



# The Grapevine

September 2017

Newsletter for

## CSOTFA



California State Old Time Fiddlers Association, District 6

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### **Message From the Editors**

It still feels a lot like summer, but fall is around the corner! There is a new seasonal poster being put together for our regularly occurring jams which you can see on our website. If you know of a business that would like to display our poster, please contact George.

Send any correspondence to PO Box 990462, Redding CA 96099-0462. And of course, you can always email [carolyncork@gmail.com](mailto:carolyncork@gmail.com), or [george.fredson@yahoo.com](mailto:george.fredson@yahoo.com).

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### **September Schedule/Upcoming Events**

September 3 – 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)

September 14 – 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.

September 17 - Free Old Time Fiddle Concert and Open Mic: 2-4pm, at Palo Cedro Community Hall, 22037 Old Forty-Four Drive (Third Sundays)

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

October 19 – Byron Berline in concert, Friday 7:30pm, at the Western Open.

### **Non-Club Events**

September 4- 6-8:00pm, (First Monday of each month) Nicki Carlisle's Jam, any acoustical instrument. Focus on beginning and intermediate levels. At Nicki's studio, 20 min. out of Palo Cedro on Hwy 44. Call 474-4427.

September 7 – 6:30pm Scottish Country Dance starts up again: Palo Cedro Community Hall,

22037 Old Forty-Four Drive. No Partner needed. Wear comfy shoes and bring water. All dances taught and walked then danced. Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:30PM. Cost \$6. <http://www.meetup.com/reddingdancegroup/> Or (530) 347-0825.

September 8-10 – McCloud Mountain Bluegrass Festival. Three days of camping, performances, workshops, jamming, beverage and food vendors. Gates open at 5pm on Friday, and the music lasts until Sunday at 4pm. Bands performing include: Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum, Rita Hosking Trio, Kathy Boyd & Phoenix Rising, Mossy Creek, blue Summit, and Old Kennett String Band. (To benefit McCloud schools music programs) For more information: <http://www.mccloudchamber.com>

September 16 – Pioneer Harvest Festival, at the Camden House in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Saturday from 10am-4pm. Activities for the whole family. Music by our District 6 bands Loosely Strung and The Old Time Jam Band. For more information contact Ranger Brianna Corp at 530-242-3451.

September 23 – 7pm, Contra Dance at IOF/Rebecca Hall off Silver Bridge and Hwy 44, Palo Cedro.

September 30 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mountain Harvest Festival – Round Mountain. Saturday, 2pm-

10pm. A fun event for the whole family!  
Fundraiser for the non-profit Mountain  
Community Center in Round Mountain, Hwy  
299 East. Music by the Old Kennett String  
Band. For more information contact: Neil  
Peterson 530-215-8674

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

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## **Western Open Fiddle Contest**

### **October 19-21, 2017**

We think of the **Western Open Fiddle Championships** as the competition “arm” of District 6 of the California State Old Time Fiddlers Association. The **Western Open Fiddle Championships** were born in the spring of 1982 in Redding. Jacque Waterhouse, Maria and Frank Hawkey, Ron Heuer, and Mary Lane can take credit for having the courage and enthusiasm to get started and create what is now one of the largest and most popular fiddle contests in the Western United States. After 14 very successful years in Redding, the **Western Open** moved to our home here in Red Bluff. In 2016, we celebrated our 20th year in Red Bluff with the **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Open Fiddle Championships**.

The **Western Open** has provided motivation and a showcase for hundreds of youngsters of all ages who practice all year for this event. Old friends and new get together this week and everyone revels in the wholesome family atmosphere. The toe-tapping music resonates from every nook and cranny of the Red Bluff Elks Lodge, and “fiddling around” during *Fiddle Week* has become an October tradition in Tehama County. The old-time tunes, passed down through the years, are heard once again.

Every year we work to make improvements and add new ideas and new events. Three years ago we started a Junior Piano Contest on Saturday morning for our young pianists, ages 17 and under. This year we are changing our Thursday night program to an **Old Time Gospel Jam**. We are encouraging musicians and lovers of this old time gospel music to come play any acoustic instrument and we invite everyone to sing

along with the old standards. Festivities will begin with the Elks Lodge offering dinner for a nominal charge, followed by the **Old Time Gospel Jam** beginning at 6:30 PM, with free admittance to all. The Western Open Fiddle Championships competition will begin Friday morning and run until dinner. After dinner, we will award prizes and then feature our guest performer in concert, **Byron Berline**, all the way from Guthrie, Oklahoma. The **Western Open** will continue competitions all day Saturday, ending about 10:00 PM Saturday night.

When we reflect upon the 35 years of the **Western Open**, it is the people who have made it so special. Many of the members of the **Western Open Committee** have been on board for every contest. We’ve followed some of our “fiddle kids” on their journeys as they competed all the way from the Peewee through the Open Division. Many of those “kids” are now fiddle teachers, and it is with great joy that we watch *their* children follow in their parents’ footsteps on the **Western Open** stage. A few of those whose first public performance was on the **Western Open** stage have gone on to make their living making music. There will be people in the audience each year who have attended every contest, as well as those who will be attending for the very first time. Every year there are new contestants and new audience members, all of whom we invite in to our “Fiddle Family.” We say to all, “Welcome!” and we look forward to sharing the magic of old time fiddle music with all of you, at the **Western Open Fiddle Championships**, Thursday through Saturday at the end of the third *full* week in October, 19-21, 2017.

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## **McCloud Mountain Bluegrass Grows to Three Days, September 8-10, 2017**

McCloud, CA – August 16, 2017 -- The McCloud Chamber of Commerce is pleased to present the fifth annual McCloud Mountain Bluegrass event at the foot of majestic Mt. Shasta. McCloud Mountain Bluegrass 2017 is back September 8,9,10 and bigger than ever with THREE DAYS of performances, workshops, jamming, beer, food vendors and GREAT MUSIC!

This year's lineup includes performances by Grammy awarding-winning artist Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum, Blue Summit, Kathy Boyd & Phoenix Rising, Mossy Creek, Old Kennett String Band, and back by popular demand, the Rita Hosking Trio. Raffle prizes all weekend include grand prize drawings for a handcrafted mandolin by Jack Summers and a Deering Banjo.

McCloud Mountain Bluegrass is a relaxed and family-friendly event, combining quality music, food and beer in a beautiful location, and promises fun and camaraderie for all ages. Food vendors include Sage Restaurant with their popular Festival Menu of gourmet burgers and brats, Kyody Café drinks and pastries and Fiesta Fresh. Children under 10 admitted free with a paying adult.

This is a rain or shine event at the north end of [Hoo Hoo Park](#). Free Parking at the Old Mill site. We invite you to bring a lawn chair, sunscreen and hat. Well-behaved dogs on-leash allowed but leave your coolers at home. Guests may not bring alcoholic beverages, however beer, wine and soda will be available for purchase. This year's event will benefit music education programs at the McCloud Elementary and High School.

Event camping check-in begins on Friday, Sept. 8 at 5 p.m. The 3-day music-filled event kicks off at 7pm, Friday, Saturday Sept. 8 at Hoo Hoo Park Pavilion. Gates open at 10am on Saturday and Sunday Sept. 9-10.

For more information, please visit <http://www.mccloudchamber.com/mccloud-events/mccloud-mountain-bluegrass-2017>

For further information regarding this press release, contact:

Cindy Rosmann: [innkeeper@mccloudhotel.com](mailto:innkeeper@mccloudhotel.com) PH: (530) 964-2822

### ***Sideline, at The Studio in Cottonwood***

*By Carolyn Faubel*

There is a small musical gem in our community called "The Studio," in Cottonwood. If you have ever been to one of their house concerts, then you understand the wonderful, intimate setting those folks have created for a one-of-a-kind listening experience with some exceptionally fine bands.

The exceptionally fine Bluegrass band, Sideline, from North Carolina, was back in California in August, and booked at The Studio! I was very happy to be able to make this show. Dave and Linda, are such gracious hosts, and opened the door at 6pm for a lovely potluck. Patio furniture and blanket-covered hay bales were grouped out front for casual dining. At 7, I took my place

in the front row along with a full house to enjoy the show.

There is nothing like a 6 piece Bluegrass band playing at full speed about 3 feet in front of you! These fellows are amazing! Steve Dilling plays the banjo as if he had been born with one in his hands. His emcee work was very funny, and his stories and inside jokes make you feel as if you know all the guys yourself.

Jason Moore on the bass laid down a solid background for the numbers. But wait! There's more! When he got to grooving, when he took some breaks, when he pulled out those rich fills, then you knew he wasn't just "keeping time," but enhancing the tune to its fullest potential.

Skip Cherryhomes held down the rhythm with his aggressive guitar playing, pulling out intricate and impressive solos at every

chance. His excitement with the music was contagious, and he made you want to holler and stamp your feet along with him!

Nathan Aldridge, Sideline's young fiddle player is quiet and soft-spoken, but his fiddle sure does the talking for him! He was especially featured on a few old time fiddle tunes, and I especially remember his Old Joe Clark variation, somehow made new and fun again.

Brad Hudson brings that other Bluegrass instrument, the dobro, into the group. I love to hear that dobro cry! And Brad used both a freedom and restraint to make it the sweetest sound in his tunes. His high lonesome vocals drove many of the songs.

Troy Boone is the newest member of the band, and this is his first trip out here. His

lightning-fast mandolin moves and fine, high vocals were superb! I loved to see the smile on his face all during the show, and how he would step forward when doing his numbers, bringing him even closer to the music-loving, appreciative audience.

If you like Bluegrass music, but haven't seen Sideline before, I am sure you will enjoy catching their next show out in California. Pay a visit to their website, [sidelinebg.com](http://sidelinebg.com), and find out more about the band and these fine musicians. Also, keep an eye on the schedule for The Studio in Cottonwood to discover more great acts to come!

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### **Feature Article:**

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

Written by: Kenneth Leivers, 1974

[www.northstatefiddlers.com](http://www.northstatefiddlers.com)

Page 7.6 of 7, of a serialized article

As of April, 1974, the usual contests and jamborees were being held by the California State Old-Time Fiddlers' Association. Ben Zang was president and the Board of Directors included George Davis, Ray Parks, Cy Widener, and Todd Scott. The founder of the California State Association, Grant Spangenberg, was again recognized by inclusion of his name in the letterhead of The Sound Post. The new districts continued their process of internal organization. A new district may be forming in the Santa Barbara area which would bring the total to eight. The

beginning of 1974 was marked by state-wide representation among the officials of the California State Association, plus emphasis on district autonomy and equality among districts of the Association.

*This concludes our featured series "A Short History of Fiddling and the California State Old Time Fiddlers Association." The entire article is on our website [www.northstatefiddlers.com](http://www.northstatefiddlers.com) under the tab "About." References are cited at the conclusion of the article. We are fortunate to have this information available for the history of our organization.*

### ***How Did You Get Started Playing the Fiddle?***

#### ***George Fredson***

We are continuing our 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. Our own George Fredson has his story to tell in this issue.

How did I decide to become a fiddle player?

I've always been a fan of the fiddle and admired those amazing musicians that can play one of them and make it look so **effortless**. The soundtrack for my life has always been the fiddle and clawhammer banjo. I'm certain that somewhere in genetic



code, the fiddle and the banjo gene resides, ready to be called into action and when I “grow older” (since I’ll never grow up) I will be a fiddle player too. I just regret that I didn’t begin my attempt at learning the fiddle thirty or forty years ago.

It seems as though there has been a fiddle hanging on my wall or in my closet for a long time but it’s only been since I retired that I actually had the amount of leisure time needed to pick one up and begin sawing away on it. To begin with, what emanated from my fiddle was a far cry from anything that sounded like music but more like I was performing open-heart surgery on a cat without the benefit of anesthesia. I wondered why in the world someone would invent a stringed instrument without frets, like it was intentional *effort* to create something that was next to impossible to play. Kind of like owning a Corvette with no wheels.

I actually made a feeble commitment to learn to play the fiddle just a few years ago, finding that once I began to come out of the closet with it and learn things in the company of other fiddle players, that whatever I did was wrong, from the way I held the fiddle to the way I held the bow, and everything in between. (Hint for anyone even thinking about taking up the fiddle: Stay away from other fiddlers unless you are strong enough to endure all the criticism that you could ever imagine).

The important thing to me has been to be able to generate a tune that I can recognize. Fortunately I have a halfway decent ear for music and I don’t have to rely on music notation. I can usually hear a tune and reproduce it on the fiddle, with a little practice, so that it sounds like it is supposed to. When I watch those YouTube videos of old fiddlers from Appalachia with their fiddles on their arm and gripping the bow about a quarter of the way up its length, I realize they too never needed the instruction of a classical fiddle player to be able to crank out the great tunes that are music to my ears.

The choices of authentic Old Time Fiddle Tunes are almost limitless. I tend to select my favorites based on their names, like “Chicken in the Snowbank,” and “Chase the Squirrel,” and “Sal’s Got Mud Between Her Toes.” Now that’s what I call Old Time Fiddle Tunes as opposed to “Old Fiddle Tunes” played by old and not so old fiddlers!

No matter how much others discourage me from playing in public, I will endure. I’ve never let good judgment get in the way of having fun. Until I really feel ready to go public with my fiddling I will enjoy playing in private and maybe next year, when I’m much better, you’ll have the opportunity to hear my fiddle playing. Until then I will just enjoy it in the privacy of my own room, late at night and in to the early hours of the morning, trying to make up for all the years that I should have been learning how to play the fiddle.

**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.



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## **D6 Band News and Bios: Old Time Jam Band**



Led by Becky Huskey, Pat Scott, and Rich Reynolds  
The Old Time Jam Band will perform at the Pioneer Harvest Festival Sept. 19 at the Camden House. 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.  
oldtimejamband@gmail.com.

## **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 will perform at the Sons of Italy Paesano Days in Sept. 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)

## **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.

**TEHAMA** | *arts*  
Tehama County Arts Council

Promoting the Arts in Tehama County! See how we do that at [tehamaarts.org](http://tehamaarts.org), or visit the Main Event Gallery at 710 Main St., Red Bluff, CA.

## Loosely Strung



*Rich Reynolds, Tex Ash, Pat Scott, and Becky Huskey*  
Loosely Strung will be performing at the Pioneer Harvest Festival September 19 at the Camden House.

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.

## 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. September 9, from 5:30-7:00pm, they will be participating at an

upcoming Shasta Library Foundation event at the Civic Center.

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



**Dr. Bruce Farrell, DDS**

Palo Cedro Dental Care  
9348 Deschutes Rd. Suite A  
Palo Cedro, CA 96073  
(530)547-5744

Cottonwood Dental Care  
3251 Chestnut St.  
Cottonwood, CA 96022  
(530)347-4636

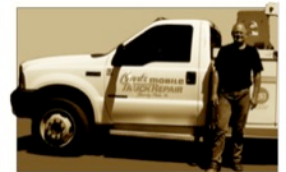
## Old Kennett String Band

*Tim Garrison Amy Vogt Carolyn Faubel George Fredson*



The OKSB is looking forward to the McCloud Mountain Bluegrass Festival coming up on September 9. We will be one of the bands performing there, and we will be camping there at Hoo Hoo Park all weekend, jamming and having a good time with the music. Amy and Carolyn will be presenting banjo workshops at the festival on Saturday morning. Also on our schedule is 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.

## Covert's Mobile Truck Repair



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*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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