

# THE SUNDPOST

The Official Publication

**NOV-DEC 2017** of the

California State Old-Time Fiddlers' Association

Visit our new web site at [www.csotfa.org](http://www.csotfa.org)

**"Preserving and Perpetuating Old Time Fiddle Music"**

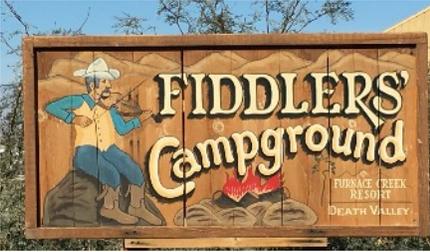
## FIDDLE CONTEST NEWS & VIEWS

### 2017 WESTERN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS



Complete results were not available by publish time. Thanks to Lyle Dixson for the pictures.

### GRASSY GREEN PICKIN' AND FIDDLIN' CONTEST, DEATH VALLEY



Fun times with friends at the Death Valley 49'er Encampment and Fiddle Contest this weekend. Kathy Kampschmidt did a great job organizing and running the contest for her first time.

Lynn E. Baldwin is the best master of ceremonies in Death Valley. Jim French was the youngest picker! And we had the nicest weather ever during the encampment. But missed a lot of friends who couldn't make it., especially Bill Whitfield and Anita Marley (See results on page 4)



Scorekeepers; Esther Smith and Ruth Oveland



Judges: Hughie Smith, Willie Randel, Randy Warner,



Thanks to Liz Warner, Esther Smith & Ruth Oveland for pictures and results

# California State Old Time Fiddlers' Association

## P.O. Box 1703 Oroville, CA 95965

### State Officers

President: Sharon Barrett- [texshar@pacbell.net](mailto:texshar@pacbell.net)  
V. Pres. : Bill Whitfield - [anita.marley49@gmail.com](mailto:anita.marley49@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Mary Rose Preston; [maryrose@wavecable.com](mailto:maryrose@wavecable.com)  
Treasurer: Robert Curtis - [rocurtis@gatewayacceptance.com](mailto:rocurtis@gatewayacceptance.com)  
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Editor: Cathy Agnew - [themimi@roadrunner.com](mailto:themimi@roadrunner.com)

### State Directors

District 1: Vacant  
District 3: Gayel Pitchford -- [captgayel@cybersurfers.net](mailto:captgayel@cybersurfers.net)  
District 4: Pat Nelson -- [rpnelson@pacbell.net](mailto:rpnelson@pacbell.net)  
District 5: Lyle Dixson - [Lyle@DATEQ.NET](mailto:Lyle@DATEQ.NET)  
District 6: Tex Ash -- [texshar@pacbell.net](mailto:texshar@pacbell.net)  
District 7: Chuck Murtomaki - [chmurt@cox.net](mailto:chmurt@cox.net)  
District 8: Charletta Erb – [charlettaerb@gmail.com](mailto:charlettaerb@gmail.com)  
District 9: Ruth Oveland -- [roveland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:roveland@sbcglobal.net)  
District 10: Mike Drayton – [mdayton@sonic.net](mailto:mdayton@sonic.net)

### DISTRICT MEETING LOCATIONS, DATES, AND TIMES:

- District 1 4th Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Feather River Senior Center 1335 Meyer St. Oroville
- District 3 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 2:00-5:00 p.m. 21100 Lonely Lane, Tehachapi Ca
- District 4 1st Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m.: Orange Thorpe Pk. Activity Bldg., 1414 Brookhurst, Fullerton CA
- District 5 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Orangevale Grange, 5807 Walnut Ave. Orangevale CA
- District 6 1st Sunday 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM Redding - St. James Lutheran Church 2500 Shasta View Blvd. Redding, CA - Web site: <http://www.northstatefiddlers.com>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday - Palo Cedro- 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM.- 22037 Old Forty-Four Drive, Palo Cedro, CA
- District 7 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Terrace Estates Clubhouse, 1815 Sweetwater Road, Spring Valley, CA
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Village Park Rec Club #2, 2099 Mountain Vista Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Rancho San Diego Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego, El Cajon, CA
- District 8 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 1:30-4:00 p.m.: Oak View Community Center, 18 Valley Rd. Oak View CA
- District 9 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 1:30-5:00 p.m.: United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria St., Castro Valley CA
- District 10 4<sup>th</sup> Sun.+ traveling jam: Redwood Café, Cotati call Mark Hogan 707-829-8012 or Katy Bridges 415-331-9661

# District Reports

## District 1

Mary Rose Preston

The Fiddle Workshop musicians played patriotic music on the District 1 float for the Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 11 in Historic Downtown Oroville. As we waited we warmed up on country music, Irish tunes and old-time tunes. We enjoyed the scenes around us, including the dressed-up llamas and cool old cars, the flashily dressed Knights of Columbus men and their Santa Maria boat float, and a man sitting on a fire hydrant playing his euphonium. There was a moment of excitement when a nearby car backfired three times. We are all a little jumpy these days, but it was indeed just a car.

We had two guitar players (Jimi and Lawrence), one banjo (Walt), two mandolins (Connie and Pat), a penny whistle (Rosemary), a flock of fiddlers (Karen, Pam, Rosemary, Carol, Mary Rose, Anne and Teri) and, a special treat - Rayburn on the Irish drum, keeping us all together. The drum was very helpful; Rayburn's musical talents know no bounds. Great job!

On Saturday, December 2 our musicians will perform a 40-minute concert of Christmas and holiday tunes at the Frontier Christmas Celebration at the Lake Oroville Visitors Center. Also during the day there will be pioneer crafts and games, sing-alongs, entertainment, gold panning, storytelling, and Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

The Float Crowd is looking forward to the Parade of Lights in the evening on Saturday, December 9. We still have room for a few more musicians on the float, and we could also use some Smilers and Wavers.

The Fiddle Workshops are on a break until mid-January (or so). Stay tuned for an e-mail from District 1 regarding the next Workshop date in 2018.

District 1 musicians perform the first Sunday evening every month at Country Crest, a senior living facility in Oroville, and have a steady and appreciative fan base there.

Our fourth Sunday 2:00 jams are enjoyed by our members and visitors. Bring a potluck dish and join the fun! Buy some tickets for the raffle at 3:30, and stay to enjoy the small groups who sign up to perform after the raffle.

The board meetings and jams are at the Feather River Senior Center, 1335 Myers Street, Oroville. If you are passing through town, be sure to stop by and visit; we would love to see you.



Anne Michels and Rayburn McDonald.



Carol Robirds and Mary Rose

## District 3

Gayel Pitchford

District 3 been working on the Fiddle Float and we are scheduled to run it in the Tehachapi Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting.

Where: "F" Street, Downtown Tehachapi

When: Saturday, December 2, 2017

Time: 5:30 PM PST

Join us in beautiful Historic Downtown Tehachapi for the 17th Annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 5:30 .m.

These events are planned so the community can gather together for visiting old friends, making new friends, drinking hot chocolate, watching the parade, sharing a meal, enjoying the lights, singing carols, strolling from business to business doing your Christmas Shopping. This is to be an exciting holiday event filled with community spirit for all ages.

Immediately following the Christmas Parade is the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Tehachapi Railroad Depot Museum. Wouldn't a few snowflakes complete the magic?

### Oroville Parade



Connie



Walt



Anne, Teri, Pat, Carol, Lawrence.



Jimi Beeler and Rosemary Bridges

# District 4

Pat Nelson

Once again District 4 will celebrate the holidays and the end of the year with our Holiday Dinner and Jam on Sunday, December 10 from 12:30-4. See details below. We hope to see everyone there!

## OLD TIME FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION

### HOLIDAY DINNER



Please join us for our annual Holiday Gathering.

When: Sunday, Dec.10, 2017 (Note: 2nd Sunday of month)

Time: 12:30 – 4:00 PM, starts earlier than in the past for more fiddling!

Location: Orangethorpe Activity Building



Bring: Musical instrument & silverware

We are planning on fiddling at the park. This will be followed by a Holiday Dinner we'll order in advance and we'll serve at the Activity Building. There is no cost to you – we are using accrued funds. More fiddling to follow as time permits. Please call Nadia Brown at (562) 424-0657 by November 12th to confirm your attendance. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

P.S. We'll also be processing membership sign-ups and collecting dues.

Happy Holidays to you!

### CSOTFA State Membership Report As of November 1, 2017

District 1	Head of Households -	59	; Spouses-23	; Children- 2
District 3	Head of Households-	25	; Spouses- 10;	Children- 10
District 4	Head of Households-	22	; Spouses- 14;	Children- 2
District 5	Head of Households-	105	; Spouses- 48;	Children- 25
District 6	Head of Households-	80	; Spouses- 35;	Children- 14
District 7	Head of Households-	48	; Spouses- 17;	Children- 7
District 8	Head of Households-	108	; Spouses- 45;	Children- 4
District 9	Head of Households-	61	; Spouses- 20;	Children- 6
District 10	Head of Households-	60	; Spouses- 17;	Children- 14
State Membership Totals -		509	229	84
Total Membership:	822			

# District 5

Lyle Dixon

Most of our "usual suspects", so to speak, were re-elected to our District 5 board of officers for 2018, according to election results announced at our last jam Nov. 12. We must be doing something right because nobody ran against our 2017 list of incumbents.

Re-elected were Eric Anderson, president; Bob Dahl, vice president; Doug Dempster, secretary; Sandi Anderson, treasurer; Mary McGown, membership secretary; Lyle Dixon, state representative, and Paul Lyle and Carl Malotte, advisors.

Also on Nov. 12, our club held its annual holiday dinner with turkey and the rest of the usual holiday trimmings. Everybody seemed to have a good time and no one went away hungry. Our next monthly jam Dec. 10 will feature our annual dessert special. Folks dig through recipes and cookbooks to prepare and share their favorite delicacy.

For almost 25 years, we have held our monthly jams at the Orangevale Grange Hall near Sacramento. Many of those years several of our members played Christmas songs for the Grange's December pancake breakfast that precedes our jam. That's on our schedule again this year under the direction of Carol Spiker, a fiddler and past president of District 5, who is also a very active Grange member.

## Death Valley Contest Results

### Sr.Sr.

- 1-Barbara Brooks
- 2-Kathy Kampschmidt
- 3-Charley Oveland
- 4-Vera Vann-Wilson,
- 5-Chuck Murtomaki

### Hot Fiddle:

- 1-Hughie Smith
- 2-Avery Ellisman
- 3-Nicki Carlisle

### Novelty: 1-Nicki Carlisle Green Blowing Keyboard Machine

- 2-Vera Vann-Wilson Dobro
- 3-Bill Thornhill Dobro

### Senior:

- 1-Nicki Carlisle
- 2-Randy Warner

### Picking:

- 1-Avery Ellisman-Mandolin
- 2-Steve Hohnstadt-Guitar
- 3-Jim French-Guitar 3-
- 4-Vera Vann-Wilson-Banjo

### Open:

- 1-Hughie Smith
- 2-Avery Ellisman
- Eileen Milligan

### Twin Fiddle:

- 1-Nicki Carlisle & Kathy Kampschmidt
- 2-Avery Ellisman & Eileen Milligan
- 3 - Barbara Brooks & Vera Vann-Wilson

### Waltz Contest:

- 1-Hughie Smith
- Barbara Brooks
- Avery Ellisman
- Eileen Milligan
- 5-Nicki Carlisle & Kathy Kampschmidt

### Hot Picker:

- 1-Avery Ellisman-Mandolin 2-
- 2-Jim French-Guitar 3-
- 3-Vera Vann-Wilson-Banjo, 4-
- 4-Steve Hohnstadt-Guitar 4

# District 6

George Fredson



District 6 has stayed busy throughout the last month with their bimonthly events, the Manton Apple Festival, Burney Falls State Park Heritage Day and the Western Open Fiddle Championships and planning for elections and our December activities with the Christmas Potluck and Membership meeting for December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Palo Cedro Community Center again this year.

We are entering that lovely time of year known as the Holiday Season! So break out those Christmas tunes now so that when December comes in only one short month, you'll be all practiced up and ready! In the meantime, enjoy your Thanksgiving with your family, friends, and your Fiddle Family!

Our biggest event of the year, the Western Open Fiddle Championships, was a huge success. Again, Tex Ash and Sharon Barrett did an amazing job organizing, fundraising, and producing the event held at the Elks Lodge in Red Bluff, California. If you didn't have the opportunity to attend the year then put it on your calendar now for next year. It is always the end of the third week in October.

We would like to extend our heartfelt wishes for a wonderful and safe Holiday Season to all our friends and family in the California State Old Time Fiddlers Association!



The Shooting Stars

Letter from Sharon Barrett, Western Open Co-Coordinator:

Tex and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the 2017 Western Open Fiddle Championships. If I started listing all the names of everyone who helped out, it would read like one of the "begets" from the Old Testament, so please forgive me for the generic "Thank you!"

We hosted our annual Hashover meeting last week at which we celebrated our successes and began planning for the 36th Western Open, which will be held **October 25-27, 2018**. Our primary focus for the Western Open has always been to remember "who brung us to the dance," and to keep fiddlers and fiddling in the forefront of everything we do. Having said that, we are always looking for ways to make things even better and as a result, the Western Open has continually evolved.

The latest example of that evolution was the addition this year of the Old Time Gospel Jam. By all accounts, it was a resounding success--a wonderful new element to the Western Open--and plans are to continue it in 2018. Tex has emceed all but one day in 35 years of the Western Open, and this year marks the 21st year that he and I have co-chaired the event. It has truly been a labor of love, but we want to emphasize that we would like very much to *share* the love. In other words, we are looking for more people who would like to be involved in the planning and or execution of the contest.

There are a wide variety of tasks that need to be performed prior to and during the contest— requiring an equally wide variety of time-commitments. If you have enjoyed the Western Open any time during the past 35 years, and wish to see it continue far into the future, please consider volunteering your time and energies in whatever way you can. The simplest way to start the process toward finding the task that best fits your needs is to give us a call, drop us a line, contact us! We'll sit down and have a chat, and find exactly the right niche for you to fill.

Again, thanks to every member of our Fiddle Family for all of your love, time, and support at the 2017 Western Open Fiddle Championships. Here's to many, many more.

Love ,  
Sharon

# District 7

**Gregory Gross**

District 7 is laying plans for its holiday luncheon, in place of its 2nd Sunday December meeting, where the officers for 2018 will be announced.

As in prior years the venue is Anna's Family Restaurant in Lemon Grove. Of course, there will be music, but in more of an "open mic" format though without an actual live mic'. We have been invited to entertain at a seniors' luncheon in December, as well as at a local historic fair in January (last year's event pictured).

We are still planning our fifth annual Julian Fiddle 'n' Pickin' Contest, currently projected for late spring. People come to compete from all over the West, and spectators are invited to observe all day long for free. The contest revives a tradition previously carried by the Julian Lions Club.

District 7's involvement with the San Diego Unified School District has changed this year with their shift of focus to a broader variety of stringed concert instruments. The whole Fiddle Fest project had been an exciting development from the beginning, and we wish the SDUSD continued expansion and enthusiasm for their program. Special thanks to local members Steve & Stephanie Millican for coordinating between the School District and our club.

Respectfully submitted, Gregory Gross  
Chairperson, CSOTFA District 7



CSOTFA Dist. 7 at Old Town Mormon Battalion Day



Chuck Murtomacki & Maril Parker



Typical 2nd Sunday Meeting at Dist 7

# District 8

**Marlene Nord**

Howdy from District Eight:

Already, our year is winding down. Poof! Where did it go. Well, the best answer I can give as far as our district is concerned is that we've have experienced another fantastic year of music. The highlight of the fall was a wonderfully yummy barbecue in late September. Although the unusually hot weather diminished our over all summer attendance slightly, it didn't cool off our super variety of musicians' contributions.

Year end will feature our annual Christmas/Holiday dinner in mid December. This event, along with turkey and trimmings will feature the installation of our new slate of officers for 2018, as well as recognize those who have assisted in making 2017 the great year it has been. Drop by and see us on the second and fourth Sunday of the month! See you next year!



Linda Rinner & Sandra Rios

# District 9

Ruth Oveland

## NEWS AND VIEWS FROM DISTRICT 9

The holidays are around us and the members and supporters of District 9 wish all of you, your families and friends the joys of the season and the very best for 2018.

We've had significant birthdays, anniversaries those recovering from illness and injury and a celebration of life these past couple of months. Our Facebook page continues to collect 'friends' and our website, [csotfa9.org](http://csotfa9.org), continues to have great content thanks to the work of Susan Calico. We invite you to check them both out.

District 9 members have been out and about, attending the Walker Creek Music Camp, the Tehachapi Old Time Fiddle Contest, the Heirloom Festival Fiddle-Off, the Western Open Fiddle Championships, and the Grassy Green Picking and Fiddling Contest at Death Valley. Some of the results from the above events are posted in other articles in this newsletter.

So what's happening at our monthly jams? There's talk about quilting, talk about gardening, the playing of aces and spades, some dancing, just plain old chit chat, good fun conversation/s, all the while enjoying the awesome music and the great potluck lunch!!

We are gearing up for our Fall election of Officers for 2018. As you are aware, CSOTFA is a volunteer organization and it takes each and every member to do their part, both at the State and the District levels. Voting takes place at our December jam.

Our Holiday Jam is set for Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and is always festive and fun. Besides the food, we have great items for our raffle and some very exceptional music as well as the election of Officers. Yes, it's a very busy afternoon! If you are in the area, please feel free to come join us and make sure you bring your instruments and your holiday spirit!

# District 10

Mike Drayton

## District 10, Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties



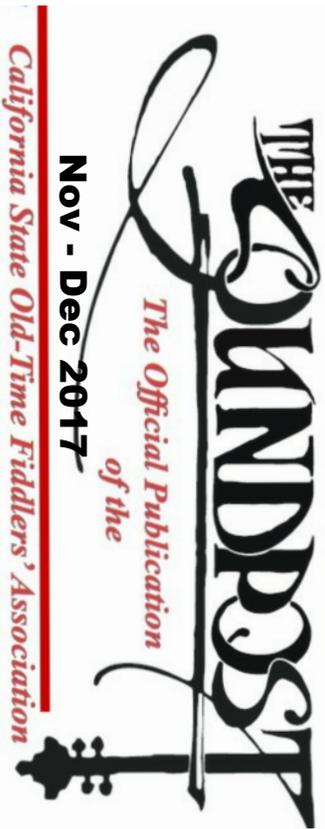
### Jamming at the historic Ely Stage Stop in Kelseyville

The wildfires in our region disrupted normal life during much of October. This writer is not aware of any District 10 members whose homes suffered fire damage this time, and he hopes that the count remains at zero.

Nonetheless, on November 5<sup>th</sup>, the Lake County Fiddlers, together with District 10 enjoyed the monthly, jam at the Ely Stage Stop. There's always a healthy group of players and an appreciative audience, some who are regulars, and others who come to the historic Stage Stop to see the exhibits and participate in living history activities. As you can see, thanks to District 10 members Andi Skelton, Sue Condit and Don Coffin, a good number of young fiddlers take part.

Find us at the Ely Stage Stop, state highway 218, Kelseyville, first Sunday of the month, noon to 2:00 p.m. Find the latest information at <http://elystagestop.com/>.

Another monthly jam in our district occurs on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, 3 till 5 p.m. at the Redwood Café, 8240 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati. This jam is organized by members Chris Carney and Jannette Duncan. It's always well attended, too.



# Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas

We wish our members a very blessed and happy holiday season with family and friends. And a happy, healthy and Blessed 2018.

