



THE SUNNPOST

*The Official Publication
of the*

Jan / Feb 2015 *California State Old-Time Fiddlers' Association*
Coming Events




1966-2015

**California State
Old Time Fiddlers Association
2015
49TH ANNUAL
CALIFORNIA STATE
OLD TIME OPEN FIDDLE
& PICKING CHAMPIONSHIPS
March 20-21, 2015
Municipal Auditorium
1200 Myers St.
Oroville, CA**

March 19- Feather River Gospel & Hoedown
Chairperson Jimi Beeler - Phone: (530) 282-3205

More Info Call
Contest Co-Chair Brett Johnson
530-533-9336
email -brett@housersmusic.com
Jimi Beeler
email -j.b.fiddlemusic@aol.com

RV Parking on Levee

Visit our website www.csotfa.org for full listings of schedules,
divisions, rules & guidelines

California State Old Time Fiddlers Association
Dedicated to the preservation & perpetuation of old time fiddle music

INFORMATION

Please download
the schedule
and registration
information from
www.csotfa.org

**CALIFORNIA STATE OLD TIME FIDDLERS District 3
FOURTH ANNUAL
"AMATEUR" OLD TIME FIDDLE CONTEST
Saturday, March 14, 2015 - Tehachapi, CA
More info at 661-823-8249 or www.tehachapifiddlers.org**

Sonoma County Bluegrass & Folk Festival
Sebastopol Community Cultural Center
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Sunday, March 14th starting at 1:00 PM and ending
at 8:00 PM PDT. www.socofoso.com.

**Julian Family Fiddle Camp
April 8 - 12 2015
www.familyfiddlecamp.com**

Cloverdale Fiddle Contest
April 11, 2015
<http://www.cloverdalefiddles.com/>

District 1 Report

District 1 Soundpost News
Feb 19, 2015

District 1 is moving full speed ahead with preparations for the State fiddle and picking championships. The Municipal Auditorium will have a new look; banners will fly from the ceiling, and there will be more tables where people can comfortably enjoy a snack or meal while listening to the performances.

Bring your appetites, as the food booth will provide lots of goodies to nosh on throughout the day, including freshly made PIES, which are contributed by District 1 members. If you have a favorite pie recipe, we would love your contribution. We can take any type except cream pies.

A special shout-out goes to the many members of District 1 who sent in their contributions of 10, 15, or 25 dollars and more, to support the contest. It is members like you who help make this event possible. Thank you!

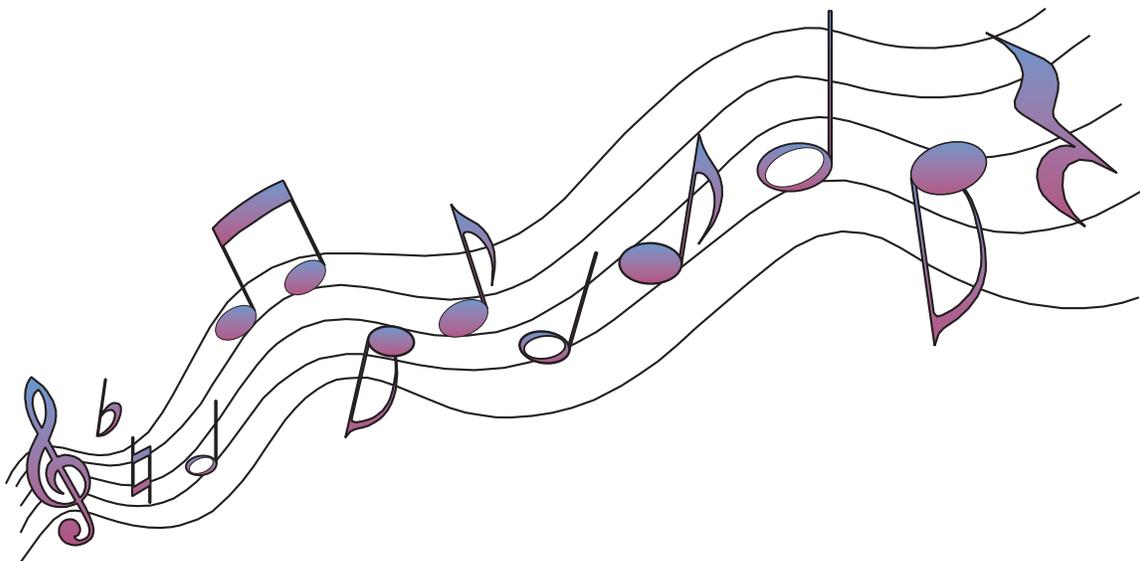
There are two opportunities for musicians to be involved with the contest, whether or not you compete.

1. Jimi Beeler is arranging for fiddlers and pickers to visit schools and businesses the week prior to the contest starting Wednesday, March 18th. These goodwill visits help create interest in the contest, and could be the spark for some young child to beg his or her parents to take fiddle, guitar, mandolin, or banjo lessons. You don't need a group - meet up with other musicians, and the magic will happen.

2. The Feather River Gospel Jam and Hoedown, the night before the contest begins, Thursday, March 19th. Groups are invited to play Gospel or old time music on any acoustic instrument. It is a fun evening, and you have 10 minutes to strut your stuff.

To get involved in these activities, contact Jimi at (530) 282-3205.

See you at the contest!



District 2 Report

District 2 has been welcoming new members from the Mother Lode counties of Calaveras, Tuolumne and even Stanislaus counties in recent days. A movement is afoot to establish a new monthly jam site in Sonora. District 2, which meets regularly in Fresno and environs, is making it simple for the northerners to join the CSOTFA. The new location in Sonora is the Standard Community Church, and the plan is to meet on the first Sunday of every month from 1 to 5 p.m. More details are available from Dave Rainwater at (209) 743-9352.

Another event in District 2 has been the monthly Old Time and Bluegrass Jam spearheaded by member Stacey Snodgrass. It is at the Kings Cultural Center in Armona (Kings County) on the third Sunday of the month. The center is "a public, not for profit organization founded to expand artistic opportunities."

The district's official monthly jam and meeting site is still the Brooks Ranch Restaurant. That happens on the second Sunday of the month starting at 2 o'clock for the jam and at 1 o'clock when there is a board or general business meeting called.

Marie Wheat, a long time member of District 2, passed away in late February. She was the wife of Clyde Wheat, a veteran dance and contest fiddler well-known to many. Marie was 90, and she passed away after a long illness.

District 3 Report

FIFTH ANNUAL "AMATEUR" OLD TIME FIDDLE CONTEST

**When: Saturday, March 14, 2015—registration opens at 8:00 a.m.
contest starts at 9:00 sharp**

**Where: Carden School Cafeteria
20419 Brian Way, Tehachapi**

More info at 661-823-8249

or

www.tehachapifiddlers.org

District 4 Report

We had a fun group at our February jam. It is great to see new faces!

[that's all I have....we are a small, low-key group.

Patricia Nelson – District Director



District 5 Report



Every few years, Dave Rainwater makes the 2-hour trip from Tuolumne County to our District 5 jam in Orangevale near Sacramento. One of those happy occasions occurred at our January jam. If you haven't known or heard Dave you've missed out. He is a consummate fiddler and all around good guy.

Among his credits:

- Placing first at the granddaddy of fiddle contests at Galax VA where hundreds of contestants line up into the wee hours just to play one song.

- Being the first fiddler in the old-time string band, Piney Creek Weasels, formed in the 1980s by clawhammer banjo picker Rick Abrams (sidelight - in our prior lives Rick and I were writers on the Sacramento Bee). After Dave cut his hand badly, he had to set his fiddle on the shelf for awhile. Eric Anderson, former Dist. 5 and state OTF president, replaced him and then after Rick's untimely death, Eric took over the Weasels. which sometimes fills the old timey slot at California Bluegrass Association festivals at Grass Valley.

- Being main fiddler in the New Christy Minstrels, after leader Randy Sparks brought the band west.

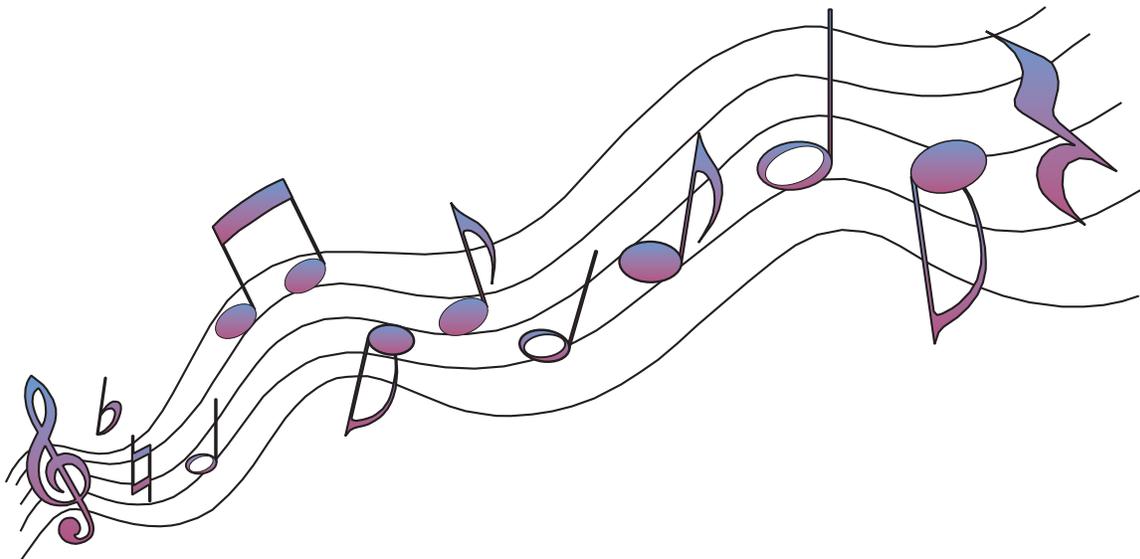
Dave is a journeyman on numerous instruments. Sometimes he hauls about a dozen instruments to schools and performs on each for the kids. He's also been part of the troupe that plays on trips of the old Sierra Railway out of "Train Town" (Jamestown near Sonora). His current unit, Sierra Mountain Band, nails lots of gigs. He does time with the Black Irish Band and has previously played in Horse Sense (founded by Fair Oaks musician Justin Bishop) and the Foothillbillies from Fiddletown in Amador County.

Of course you won't hear much of this from Dave because he's just about the most modest, aw shucks, kind of guy you've ever met.

That January day, Dave demonstrated what we don't hear too much anymore at our sessions - real old-time fiddling. He re-upped his membership and just maybe, with lower gas prices, he'll steer his way toward Orangevale more often.

Here's a little plug: If you want to book Dave for a concert or event, wake or wedding, e-mail strumbug@aol.com, call 209-743-9352, or write P. O. Box 1118, Jamestown CA 95327. To see his gig calendar and much else, just google "Dave Rainwater."

Doug Dempster, state rep.



District 6 Report

District 6 is having about as much fun as is legally possible. You might get the idea that it is a “well kept secret” but maybe it is time to share what we are doing with the rest of the State. Up here in the greater Redding area we are A.K.A. the North State Fiddlers and can be found on the internet at www.NorthStateFiddlers.com.

Every month we have three scheduled events that include a Free Concert, Open Mic, and Open Jamming. Oh yes, food and beverages normally also. We have established the fact that “Old Time Music goes better with Pizza and Pizza goes better with Old Time Music.”

The first Sunday of the month we meet at the St. James Lutheran Church in Redding, California, from 1:00 until about 4:00. The second Saturday of each month we take over Round Table Pizza in the Mt. Shasta Mall in Redding, California, from 5:30 until 7:30 (or when the place closes at 11:00 sometimes). The fourth Sunday of the month we meet at the Millville Grange in Palo Cedro, California, from 2:00 until 4:00 (or later) just a few miles east of Redding.

In addition to those three scheduled events we have several bands that are associated with the NorthState Fiddlers that do outreach to many of the assisted living facilities as well as the California Veterans Home nearby. Our bands play for many fundraisers, dinners, and stage several performances throughout the North State each month.

Recently, one of our bands from Redding, The Old Kennett String Band, did a two hour radio interview and performed a couple dozen of their favorite songs on KKRN 88.5 FM, for North State listeners. For a sample of the interview you can click on the

link (<http://kkrn.org/broadcasts/view/821>) and sit back and enjoy the recorded interview and some of their music.

Another band, from Red Bluff, The Loosely Strung, just performed on stage at the beautifully and newly renovated State Theatre. They perform often at our events and at events throughout the area.

We have some exciting things coming up in our future for our local community to attend. First, we are in the process of hosting our own fundraising event we are calling "The Summer Mountain Music and Arts Festival" - to be held on July 25th at the beautiful Cedar Crest Vineyards near Manton, California. Plans are to have a headliner band (to be announced) along with some of our local bands performing on the main stage with “tweener bands” filling in between the main performances. Along with a day filled with music there will be some local artists and crafts vendors sharing their wares, some great food, dancing, and perfect weather planned for the event. Plan ahead and come join your fiddling cousins up here in the North State for a beautiful summer day of Old Time Fiddle Music in the mountains.

The local community keeps track of us and our upcoming events by visiting us at our web site or checking us out at "NorthStateFiddlers" on Facebook. You can contact us by email or phone if you have any questions about what we are up to in what we think is the most beautiful and musically Old Timey part of California.

You can find us at: Phone: (530) 604-8706

www.NorthStateFiddlers.com

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthstateFiddlers>

Email:
RootsMusicRedding@yahoo.com



Listen to Old Kennett String Band on KKRN 88.5

District 7 Report

We've had a change of leadership in District 7 for 2015

As of Jan 1, 2015 here are our officers:

President: Tom Dillon

Vice presidents: Greg Gross and Lorelei Taylor Barrett
(we had a tie!)

Advisors: Willie Randell, Chuck Murtomaki, Bruce Barnes, Barbara Brooks

State Representative: Avery Ellisman

Secretary: Kathy Wolf

Treasurer: Sandra Rios

Membership: Lee Schweighauser

We have about 80 members and hope to grow in 2015.

CSOTFA District 7 continues to hold jams 4 times every month, on Sundays at noon. If you are in San Diego on any weekend and want to join in, please do. The details are here:

<http://sandiegofiddler.org/districtnewsandevents.htm>
!

Missouri fiddle style duo Patt and Possum (Patt Plunkett and Charlie Walden) visited San Diego in January for a visit, dance, and workshop. Several District 7 members attended the workshop and learned Bear Creek Hop, Polk County Breakdown and Walking in My Sleep. The workshop was recorded and should be up on You Tube in the few months.

Planning is in full swing for our 2015 Fiddle and Pickin' Contest in Julian, CA. We'll have a full schedule on Saturday, March 30, with fiddle divisions from Pee-Wee to Senior-Senior, Open, Twin and Novice fiddle, and Open picking. The setting is a beautiful and historic gold mining town in the mountains of East San Diego County. Camping and small hotel rooms will be available within a few steps of the contest venue in the Julian town hall. Jamming will happen throughout the day behind the town hall. For a great overview of last year's contest, check out the documentary video produced by Grant Wheeler:

<http://sandiegofiddler.org/fiddlepickincontest.html>

Check this same web page for more details about this year's contest and other fiddling events over the weekend of March 29-31. We hope to see some contestants from some of the other CSOTFA Districts!

The Julian Fiddle Camp is coming up April 8-12. Fiddle instructors this year include current National Champion Luke Price, as well as Katie Glassman. Full details here: <http://www.familyfiddlecamp.com/>

Lastly, we now have a District 7 Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/sandiegofiddlers> Please visit and like it!



Missouri fiddle master Charlie Walden jamming with District 7 members Dale Desmuke and Willie Randell



District 8 Report

1. I'm pleased to announce that we've filled all of the positions for the Board of Officers. I would especially like to thank two members who have stepped up to the plate to help.

Our new Board members are Gerry Curtis, who will be taking over Mikey Brodey's position as recording secretary and Charletta Erb who will succeed Joe Hunsinger as State Director for District.

Both Gerry and Charletta have much to offer and we are looking forward to their contribution.

2. Playing and performing with fellow musicians for our lovely audience members make for a great Sunday afternoon.

Volunteers come early to set up equipment, prepare the snack table, and tune up instruments to create a family friendly environment.

Whenever you can, bring visiting family and friends to our District 8 circle -- we'd love to meet 'em.

And members from other districts are always welcome, too.

We meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays at the Ojai Community Center. See www.calfiddlers.com.

3. We are pleased to sponsor a live performance by Adkins and Loudersmilk, two of bluegrass' premiere artists.

Monday, March 2

7:30 - 9:00

Doors open 6:30, general seating

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union

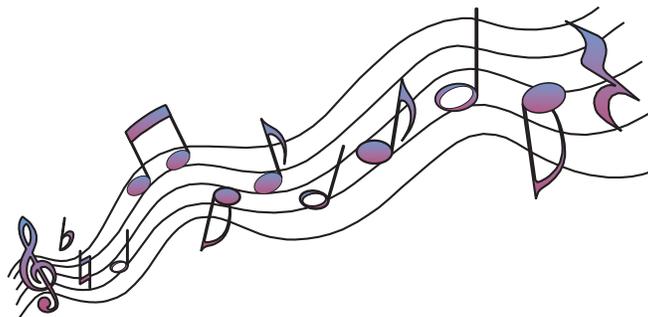
3994 East Main St., Ventura

tickets \$15.00 CSOTFA members

\$17.00 advance

\$20.00 at the door

info@calfiddlers.com





District 9 Report

District 9 continues to have raucous (for a church hall), gourmet (for a potluck), and well-attended monthly jam-sessions and we extend our invitation to any and all who can be in the San Francisco bay area to come and join us every fourth Sunday. This month, District 9 also recognizes the outstanding contributions made by our out-going Secretary, Dian Brown, and expresses thanks to her for the fine work she has done, taking down minutes and all motions

and discussion topics of District 9 meetings and keeping these minutes in good order. Thank you, Dian! And we want to give a warm welcome to our incoming Secretary, Steve Goldfield. While most of us consider him a banjo player, Steve does also play fiddle and has been playing old-time music for many years. He's known in traditional American music circles everywhere, has traveled East to the great music events such as Clifftop, and has interviewed and played with many of the greats of old-time music. Steve considers the great Tennessee old-time fiddler, Charlie Acuff, his primary fiddle mentor. In addition, Steve, er... Dr. Goldfield, reigns as District 9 Unofficial Music Folklorist, helping us understand a particular tunes' source and providing interesting background to tunes and musicians. Having studied traditional American music for years, Steve has written articles and interviews for some of the nation's top traditional music publications. In addition to his appointment on our Board, Steve currently serves on the Board of Directors of the California Bluegrass Association. In this capacity Steve has distinguished himself by initiating and managing the annual Golden Old Time Campout at Lake Sonoma the last few years. People who miss this event can count themselves shy of some great jamming, workshops on diverse aspects of our craft and art, and of having sure proof of being of the durable drylands camper-type, impervious to yellow jackets. The music and camaraderie, of

course, far outweighed the apparent inconveniences and in between camping duties and jam sessions we would hike and swim. We appreciate Steve's stepping up-to-the-plate as our new Secretary and look forward to his involvement and participation in District 9 activities.

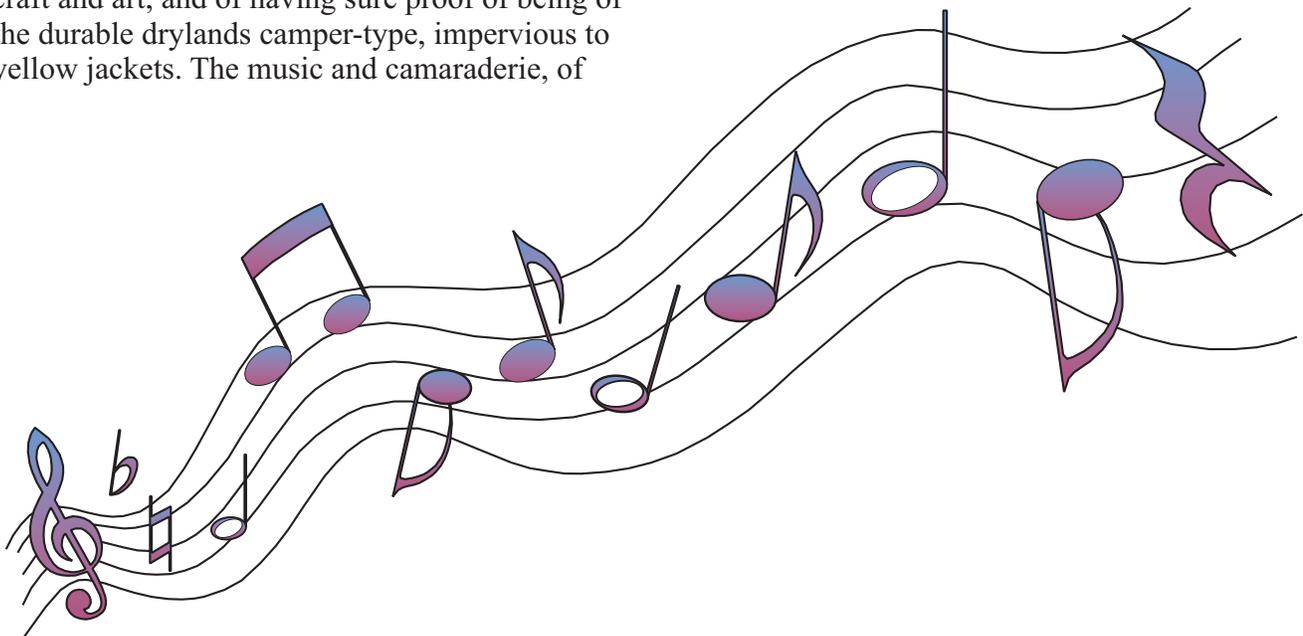
While all this is going on, we are at present in that seeming calm that is about to end with the sounds of travel preparations for the state contest. For some of us, the RV's are being taken from storage and gone through after the mild winter and it's short days, or motel arrangements are being made, the instruments strung and the same tunes replayed again and again. We won't need maps because we've made the trip to Oroville before and know the way by heart. What we cannot do is imagine how perfectly we will venture to play, nor will we peer into each judges mind and heart to know if our three tunes and our four minutes will be enough. Enough for what? But to play our tunes perfectly, of course!

See you in Oroville! Travel in safety.

Tom Clausen,

President, District 9,

California State Old Time Fiddlers Association



District 10 Report

District 10, Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties

First, we want to announce our new Board members: Tim Rued, President; Judith Jones, Vice President; Doug Laurice, Treasurer; Colleen Hogan, Secretary; and Mark Hogan, Membership. Our Advisory Council consists of Jeanette Duncan, Don Coffin, and Chris Carney.

The Cloverdale Fiddle Festival, including its contest, is headed for its 40th year this April 11th. The first year was the nation's Bicentennial year, 1976, and since then not a year has been missed. The CSOTFA had not been involved in the event until the last two years, and we feel we contribute in terms of fiddling knowledge, a volunteer base, and a small but growing financial investment. Some of District 10's leaders have been competing since that first year.

A recent big event for District 10 and friends was our float for the Citrus Fair Parade on Saturday February 14. While we didn't have the flowers of a Rose Bowl float, we did have about 12 dedicated musicians playing to help publicize the Cloverdale Fiddle Festival and the California State Old Time Fiddlers Association.

District 10 members and friends on parade

Promoting the Cloverdale Fiddle Festival, 4/11 at the Cloverdale Citrus Fairgrounds

More information about the Cloverdale Fiddle Festival is available at <http://cloverdalefiddles.com>

Here's a partial list of ongoing jam sessions in our district:

In Kelseyville, Lake County, 1st Sunday of the month at Ely Stage Stop, 9921 Soda Bay Rd., noon-2:00 p.m.

In Cobb, an old-time jam, 2nd Saturday, 4-6 p.m. at the Mountain High Coffee Shop, 16295 Hwy. 175.

In Cotati, Sonoma County, a Celtic session on the 2nd Sunday of the month, and an old-time jam on the 4th Sunday of the month, both at Redwood Cafe, both 3-5 p.m.

See our website, <http://csotfa10.org> for a complete list and more details.

Also coming up in our area is the Sonoma County Folk Society's Bluegrass and Folk Festival, March 14th. There's a significant overlap in membership and areas of interest between District 10 and the "SoCoFoSo," so we support this event with volunteers, attendance, and performance by CSOTFA members. More info on the web at <http://csotfa10.org/SCB&FF%202015%20flyer.pdf>

Come and see us in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties!

Mike Drayton, District Director, CSOTFA District



District #10 Fiddlers & Friends on Parade

District 14 Report

Charles Dean Pate

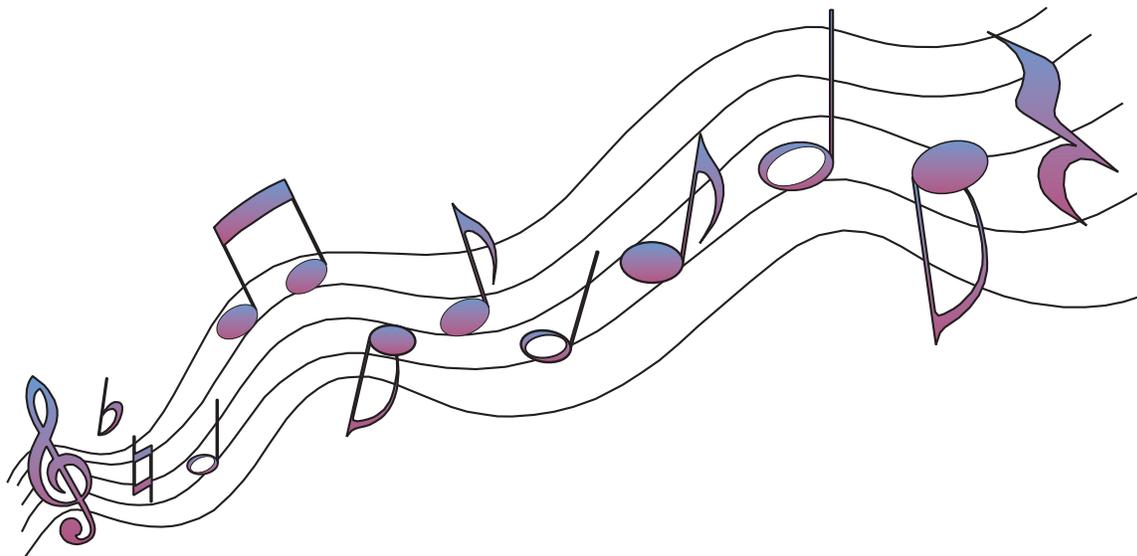
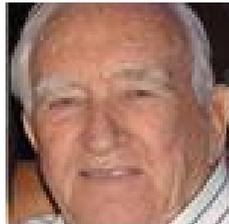
July 16, 1933 - Jan. 17, 2015

Charles was born in Elmo, Arkansas and at the age of six his family left Arkansas for California. They were very early migrant workers, engaging in many types of fruit harvesting, traveling between Westmorland, the Central Valley and Marysville. The family eventually settled in Westmorland where they built a cotton and grain harvesting business. Charles entered the U.S. Army along with several lifelong friends from Westmorland. He finished jump school, earning the title of paratrooper in the Special Forces (later dubbed the Green Berets) and was stationed in Germany between 1952 and 1955.

In 1955 he returned to Westmorland where he courted and married Dorris Elaine Hartsock on June 9, 1956. That same year Charles started his career with the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). He played a variety of instruments with our organization. He will be missed.

District 14 will be playing at the California Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta at the Imperial Fairgrounds in Imperial California on March 1 and March 8.

We are waiting for the committee to allocate our time slot



California State Old - Time Fiddlers' Association

State Officers

President: Sharon Barrett -- texshar@pacbell.net
V. Pres. : Bill Whitfield – anita.marley49@gmail.com
Secretary: Josie Rosica – rosica.justjosie@gmail.com
Treasurer: Robert Curtis – rocurtis@gatewayacceptance.com
Membership: Charley Oveland – croveland@sbcglobal.net
Editor: Bruce Goble – brucegoble@hotmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1: Mary McCluskey -- carpevita93401@yahoo.com
District 2: Patrick DeLuca – oldfiddling@gmail.com
District 3: Gayel Pitchford -- captgayel@cybersurfers.net
District 4: Pat Nelson -- rpnelson@pacbell.net
District 5: Doug Dempster — hwy95@hotmail.com
District 6: Tex Ash -- texshar@pacbell.net
District 7: Avery Ellisman –
District 8: Charletta Erb – charlettaerb@gmail.com
District 9: Ruth Oveland -- roveland@sbcglobal.net
District 10: Mike Drayton – mdrayton@sonic.net
District 14: Gail Philipp – georgephilipp@juno.com

DISTRICT MEETING LOCATIONS, DATES, AND TIMES:

District 1: Feather River Senior Center 1335 Meyer St. Oroville 4th Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.
District 2: Brooks Ranch Restaurant, Hwy 99 & Chestnut : Fresno call for dates/times 2nd Sunday 1pm.
District 3: 21100 Lonely Lane, Tehachapi Ca 2nd Saturday 2:00-5:00 p.m.
District 4: Orange Thorpe Pk. Activity Bldg., 1414 Brookhurst Fullerton Ca 1st Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m.
District 5: Orangevale Grange, 5807 Walnut Ave. Orangevale Ca 2nd Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.
District 6: St. James Lutheran Church 2500 Shasta View Dr. Redding CA 1nd Sunday 1:00—4:30p Round Table Pizza, Shasta Mall, 900 Dana Dr., Redding, CA 2nd Saturday 5:50p—7:30p
Millville Grange Hall, 2023 Old Forty-four Dr., Palo Cedro, Ca 4th Sunday 1:00p—3:00p
Web site: www.csotfa.org
District 7: Rancho San Diego Public Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego, El Cajon 1st, 3rd, & 4th Sunday 12:00-3:00 p.m. Terrace Est. Club Room, 1815 Sweetwater Rd. Spring Valley Ca 2nd Sunday 12:00-3:00 p.m.
District 8: Oak View Community Center, 18 Valley Rd. Oak View Ca 2nd & 4th Sunday 1:30-4:00 p.m.
District 9: United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria St., Castro Valley Ca 4th Sunday 1:30-5:00 p.m.
District 10: Redwood Café, Cotati 4th Sun.+ traveling jam: call Mark Hogan 707-829-8012 or Katy Bridges 415-331-9661
District 14: Methodist Church Pre School, 8th & Olive, El Centro. Sept 15 to May 30. 1st & 3rd Sunday 1:00-3:00 p.m.

CSOTFA Districts



Revised 8-21-12
By Willie Randle
(Kimberly Lannan)

District Websites

State – <http://csotfa.org/>
District 1: www.orovertimefiddlers.com
District 2:
District 3: www.tehachapifiddlers.org
District 4:
District 5: www.csotfa5.com
District 6: www.northstatefiddlers.com
District 7: www.sandiegofiddler.org
District 8:
District 9: www.csotfa9.org
District 10: www.csotfa10.org
District 14:

