



# THE SUNDBOST

*The Official Publication  
of the*

**Mar - April 2016** *California State Old-Time Fiddlers' Association*

## **Coming Events**

**March 12**

**6th annual Amateur Fiddle Contest**  
Tehachapi, at Carden School

**March 12**

Sonoma County Bluegrass & Folk Festival  
Sebastopol Community Cultural Center  
390 Morris St. in Sebastopol.  
Info at [www.cbaweb.org](http://www.cbaweb.org)

**March 18-19**

**CSOTFA State Fiddle Contest**  
Oroville, CA

Info: Mary McCluskey -- [carpevita93401@yahoo.com](mailto:carpevita93401@yahoo.com)

Go to

[www.csotfa.org](http://www.csotfa.org)

for entry forms and other information

**April 2, 2016 CANCELLED**

Cloverdale FiddleFestival Cloverdale, CA

**May 14, 2016**

Nevada Fiddle Contest, at the Opera House  
Eureka, NV

**May 15, 2016**

**Topanga Banjo Fiddle Contest**  
Paramount Ranch near Agoura Hills, CA

**June 4 & 5, 2016**

**Julian Fiddle and Picking Contest**  
Julian Town Hall, Julian, CA

**August 3, 2016 (Not Happening)**

**Redwood Empire Fiddle Contest**  
Ukiah, CA

**September , 2016**

**Weaverville Open Fiddle and Piano Contest**  
Weaverville, CA

**September 17-18, 2016**

**Fiddlin' Down the Tracks**  
Tahachapi, CA

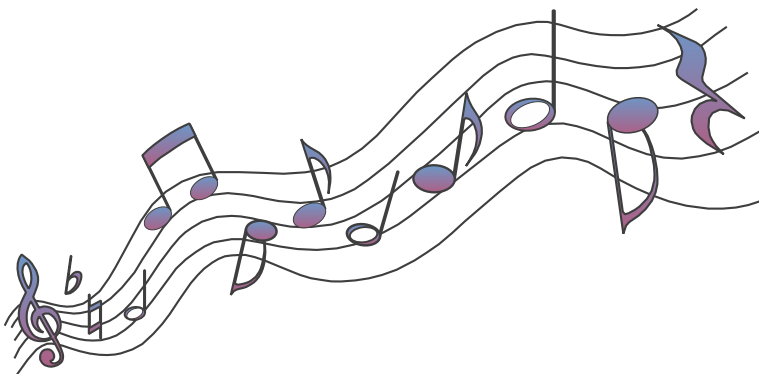
**October 21-22, 2016**

**Western Open Fiddle Championships**  
Red Bluff, CA

**November 12, 2016**

**Grassy Green Picking and Fiddling Contest**  
Death Valley, CA

For more information call Bill Whitfield at 209.402.3881



# Death Valley '49ers 66th Annual Encampment Fiddle Contest Results, November 14, 2015

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## Junior (0-17) 2

1. Shira Ellisman, 15, Encinitas, CA
2. Bryon Brushett, 16, Redding, CA

## Adult (18-49) 1

1. Paige Collins, 24, Leone Valley, CA

## Senior (50-69) 5

1. Robert Erlich, 62, South Lake Tahoe, CA
2. Nikki Carlisle, 64, Shingletown, CA
3. Randy Warner, 64, Washoe Valley, NV

## Senior-Senior (70+) 4

1. Barbara Brooks, 76, Poway, CA
2. JD Jones, 78, Henderson, NV
3. Charley Oveland, 77, Saratoga, CA

## Open (any age) 2

1. Grant Wheeler, 47, Los Angeles, CA
2. Alex Sharps, 22, San Diego, CA
3. Hughie Smith, 82, Bakersfield, CA

## Hot Fiddle (any age) 2

1. Grant Wheeler, 47, Los Angeles, CA
2. Nikki Carlisle, 64, Shingletown, CA

## Twin Fiddle (any age) 5

1. Shira Ellisman/Alex Sharps
2. Nikki Carlisle/Kathy Kampschmidt
3. Randy Warner/Hughie Smith

## Mandolin – 4

1. Nina Weisman, 52, Independence, CA
2. Bryon Brushett, 16, Redding, CA
3. Lee Brushett, 82, Shasta, CA

## Banjo – 4

1. Alex Sharps, 22, San Diego, CA
2. Kerrie Aley, 57, Long Beach, CA
3. Hank Boss, 88, Newport Beach, CA

## Guitar – 2

1. Nikki Carlisle, 67, Shingletown, CA
2. John Drake, 66, Fountain Valley, CA

## Novelty – 6

1. Bill Thornhill, 72, Las Vegas, NV (Dobro)
2. Robert Erlich, 62, South Lake Tahoe, CA (Melodeon)
3. Hank Boss, 88, Newport Beach, CA (Bones)

## Grand Champion Prize Guitar Winner:

Nina Weisman, 52, Independence, CA

## Accompanist – 13

1. Al Myers, 70, Redding, CA – 28x
2. Jim French, 64, Weaverville, CA – 26x
3. Dale Kirk, 78, Red Bluff, CA – 9x

Youngest Fiddler: Shira Ellisman, Encinitas, CA

Oldest Fiddler: Hank Boss, 88, Newport Beach, CA

## Judges

Avery Ellisman, Kathy Kampschmidt, Al Myers, Nikki Carlisle, Bill Whitfield, Anita Marley, Hughie Smith (judges free to participate in own division with substitute judge for that round)

38 Contestants, 13 Accompanists = 51 Participants



# District 1 Report

Following a quiet period after the holidays, District 1 has been busy preparing for the State fiddle contest in March. The contest will be in a new location this year, the Veterans Memorial Hall, 2374 Montgomery Street, in Oroville. For those unfamiliar with Oroville, the Veteran's Memorial Hall is just up the hill from The Municipal Auditorium. RVs and campers will park in the same location on the levee as they have during past contests.

The Feather River Gospel Jam and Hoedown will be held Thursday evening March 17, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the Feather River Senior Center, 1335 Myers, in Oroville. That's just up the street that runs directly into the Municipal Auditorium. If you want to participate, call Jimi Beeeler at (530) 282-3205 to get signed up. Be sure to come with an appetite, because we will be serving a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner to honor St. Patrick's day! Cost for the dinner is \$10.00.

We are always looking for volunteers to play at various venues throughout town in the week leading up to the contest. Many times we have a "pick up" band that performs, and it is always fun and entertaining for both the players and the audience. If you are in town, be sure to contact Jimi (530) 282- 3205 to join in the fun. See you all at the contest!



## District 3 Report

The 6th annual Amateur Fiddle Contest (ages 18 and under) will take place on Saturday, March 12, 2016, at Carden School on Brian Way in Tehachapi. Registration starts at 0800 and playing starts at 0900. Judges are Jo Stone, Molly Sponsler, and Joe Hunsinger. It's a small venue and we have lots of fun: PeeWees, Junior-Juniors, Juniors, Cello-Bass Fiddlers, Twin Fiddles, Picking, Band Scramble, Novelty, and Grand Championship playoff, plus a raffle. It is a great way to try out your tunes, before the State contest the following Saturday. Fiddlers, pickers, listeners, and toe tappers are all welcome.

Two of our fiddlers, 11-year old BJ Zheng and 14-year old Joe Wallek played in the Antelope Valley Symphony's recent competitions: Zheng in the Bach competition, where he played the A minor Concerto and Wallek in the Concerto competition, where he played Viotti's Concerto No. 22. They both received good marks and laudatory comments from the judges.

Fiddler Mallori Spears, who also plays mandolin in the Picking Division at the fiddle contests, will be performing as mandolin soloist with the Tehachapi Strings Orchestra at its concert on February 26. She will be playing Movement 3 of Vivaldi's Concerto in C major. Working on those fast runs has definitely improved her picking of fiddle tunes!!

Howdy Forrester sightings: Springfed Records in Tennessee has just released—in January—a CD of Howdy Forrester playing many of the old Hickman County tunes his Great Uncle Bob taught him. John Hartford had recorded Howdy playing these tunes the year before Howdy passed away, and when Hartford passed away, the tapes went to his children. Thanks to the efforts of Bob Forrester and the Cannon County Arts Council, the children agreed to let Springfed release the tunes on CD. The CD is called Home Made Sugar and a Puncheon Floor. There is a little booklet with the CD, containing the notation of 20 of the tunes, so those of you who can read music can easily learn to play this stuff. It is real old-timey and lots of fun to listen to.

Bless you, John Hartford, for having the foresight to get these tunes recorded and notated before Howdy's demise. Otherwise, most of these tunes would never have been played again!

That's about it for this neck of the woods. See you at all State in March!

Gayel Pitchford

State Director, District 3

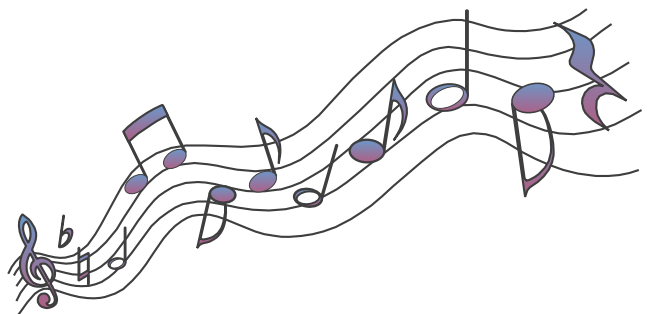
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## District 4 Report

"District 4 continues to meet on the first Sunday from 1-4. In February, we welcomed back Joyce Hart, who was a member years ago and has moved back into the area. She is a great fiddler and will add much to our jams. Looking forward, we are planning a BBQ at either our June or July meeting."

Contact me for further information if you plan to be in our area.

Pat Nelson – District Director      [rpnelson@pacbell.net](mailto:rpnelson@pacbell.net)





## District 5 Report

It's that time again. The state fiddle contest comes up March 18-19 in the historic gold town of Oroville - which, come to think of it, is redundant since oro in Spanish means gold.

A big change this year - the contest has moved out of the poorly maintained Municipal Auditorium into the Veterans Memorial Building a couple of blocks east at 2374 Montgomery St. (Conveniently, Montgomery exits directly off Hwy. 70 freeway in Oroville - drive a mile up Montgomery and you're there). The Vets Bldg. is on two floors connected by stairs and an elevator. A big plus: The contest will be downstairs; the kitchen and eating, concessions, registration and jamming are upstairs. That should diminish a distraction of the barn-like auditorium - noise that bothered contestants and listeners.

The pre-contest kickoff is Thursday evening March 17 with a gospel jam, coupled with a corn beef and cabbage dinner to mark St. Patrick's Day. That event will be at Feather River Senior Center, 1335 Myers St., a block from the auditorium. It's the only event away from Vets Hall. Friday activities begin with the annual all-members meeting at 1:30 p.m. That's the time to ask questions or air concerns you have about our fiddling club. The contest itself begins at 3:30 p.m. Friday with senior seniors (70 and above) and seniors (60-70), followed by an Anything Goes - the name says it all - competition at 6:30 p.m.

All other divisions - classifications by age, twin

fiddling, instrument picking etc. - take place in an 8 a.m. to about 9:30 p.m. Saturday marathon. Admission to the contest is free.

If the weather is good as it has been the last few years, you can jam or listen on the Feather River levee next door to the contest site. Spring is beautiful along the levee - trees bursting into color, the sun-sparkled river offering steady musical accompaniment. A popular bike and walking trail runs alongside.

There's lots to do in and around Oroville. For example, Lake Oroville. This "sort of" El Nino winter gives hope the reservoir may fill. If so, drive up Oroville Dam Blvd. a few miles above downtown and watch water boil down the spillway. My personal favorite off-time activity is a stroll through Bolt Tool Museum, 1650 Broderick St., two blocks west of the auditorium. It features something like 10,000 implements of all descriptions. It isn't named for a popular fastener but reflects the name of the family that established the place. If you feel lucky, a couple of Indian casinos beckon near town.

Motels abound. CSOTFA's convention motel, so to speak, is Days Inn, 1745 Feather River Blvd. (530-533-3297). It is providing some free nights for fiddle judges. RV parking on the levee (no hookups) is \$15 all week (not per night).

See you there!

Doug Dempster, Dist. 5 rep.



# District 6 Report

Up here in the North State, District 6 has continued with their busy schedule through the first couple of months of the New Year. In addition to our usual first Sunday of the month event at the St. James Lutheran Church and the fourth Sunday of each month at the Millville Grange in Palo Cedro, where we feature a free concert by a local band and Open Mic for local musicians to share their talents, our members have continued to provide music and entertainment for many clubs, organizations, and assisted living facilities throughout the area.

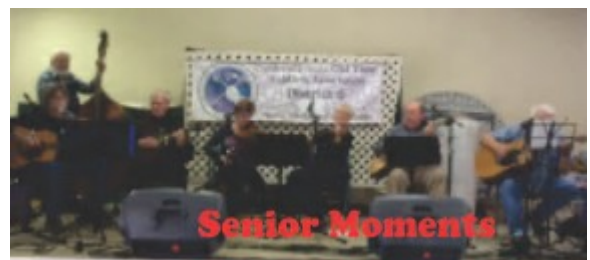
One of the highlights of February was seeing the Old Kennett String Band, made up of our President, Timothy Garrison, Publicity Chair, George Fredson, Advisor, Carolyn Faubel and CSOTFA member Amy Vogt, open a concert for the Bluegrass band, Nu-Blu, from North Carolina, that were on their "Left Coast Tour" stopping in Redding on their return trip after performing in Portland, Oregon. It is great to see many members making public performances and representing District 6 throughout the area.

Our members have been planning for and looking forward to attending the California State Old Time Fiddlers Association State Fiddle Contest to be held in Oroville on March 18th and 19th.

Also, we have organized a committee to begin planning for our Summer Mountain Music Festival to be held on Saturday, July 23rd, at the beautiful Cedar Crest Vineyards in Manton California. Last year the festival was a success far beyond our expectations, with over four hundred in attendance and some of the best music you could ever imagine. This summer's festival is shaping up to be even better so stay tuned as we share our plans with you. For now, mark July 23, 2016 on your calendar for plans to attend.

You can keep an eye on our activities for District 6 by checking in with us and "friend us" on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NorthstateFiddlers> or visit us on our website at <http://www.northstatefiddlers.com>.

We hope to see many of you in Oroville on March 18th and 19th!



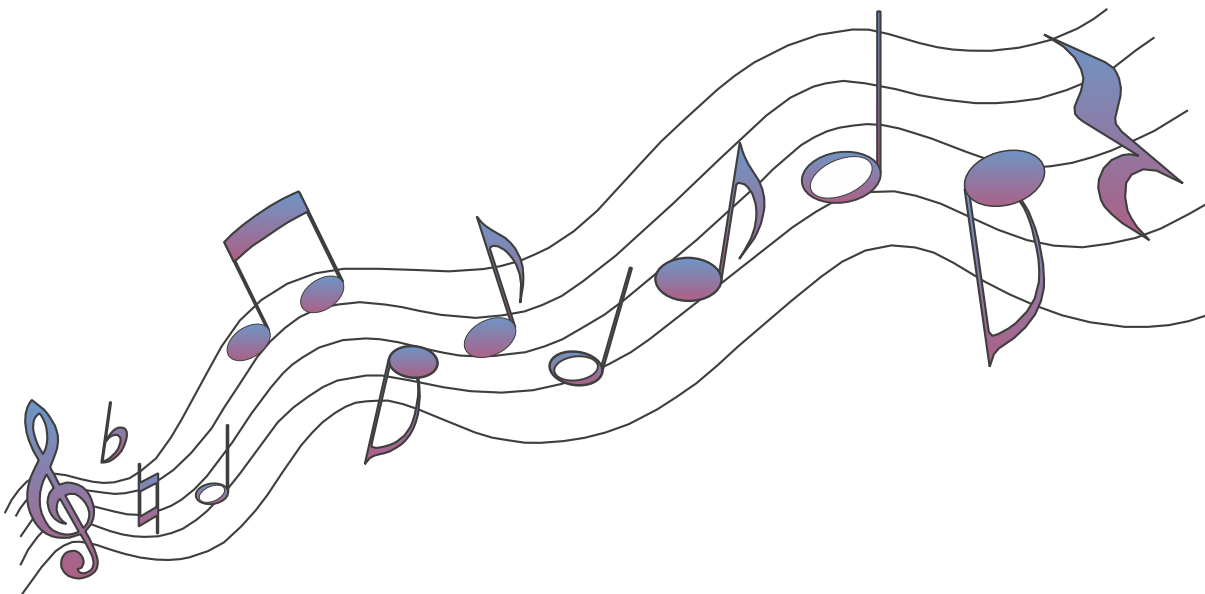
# District 7 Report

## FORMALDEHYDE

Okay, so formaldehyde might be good for preserving things (well that and museums), but when it comes to “preserving music,” D7’s having none of that. Okay, we’ll acknowledge we’re a group of ever-aging folks who love to play old-time fiddle tunes, but rather than isolate ourselves, we’re developing new young leaders and creating opportunities for sharing and presenting the infectiousness of fiddling (Welcome to the D7 Board, Shira Ellisman & Nat Copeland, and a fine howdy to Alex Sharps who moved to Julian from the Bay Area!).

We continue to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month in south San Diego, and we’re about to secure a venue for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday meet in N. San Diego County. And while these are our reliable monthly happenings (with any/all invited to join the shenanigans), we’ve just completed our third year of a program where we brought (and taught) fiddling to elementary kids at the San Diego Unified School District, and will be on stage in early March for the North County Bluegrass and Folk Club’s monthly showcase. Beyond this, we’ve doubled-down on the promotion of – and investment in – this June’s Julian Fiddle & Pickin’ Contest – an event y’all have to attend and enjoy.

As noted in the ad for the contest this June, our judges are none less than Mabel Vogt, Luke Price and Matthew Hartz. Like most traditional fiddle contests, the judges will be sequestered, but when not judging, these folks will be visible and involved in all that’s happening. Specifically, Matthew and Luke will be leading a pre-contest “Weiser Warm-up” workshop on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> (limited space amigos, so register early for this fiddle and backup guitar workshop via our D7 website – [www.SanDiegoFiddler.Org](http://www.SanDiegoFiddler.Org)), with all three world-class fiddling judges putting on a special concert on Saturday night after the first full day of competition. We’ve some great jamming venues on Julian’s Main Street already geared-up for hosting Saturday night jams, so mark your calendars and come visit us down in D7!



## District 8 Report



The 2016 Board members (standing) from left are Sam Martin, Charletta Erb, Sid Brown, Marlene Nord, Sus Corez, Elaine Ferguson, and Joe Johnson were sworn in from past President Bob Bueling. Seated are Dianna Brown and Merle Peterson.

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## District 9 Report

Our membership continues to slowly grow and when asked, several people say they have found us via our Facebook page and/or our website.

The officers for District 9 for 2016 are:

President - Tom Clausen

Vice President – Al Teixeira

Secretary – Steve Goldfield

Membership – Carl Brown

Treasurers – Jean Kalvig and Pearl Ray

District Director – Ruth Oveland

Advisors – John Durbin, Ailene McAdoo, Billy Smith

Our District had a new responsibility at the State Contest in Oroville, so the Board and membership have been in discussion as to how best make the tasks easiest as we take over from the previous District. Our thanks to District 1 members for all their information and direction for the RV parking plus job. We are also looking at a new venue. Join us in Oroville, March 18-19, 2016 for the CSOTFA State Fiddle and Picking Championships.

Although it may seem some time ago, our Christmas Jam/Potluck was a huge success!

Thanks to our members and outside donors, we had 30 items to raffle. People out did themselves

in providing food and holiday treats. We even had to set up extra tables to accommodate all our members and guests.

We continue to enhance our listening ears with a feature musical group at each jam as well as jams taking place inside and outside our facility. With our 'interesting' weather pattern, we've enjoyed more outside jams during this winter season than ever before!!

Our Chef Jean page, Jean's tip of the month and our Library of Wisdom quotes are some of the favorite pages of our District newsletter, BayStrings.

Our District 9 Board of Officers met recently, and were brought up to date on the discussions and actions taken by the State Board of Directors at their last meeting.

There is an open invitation to any of you, who are in the east bay area the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, to join us whether you play an instrument (bring it along) or just want to enjoy an afternoon of some really awesome music!



# District 10 Report

## District 10 Donates to Lake County Fire Victims

Don Coffin of CSOTFA District 10 recently presented a donated fiddle to member Cindy Leonard of Cobb, CA., who lost her fiddle along with her family's home in the Valley Fire in Lake County. The presentation was made at the monthly Fiddlers jam at the Ely Stage Stop in Kelseyville.



The donation was the brainchild of District 10 member Marilyn Ashburn, originally from the Tehachapi area. Marilyn was moved to donate her ¾ size fiddle after hearing the plight of Valley Fire victims last September. Although it was not Marilyn's fiddle that was eventually given to Cindy, many hands got involved in finding one that was right for her. Marilyn's smaller-sized fiddle found a home with the California Bluegrass Association's instrument lending library:

<http://cbayouthprogram.com/instrument-lending-library/>.

District 10 also donated \$500 to the Ely Stage Stop Fire Fund, which went directly to fire victims. The contribution came in part from donations at the monthly Fiddlers event, which is organized by the Lake County Historical Society.

## Cloverdale Fiddle Festival Cancelled

District 10 reports with regret that the 2016 Cloverdale Fiddle Festival, originally scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup>, is cancelled for this year. We'll announce details for the 2017 festival in a future *Soundpost*.

## Sonoma County Bluegrass and Folk Festival

While not a CSOTFA event, the Sonoma County Bluegrass and Folk Festival is a major music event in District 10 territory. It takes place March 12, 1 pm to 9 pm, 390 Morris St. in Sebastopol. More information is available at <http://socofofo.com>.

## District 10 jam sessions

Please see the list of sessions on our District 10 web page, <http://csotfa10.org>.

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# District 14 Report

With the return of the snowbirds, the CA State Old Time Fiddlers district 14 jams have resumed.

Our jams are the first and third Sunday of each month. Time is from 1 to 3 pm California time at the first Methodist church in El Centro on 8th St and Olive Avenue.

It is in the My Favorite Things Preschool just west of the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

All acoustic instrument players are invited to attend. Audience is also welcome.

In March and April, as the snowbirds fly north, contact our president Pete Preece (760) 353-1041 for changes to the Jam schedule.

We will be performing at the California Mid Winter Fair and Fiesta in Imperial on Sunday February 28

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

## CSOTFA Districts



## District Websites

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

