



Fiddler's Rag



Vol. 54, Number 10
Celebrating 53 years

Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association
www.fiddlers.org

October 2026
Next Jam October 4th



President's Note

By Ray Chen

Hello SCVFA!!

The October jam is coming up and we'll be back at Hoover Middle School! The past few years, we've had the jam in the Rose Garden because Hoover wasn't available to be rented. This year, for whatever reason, it was available, so we grabbed it.

We can't enter the grounds until 1 pm, so the jam will start at 1:15 pm and finish at the usual 5 pm. There may also be some road closures still in effect (*see page 5 for details*). I hope to see you there!

In other jam-related news, SCVFA members have volunteered to lead the bluegrass jam, and the Board has decided to let them do that. We want to thank Robert Cornelius for leading the bluegrass jam for the past few years! Thank you, Robert!!!

A Question About the Holiday Potluck

With the holiday season coming up (I can't believe I'm typing those words – where did the summer go?), we need to start thinking about the Holiday Potluck. The SCVFA Holiday Potluck is an annual tradition that goes back a long time. I think it's measured in decades, not years.

We're planning the Potluck again, but this year, we're thinking of holding it in January (Jan. 3rd). That puts it on a holiday weekend which isn't great, but December is challenging. Susan, Jennifer, and I are the ones mostly likely to organize the potluck, but Susan and I won't be available, because we'll both be on the East Coast visiting family.

If you feel strongly about wanting the potluck in December and can step up to help organize it, please talk to me, Jennifer, or another Board member at the next jam about it. Or if you'd rather it be in January this year, tell us that, too!

What does the potluck involve? The big items are:

- Turkey
- Ham

Possible Traffic & Road Closures near Hoover!! See page 5 for details!!

- Sheet cake
- Drinks
- Plates, utensils, tablecloths, cups, cleanup supplies

And we ask that members contribute a side dish or dessert in lieu of a donation, if they can, as well as help set up and clean up if possible.

SCVFA will pay for every bullet item on the list, but someone has to bring it, and in the case of the turkey and ham, prepare it at home and bring it. And someone has to inventory how many forks, knives, plates, cups, etc., we have left over from last year's potluck to figure out how much we should buy this year. And then buy it and bring it.

So the choice of when to hold the potluck and what kind of potluck it will be is up to the members and volunteers. Who can do what and when? Board members have typically stepped up to handle the non-edible items, drinks, and sheet cake, but we've relied on members to handle the turkey and ham. But Susan and I can only help in January, and Cliff can't help in either month.

The current thinking is to hold the potluck on January 3rd, so please let us know if you think that's a good or bad idea!

(continued on page 5)

Future Playouts / Performances

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

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

Dec 4th or 5th – Santa Clara Historic Home Tour

Dec 12th – Morgan Hill Farmers Market, 9 – 1 pm

More December dates coming!!!

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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

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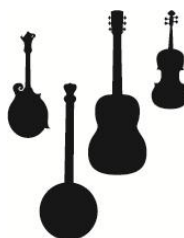
Donations to SCVFA are greatly appreciated and will assist in keeping traditional music alive by passing it on to the next generation.

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

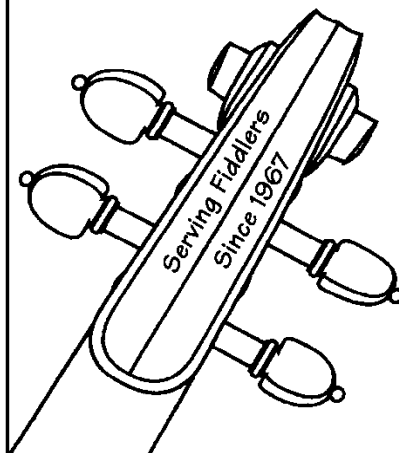
Donate as you are able
and traditional music will reap the benefits.

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: October 4th 1:15 to 5 pm at Hoover Middle School. Suggested donation: \$5.00 – more or less as you are able. [Click here to donate online.](#)

Old-Time Jam: 1:15(ish) – 5 pm

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

Basic Bluegrass Jam: 1:30 – 3:00 pm led by Jennifer Kitchen. Songbook and more info are [on the SCVFA website](#).

Bluegrass Jam: 1:15(ish) – 5:00 pm

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

3rd Sunday Jam: October 18th, 1-3 pm
[Shoup Park](#), 400 University Ave., Los Altos

[House Concert & Workshops, Oct 28.](#) Joe Newberry and April Verch. 5 pm fingerstyle guitar & fiddle workshops. 6:15 pm potluck for workshop attendees. 7:30 pm concert. Mountain View.

[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 the festival for details.

[Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival, Oct 2-4,](#) [Golden Gate Park](#), San Francisco, **FREE!!**
High-powered lineup includes Alison Brown, Emmylou Harris, Los Lobos, Molly Tuttle, Laurie Lewis, and more!

September Board Meeting Highlights:

By Jessica Ollmann, Secretary

The board discussed potential SCVFA sponsorship of the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival.

SCVFA will pay for a Zoom Pro account to be used for meetings.

Plans are being made to again host a jamming room at Great 48.

SCVFA is going to offer a small number of music learning scholarships to members.

Players who participate in SCVFA playouts are now eligible to collect \$5 reimbursement if they choose to.

Our annual potluck will be in January instead of December, with volunteer help needed.

For at least the next few first Sunday jams, SCVFA will not be paying a leader for the bluegrass jam. Anyone who wants to hone their Bluegrass skills can attend Jennifer Kitchen's Basic Bluegrass workshop.



SCVFA Cars in the Park Playout – (l-r) Vicki Parrish, Kathy Jung, Michael Robinson, Nick LeCuyer, Patti Bossert, Barb Corsiglia, Vic Corsiglia, Ed Archer

September Pictures

By Ray Chen



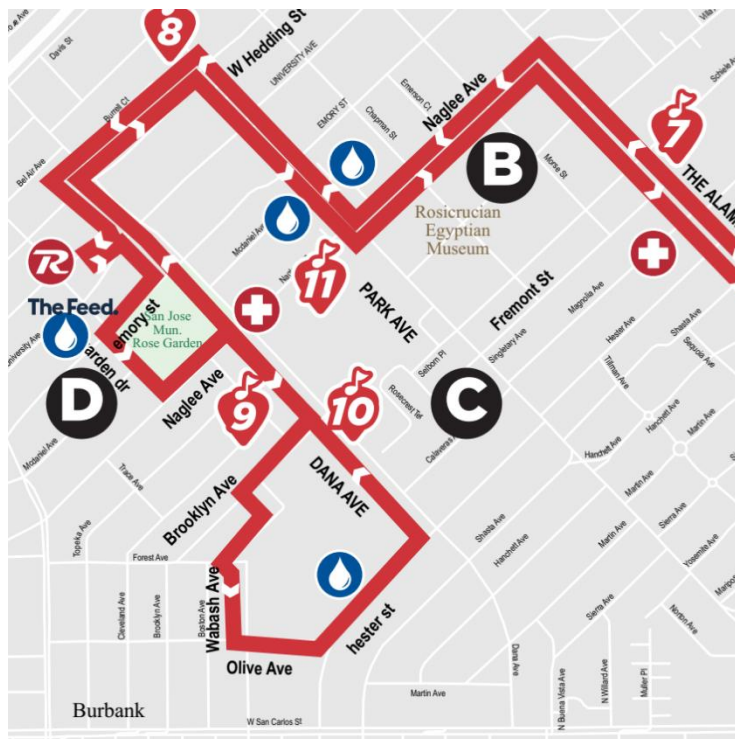
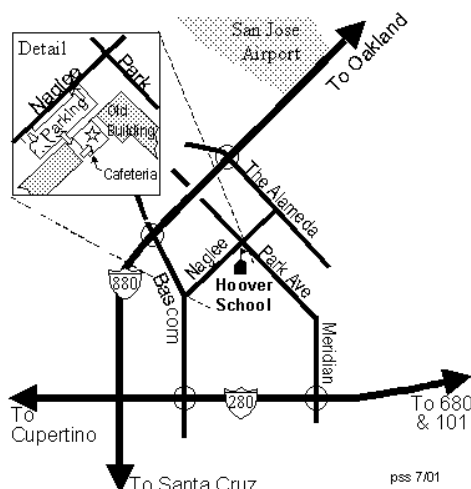


SCVFA
P.O. Box 390235
Mountain View, CA 94039-0235

Next Jam: Sunday Oct 4th, 1:15 - 5 pm at Hoover Middle School

See the map on the left and other info on pages 1 and 3
for more details

The SCVFA Jam usually on the first Sunday of each month.
Location: Hoover Middle School, 1474 Naglee Ave.,
San Jose. The school is at the corner of Naglee and Park.
Cafeteria parking is on the Naglee side.



(continued from page 1)

There will be a half marathon race on Sunday. The course is in red on the map above ([in this brochure](#)), and West San Carlos is the street running left to right along the bottom. The roads that are part of the course will be closed until the last runner has gone past that part of the course. I suggest first trying to get to the usual parking lot on Naglee by approaching Hoover from the south (via Naglee or Park). If that doesn't work, I suggest you try to go around the course: approach Hoover from the southeast and try parking in the Hoover Park Avenue lot. There looks to be a music stage nearby, too. The stage at the finish line is supposed to be done by 1:30, so hopefully stage 11 will be done sooner, but we'll see.

Traditional Music Scholarships!!

A major goal of the SCVFA is to support traditional music in the community. To further that goal, the Board is excited to announce that we will be awarding scholarships for traditional music instruction. We will award up to four scholarships of up to \$500. These are "match" scholarships. SCVFA will match tuition costs on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to a \$500 limit. The match can be applied to music camp tuition for one or more camps, the cost of private lessons, or a combination of the two over a one year period until the \$500 match is exhausted.

To apply, please tell us in no more than ONE page why you want the scholarship, what you plan on doing with it, and how you plan on giving back to the organization and/or the community. Send your writeup to *president [at] fiddlers.org*, or if you're old school and want to use paper, give your writeup to a Board member at one of the jams. Entries must be received by January 4, 2027. Scholarship winners must be members in good standing, and Board members and their families are not eligible.

Scholarship award winners will be announced at our Annual Members Meeting in February.

That's all for now!! Happy playing and hope to see you at a jam, sometime soon!!