we will need three new Trustees. We're on thin ice right now. We only have five Trustees, and our bylaws state that at least four Trustees have to be present at a meeting for any meaningful decision there to be valid.

If you think you can help with any of this, whether it's consistently or just some of the time, please let us know. Find me or a Board Member at a jam or send email to [president \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:president[at]fiddlers.org).

Thank you and I hope to see you at the next jam!!

July Pictures

By Susan Goodis



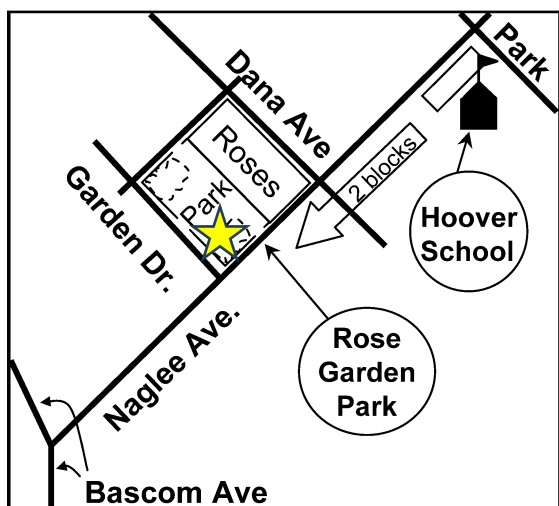


SCVFA
P.O. Box 390235
Mountain View, CA 94039-0235

Next Jam:
Sunday August 2nd
1-5 pm at Rose Garden Park

Directions to San Jose Municipal Rose Garden Park

Damaged or Missing Issue? Call us,
or email to: [newsletter \[at\] fiddlers.org](mailto:newsletter[at]fiddlers.org)



More July Rose Garden Jamming (by Susan Goodis)