



The Grapevine

Newsletter for

CSOTFA

California State Old Time Fiddlers Association, District 6

November 2016



Message From the Editors

Welcome to November! Fall is upon us, and that also means that the holidays are near. Days become cooler, family and friends begin planning their visits and festive activities. Many musicians and fiddle players look forward to this time to “woodshed” tunes they have on their lists and work up new material to have ready for the next festival season. It’s also time to pull out those Christmas and winter season holiday tunes and songs so you’ll be ready to perform when called to do so this December!

Please have a look at our upcoming events calendar and plan on joining your fiddle club in making and listening to our beautiful music!

Also, good news! CSOTFA, District 6, and this newsletter, now has a PO Box! Send any correspondence to PO Box 990462, Redding CA 96099-0462. And of course, you can always email carolyncork@gmail.com, or George.fredson@yahoo.com.

November Schedule/Upcoming Events

November 6 – Jam Session: 1-4:30pm

Free Old Time Fiddle Concert: 2pm

Open mic after the concert. At St. James Lutheran Church, 2500 Shasta View Drive, Redding (First Sundays)

November 20 – Free Old Time Fiddle Concert and Open Mic: 2-4pm

at Millville Grange in Palo Cedro, 22037 Old Forty-Four Drive (Third Sundays)

December 18 – CSOTFA Christmas Potluck: 1:00pm at the Millville Grange, Palo Cedro. More details to come later.

Non-Club Events

November 3 – Redding Bluegrass Jam: 6-8pm at Round Table Pizza, Top’s Shopping Center on Lake Blvd & Buenaventura Blvd. For more information, go to the Facebook page, or email reddingbluegrassjam@gmail.com

Thursdays (but not Nov 10) – Scottish Country Dance: 6:30pm Millville Grange in Palo Cedro, 22037 Old Forty-Four Drive. Live Music. “You don’t need a partner. Wear comfortable shoes and

bring water. This dancing is lively and energetic. All dances taught and walked then danced. This is a fun evening for all.” Cost \$6.

November 19 - Contra Dance: 7-10pm, at the Rebecca Hall, off of Hwy 44, 22551 Silverlode Ln. “This dance is great fun and open to the community. We have a caller to teach the dances and the Curvy Road Band plays Celtic reels and jigs for it.” \$8 per person (\$4 students) For info and updates <http://reddingfolkdance.blogspot.com>, or reddingfd@gmail.com

November 4 – California Banjo Extravaganza: Chico. Tickets \$20 in advance. For more information, call Lucy at 530-894-1449.

November 11 – Sideline Bluegrass Band: 7pm at The Studio, 3270 Main St, Cottonwood. Tickets \$20. Go to www.thestudiocottonwood.com.

December 12 – House Concert: Megan Lynch & Mary Sue Englund. 7pm; \$20 donation; more details provided after RSVP. (530) 524-4695 by November 10.

(as always, please confirm dates and times before attending an event)

Feature Article: A Short History of Fiddling and the California State Old Time Fiddlers Association, part 2

Written by: Kenneth Leivers, 1974

www.northstatefiddlers.com

Page 2 of 7, of a serialized article

Fiddlers' conventions or contests like the one described above dated ca.1919, were widely popular in such traditional centers as Knoxville, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia. The Atlanta Fiddlers' Convention was one of the oldest of these events. Although held sporadically from 1885, it did not achieve official status until 1913. Conducted much the same as the convention described above, the 1914 Atlanta convention was highlighted by Fiddling John Carson of Blue Ridge, Georgia. His recordings ten years later served as the catalyst that began the country music business (Meade 1969:27-30). Burman-Hall (1973:16-17) mentions that "one can imagine the popularity of this event, which drew fiddlers of all ages from an eighty-mile radius to compete in a single division which included straw-beating, clog, and square dance accompanying fiddle tunes."

By the end of the 19th century, regional fiddling styles had developed in various parts of the country. Cohen (1964:12) says that "although a matter of personal preference and background, a good case can be made for the existence of regional fiddle styles." Burman-Hall (1973:232-233) found that "the most important variables for style differentiation are those connected with bowings: the combinations of bowing patterns or phrasings, bowing style (Plain, Harmonic, or Drone), occasional special effects and accents, and note rhythms within the bow strokes, all create the regional performance idiom." She found four geographically-related styles within the southern American folk fiddling tradition: "Blue Ridge Style, a complex of related sub-styles in which all examples follow a line parallel to and east of the Appalachian mountains; Southern Appalachian Style, with examples from West Virginia to Mississippi along the line of the mountain range and west; Ozark Style; and Western Style, principally the tradition of Texas and Oklahoma" (Burman-Hall 1973:232-233). Elsewhere in North

America, one could hear other distinct styles of fiddling. The Cajun style of fiddling in Louisiana owes much to French dance tunes as does the French Canadian style. The New England or Northeastern fiddle players have blended Irish and Scottish dance melodies. In Wisconsin one can hear a Scandinavian influence and in Pennsylvania, a German flavor can be found (Calkins n.d.:7,12,14). All of the above fiddle styles fall under the category of "oldtime fiddling" in the sense that up to the end of the 19th century, fiddle music for dancing was played unaccompanied.

The Western or Texas style of fiddling has become more individualistic than any of the others. The tune is viewed as raw material, to be changed until it is your own. Thus in modern Texas fiddling, the fiddler develops his own variations on each tune. In other areas of the country, fiddlers play their traditional tunes in one regional style, i.e. all the fiddlers in each area have about the same bowing techniques.

By 1900, two new instruments had found their way into the Southern mountains: the banjo and the guitar. Cohen (1964:13) says that some musicologists have placed the date of the banjo's introduction as early as 1880. Seeger points out that:

In the latter half of the nineteenth century, the banjo, along with the Negro minstrel music, changed American ballads and instrumental music.

The ballads became more Negroid (lyrically, melodically, and rhythmically) because of the banjo, and the fiddle tunes went through similar changes. The beginnings of a mountain string band style could be seen (Seeger 1964:23).

Lester Flatt has said, "It used to be that a band was just a fiddle and a banjo." In the memory of old mountain people, this combination was the main source of dance music. The banjo would often play the melody along with the fiddle, using either picking or frailing. It was especially admired if the instruments could sound as one (Cohen 1964:17).

According to Cohen (1964:16), "most mountain people say that there were no guitars around before 1910." An informant from Oklahoma said that there were no guitars there or in Arkansas

until about 1914. The guitar became popular in the mountains due to Negro influences, Guitar and Mandolin Societies, and mail-order houses. With the guitar, fiddle, and banjo, the instrumentation of the early string band was complete (Seeger 1964:23).

The introduction of the string band music necessitated some changes in fiddling. With the use of guitars, the emphasis shifted from dance music to the accompaniment of popular and sentimental songs. Cohen (1964:12) points out that “in many instances where the fiddle was used as lead instrument in an old-time string band, the fiddle part flattened out as the melodies were simplified and set by popular tunes from Broadway, and the decorative textures then came from the accompanying banjo and guitar instead.” The guitar then took over the bass but more importantly, also kept the major rhythms. As such, the accompaniment to songs became chord oriented rather than linear in ornamentation, as was true of old-time fiddling. The “string-band” style of “old-timey”

music marked the first important departure from traditional old-time fiddling.

In the early 1900s, Fiddling Bob Haines recorded “Arkansas Traveler” on an Edison cylinder, fiddle contests were being held in the South and in Idaho, and string-band music was evolving in Appalachia. However, as Shelton and Goldblatt (1966:26-27) point out, it was not until the birth of radio in 1920 and the development of disk recordings in 1921, that the music of the country fiddler received more than local recognition. In 1922, while attending a Confederate Soldiers’ Reunion in Atlanta, Eck Robertson decided to go to New York City and audition for RCA-Victor. According to Seeger (1964:25), Robertson recorded what is still an “unbeatable Sally Goodin.” As a result of his recordings, Robertson gained a large following of fiddlers. Several old fiddlers have commented that Robertson’s music was of great influence on their own.

Part 3 next month...

Sideline Returns



Returning to Old Town Cottonwood! Sideline will be playing Good Ol’ American Bluegrass Music at The Studio (3270 Main St.) in Cottonwood, on Friday November 11, at 7pm. Come early and enjoy potluck at 6pm where you can meet and greet the members of the band. Tickets are \$20 at www.thestudiocottonwood.com, and are also available at the door.

	<p>KATHY KAMPSCHMIDT MUSIC TEACHER</p> <p>PIANO, KEYBOARD, VIOLIN/FIDDLE, GUITAR</p> <p>6439 COUNTY RD. 48 WILLOWS, CA 95988 Phone 530-934-4749 Cell 530-570-7952 kdkampy@sbcglobal.net</p>
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Christmas House Concert



“You are Invited to a Very Special Christmas House Concert” – Starring Megan B. Lynch & Mary Sue Englund

Megan and Mary Sue have been playing music together for years. In the beginning, they were playing mostly in service of other artists. You know, as “sidemen.” After a while though, Megan and Mary Sue thought that maybe, just maybe, they might sound good together, all by themselves. Based on the response they received from their 2015 tour as well as the excitement surrounding their EP “All Year Long,” they were right. After a tour full of sold out shows, may laughs, and poignant musical moments, Megan and Mary Sue are excited to get back on the road together in 2016. They play original music – personal songs that are tinged with country, folk, and whatever it takes to reach audiences. Sometimes they play other people’s songs – fiddle tunes and under-the-radar covers. Megan is a seven-time National Fiddle Champion and Mary Sue is an award-winning songwriter, and they are just magical together.

We are in for a very special treat! So fortunate to have these talented ladies entertain us for this intimate Christmas House Concert. Monday, 12/12/16 at 7:00pm. Location and additional details will be provided upon your RSVP. Seating is limited, Please RSVP via email or call (530) 524-4695 by November 10. \$20 donation at the door.

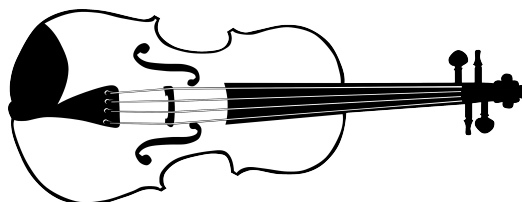
New Bluegrass Music Jam in Redding

A new opportunity to jam with other like-minded musicians has opened up in Redding. The Redding Bluegrass Jam takes place on the first Thursday of the month, from 6-8pm at Round Table Pizza, in the Top’s Shopping Center at Buenaventura & Eureka Way. It is an acoustic-only circle jam devoted to Bluegrass tunes. There will also be a short session of Old Time Appalachian Style

music if you can come a few minutes early. The inaugural jam took place in October to “test the concept.” It was a success, and everyone enjoyed having a fiddle player there, Pat, to strike those beautiful notes. At least a half-dozen people were in attendance in the reserved room to listen and eat pizza. If you are interested in getting on the mailing list, contact Reddingbluegrassjam@gmail.com.

Fiddles and Dancing go together!

Fiddle playing in the old time tradition was highly connected to dancing, and we wanted to let fiddle music fans know where they can go to get a dancing “fix.” That’s why we are putting that information in our calendar of current events. Please look there to see the schedule of the regular contra dances and the Scottish Country Dances, in Palo Cedro. In addition, the Contra Dance group has a facebook page under Redding Community Contra Dance. If you go to these and have a good time, be sure to write a letter to this editor to share!



Band Bios/Press Releases Needed!

Calling all Bands! District 6 would like to have your information available to help fulfill the musical needs of the community, and we would also like to help you promote your band. Often we get asked to provide music for various community events, and we would like to have a good list and printable information to refer to. We feel that this activity is in keeping with our musical mission as a California State Non-Profit organization. We would like to create a band directory in the Grapevine, and we can also add it to our website.

Classifieds:

We will run classified ads for instruments and other musical-related items. If you do sell the item, we ask that you make a donation back to the Grapevine to help with costs.

Fiddle Teachers Directory

Kate Busey: justplayfiddle@yahoo.com
Martha Boyle: marthaboyle@live.com
Trish Ferguson: fergy5@shasta.com
Nicki Carlisle: msfiddles@frontiernet.net
Susan Brydges Ford: sford@frontiernet.net
Sheri Eby: sherieby@aol.com, seby@rsarts.org
Abbie Ehorn: abbiesmusicbox@gmail.com
Lebra Gonzalez: glgonz@sbcglobal.net
Becky Huskey: bhuskey@antelopeschools.org
Julie May: jmay777@gmail.com
Wendy Wendt: wendts@citlink.net
Kathy Kampschmidt: (530) 934-4749, kdkampy@sbcglobal.net
Marilee McCain: angelicviolinstudios@gmail.com

To add to or update your contact information, please contact the editor at carolyncork@gmail.com

Membership News:

If you are a member of the California State Old Time Fiddlers, District 6, then you have received a little blue postcard in the mail from our membership chairman reminding you that it is time to renew! Thank you for being prompt in mailing in your payment. Dues are \$14 per single plus \$2 for each additional family member. Make check payable to CSOTFA, District 6, and mail to CSOTFA, Dist 6 – Membership, c/o Mary Raeg, 5000 Wilson Hill Road, Manton CA 96059. If you are not a member yet, you may join today!

Please send your file to

George.fredson@yahoo.com. And indicate whether your band:

A) Represents CSOTFA (portrays the style of music, Old Time Fiddling, that is described in our charter.

B) Supports CSOTFA (helps at club events and activities with music that is in a related genre, such as Bluegrass, Celtic, Folk, Gospel).

C) Either, as needed.

Advertising in The Grapevine

6 month run :

1/8 page (about 3.5" x 2") = \$25

1/4 page (about 3.5" x 4.5") = \$40
(larger sizes, inquire)

District 6 Board Meeting:

The next board meeting of the CSOTFA Dist 6 will be coming up November 17, at 6:30pm. All members are always welcome to attend. If you are interested in coming, email the secretary, Carolyn F, carolyncork@gmail.com to confirm and for location.

Past, approved minutes are available for members to view. Please inquire.

Send correspondence to editor:

carolyncork@gmail.com, or CSOTFA-Dist. 6, PO Box 990462, Redding CA 96099-0462

CSOTFA – District 6 is a part of the California State Old Time Fiddlers Association. We are a California non-profit and U.S. IRS 501 (c) (3) IRS #23-7288853 Charitable Corporation, formed to educate about and perpetuate the art and cultural heritage of Authentic Old-Time Fiddle Music.
