



Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 54, Number 09
Celebrating 53 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

September 2026
Next Jam September 6th



President's Note

By Ray Chen

Hello, SCVFA!!

I can't believe it's the end of August! The summer's gone by so fast. I hope you've been

having a good one!

I was still wiped out from traveling, so I got to the August jam late. I joined the old-time jam and we wound up going until almost 5:30. Jennifer led a large bluegrass jam. This month, though, she will lead her usual Basic Bluegrass Jam (which is really a jamming workshop).

People had a great time at Good Old Fashioned (GOF) and Golden Old-Time (GOT).

SCVFA was well-represented at GOF. Four bands on the main stage at GOF had SCVFA members. Three of them had current or past Board Members (Jennifer, me and Danny). My wife Lauren and I also each taught a workshop (thanks, Kelly and Susan for coming to mine!), and SCVFA led two Slow Jams.

I want to thank everyone who helped at the SCVFA events at GOF! We had a booth to promote SCVFA in the main stage area that Susan organized and was staffed by Susan, Jennifer Kitchen, Michael Schwartz (Jennifer's husband), and SB Phillips. Jennifer and Susan led the Slow Jams with help from Michael and Robert Cornelius.

The Slow Jam was a mix of old-time and bluegrass and was a happy accident. We had a booth at Grass Valley in June, and one of the signs we put up was the Slow Jam sign. People kept asking us, "When's the Slow Jam?" Enough people asked that Susan said, "We should do one at the next festival," so we asked to do one at GOF. We meant to do an old-time slow jam. But the GOF program just said, "Slow Jam." So Jennifer joined us so we could do both old-

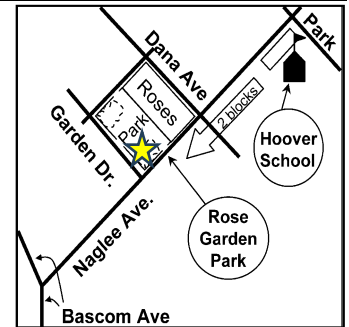
time or bluegrass depending on who showed up. GOF is primarily a bluegrass festival, so not surprisingly, a lot of bluegrass players showed up.

Jennifer and Susan wound up doing a mix of bluegrass and old-time tunes. It worked great, and I think we'll do it that way on purpose next time. We need more slow jams. The mixed format makes everyone feel welcome, and it's a great way to introduce people to the "other" style if they only play one.

I also want to thank Blane Eisenberg and Kathy Jung for stepping up to help. Blane is our new webmaster taking lead on the website and email updates, and Kathy is our new photo editor handling the photo page in the newsletter. Thank you both!!

People have been helping with the jam setup and teardown which is hugely appreciated. Thank you all and please keep on doing it! We're going to need the help, because Susan will be traveling for the next few jams, and I'll be out of town visiting my daughter the day of our December jam (which I'm bummed to realize is our holiday potluck).

Thank you all, and I hope to see you at a jam soon!



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 8th – Villa Siena, Mountain View, 2:30 – 3:30 pm
Sep 12th – Cars in the Park, History Park, 2:15 – 4 pm
Sep 13th – Los Gatos 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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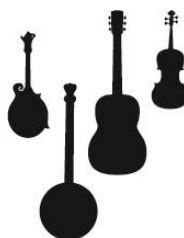
Donations to SCVFA are greatly appreciated and will assist in keeping traditional music alive by passing it on to the next generation.

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

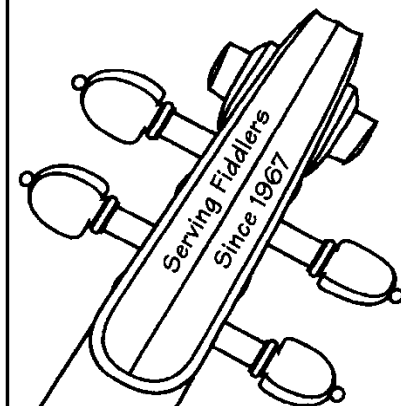
Donate as you are able
and traditional music will reap the benefits.

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: September 6th 1 to 5 pm at the [San Jose Municipal Rose Garden](#). 1649 Naglee Ave. at Garden Dr. in San Jose. Suggested donation: \$5.00 – more or less as you are able. [Click here to donate online](#).

Old-Time Jam: 1 – 5 pm

Bluegrass & Open Jams: 1(ish) – 5 pm

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

Basic Bluegrass Jam: 1:30 – 3 pm led by Jennifer Kitchen. Songbook and more info are [on the SCVFA website](#).

“AFTERS” Join us at [Chipotle Mexican Grill, 975 The Alameda, San Jose](#)

3rd Sunday Jam: September 20th, 1-3 pm [Washington Park](#), Sunnyvale, near the corner of West Washington and South Pastoria avenues.

[\(Mostly\) Old-Time Jam](#), Mondays, 7 - 9 pm.

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

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

[Berkeley Old-Time Music Convention](#), Sept 16 - 20. Alice Gerrard w/ Reed Stutz & Suzy Thompson, Justin Robinson (original Carolina Chocolate Drop) w/ Aaron Cooper, Forty Drop Few, Joseph Decosimo & Stephanie Coleman, Brandon Godman, & more.

[CBA Fall Campout](#), October 5 - 11. [Grape Festival Grounds](#), Lodi.

[Santa Barbara Old-Time Fiddlers Festival](#), October 3. [Goleta Valley Historical Society](#). Paul Brown, Rafe Stefanini, Hog-eyed Man, Spencer & Rains, Black Banjo Reclamation Project. Contests, concerts, workshops, and jams. Camping at [Cochuma Lake](#). Contact festival for details.



Nighttime Jamming at the Golden Old-Time Campout (by Susan Goodis)



Susan Goodis, Trina Clickner, Patti Bossert (l-r)
(by Susan Goodis)

September Pictures

By Susan Goodis



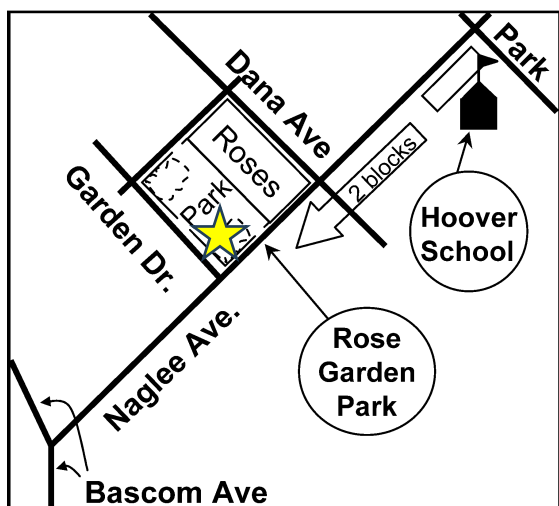


SCVFA
P.O. Box 390235
Mountain View, CA 94039-0235

Next Jam:
Sunday September 6th
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@fiddlers.org)



Scenes from the Golden Old-Time Campout at Camp Russian River (by Susan Goodis)