



The Grapevine

Newsletter for

CSOTFA

August 2017



California State Old Time Fiddlers Association, District 6

Message From the Editors

What a great month we've had! From the Summer Mountain Music and Arts Festival to concerts and music jams. We will look back at some of that, and we will also look forward to what August will bring. 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.

August Schedule/Upcoming Events

August 6 – Jam Session: 1-4:00pm
Free Old Time Fiddle Concert: 2pm
Open mic after the concert. At St. James Lutheran Church, 2500 Shasta View Drive, Redding (First Sundays)

August 10 – CSOTFA, D-6 Board Meeting: All club members in good standing are invited to attend regular board meetings. 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Contact George for location and confirmation for the meeting.

August 20 - Free Old Time Fiddle Concert and Open Mic: 2-4pm, at Palo Cedro Community Center, 22037 Old Forty-Four Drive (Third Sundays)

October 19-21 – Mark your calendars now for the 2017 Western Open Fiddle Championships

Non-Club Events

August 10-13 – Music campout at Herford Camp and RV Park (530-335-7171), Located between Hat Creek and Burney Falls. Starts Thursday August 10 and going through Sunday August 13. Any acoustical instrument is welcome to join in. Event is free to everyone. Folks can come for the day (bring chairs and lunch) or camp out at the park. Lots of music to hear, if you just want to come and listen. Contact Nicki at 474-4427 for more information.

August 24 – Sideline Bluegrass Band will be returning to the Northstate this month. They will be performing at The Studio in Cottonwood, 3270 Main St., on Thursday, Aug 24 at 7:00pm. Come early for the potluck. <http://www.thestudiocottonwood.com>

August 26th - Saturday, 7:30-9:00pm
"Symphony On the Beach"
Whiskeytown National Park, Brandy Creek Beach. "Come early and bring a picnic to enjoy the third annual Shasta Symphony outdoor pops concert, held again this year at Brandy Creek Beach in Whiskeytown National Park! The show will feature film scores, patriotic music, soloists, and light classical works, and will help kick off the school year with one last blast of summer fun. Parking is extremely limited; please carpool and come early."

September 8, 9, & 10 – McCloud Bluegrass Festival. Pre-sale admission of \$25 is available until September 1 online. Camping is separate. <http://www.mccloudchamber.com/tickets/>

Sept. 16th – Saturday at Whiskeytown National Park Recreation Area - Pioneer Harvest Festival at the Camden House - French Gulch Elementary School's presentation at 10:00 followed by music provided by Loosely Strung, the Old Time Jam Band, and other District 6 musicians - Crafts, Food and Activities for the whole family!

Sept. 30th - Saturday, 3rd Annual Mountain Harvest Festival and Fundraiser for the Mountain Community Center, Round Mountain. A day of family enjoyment, food, drinks, and music from 2:00 to 10:00 PM.

Mondays-First & Third Mondays at 6-7:30pm, Nicki Carlisle's Ukulele jam (any acoustical instrument) at Nicki's studio, 20 min. out of Palo Cedro on Hwy 44. Call 520-474-4427.

Thursdays – 6:30pm Scottish Country Dance: Palo Cedro Community Center, 22037 Old Forty-Four Drive. Live Music the first and third Thursdays. 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. Each Thursday evening, 6:30-8:30PM. Cost \$6. <http://www.meetup.com/reddingdancegroup/> Or (530) 347-0825.

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

Summer Mountain Music and Arts Festival

The Third Annual Summer Mountain Music and Arts Festival is now history, and we are left with memories of a wonderful day with friends and music, good food and beautiful art. The day was lovely; a little warm, but not too hot up in the cool shade of Cedar Crest Winery in Manton. Our new speaker system performed beautifully, our bands were entertaining, exciting, and dance-worthy. Our new food vendor outperformed expectations. And, as usual, Cedar Crest was up the task of soothing the palate and quenching the thirst with their excellent wines and craft beers.

3rd Annual Summer Mountain Music & Arts Festival- What a Great Day!

By George Fredson

Our 3rd Annual Summer Mountain Music & Arts Festival was an outstanding musical success! We hosted eleven bands on two stages for a day of amazing music. Those attending were treated to some delicious food served by Dill's Deli and other vendors, and the award-winning Cedar Crest wines and craft beers topped off the menu to make it a perfect event.

First up for the day on the main stage was **Stormy Weather**, a great local band made up of Darlene Storms, Eileen White, and James Montgomery, who entertained us with their beautiful harmonies and original songs. What a great way to begin what was to be a day filled with talented musicians, some who came from as far away as Austin, Texas!

Next on stage, from her home in the Bay Area, was **Danita Gardner**, past winner of both the Grand Masters in Nashville, TN and the National Oldtime Fiddle Contest in Weiser, ID. She was joined on stage by a host of accompanists, including Melissa Lincoln on fiddle, Danita's husband Bob Gardner on guitar, Al Myers, guitar, Ben

LiaBraaten, guitar, and Tom Spence on mandolin. Danita's exquisitely beautiful fiddle music continued the morning's great start.

Our local fiddle champion, **Nicki Carlisle**, followed close behind and kept the music coming for the enjoyment of the audience. Nicki performs with a number of groups throughout the North State and competes in fiddle competition all throughout California and Nevada. In addition to teaching music from her studio in Shingletown, she is a former California State Champion Fiddler and is active in the California State Old Time Fiddlers, District 6. She was joined by Al Myers and Don Nichols to perform two sets on the second stage.

Back to the main stage, the **Jim Cook Band** kept folks toes tapping with their brand of music played by Jim on the fiddle, accompanied by Eric Day on guitar and Mike Gregory on bass. They played everything from Country to Jazz and lots in between that the audience responded to with appreciation.

The next act on the main stage was the amazing **Aldrin Family Band**. We are so fortunate to have this kind of local talent to

be a part of our festival. Nine members strong, the Alldrin family played a toe-tapping mix of old-time fiddle, Celtic, folk, gospel and traditional dance music. The family played a combination of violin, cello, guitar, mandolin, viola, percussion, penny whistle, vocal harmonies and more.

The audience probably took more photographs of the next group on the second stage than all of the other bands combined. While you might be taken by their cuteness at first, once they displayed their excellent musicianship and confident stage presence, the **HappBees** could obviously hold their own against any of the bands that day. For what was one of the most entertaining sets of the day, Martha Boyle and her daughters, Clara, Caite, and Cora, charmed the audience with their singing and fiddle playing. Now here's a group you are going to want to keep your eye on; they are destined to fame for sure!

We were fortunate to find the next band in between tour dates to join the SMMAF again this year. The incredible **Rock Ridge Bluegrass Band** kept things jumping with their traditional brand of Bluegrass played by Josie Grant, guitar and lead singer, Rick Grant, fiddle and mandolin, Hal Horn, banjo, and Jon Shaffer on bass and his debut on the clawhammer banjo! It is always a joy to hear a band like Rock Ridge that, in our opinion, combines the professionalism and talent of one of California's very best.

New to our festival this year were the dynamic duo of Janie Seeger and Diane Blaylock, together known as **Cover Girls**. They played everything from "Snooze to Blues," music from every decade - 40s and forward, some cover tunes and some of their originals. Thanks to the Cover Girls for their entertaining and eclectic sets!

From their home in Sacramento, the band **One Button Suit** joined us for a great performance that afternoon. Their music was

purely amazing. I'm sure the audience realized how fortunate they were to have a band of this caliber on our stage in Manton. One Button Suit has graced the stages of some of the best Bluegrass Festivals around and are in great demand all over the Western States. Our thanks to Melissa Lincoln, fiddle, vocals, Brian Burke, guitar, vocals, Tom Shewmake, guitar, mandolin, vocals, Tim Tobias, guitar, mandolin, banjo, and vocals, and Ben Kopf, on the bass. We appreciate their willingness to be a part of our festival again this year.

The next band on the main stage was one of the North State's all time favorite local groups. It was such a pleasure to have the **Buckhorn Mountain Stompers** back again this year. The band has a contagious energy that brings the audience to their feet to dance along with some of the most entertaining music we had at this year's festival. It is always a pleasure to see these folks on our stage and to have their fans as part of the festival. We hope to have Michale Kielich, Daryel Aglipay, Eric White and Cory Fator, the Buckhorn Mountain Stompers, back again every year to add their special touch to our summer festival.

Our headliner band this year came to us all the way from Austin, Texas. **Wood & Wire**, as the name suggests, is an acoustic band with a love for pure music played well on stringed instruments. In 2011, the group exploded onto Austin's bluegrass and old-time-music scene while quickly gaining a national fan base through appearances at notable festivals like Old Settlers Music Festival, Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival, ACL Festival, Rockygrass, IBMA World of Bluegrass, Telluride Bluegrass Festival, Northwest String Summit, Durango Meltdown and John Hartford Memorial Festival this past year. Since their debut, Wood & Wire has released two albums to much acclaim. Our summer festival ended with Wood & Wire's amazing performance, leaving the crowd begging for more!

A Few Photos of the SMMAF '17...



Rock Ridge Entertained the Enthusiastic Crowd



The Charming and Talented "HappBees."



A Happy Melinda N. Won the Silent Auction "Sprainting."



Dill's Eye-Popping Pulled Pork Nachos

Feature Article:

A Short History of Fiddling and the California State Old Time Fiddlers Association, cont.

Written by: Kenneth Leivers, 1974

www.northstatefiddlers.com

Page 7.5 of 7, of a serialized article

(1973) In April, the California State Championship Contest, open to California residents only, was held in Madera. Judges for the event were Delbert McGrath, Brian Baker, Ray Krogstead, Virgil Evans, and Byron Berline. First round playoffs were held on Friday evening and second round playoffs on Saturday morning. The finals were played off on Saturday evening in the four divisions. As entertainment between contest rounds and

outside the hall, Bluegrass fiddling and music were also heard at the contest. In the Regular division, Ray Parks won first place, followed by Coy Daily, second; Jay Belt, third; Vernon Keathly, fourth; Ron Hughey, fifth; Dean Trammel, sixth; Glen Tarver, seventh; Gary Krogstead, eighth; Paul Shelasky, ninth; and Doc Denning, tenth. Slim Lambrigger won first place in the Senior division, with Chuck Beall in second place, Al O'Neal in third, and Sherman

Mason in fourth. The Junior division was won by Jane Scott and Keith Cummings was second. In the Ladies division from first to fifth place were Jana Grief, Frances Anderson, Ruby Zang, Laurie Lewis, and Maxine Taylor.

The other important contest in 1973 was the Western Regional Contest in Madera in November. (This same contest was called the California Open State Old-Time Fiddlers' Contest in 1972.) There were only two divisions, a novel variation from the usual four. In the Champion division the first place prize was \$400. The judges were George Davis, Virgil Evans, and Wayne Holmes. This contest drew 31 Regular contestants and 12 Champions as entrants. The top nine Champions had to play twice before the winning order was decided, a new contest rule from Weiser. Dick Barrett won first in the Champion division, with John Francis, second; Benny Thomasson, third; Ray Parks, fourth; Vern Keathly, fifth; Don Gish, sixth; Jay Belt, seventh; Frank Ferrell, eighth; and Delbert McGrath, ninth. In the Regular division, Jana Grief was first, followed by Gary Krogstead, Glen Tarver, Aaron Lowe, Frances Anderson, and Clyde Wheat. Ossie White was first place winner among the accompanists. Later in the evening, after the contest, jam sessions were held at the Madera Valley Inn. Bluegrass fiddlers played in one room and old-time fiddlers in another.

At least one contest was held monthly during 1973, with the exception of September when the Warwick campout in Oregon was repeated, and the December Christmas Party. In late May, over Memorial Day weekend, a number of California fiddlers went up to the Oregon State Contest. Included in the group were LaVerne Jansen, Dwan Bayer, Jack and Jan Saddler, Bill and Wanda Cummings, Mary and Jess Hall, Francis and Ivan Gray, and Arlene Lommen. A sad note in 1973, was the death of Frank Knight of a heart attack. He was the 81-

year-old fiddler and bagpipe player from Paradise. In October, the contest in Folsom was well attended by many California fiddlers and their families. Included in the activities were Jack Widener, George Davis, Byron Baker, Francis Gray, Mary Hall, Arlene Lommen, LaVerne Jansen, Jean and Loren Bagley, Ruby Zang, Delbert McGrath, Ray Parks, Virgil Evans, Glen Tarver, Todd Scott, Ivan Gray, Jess Hall, Oak Gibson, Coy Daily, Jim Pinkston, and Doug Ward to name but a few.

Also in October, the Board of Directors met to officially divide the California State Association into seven districts. As a result, the Oroville District (#1) which began the California State Association was split, the Sacramento area joining the (San Francisco) Bay Area as District 5. The Oroville district was now no more important than any other district. The Fresno Fiddlers (District 2) continued to hold their monthly jam sessions. District 3 in Bakersfield was having problems organizing because of the lack of fiddlers living in the area. District 4 was embryonic in Los Angeles. The Redding District (#6) was being organized by Francis Anderson and Jana Grief in northern California. District 7 was being organized by Jay Belt in San Diego.

At the end of 1973, four other fiddling organizations in California were not affiliated with the California State Association, including the Sacramento Fiddlers, the Ceres District, the Southern California Association (Los Angeles), and the newly formed Santa Clara Association. The latter association was formed by two friends who knew each other before moving to California from New Hampshire. They preferred to hold monthly jam sessions instead of contests.

Part 7.6 next month...

How Did You Get Started Playing the Fiddle?

We are going to start a new running feature, "How did you get started playing the fiddle?" along with some other questions that will help us get to "musically" know our fellow club members and friends a little better. To get the series started, I will go first! - *Carolyn Faubel*

I had played a couple other bluegrass and old time instruments, but I'd always wanted to try my hand at the fiddle. There was never an instrument available to just "see how it felt," and I didn't know the first thing about self-teaching on it, which is how I made my way on my guitar and banjo. As I got older, I felt like the opportunity had passed. I could never be that kid who started playing as a young person and then had years to become adept. It was too late. When around other fiddlers I found myself saying, "I always had wanted to learn the fiddle...". And then, when I was about to turn 50 years old, I decided to embrace new adventures and never turn down an opportunity for an experience. Soon afterwards, at a music festival, I found myself saying the same, tired old thing to a fiddle vendor, "I always wanted to play the fiddle..." and thought, "What am I doing! I told myself I would just go for new things this year!" So I turned around on my heel and went back to the booth. I said, "OK, just supposing I was to start learning the fiddle. What should I do first?" Since those several years ago, I have found fun, frustration, sore shoulder, hours and hours spent not doing "important" things like sweeping the floor, embarrassment when the notes didn't come out like you intended, new friendships, tears of agony, tears of joy for the beautiful sound, a banjo getting its feelings hurt because I'm not paying enough attention to it, and finally, optimism that I may get good enough to play with others! Thank you CSOTFA, D-6 for being there for me 'n my fiddle!



D6 Band News and Bios:

The Down Home String Band



DHSB: Barry Breen, Nicki Carlisle, Don Nichols, George Fredson, Lloyd Raeg, Lee Brushett

The "DHSB," a District 6 group of enthusiastic entertainers, are a fixture at music events needing enjoyable acoustic songs and melodies. They regularly play at convalescent homes

Neighborhood Swing Trio



Diana Kelley (accordion), Joy Stander (clarinet), John Tiedeman (mandolin, guitar)

Neighborhood Swing is rehearsing an Italian repertoire to perform at the Sons of Italy Paesano Days in September. Accordion, clarinet, and mandolin are a good combination for Italian music. John Tiedeman is also working on crooning Dean Martin songs. Diana, Joy, and John play regularly together at Neighborhood Church of Redding. Diana plays solo every week at area residential homes. Swing (standards + western); Gospel; Celtic; Bluegrass; German (polkas)

Curvy Road

Curvy Road is in the process of change. Stay tuned for new updates on the band!

Senior Moments

Consisting of Kathy Kampschmidt, Nicki Carlisle, Al Myers, Don Nichols, and Lee Brushett, this District 6 band does awesome twin fiddling, oldies, swing, blues, old time fiddling and more. They will be participating at an upcoming Shasta Library Foundation event at the Civic Center.

<http://www.shastalibraryfoundation.org/ourevents>

The Mountain Messengers



The members: Jade Johnson, Gerry Goldman, Lloyd Raeg, Don Palmer, Daniel Lindberg, George Fredson

This six member band plays a variety of Americana Music including Bluegrass, Gospel, and some contemporary songs that always leave their audience begging for more.

They play at Copper Ridge, and at the California Veterans Home every Wednesday.

Old Time Jam Band

Led by Becky Huskey, Pat Scott, and Rich Reynolds



This community string program, Old Time Jam Band, helps young fiddlers continue fiddlin'. They meet twice a month for lessons and jams and enjoy performing for community events. The Old Time Jam Band eagerly accepts new members. Come join in on the fun! Check us

out on Facebook or e-mail us at oldtimejamband@gmail.com.

Loosely Strung



Rich Reynolds Tex Ash, Pat Scott, and Becky Huskey

The band plays for small private parties, weddings, funerals, dances, and barbecues twice a month for a retirement home in Orland and twice a month for four different senior homes in Red Bluff. Loosely Strung has its roots in the 1970's when Tehama and Shasta Counties were both producing old-time players, young and old.

Old Kennett String Band

Tim Garrison Amy Vogt Carolyn Faubel George Fredson



The OKSB will be performing at the Third Annual Mountain Harvest Festival in Round Mountain on September 30. This is a fundraiser for the Mountain Community Center. We continue to be active playing at least twice a month, playing for the senior activity center "Golden Umbrella" and at the Vistas Care Center. We are a 4-Piece string band playing and singing Bluegrass and Old Time Music in the Redding and Shasta County area.

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

Band Bios/Press Releases Needed!

To have your District 6 band listed in the Grapevine, contact carolyncork@gmail.com or george.fredson@yahoo.com. Please send a photo along with other band information.

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.

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