



# THE SUNDPOST

*The Official Publication  
of the*

Jul - Aug 2016

*California State Old-Time Fiddlers' Association*

## **Coming Events**

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

Redwood Empire Fiddle Contest  
Ukiah, CA

**July 23rd, 2016**

Second Annual Summer  
Mountain Music & Arts Festival  
at Cedar Crest Vineyards, Manton CA.

**September 10, 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



## District 1 Report

Things are quiet once again in District 1 after the state contest. The monthly jams continue on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, and fiddle workshops are held the first and third Mondays at the Bolt Museum, 1650 Broderick Street, Oroville. People interested in small group lessons before the workshops can call Jimi Beeler at 530-282-3205 for details. District 1 also provides scholarships for people interested in learning to play the fiddle. Call Jimi at the above number for more information.

Fiddlers participated in the Bidwell Bar Days celebration and at the Diversity Fest at Oroville High School this spring. They look forward to entertaining the crowds at some parades later in the year, and continue to provide an evening of old time and country music to the residents of the Country Crest Assisted Living each month.

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## District 2 Report

District 2, headquartered in Fresno, has a new location for its monthly jam. The venue is the Santa Fe Basque Restaurant, 3110 N. Maroa Avenue north of downtown Fresno. We meet starting at 2 o'clock on the second Sunday of every month. At our first gathering at this new location there were 14 musicians, several of whom were brand new to our jam. Other jams frequented by our members are held in Madera Ranchos and Armona. Feel free to call for details, 559.589.1766.

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## District 4 Report

We had another resounding success at the 2nd Annual District 4 Fiddle Club BBQ for our July meeting. We had lots of fiddlers, a great spread of food, and lively conversation. There were as many non-players as players, which made for a great audience. Thanks to everyone who participated with food and music. It was a pleasure to spend time with all of you!



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The 2016 California State Fiddle Contest photos are posted at and They are divided in to two groups:  
Finalists and Contest

<http://fiddling.dateq.net/>

And the videos are at:

<http://youTube.com/FiddleSupporter>





## District 5 Report

District 5 sadly bid farewell to two prominent members recently.

One was Arvin "Ed" Whitt, who died May 28 at age 76. A loyal member of our club for nearly 16 years, he showed a delightful spirit of musical fun and entertainment at our monthly jams. He occasionally acted as MC and was a laugh and a half anytime he took the stage.

Ed endeared himself musically throughout the Sacramento area and was inducted into the Western Swing Society Hall of Fame as well as the California Country Music Hall of Fame. He spent 40 years with the military - eight years on active duty and the rest as a civilian employee at McClellan Air Force Base.

Ed frequently shared stories of growing up in West Virginia where he returned every chance he could to play with family and friends the country music he so loved so much.

Our other deceased member was Phyllis Quinn, who died May 21 at age 90. For many years, Phyllis was an enthusiastic player at our Orangevale Grange Hall jams, usually playing fiddle or autoharp as part of the outdoor Oak Tree Gang. With her husband, Walt, she attended bluegrass festivals, fiddle contests and other musical events along the West Coast and at Weiser ID, often in their trailer and later in an RV. Phyllis sometimes struck up conversations with concert headliners and once in a while, as with Alison Krause, discovered that they were distant relatives.

Besides Orangevale, the Quinns were fixtures at many local jams such as at 5th String Music store in Sacramento, the Galt-based autoharp group and the popular multi-day twice-a-year gatherings at County Fair Mall in Woodland. Walt, a certified public accountant, contributed mightily to District 5 by annually auditing the books. He died in 2010.

--Ralph Standiford & Doug Dempster



# District 6 Report

The California State Old Time Fiddlers Association, District 6, is holding their Second Annual SUMMER MOUNTAIN MUSIC and ARTS FESTIVAL at the beautiful Cedar Crest Vineyards in Manton, California, on Saturday, July 23rd, from 11:00 AM to 8 PM. Gates open at 10:00 AM.

Ten bands on two stages, a live art project as a local artist creates a sculpture during the festivities. Local vendors will be onsite offering food and crafts, and wine and craft beer will be provided by Cedar Crest Vineyards..

For more information contact us at: [rootsmusicredding@yahoo.com](mailto:rootsmusicredding@yahoo.com) or call George Fredson at (530) 604-8706 or email at [george.fredson@yahoo.com](mailto:george.fredson@yahoo.com)

On Facebook: <<https://www.facebook.com/Summer-Mountain-Music-and-Arts-Festival-244282495949194/timeline>>

District 6 is busy planning for their big fundraiser and in addition, our bands are playing all over the North State at a variety of events. Summer is a busy time for our bands and our membership and there is not a day that goes by that we are out somewhere in the public sharing our music.

The lineup for this year's festival includes, One Button Suit, The Buckhorn Mountain Stompers, Reckoning (DeadGrass), The Old Kennett String Band, and other Bluegrass Bands and musicians that will be performing Americana music on two stages throughout the day. Come and enjoy a live art project as a local artist creates a sculpture during the festivities. Local vendors will be onsite offering food and crafts along with Cedar Crest Vineyard's award winning wines and craft beers.

Beautiful Cedar Crest Vineyards is the perfect spot to relax and enjoy the Summer Mountain Music and Arts Festival. We are pleased to invite you to try their delicious wines and new craft beers while you kick back and enjoy the music.

You will have a great day of music, arts and food! And you will enjoy knowing that you are also helping the California State Old Time Fiddlers continue the mission of supporting live music events, entertaining seniors and veterans at adult care facilities, hosting fiddle contests and jams, assisting musical education for children, and supporting other local non-profit organizations throughout the North State.

We hope to see some of you at the Second Annual Summer Music and Arts Festival in July and at the McCloud Mountain Bluegrass Festival in September. Enjoy your summer with all the musical opportunities and our good fiddle friends somewhere throughout the summer months.



# District 7 Report

“FUN & JAMMING!” Such is how Shira Ellisman, the 16 yr-old Open Division Champion of the June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Julian Fiddle & Pickin' Contest summed up her experience of D7's annual event in Julian, CA. What's interesting about Shira's comment is not only what she chose to say, but what she chose not to say. For example, she didn't say “stiff competition,” “great backup musicians,” “world-class judges,” “great venue” and “lots of community and merchant support,” nor did she say “great pre-contest workshops” or “fantastic Friday-night reception and pot-luck.” No, Shira cut to the chase and noted what stood out, i.e., buckets of fun and impromptu jamming. While much can be written about the event, we'll let some pictures and related links do most of the “talking.” Suffice it to say a good number of people from near and far had a great deal of fun, with the annual Julian Fiddle & Pickin' Contest becoming the must-do happening for contest fiddlers and fun-seekers alike.



Pre-contest "Weiser Warm-up" Workshop led by National Fiddle Champs, Matthew Hartz and Luke Price on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Old Julian Town Hall.



Shira Ellisman (fiddle) jamming with Jim French (guitar), Avery Ellisman (mandolin) and Alex Sharps (tenor guitar)  
Go to <https://youtu.be/P3V028JJ0HY> to view part of the jam.



Junior Champion, Sawyer Porter (form Boise, ID)  
backed by Shira Ellisman and Alex Sharps  
Go to <https://youtu.be/OfCsG1CpgTs> to see Sawyer play her 2nd set of tunes.



Nat Copeland after receiving the award noting him as the winner of the Advance Fiddle Division of the 2016 Topanga Banjo & Fiddle Contest

## 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Old Time Fiddle Contest, Weiser, ID

D7 made a fine showing at the 2016 National Old Time Fiddle Contest in Weiser, ID. Former D7 President, Tom Dillon took 5<sup>th</sup> in the Senior Fiddle Division, with Shira Ellisman making the cut from 48 to 16 Junior Division competitors. Nat Copeland and Alex Sharps also competed this year. The weather in Weiser was particularly temperate, with a very visible and highly-active group of younger players jamming and raising the fun level of the entire event. While the top of the so-called “heap” gather to compete each year at Weiser, mutual support and camaraderie are the event's dominant themes and the main reason why people come back year after year after year.

## Monthly Meets

D7 continues to meet three Sundays of every month in San Diego County. We hold two meetings in the south-east San Dieg, i.e., Spring Valley & El Cajon, and on the third-Sunday of each month, gather in the north-coastal region, i.e., Encinitas. Please go to our website ([www.SanDiegoFiddler.org](http://www.SanDiegoFiddler.org)) for more information and, by all means, COME ON DOWN!



## District 9 Report

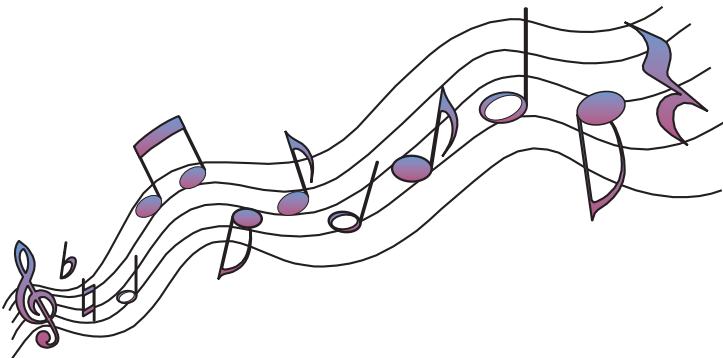
District Nine and the California Old-Time Fiddlers Association has lost a wonderful friend and supporter of traditional music. Ruth Aileen Vandiver died on May 11th having been a member in good-standing for over forty years all the while making a significant contributions to our monthly Jam. She was dearly loved by all. The following words about Ruth are from two D9'ers, Jeanette Amick and Betty Hainley, who were her close friends.

Jeannette Amick Remembers Ruth Vandiver:

For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of knowing her, Ruth Vandiver was one of the anchors who kept District 9 together. She joined D9 in 1975, the same time as Betty Hainley, her best friend. Ruth's husband, Richard was a mandolin and guitar player and Betty's husband Bud played the guitar. Ruth was devoted to D9 and was bothered that there was no food on Fiddle Sunday. She asked about it and kept saying "If we have food, they will come!" Finally, when the membership started to dwindle, Ruth's advice was taken seriously and word got around and membership grew. Now kitchen help was needed and Ruth kept her promise to manage and head up the kitchen staff. She did just that for approximately 20 years. My memories of Ruth are ones that make me smile. She was the first person to greet Don and I on our first visit. She was so cordial and friendly, we felt comfortable immediately. We soon became friends and when she found out that I don't drive, she always offered to take me to stores, outlets, etc. I was very touched, but felt uncomfortable because I have narcolepsy and can fall asleep at the drop of a hat. I don't feel sleepy, but wake up and know that I have been asleep. Well, Ruth invited me to go shopping with her and she was talking a mile a minute. When I opened my eyes, she was still talking, I apologized and all she said was "I knew you would wake up sooner or later and if I kept talking you'd think it was just a couple of minutes" That was Ruthie.

Betty Hainley Remembers Ruth Vandiver:

Ruth and I met in 1956, so we knew each other around 60 years. Our husbands worked together for the Southern Pacific Railroad. They were both into music, so we got together at each other's homes for Jams. Sometimes there were 2 or 3 other families, these were always a family thing. My husband Bud passed away April 1989, from then to 1998 when Richard passed away, Ruth and Richard would let me tag along to the Fiddler's Contests. Once, Ruth didn't want to go to Cloverdale, so Rich and I went up for the day, in fact we were at the Madera Contest when Richard passed away. Not long after, Ruth and I still would take trips here and there together until she had her first stroke about 8 years ago. That was when Eileen took over managing the kitchen at our D9 Jams. We were sort of like sisters and she was a wonderful friend and will be missed.



# California State Old - Time Fiddlers' Association

## State Officers

**President:** Sharon Barrett -- texshar@pacbell.net  
**V. Pres. :** Bill Whitfield – anita.marley49@gmail.com  
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**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 Blvd. Redding, CA - First Sunday of each month 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM and Millville Grange Hall, 22037 Old Fourty-Four Drive, Palo Cedro, CA - Fourth Sunday each month 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM.  
Web site: [www.csotfa.org](http://www.csotfa.org)  
**District 7:** District 7: Terrace Est. Club Room, 1815 Sweetwater Rd. Spring Valley, CA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 12:00-3:00 p.m.  
Rancho San Diego Public Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego, El Cajon 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 12:00-3:00p.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



Revised 8-21-12  
By Willie Randlel  
(Kimberly Lammann)

## 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:**

