

OREGON • OLDTIME • FIDDLERS' THE HOEDOWNER

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OOTFA President's Report

Let's see now...Don't sneeze. Don't cough. Don't shake hands. Don't breath on anyone. Don't leave your house unless you absolutely have to. Don't go out without a mask. Don't congregate. Don't horde supplies (TP in particular). That is a lot of Don't!

Never fear, there are some Dos. Most important is Do what you can to help get us all through this pandemic. Do stay home. Do enjoy your family. Do visit with friends, via phone or internet or even an old-fashioned letter. Do catch up on all the things you put off by not being there. Even if it is a well deserved nap.

How about trying out that new hobby you have been thinking about. How about a new tune. Maybe pick up a new instrument. Surprise someone special with something special.

Important Election Notice:

All officers, both state and district, are to remain in office until state elections are held. The districts follow the state in most matters, per our bylaws. Even if your district has elected a new set of officers, they can not be installed until new state officers have been elected and installed.

What your officers are doing: The Policies and Procedure manual committee has been formed and is chaired by Hal Weiner. They will be hard at work to have proposals put together by our next membership meeting. Also know that there will be proposed amendments to the bylaws at that meeting. One of the major adjustments will be to the details on officer elections. When you review the bylaws, if you come across something that needs attention, be sure to bring it to the attention of an officer or the bylaw review committee.

While it is impossible for any of us to predict what will be next with the pandemic, I hold out hope that fast progress will allow us to have Fiddle Camp and beyond. Linda Parks tells me there are 60 students signed up so far. I look forward to Burns, Fiddling on the Beach, the Willamette Valley Fiddle Contest and the bi-annual membership meeting in Prineville. (Hope I didn't miss any.) And anything else I can get away with going to!

Cabin fever. Can you tell. I have been home over two months now.

If all else fails, practice, practice, practice.

See you all soon ~ Scott



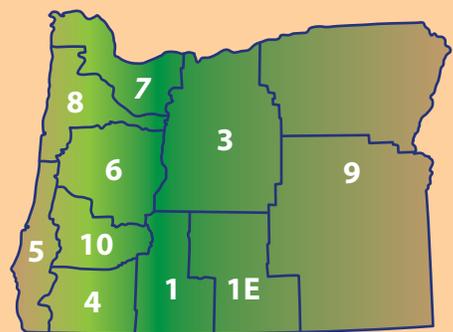
Mapril and Grant Combs at Linda Sweatt's 70th birthday party.

The 2020 OOTFA ROSTER is READY !

Listing of All OOTFA Members

It's that time of year to get your new roster. All registered with OOTFA as of April 10 are included. However, distribution this year is a bit of a challenge. How do we distribute them with **No Convention or No District Meetings or Gatherings?** Well, here is how to get your 2020 Roster in the format you wish:

- **PRINTED 2020 ROSTER \$4 (includes shipping)**
Mailed to your home
MAIL your money to Patti Luse, 979 Ascot Drive, Eugene, OR 97401
- **PDF 2020 ROSTER - FREE email**
EMAIL your request to Patti Luse at pattiluse@comcast.net



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Many of us had our plans changed this spring and summer with the virus -- how long, nobody knows. Naturally, this month I would have reminisced and glorified our State Fiddle Contest and our State Convention as well as the other gatherings. They, along with other functions of OOTFA, of course, stand out as being great. They are great because our State Contest Chair, Eileen Walter and our State President, Scott Phillips were willing to share their experience, and most of all - their willingness to serve our association. The contest encourages especially the young fiddlers to be a part of OOTFA. Our state convention would have allowed us to meet new members and to elect new officers for the coming year. Our hats are off to those who serve OOTFA so well.

Several years back we were reminded of the poem "Another Leaf has Fallen." Leaves fall as our members age but I was especially saddened to get the message that Roger Germundson's leaf had fallen. Besides being a great president of our association, he was a "good friend" of many of us, having many of us to his home for fiddle gatherings. Some of us were fortunate to spend some time with Jackie and him at his camping spot on the Prineville Reservoir where the stars and the beauty of the nights with no street lights or city noises were shared with us. T'was an experience that can't be described or forgotten. Thanks Roger.

OOTFA folks are a generous folk. Sharing music and musical advice are the most common manifestations of that generosity, however now with COVID-19 creating its' particular challenge, we are seeing a new kind of giving. In this issue you will see several stories about people sewing masks for others or perhaps performing in the streets to their neighbors' delight. That's our OOTFA!

Some of us have put down the bow and taken up the needle and thread. There is a need for masks and I, being a quilter with a lot of scrap material lying around, set up my sewing shop. On the internet I found patterns of all kinds. For my family and friends I made 18 simple masks. I called Riverbend Hospital and they asked for a particular design of mask with an insert for a filter. I made 18 of those...easy and fun to do! Learning a new round for the State!

Looking forward to the end of this quarantine. As an 88 year old person I've lived through Depression, WWII and all the privations we went through. Also, 1937 had the measles and the whole neighborhood was quarantined. There were signs on the doors: **Quarantined - No Admittance.** The Health Department went around and checked on the neighborhoods in those days.

Stay safe! We will be making music soon!

Editor Emeritus
by Lew Holt

Editor's Notes
by Robin Lindsey

Making Masks
by Evelyn Horner

New Members May 2020

Kathy Green	Ashland (4)
Shelley & Bill Powers	Monroe (6)
Kim, Noah, Phoebe & Abigail Rudolph	Keiser (8)



Shirley Humphrey's backyard project

These name tags are yellow with blue letters, OOTFA logo and your district number. To order please specify pin or magnetic back and send your name, address and district number along with a \$10 check made payable to:

Ken Luse 979 Ascot Drive Eugene, OR 97401



If you do not specify type of back, you will be sent the pin type.

District I Klamath Falls Area

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Treasurer/Membership: Edna Jenkins 541-891-9155
Correspondence/Historian: Karen Ayres 541-783-2970
Scheduler: Sheila Fry 541-850-9062
Reporter: Jenny Dreyer 541-205-6397 doublejj25@gmail.com

Greetings All from District One,

As I write this, we are well into life as we know it with Covid-19, and with all the many changes and restrictions it places on daily life, as well as our music. In District One, all of our gigs are suspended right now and the only music being played is at "the home" level. We have managed a few bright spots in spite of it all. Some of our members are using this time wisely to learn new tunes. *Wagoner, John Ryan's Polka, Mr. Dushaine, Yellow Rose of Texas...* just a few songs that members are working on.

I don't know about you, but I can't wait to be able to get together again and hear all of the new tunes that our members have worked on during this time of quarantine. Another fun time to be had was when Terry McLain came to Klamath Falls to work on a broken cow chute, and then called me to see if I could play a little music before he headed home to Lakeview. I said, "SURE!" (does anybody in their right mind turn THAT down?!?) (I think not!). It's not that often one of the BEST fiddlers in the State of Oregon calls and asks to play music with you; you gotta make it work!! **Well, we played music and had a great time.** Terry played guitar for me (he's actually REALLY good on guitar) and I got to play a lot of my tunes! We switched for a couple of minutes and I played the guitar for him, badly I might say, because it was the first time playing my guitar after wrist surgery in December.

District 1E Lakeview, Silver Lake Area

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Vice-Chair: Nancy Yialouris 707-227-0753 yialouris@aol.com
Secretary-Treasurer/Membership: Sharilyn McLain
541-219-0896 P.O. Box 603, Lakeview, OR 97630
Reporter: Eileen McLain eileenmclain@outlook.com

Dear fiddlers, What an awful way to start my reporting for District 1E. We've cancelled everything! We're complying with state law. We are almost all old – hence the name of this organization. I know it's just the style of music we play, but we *are* mostly older, and we'll suffer a while until this all goes away, then we'll be fiddling away just like Charlie Daniels. LOL
Bye for now ~ Eileen McLain, District 1E Reporter

Terry was basically forced to play the two fiddle tunes I know well on guitar...*Just Because* and *She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain*. Ha Ha! The best fiddle player in Oregon played those two tunes so well and made me feel like a champion guitar player! Terry is so nice, and playing music with him always inspires me to keep playing, to keep trying. I hope all YOUR musical pursuits during Covid-19 are as magical. Stay safe, learn something new, Keep Fiddling!



Terry McLain from District 1E making a house call during Covid-19 Quarantine

May Birthdays: Lena Dreyer, Sheila Fry, Gracie Kliever, Lucinda Kliever, Mary Knapp-Mitts, Darleth Rodgers, Rinda Scott, Jake Swartwood, and Lois Tucker.

May Anniversaries: Teresa and Bill Hazen.

~ Jenny Dreyer, District 1 Reporter

District 3 Bend, Redmond, The Dalles

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Treasurer: Karen Bennett 208-870-4009 bennetk@msn.com
Membership: Amber Turnage 541-280-8842 jaynamber@gmail.com
PO Box 73, Powell Butte, Oregon 97753

District 3 Website: centraloregonfiddlers.com

Central Oregon's District 3 has seen a lot of activity over the past month; however, much of it hasn't been things our members can see firsthand. Our new treasurer **Karen Bennett** has started her service to our district with a lot of clean up work and organizing that was much overdue. We want to thank our past treasurer **LeRoy Newport** for everything he did to keep our financial records on track for the past several years. Karen has been able to reorganize our financial records and set up a professional system from her accounting background. Thank you, Karen.

Our new membership coordinator, **Amber Turnage**, has taken to her new job like a pro. She has reached out to folks that are slow to renew their membership, sent many emails to those members we haven't heard from recently, and been a champ at getting to know our members. Thank you for this work, Amber.

District 3 continued next page

On the note of service to our district – we are still in need of 2 positions to be filled. At this time, we are without a Secretary and a reporter for the **Hoedowner**. If you have skills and the time that would allow you to help us with these positions, please contact Jeannette Bondsteel or Marlene Stevens.

Tales of Travel and New Friends by Jeannette Bondsteel

Having grown up in Alaska, it would be natural for me to want to return home to visit every so often. This time it was 40 years since the last time I had been to Alaska and I was feeling the tug of going home. The best time to go home for me is in March when the Fur Rendezvous is taking place, dog mushers are primed to set off on the 1000 mile Iditarod Trail, Native Alaskan families have come to Anchorage from the outer villages to trade their crafts. Games of strength, stealth and stamina like blanket tossing, snowshoe baseball and dog sled challenges are played. The weather gave us subzero temperatures, heavy snow fall and a total count of 11 moose sighted.

Traveling to Alaska this March with my BFF and fiddle friend Marlene Stevens was the best. Our plan was to play our fiddles everywhere we could while on this trip. We played in the airports as we awaited each of our flights; much to the appreciation of the flight crews and other passengers. We even had people taking videos of us and thanking us for the music.

After taking in a few days of the Fur Rendezvous activities and watching the kickoff of the Iditarod Racers we headed down the Kenai Peninsula. The next stop for us was to Anchor Point overlooking the Cook Inlet – the farthest point west on the Northern Continent that we could drive. What a feeling of being small in this world or that the world has so much yet to be seen.

We traveled on to Homer which is the farthest tip of the Kenai Peninsula and the home of the Salty Dawg Saloon and the Kilcher Family Homestead. Yes, we played our fiddles in the Salty Dawg Saloon and left a \$1 bill pinned to the wall amongst thousands of others with *Oregon Old Time Fiddlers* written on it. And yes, we found the Kilcher's Homestead out on East End Road.

While walking the streets of Anchorage at the Fur Rendezvous we bumped into a friend that owns Kenai Joes Tap House in Kenai. When he heard we play music he talked us into playing at his bar the following Friday. We tentatively accepted the offer or challenge as we saw it. Joe arranged for the local high school music teacher to back us up on guitar and we fiddled on stage for 3 hours. The locals loved it and we felt good about bringing something new and different to their stage; the \$57 in tips didn't hurt either. Does this make us professional musicians?

Our biggest news for the month is that we finally signed an agreement with the Powell Butte Christian Church to have our monthly jams again. ASAP following the reopening of Oregon, we will be announcing our first jam at the new location: 13720 OR-126, Powell Butte, OR 97753. We are expecting this location to host many great jams as well as see an increase of attendance as the church members join us after services.

This coming month we will be saying good by to one of our young men. **Garitt Bondsteel** will be heading for the Marines in May. We are going to miss him and look forward to seeing his return. A huge thank you goes out to all the OOTFA folks that have played a role in making him the wonderful young man he is today - Jack Kerr, Roland White, Les Tucker, Ed Fritz, Ron and Sally Jackson, Larry and Terry McLane, Ellen and our late Dennis Jakob, Jeff and Marlene Stevens. Each of you have shown him the right path to take and given solid ground to walk on.

~ Jeannette Bondsteel, District 3 Reporter

Because of our fast spreading notoriety on the Peninsula as oldtime fiddlers we were contacted by Dr. Stephen White, the local Dentist. Dr. White is a self-taught guitar player who saw us at Kenai Joes and wanted to set up a jam. True to the Alaskan spirit, on Sunday afternoon, Dr. Stephen



Jeannette & Marlene with their new friend

White opened his dental office, wheeled out all his exam stools and we played music all afternoon. We were joined by a lovely older couple that were tickled to have new music brought to the area; we could soon tell that Elena & Jim Pate were very good Texas Swing performers in their day. The funny nugget about them was that they "moved to Alaska to retire" in their 80's.

Our travel plans were to take the train from Anchorage to Talkneetna then Fairbanks for the next week but that all fell apart after the shutdown due to COVID-19. We canceled our reservations to the interior and headed home with so much of Alaska unseen and so much music left to be played. True to our fiddling spirit, we fiddled in the Seattle Airport for 4 hours during our trip home where we struck up a chat with a lady that has a friend with 3 daughters that he fiddles with – yup, it was Marcell Potvin and his 3 daughters from Prineville.

Our flight home only had 12 people on it so we each took a row of seats, put the arms up and slept; dreaming of our return trip next year, all the music we left up played and the friends we made. It was a perfect ending to our unfinished story.

District 4 Grants Pass, Medford, Ashland

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Treasurer: **Barbara Basden** 541-772-0579 barbara.basden@gmail.com
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Fiddle Rustler: **Ross Jones** 206-595-8442 falcon259@gmail.com
Reporter: **Judy Lyons** 541-956-0618 blacklyon@charter.net

District 4 Website: OOTFA4.org Check Us Out!

Hello from District 4 members who are hoping you are all well and making the best of the situation we are all now going through. Because there is no news to report on any performances here's a little news about what some of our District 4 members have been doing to occupy themselves at home.

Everett Costa used his talents to build **Sylvia Chapman** several wonderful raised garden beds. Sylvia is an avid gardener and nature enthusiast. She too has been sewing face masks from material in music and garden themes to give to friends. **Judy McGarvey** has made several trips down her neighborhood street doing fiddle concerts including the *Chicken Dance*, she literally had them dancing in the streets.

Christa Price and family are taking to the hills for nature hikes and enjoying the spring wildflowers and mountain views. **Mike Lindgren** was calling around looking to hire some goats to do a little "weed eating" at his place. **Melinda and Gene Grant** are back from Arizona. They have been enjoying the daily Montana Old Time Fiddlers Cabin Fever workshops on line.

Andrew Rosas built a new fence and deck at his home and is learning to play the viola he recently purchased. **Karen Van Delden** is enjoying solo walks along the river at a park near her house and finds the time alone with nature healing, and **Carol and Lenny Ferrara** are perfecting their duet of the beautiful tune by May Unger, *Lover's Waltz*.

Marilyn Bolstad has spent her time designing and sewing face masks for the health community while husband, **Ron**, is catching up on chores and working on his music. **Charlie Boyer** has been occupying himself with the daily duties at his ranch and, in the evening, with the study of music theory. He also finds time to send humorous and entertaining emails to friends.

Best wishes to all from your friends at district 4
~ Judy Lyons, District 4 Reporter



Pat Foht in one of her custom face masks

District 5 Southern Coast Area

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Treasurer: **Dawn Vonderlin** 541-347-4561 dawndoreen@hotmail.com
Membership: **Pat Foht** 541-412-8169 plfoht@gmail.com
Reporter: **Barbara Scheirman** 541-297-7151 echo9@charter.net

Well, that was sure fun and enlightening. This month, I decided that since we did not have anything to report, it would be interesting to see how the gang was handling the virus crisis and sheltering in place. I was not surprised to learn that our friends in District 5 are a resilient and creative bunch. I found them solidly practical and able to make their own fun--not just only by playing their music, but by inventing things to do in a characteristically good spirit! I should also thank our members in District 5 for their quick and interesting responses. We had so many send in their stories, that there is enough to split into two columns--so, hang on, if you don't see your response in this month's Hoedowner, it ought to show up in June's column!

Our Fearless Leader, Chair, **Kriss Fenton** is still on the "front lines" working at her assisted living facility with her beloved residents. She says, *"My community is brave and hanging in there with changes in protocol every day."* She has a good spirit and says she is determined to survive anyway!

Membership Secretary from a-way down south, **Pat Foht** reports that she is *"Busy non-stop sewing masks for anyone who needs them; Headstart, our Brookings food bank, Dollar General, Dutch*

Brothers Coffee and Grocery Outlet. I hang the masks on my wooden cross to get baptized before I send them off to parts unknown. Besides that, I am on a staycation?" Atta girl, Pat! She is very creative and generous.

Our **Linda and Dana Sweatt** say they have been very busy *"Cleaning out every cabinet and closet that needs it (which is all of them) and are getting ready for a serious amount of donation to our local Hospice Thrift Store."* Linda also says she loves to stay busy with making music and she and Dana are taking long walks. I hope I am not talking out of turn when I say that Linda recently celebrated her 70th birthday. Just 10 more years and she will officially be an OOTFA "National Treasure," although we certainly think she IS one, already! In fact, I think every single one of our OOTFA members are absolute treasures.

District 5 continued page 7

HOEDOWNER Tune of the Month

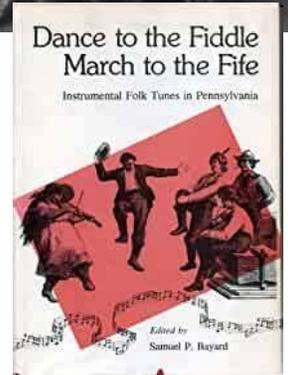
Under the Greenwood Tree

Our tune this month comes from the Samuel Bayard Collection, a book of fiddle and fife tunes played in Southwestern Pennsylvania in the early 1900's. Sam got hooked on the local music as a young man, and went around gathering these tunes and notating them on-the-fly. By ear. Really??

Picture a lovely Spring day, gathered with friends -- under the greenwood tree, playing favorite tunes. Well, I guess that's an image for another year... Oh well.



Melinda Grant



Mark Tamsula and Richard Withers of Pennsylvania have been bringing these old tunes to life. You can hear (and buy) their audio recording of this tune on their latest album "Rural Valley Melodies" at appalachianmusic.net.

Sorry, I couldn't find a rendition on YouTube.

Under the Greenwood Tree

Walter Neal

A musical score for the tune 'Under the Greenwood Tree' by Walter Neal. The score is written on three staves in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. The second staff has notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. The third staff has notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. The score includes various chords and a variation section labeled 'Var. A'.

District 5 continued

Joe and Susan Walker had to postpone plans to fly out to Pennsylvania to visit one of their daughters and her family. Susan is sewing homemade dolls for two of their granddaughters. Joe plays old time music and Susan makes old time dollies! Joe relays that his mother lives in one of the retirement homes we play music for, and because he's his mother's caregiver and has to be there every day, anyway, the staff asked Joe if he would walk up and down the halls playing music for the residents who have been cooped up in their apartments. *"So I got to be a strolling fiddler, not making contact with people, but giving them fiddle tunes as I walked down the hallways."* How delightful, Joe! I bet his Mom was awfully proud of her giving and talented son! They will try again for that trip to see family in the fall.

Oh my! **Mapril and Grant Combs** always have many interesting goings-on way up in Dora and it's fun to hear any news from their tiny old-timey community. Seems the librarian took pity upon M & G, recently, since they both are voracious readers, and bagged up 23 books by their favorite authors for them to read! Sometimes Mapril cannot get to the library during normal times, due to the elk herd that grazes in the field often. The errant elk sometimes can damage the fencing, necessitating frequent checks on their horses, Mapril says. Mapril and Grant are keeping in touch with friends and family by email and phone. Mapril is trying some new songs on the fiddle and she *"wanders in the woods, looking for trilliums,"* proclaiming that *"life is good, so far."* Grant remarked to Mapril the other day that *"Safeway should set a bucket of corncobs on their empty shelves where the toilet paper ought to be, just to see the reaction!"* Grant, you sound like you have experience with certain alternative ways of managing some basic needs! We older folks could teach those youngsters a lot, right?

The message I received from **Bonnie Costa** was one of the more delightful things we could imagine during this time. She reports simply: *"Larry played banjo at the end of our driveway for neighbors and passing cars."* I bet that cheered and uplifted so many people. Does that come under the heading of an unexpected gift? I think so.

We have some common themes with some folks making masks, learning some new music, getting to projects, enjoying nature and taking care of family members. We have two players who, despite stringent guidelines, found a way to cheer others up by playing for them in a safe manner. It's difficult to quell the giving spirit we possess. We look forward to the time when we can again gather and enjoy the music we make together for ourselves and others. We are resilient. We have kept our sense of humor! We have found a way to enjoy life and feel connected. Keep the friendship and music flowing--even if it is from the comfortable solitude of our own homes.

Love to you all ~ Barbara Scheirman, District 5 Reporter

District 6 Eugene, Corvallis, Lebanon Area

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One of OOTFA's steadiest fans passed away peacefully March 29th. Zane Coffin was a great husband and father to 4 sons and 2 daughters, loved the music and his many friends in District 6 and around the state. He left us peacefully after 3 strokes and 4 complications. Phyllis greatly appreciated the cards and telephone calls she received.

Zane was raised on a South Dakota ranch and joined the marines at the age of 16. He served one year in Tsingtao, China as a heavy truck driver hauling ammo and plane fuel for the Chinese Nationalist Air Force. The family moved to Oregon in 1961. Zane had a gunsmith business, he was a railroad depot agent, and he spent his final work year's as a machinist. Zane and Phyllis joined OOTFA and got to know Earl Knudson, Don Peeler, Wayne Carpenter and Bryam. *"Ruth and Cal Montgomery came to us and said 'Welcome, glad you came' and here we are!"*

Since all of our activities have been canceled because of the virus, I have asked some District 6 members if they might have anything of interest to share to be put into the **Hoedowner**. If anyone has something to offer of interest please let me know, as we don't know how long this virus is going to continue. All information has to be in by the 10th of each month.

Just a reminder: If you need to pick up the blue collection bags for the Bottle Drop fundraiser contact: Vicky Megowan (vmegowan@hotmail.com), Jessie Kurtz (jessiefeliz@yahoo.com) Lisa Ponder or Chuck Roehrich (lponder@efn.org or chuckr8620gmail.com)

Birthday Greetings: Gabi Ford (5/30), Annie Carter (5/5), Brian Sorrells (5/5), Evelen Horner (5/22), Melody Morrell (5/28), Donna Wynn (5/30)

Wedding Anniversaries: Gary and Lynne Baren (5/17) Ken and Patti Luse (5/24)

~ Shirley Humphreys District 6 Reporter

District 7 Portland, Northern Coast Area

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Reporter: Elaine Schmidt 503-318-5045

Dear OOTFA members, It is strange to start this article without “Events” and I really look forward to the time when we can play together again. In the meantime it has been fun hearing from members of District 7 about how you are coping with all this time on your hands. One thing that people are talking about is how to use **ZOOM** to play together. Soon I will be taking a six week class on ZOOM, which features “Oldtime” music, and I look forward to seeing how they organize group playing. I will report back on this class next month.

A common activity that many of us have been doing is cleaning out old files, especially of music. **Donna Foreman** has been sorting, organizing, and discarding 20 years of sheet music. Good for you, Donna. I think I have some of that sheet music! **Marcella Easley** has been trying to learn new tunes, has her groceries delivered, is exercising daily and wishes everyone *good health*. **Claudia Zinser** has been practicing on her new, beautiful Hardanger Fiddle every day and participating in online jam sessions. She mentioned that the *Massachusetts Fiddle Hell* Facebook site is having a once a week jam session. She says it seems to be well-run by a professional family that has had their gigs canceled, and they are sharing their jam sessions with requests for Pay Pal donations.

David Altman has been learning fiddle tunes in the *Down East Fiddlers Collection of Reels* that he sent District 7 members a few months ago. He also has been writing a few tunes and learned some new Irish tunes, getting ready for St. Paddy’s Day when he was going to celebrate with the Irish side of his family. Too bad that didn’t happen...maybe next year. He also explored the music of the Irish missionary priest Father PJ Kelly. We look forward to hearing you play some of this music at our next Sunnyside Jam, David.

Joe Martin is a new member of District 7 and is trying to learn to play a 90 year old “*Stradivarius*” type fiddle, complete with rattlesnake rattle! He says that he now is spending time every day doing a few scales and playing over and over familiar tunes like *Red River Valley* and *Old Joe Clark* while struggling to keep the squeals and wrong notes at bay. He also says, “*All of this is made easier by ‘stay-at-home.’*” Yes, Joe, it is nice to have extra time to learn to play a 90 year old “*stradivarius*”. Have fun with that!

Take care everyone! Send me some more emails about how you are coping with all this time at home.

Stay well ~ Elaine Schmidt, District 7 Reporter

District 8 Salem, McMinnville, Tillamook/Newport

Chair: Marie Bailey 503-835-7185 bambailey36@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair: Johnnie Williams 503-435-2059 jwjwwwSr1@aol.com
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Happy Spring all you good stay-at-homes. The theme for the duration is from an old Pop song: *Do Nothing ‘til You Hear From Me*. We’re all on hold until it’s safe to gather again.

Our last gathering was March 5th for a Slo-Jam at Marie’s and all has been cancelled since then, until further notice. If we have any event for May you will be notified via email or phone. Latest national news says we hope to be over the hump on the virus by end of May, so keep practicing those great tunes to share when mobile life resumes.

Other sad news is we’ve lost two members in March (unrelated to the virus). **David Owen** of Dayton and **Daryl Hallgrimson** of Dayton have passed. Our deepest sympathy to Marilyn and Brenda over the loss of their dear husbands.

All of our State business that was scheduled for Convention has been moved to the September gathering. Officers, at the State level only, will remain in place until we can have a general meeting. Look on our web site, or notices from your Chair and **Hoedowner** news for the details on items we need to cover. Since District 8 has already voted, our officers will take office June 1, as normal.

Please take to heart our plea in the April **Hoedowner** to search your available time and offer your skills to make our districts more active, easier to run with many hands helping, and a blessing to our audiences with your music. In order to attract an audience, hence income, we need all our musicians to support local district gigs and jams. This is where the money to finance contests and workshops plus fiddle camps and state gatherings is generated. So all you accomplished musicians please support your local district events. Word spreads fast where good music is happening.

Meanwhile, follow the safe procedures to stay well and use this opportunity to hone your patience, musical ability and read that book you always meant to. I know my garden is going to look better cared for this year!

~ Gayle and Marie, District 8 temp. Joint Reporters

District 9 Burns, John Day Area

Chair: Randy Gibson 541-589-1866
outlawwoodproducts@yahoo.com
Vice-chair: Joan Suther 541-573-5601 Jsuther10@gmail.com
Sec./Trea./Membership: George Sahlberg 541-420-3583
Reporter: Marianne Andrews

Our next Potluck and Jam will be announced when the governor says we can go back to life as we knew it. We are looking forward to seeing everyone return and bringing your friends and your instrument.

The **High Desert Jamboree** is still on the calendar for June 18th, 19th, and 20th, should things return to normal by then. The board will decide on May 14th whether to cancel or proceed and will announce it in the June **Hoedowner**.

District 10 Roseburg, Canyonville, Sutherlin Area

Chairperson (& Program Coordinator): Jude Stensland
541-430-2080 jude999s@gmail.com
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Reporter/Publicist: Joe Ross 541-673-9759 rossjoe@hotmail.com

I first got involved with oldtime fiddling when I met Fiddlin' Earl Willis in Eugene about 1973. His wife Elsie played washtub bass. Earl had moved out here from Missouri. His mother and several cousins played fiddle, and Earl had learned from them. Back then, I had a taterbug mandolin and was learning all the common fiddle tunes. It wasn't long before he had signed me and a couple other friends up to play with "**Fiddlin' Earl and The Hoedowners**." We played at dances, parties, and the Willamette Valley Folk Festival. Earl introduced me to the music of Bob Wills. Earl and Elsie were wonderful people, and they planted the seed and love for oldtime music among many college students at the time.

For this issue, I decided to ask some of our District 10 members about how they got involved in oldtime fiddling. As a teen, our former chairperson **Colleen Hanks** joined the San Bernardino Folksinging Society. She played for two or three years and on stage with the Quarter Dozen String Band. She quit fiddling for forty years and wanted to play music again. She heard that OOTFA had a jam where she could learn fiddle tunes.

Our dear **Janet Braymen** has only 15 years until she is eligible to become a life member of the Oldtime Fiddlers!!!! She was planning to have a house concert on that date in April, but we had to call her to wish her **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** instead.

Have a beautiful May Day. You may play your violin in the street, just keep your social distance of 10 feet from the toe tappers and the hokey pokey dancers (I overheard it was being done somewhere warmer than here).

District 9 mourns the passing of **Dorman Miller**, a Harney County legend in the local music scene. If you've attended past Jamborees you might remember Dorman for hanging out in the beer garden playing music for hours with anyone who wandered by. When it came to country songs, Dorman knew them all.

Musically Yours ~ Marianne Andrews, District 9 Reporter

Hal Thompson has been playing music since 1939. He spent six years playing violin in his school orchestra, then three years in his a cappella high school. He even spent a year with the Washington (D.C.) Opera Guild in 1957. He played in a number of bands over the years, retiring in 1985. He joined OOTFA in January 2008, and since then says he been "*having more fun in public than 99.4% of the people in the audiences.*"

Christine Cormack told me that she got involved in oldtime fiddling through contra dancing friends or perhaps when she attended the Celtic Festival in Coos Bay. She discovered a bluegrass jam in the Roseburg area and met other musicians there. She stated, "*I was finally convinced that I can participate in Oldtime Fiddlers even if guitar and ukulele were my instruments. I love the people and playing music together. I'm learning to find my niche. Right now, I'm working on flatpicking **Red Haired Boy, Whiskey Before Breakfast** and a couple of waltzes.*"

Jude Stensland says that Colleen Hanks first invited her to the bluegrass jam, and then that morphed over to OOTFA when she realized they wouldn't laugh at her if she played harmonica. She likes being an OOTFA member because "*it's a family style organization that provides encouragement and confidence in budding musicians.*"

Try to find ways to stay connected with your fiddle family. On May 11, Hal and Sharon Thompson will celebrate their 24th Anniversary. Congratulations! Upcoming birthdays include Kathy Ross (May 19) and Beverly Tors (May 23). Happy Birthday Kathy and Beverly! Any event updates will be sent around via email and posted on District 10's Facebook page.

~ Joe Ross, District 10 Reporter

Oregon Oldtime
Fiddlers' Association
979 Ascot Drive
Eugene, OR 97401



**A Nonprofit Organization
Article II:**
**Purpose - To promote,
preserve and perpetuate
Oldtime Fiddling and
Oldtime Music.**
**To encourage everyone,
especially young people,
to play the fiddle and
appreciate Oldtime Fiddling
and Oldtime Music.**
**To Provide regular times
and places to meet and play
this kind of music.**

Web Index

Online Resources for Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers

- [Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Association](#) Official Website for State
- [OOTFA Facebook](#) Facebook Site
- [National Fiddle Contest](#) **Canceled** Weiser, Idaho, June 22-27, 2020
- [West Cascades Fiddle Camp & Workshop](#) Pleasant Hill, July 20 -23
- [District 3 Website](#) Central Oregon, Bend, Redmond, The Dalles
- [District 4 Website](#) Grants Pass, Medford, Ashland
- [District 6 Fiddle Tunes](#) Alphabetical listing of Fiddle Tune Sheet Music
- [District 7 Website](#) Portland, Northern Coast Area
- [Lew Holt's Posts](#) A Collection of Historical Info & OOTFA Memories
- [Hoedowner Archive](#) Since 1967 [Join OOTFA!](#) Registration Form
- [Tune of the Month Archive](#)

May's Tune of the Month "Under the Greenwood Tree"
appalachianmusic.net

This Website Index is a new addition to
 The Hoedowner email edition. Feel free to contact me if you would like to
 add an appropriate website to the list or have suggestions.
 ~ Robin qat_boy@msn.com

We're on the Web! www.ootfa.org

Facebook Group: [Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Association](#)

State Calendar for 2020

- May 21-23 **OOTFA Convention in Roseburg **Canceled****
- June 18-20 **Country Music Jamboree
Harney County Fairgrounds in Burns**
- June 22-27 **[National Fiddle Contest in Weiser, Idaho](#)
Oregon State Host! **Canceled****
- July 20-23 **[West Cascades Fiddle Camp & Workshops](#)
Emerald Christian Academy in Pleasant Hill**
- July 31 **[Willamette Valley Fiddle Contest](#)
Benton County Fairgrounds in Corvallis**
- August 13-16 **[Winchester Bay Campout](#)
Winchester Bay Community Center**
- Sep. 17-19 **[Central Oregon Country
Music Gathering](#)
Crook County Fairgrounds
in Prineville**

**Events in June and later haven't
been canceled at this time**

**[Visit the OOTFA Website
for forms and other
current information:
\[ootfa.org\]\(http://ootfa.org\)](#)**



**Zane & Phyllis Coffin enjoying a
meal in Silver Lake. We are sorry for
Zane's passing in March. Read more
about Zane on page 7.**



Christine Cormack of District 10



**Mike Elston, Hajime Nagashima, and
Maggie Dickerson of District 7**

**Leroy Sims passed
away in March
at his home in
Equador . He was
a great friend
of the fiddlers,
competing in
both State and
National fiddle contests.
Leroy was OOTFA Vice President,
1977-78 and President, 1978-79.**

