

Visit our new web site at www.csotfa.org

"Preserving and Perpetuating Old Time Fiddle Music"

Hello to everyone,

Hope all is well with you, your family and friends. As far as we know, we only had a few members who got Covid-19 but they have recovered or are recovering.

We are all so anxious to get back to our music and gather with friends to enjoy playing together again. Most districts have been able to meet with some restrictions which is better than not getting to meet at all. It's very important for all of us to support our district to keep our organization strong and viable!

Like most festivals and contests, the State Fiddle Championships and the Julian Fiddle & Pickin' Contest have been canceled till 2022. It's been a very tough year and a half on everyone. But, after everything was shut down in 2020 we finally have some 2021 fiddle contests and activities coming up that will help get you out of the house and enjoying life again!

The National Old Time Fiddlers Contest and Festival is coming up June 23-26, in Weiser, ID. That's kinda far for some folks but it's a fun trip if you can make it.

Tehachapi is having their 44th Annual Fiddlin' Down the Tracks Contest Sept. 17-18 at the Country Oaks Baptist Church. It's a smaller contest but worth the trip.

And the famous Western Open is back on Oct. 22-24 at the Red Bluff, CA. Elks Lodge. This is always a contest that draws folks from all around the west coast. Check out the flyers in this edition.

On another note, our Fearless Leader ,Sharon Barrett Ash, had surgery this week and therefore I did not want to impose on her to do a President Message so I just sorta filled in for her. She'll be back in good shape soon. In the meantime, ya'll stay well and we'll see you down the road soon!

Cathy Agnew, Editor



The National Oldtime Fiddlers'
Contest & Festival!

This year has challenges we have never had prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are making some changes to help keep folks safe, but that will allow the National Oldtime Fiddlers Contest to be held.

This year's contest will be a livestreamed "hybrid" contest. You may watch it on Youtube and the National Oldtime Fiddlers Contest and Festival's Facebook page. This will allow competitors to either come to Weiser and compete on the auditorium stage or to compete from a remote location of their choosing. The audience numbers will be very limited to comply with safety guidelines.

We are concentrating on providing the best quality live streaming program of our contest. You will be able to enjoy the contest or compete from the safety and comfort of your homes, or you may compete in person. You will be able to donate to help us with our expenses.

Contestants' and Accompanists' Registration Packets are now available. Festival Vendors and Entertainer Registration forms are also available in the Festival section.

Fiddletown opens Saturday June 19. Slocum and SRHC Campgrounds will open Wednesday June 16. (See Stickerville's website www.stickerville.org for their latest information.)

Please bear with us as we make the information available to you. If you have a question that needs an immediate answer, please feel free to call us! (208) 414-0255 Monday-Fridays 9-5, or email admin@fiddlecontest.com.

California State Old Time Fiddlers' Association P.O. Box 1703 Oroville, CA 95965

State Officers

President: Sharon Barrett- texshar@pacbell.net

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District 8: Bob Bueling - bob@sympaticomusic.com

District 9: Bob Palasek - r03palasek@sbcglobal.net

District 10: Mark Hogan-hogiemoon@comcast.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 2nd 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 2nd Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Orangevale Grange, 5807 Walnut Ave. Orangevale CA

District 6 Free Old Time Fiddle Jams 1st Sunday, 1:00 - 3:00 Open Circle Jam, 3:00 Board Meeting St. James Lutheran Church 2500 Shasta View Blvd. Redding ;3rd Sunday, 1:00 Workshop & Jam, 2:00-4:00 Open Mic Palo Cedro Community Hall, 22037 Old Forty-Four Drive Website: http://www.northstatefiddlers.com/sep Facebook: North State Fiddlers

District 7 2nd Sunday 12:00-2:45PM: Terrace Estates Clubhouse, 1815 Sweetwater Road, Spring Valley, CA 3rd Sunday 12:30-1:00 PM Workshop, 1:00-3:00 Jam: Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Dr., Room 140 Encinitas CA 4th Sunday 12:00-2:45 PM: Rancho San Diego Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego, El Cajon, CA

District 8 2nd & 4th Sunday 1:30-4:00 p.m.: Oak View Community Center, 18 Valley Rd. Oak View CA

District 9 4th Sunday 1:30-5:00 p.m.: United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria St., Castro Valley CA

District 10 Redwood Cafe, Cotati. Every 4th Sunday 3:00 to 5:00. Janette Duncan, Chris Carney, Steve DeLap, 707-570-2745.



Jimi Beeler - President, CSOTFA District 1

His First Guitar Was a Vacuum Cleaner . (interviewed and written by Teresa Ward)

Note: Dist.1 Having monthly fiddle jams with masks on.

District 1 President Jimi Beeler has been playing the guitar for more than 60 years. He received his first guitar as a Christmas present from his mom and dad, and it was a complete surprise. The guitar was in box that was all taped up, and his dad asked him to wrap the box for his mom, so Jimi assumed it was a vacuum cleaner. When Christmas finally arrived, Jimi's mom asked him to open it for her. As he began to open the big box, he realized it was a guitar - and it was for him!

As a young man, Jimi studied music at Sacramento City College, where he performed with the Sac City College Stage Band and competed at the Berkeley Jazz Festival with the college's award-winning jazz combo. Although he learned a great deal from his professors, Jimi believes his real musical education came from the mentors he was fortunate to have:

On the Guitar - Buck Beeler (his father), John LaChapelle, Howard Roberts, Joe Back, Jack Warren, Larry Coryell, and Steve Kauffman;

On the Banjo - Bill Keith, Kathy Fox and Alan Hendricks; On the Mandolin - Cliff Sargent;

On the Violin/fiddle - Olin Dillingham and David Rainwater.

Jimi recalls feeling hypnotized as he sat listening to his dad and his future guitar teacher, John LaChapelle, playing together. Jimi observed his dad intently and was able to learn to play his first chords on the guitar.

Jimi's dad introduced him to the basics of several kinds of music, including swing, boogie-woogie, and honky-tonk guitar. His dad would patiently sit with him and play songs over and over again until Jimi mastered the tunes. Later Jimi began taking lessons from steel and jazz guitarist John LaChapelle, who taught him to play inverted triads up and own the neck of the guitar in every key. In addition, LaChapelle inspired Jimi to play jazz. Jimi was also inspired by Howard Roberts, whose books he studied in college music classes. Jimi recalls attempting to "remember it all" when he had the chance to participate in weekend seminars offered by Roberts. Larry Coryell inspired Jimi to play in multiple genres, including rock and roll, as well as jazz.

Jimi has played in many bands throughout his career, including classic rock, blues, funk and country. He has had the opportunity to perform with some great artists, such as Crayon,

Tiny Moore of the Texas Playboys, Joe and Rose Maphis, Rose Maddox, Omega with the Tower of Power Horns, Alan Hendricks & The California Quickstep, the Grace Avenue Gospel Band, Kevin Sharp, Johnny Lee and Eddy Raven, and gypsy guitarists Raul Reynoso, Paul Shelasky and Michael Dunn.

Jimi remembers playing all the big casinos in California and Nevada with Mickey Thomas, who had a hit called "Fooled Around and Fell in Love." This was right before Thomas began playing with Jefferson Starship. Jimi had a lot of fun playing with Crayon. The band had an album and played TV shows, concerts, and the California State Fair. Tiny Moore was one of Jimi's favorites. During the time Jimi played with him, Moore had a music store in Sacramento, and he and Jimi played at his studio and around Sacramento with the Western Swing Society. Jimi had his own band, the New Frontier, that played in Sacramento area clubs. The band played a lot with Rose and Joe Maphis, who played a double-neck guitar with a short-scale twelve string on top. Jimi also played with the Southern Empire band that had a radio show on KRAK radio and a TV show called California Country. The band really enjoyed playing with Rose Maddox when she was a guest on the show. Rose, who had hits such as "Rocky Top," had played with her brothers so long that if you weren't paying attention while playing with her, she would turn around and sock you in the arm!

Jimi remembers that when his band played with musicians like Johnny Lee and Eddy Raven, they were expected to show up ready to play; there were no rehearsals. Jimi recalls being proud of the musicians he played with because they were able to perform. They knew what they were doing! Finally, Jimi played with Charlie Red and the Medicine Show and recalls that they would play two or three full shows each day and sleep overnight in their campers non-stop for 18 days. Although the pace felt grueling at times, once they completed a show, the band packed up and traveled to the next one.

Today Jimi focuses on old-time music and has served as the President of CSOTFA District 1 for several years. He also donates his time as an instructor for District 1's bi-monthly Fiddle Group Workshops. Jimi teaches bass, banjo, dobro, fiddle, guitar and mandolin at Houser's Music, 1944 Bird Street, Oroville. . In addition, he enjoys playing with various local bands, including his own duo and the Feather River Gypsies. With District 1, Jimi really enjoyed being able to help people further their musical abilities in one way or another, whether playing individually or with others. His greatest reward is to help others grow as musicians, and many of Jimi's students have become teachers or professionals. Those who study with Jimi Beeler are grateful for the opportunity to study with someone so experienced and talented.

District 3

Wayne Agnew

On May 22 District 3 met at Gayle Pitchford's house in Tehachapi to elect officers for 2020-2021. District 3 officers are:

President Gayel Pitchford , Tehachapi Vice President Marilynn Hogan, Tehachapi

Secretary Lisa Rosa, Hanford Membership Rhonda DeLuca, Clovis Treasurer Fran Riggs, Tehachapi State Director Wayne Agnew, Moorpark

Advisory Board Tiffini Wagner, Beth Brownell, Patrick

Deluca.

The main topic of the meeting was planning the 44th Annual Fiddlin' Down the Tracks Fiddle Contest which will be held September 17-18, 2021. The emcee this year will be Kris Duke.

This year will be held in Memory of Fiddler Matthew Rails who was one of Gayel Pitchford's students.

We invite all district musicians and members to support our contest. Tehachapi is a great town with good restaurants, vineyards, famous train loop, railroad museum and other attractions. Come join us for a great contest.



On Sunday, March 14, 2021, Matthew Bryan Rails, a loving son, brother and grandson, passed away at the age of 20 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Matthew was born on July 31, 2000 in Carson City, Nev to Melissa Billingsley and Bryan Rails.

Matthew attended Carden School of Tehachapi and Tehachapi High School in his younger years. He was pursuing his political science degree at the University of Alaska, Anchorage in hopes to become a lawyer one day.

He was working full-time at Midnight Sun Animal Hospital in Anchorage. Matthew had a passion for music and began playing the violin at the age of 6 and continued to play his whole life. His proudest accomplishments were playing in the Kern County Honors Orchestra, the Tehachapi Community Orchestra, and competing in the Tehachapi Fiddle Contest multiple years.

Matthew had a passion for politics and law and always dreamed of moving to an Ivy League college to obtain his law degree. Matthew loved his classical rock, collecting old vinyl records, hiking, horseback riding, mountain bike riding, and raising service dogs for Canine Companions for Independence.

Matthew was known for his infectious smile, and witty humor, but most importantly his compassionate and loving soul.

District 4

Pat Nelson

District 4 has been meeting monthly via zoom. We have 10-12 attendees and enjoy "seeing" each other. Players try to find a tune "new" to the group. We are looking forward to meeting again in person, but our meeting site is still closed, as it is a city owned building.

Our next meeting is June 6 at 12 noon-2 p.m. For July, we will be moving the meeting to the second Sunday, July 11, as the first Sunday is July 4.

Happy 4th to all!

Pat Nelson CSOTFA District 4

District 7 Linda Rinner

Things have been very quiet in District 7 for the last year. We're looking forward to getting together soon to play some good ole fiddle tunes, fellowship and catch up with friends. It's been too long. We're still planning on getting together the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month and hopefully the 3rd Sunday as well.

We'll post the locations and times for our Fiddle Tune Jams on our website http://www.sandiegofiddler.org/itsallabou tfiddling.html

and on our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/sandiegofiddl ers/

We appreciate Dan Touchstone being our District 7 Director for the last few years. Dan's decided to retire from the position. He's going to be hard to replace. Thank you Dan, we appreciated your work as our Director.

California State Old Time Fiddlers, District 3

"FIDDLIN' DOWN THE TRACKS"

44TH ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLE CONTEST SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2021

Country Oaks Baptist Church 20915 Schout Rd., Tehachapi, CA Free Admission to the Public

Fri. 17 @ 3:00 p.m.

Senior Division
Senior -Senior Division
Adult Band Scramble

Sat. 18 @9:00 a.m.

Peewee Division
Junior Division
Twin Fiddle Div.
Novelty Division

Junior- Junior Div. Adult Divisions Picking Divisions Jr. Band Scramble

Cello/Bass Division

Matthew Rails Div. Best fiddle rendition of a hymn or gospel song.

Winners receive cash prizes, trophy or medal

For More Information Contact Gayel Pitchford 661-821-7511 or email captgayel@cybersurfers.net or tehachapifiddlers.net

Quilts on Display are provided by the Tehachapi Mountain Quilters



Contest is being held in Memory of Matthew Rails July 31, 2000-March 14, 2021

District 6

The Western Open Fiddle Championships is proud to host a



For more information, please contact us at: texshar@pacbell.net 530-604-5279 530-527-6127 www.WesternOpenFiddle.com

* We will, of course, be following guidelines for safely holding this event

We have reluctantly come to the conclusion that it would not be appropriate to hold the 38th Annual Western Open Fiddle Championships this year. At the same time, we see an opportunity to bring our Fiddle Family together for some desperately needed camaraderie and sharing of our beloved music. The Elks Lodge has spacious areas outside and many "nooks and crannies" inside where people can meet and mingle. We are planning several fun events such as:

Gospel Singalong-Hot Fiddle Contest-Waltz Contest-- Anything Goes-- and Gambler's Draw divisions.

There will be no Admission charged, and any prize money will be contingent on the number of contestants entering a particular event. The Elks Lodge will be preparing lunches and dinners for purchase and camping is available for \$5 per night dry camping or a limited number of \$15 per night for electric and water hook-ups (call us for reservations.) If you RSVP by October 1, you may purchase a Fiddle Family Reunion t-shirt for only \$5!



www.NorthStateFiddlers.com



Lee Brushett, 88, of Shasta died April 24th in Redding, California.

Lee was born January 24, 1933 to Adolphen and Hilda Brushett in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia. He grew up on a farm there with four siblings.Later he moved to Virginia, Florida, and finally Shasta County, California, gaining his U.S. citizenship for serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

In 1956, after serving in the military, he returned to Redding, California, where he met and married Lorene, his wife of 65 years. They moved to Shasta in 1960 and remained there until they lost their home in the Carr fire in 2018.

Lee attended Shasta College while he helped build and work for Superior Title and Escrow, Co. He also worked for Citizens Utilities and traveled around the country as a leading Rights of Way expert. He also served as Scoutmaster, was a member of Redding Breakfast Lions Club, Toastmasters, the Model A Club, and the First Church of Christ Scientist, Redding, California. A man of many talents, he also held a private pilot's license and shared with many friends an aerial view of his beloved Shasta County and beyond. One of his shining achievements was acting as a founding member of the District 6 Old Time Fiddlers, and its first President.

Lee was an accomplished guitar player who was well respected as an accompanist for hundreds of fiddle players at festivals, camps and contests. Devoted to music, he provided a solid backup for fiddle champions at the state level and at the National Fiddle Championships in Weiser, Idaho, as well as played guitar on several fiddle music albums and in live bands. Fiddlers will greatly miss Lee.

Membership Secretary Charley Oveland Update

By Ruth Oveland

Some folks had asked me about Charley and so I asked Ruth if she would give me an update for the newsletter. It sounds like Charley is doing pretty well. Look forward to seeing him at our next contest. "Get all better Charley"!!

May 2021 Update date on Charley Oveland

As some of you may know, Charley had a stroke in November 2020 while we were at our mountain home in Oak Run, Shasta County. He was hospitalized for about 20 days and then medically transported back to the bay area where he was a resident in a Health Care facility for 3 ½ months. He has been at home now for almost 2 months.

He is making excellent progress with the help of a Home Health Nurse, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. He gets out of bed by himself with little assistance, walks with his walker for several laps around the backyard, and when he gets tired of walking, he 'drives' his wheelchair all over, inside and outside the house.

His appetite is good and his favorite foods are chicken noodle soup and Ritz crackers. We are using Caregivers 24/7 to help me in caring for Charley. Thanks to all of you for your thoughts, prayers, and cards which have helped us get through these past few months. Oh yes, and he's had his Covid shots without ill effects. We're good to go if you want to call or come by.

District 8

Bob Bueling

District 8 has rapidly been evolving since last reported in January 2021.

Our new website is now up and running (https://www.csotfad8.org). With the new website we are now able to do renewals and signup new members online.

Ventura County is slowly opening up, but not yet enough for us to return to the Oak View Community Center for our 2nd and 4th Sunday jams... yet. The expectation is that once the state opens up on June 15th the county will follow suit shortly thereafter. For now, we are planning on a grand reopening BBQ and jam for June 27th.

In the meantime, District 8 has not been idle. Starting on February 28th we began mini "Concerts" in Libby Park in downtown Ojai. Except for Mother's Day, for each 2nd or 4th Sunday a leader has been chosen who then puts together a band and performs. We followed the show on May 23rd with a jam that was well attended. This has become a wonderful chance for District 8 members to finally get out and play and also a much-appreciated outreach path to the community. It has also led to several new members. The last scheduled mini concert is planned for June 13th with the expectation that we will be able to return to the Oak View Community Center on June 27th. Depending on member and community input, we may make this an occasional event in the future.

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays we have started a song circle jam in local parks in Camarillo which have been popular with members and friends. We hope to continue these get-togethers in the future.

Sadly, we lost longtime members and District 8 stalwarts Lyndell Pool on February 5th and Bob Martin on April 25th. Both Lyndell and Bob were fixtures on stage in the big room or the patio jams or in the Kunkle Room. Lyndell's mandolin playing was always an example we looked up to. Bob, played bass and guitar and sang in "The Martin Boys" with his brother Don and his son Sam. Bob regularly backed many members on bass on stage and in the patio jams. Lyndell and Bob will be sorely missed.

We've brought on two new District Board members who will help with our new website and coordinating future gigs benefiting the district. We are also in the process of reviewing our governing documents, determining applicability and relevance with hopes to simplifying them.



2021-02-28 Don Martin and Friends Don Martin and Friends playing in Libby Park, Ojai on February 28, 2021





Lyndell Pool in Jam May 10 1927 – February 5, 2021

Bob Martin August 1, 1931 – April 25, 2021



Audrey Abbe playing clawhammer style banjo at Libby Park, Ojai on May 23rd, 2021



The Jam after the concert at Libby Park, Ojai on May 23rd, 2021

District 10 Judith Jones

I asked for news (anything) from a variety of people. Not much happening right now! We do have some of our jams and concerts opening up again. And, of course, each one is following the Covid-19 guidelines relating to proper distancing and the wearing of face masks.

Andi Skelton sent me some news from Lake County. The only thing that comes to mind for Lake County area, is that we are still playing on the first Sunday of the month at Ely Stage Stop. It is a wonderful outdoor stage for social distancing, with the audience sitting under the trees in the shade. They serve a delicious lunch and have a great raffle and interesting booths. Recently they have been selling beautiful bird houses made from the old wood when renovating the barns. There are hay rides up the hill to the large Museum, and the Blacksmith Shop is now finished. It is a fun place to be on a nice spring Sunday afternoon. Music from 12 noon to 2 pm. Their website is elystagestop.com

I thought this might me a resource for info since we will be having BBQ's again. You can use it or not!

USDA Provides Food Safety Tips to Grilling Pros and Beginners

As millions of Americans get ready to commemorate Memorial Day and welcome summer, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds people to keep it safe this weekend: follow the latest CDC guidance for COVID-19 and remember your food safety practices.

Rates of food-borne illness tend to increase during the summer months because germs grow faster in warmer, more humid weather. People also cook and eat outside, making shortcuts to food safety tempting because they are away from the convenience of soap and running water at the kitchen sink.

"Memorial Day marks the beginning of warmer weather and summer fun," said Sandra Eskin, USDA's Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety. "Don't let foodborne illness ruin the cookout—follow food safety guidelines like washing your hands, thoroughly cooking your food and checking food temperature with a thermometer." For those who choose to celebrate outdoors, USDA has some advice for grilling novices and pros.

Use a Food Thermometer

Many people may be grilling on their own for the first time. One important lesson for first-time grillers is to remember that color is never a reliable indicator of safety and doneness. Use a food thermometer to ensure the following safe internal temperatures:

Cook poultry (whole or ground) to 165 F. Cook beef, pork, lamb and veal steaks, chops and roasts to 145 F. For safety and quality, allow meat to rest for at least three minutes before carving or consuming.

Cook ground beef, pork, lamb and veal to 160 F. Cook egg dishes to 160 F. Cook fish to 145 F.

Although frozen products may appear to be pre-cooked or browned, they should be handled and prepared no differently than raw products and must be grilled to appropriate temperatures. Frozen products may be labeled with phrases such as "Cook and Serve," "Ready to Cook" and "Oven Ready" to indicate they must be cooked. Thoroughly Cook Mechanically Tenderized Meat

Many grill masters enjoy using already tenderized meats that have marinades added to get the most flavor out of their meal. However, mechanically tenderized beef, including cuts that are prepackaged in marinades, must be cooked thoroughly to ensure food safety.

If the outside of the meat contains bacteria, it will be transferred to the inside of the meat during mechanical tenderization, requiring it to be cooked to kill the germs. The best way to ensure a worry-free barbecue is to thoroughly cook mechanically tenderized meat. Use your food thermometer and follow USDA's recommendations for safe internal temperatures mentioned above..

Follow the One-Hour Rule on Hot Days When the temperature outside rises above 90 F, perishable food such as meat and poultry, dips and cold salads, or cut fruits and vegetables are only safe to sit out on the table for one hour. After one hour, harmful bacteria, which can cause foodborne illness, may start to grow. To prevent this, keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot.

According to a recent USDA survey (PDF, 2.4 MB), nearly 85 percent of participants said they don't keep cold foods on ice when they serve them. Keep cold foods at an internal temperature of 40 F or below by keeping food on ice or refrigerated until ready to serve.

In the same survey, 66 percent of participants indicated they did not keep their cooked foods, like burgers and hot dogs, warm after cooking. Hot perishable foods should be kept warm (above 140 F) until they're eaten or refrigerate leftovers within one hour.



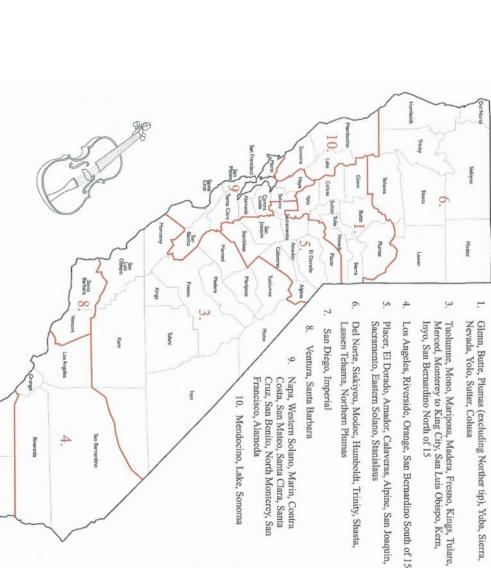




May-June 2021

California State Old-Time Fiddlers' Association

CSOTFA Districts



Revised 3-12-18 By Willie Randel

San Diego