

THE OREGON • OLD TIME • FIDDLERS' HOEDOWNER

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Old Songs & New Business

The Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers returned to form for three days of jamming and a long-overdue in-person Membership Meeting in Burns, June 17, 18 & 19.

There were at least 75-100 people who attended and participated under the rules of COVID for Harney County. Campers, motor homes, trailers and tents dotted the area. Small jams could be seen...and heard... around the fairgrounds with one always running inside the building. The



The OOTFA State Officers for 2021-2022 were unanimously elected: **Treasurer: Linda Parks, Vice-President: Donna Reuter, President: Marcela Easley, Secretary & Membership: Patti Luse**

prior to the meeting. Thank you so much to those who participated that way. There were two major business actions that needed to be voted on.

More Highlights from the High Desert Campout on page 10!

The Changes to the **OOTFA Bylaws & Standing Rules** were accepted as revised on June 19, 2021. Refer to the email/ mailing of about May 10 for a copy of the proposed changes. A copy of these are on the state OOTFA Website in the "about us" section.

Awards were presented at the end of the meeting. The **Norm Nash Distinguished Service Award** was presented to:

2020 Jerry & Linda Parks of Lebanon (District 6)
2021 Eileen Walter of Portland (District 7)

food was very good and we appreciated that extra addition.

Board Meeting: Every District was represented at the board meeting on June 18.

Membership Meeting: We did have a quorum for the Membership meeting on June 19. In addition to the 55 in the room, we had 43 Proxy forms submitted



Has Hal Weiner's playing gone to the dogs? We think not, as folks at the High Desert Campout certainly enjoyed it!

Central Oregon Acoustic Music Gathering
Crook County Fairgrounds

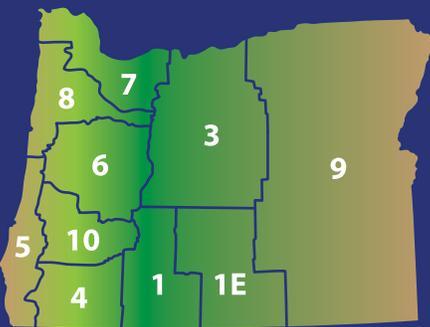
September 16, 17, 18

Start planning now - This will be a Membership Meeting.

More details to come as the event planning develops.

The **Homer McLain Award** was presented to **Joyce & Rick Bergeron** of Portland (District 7).

The **Bill Yohey Award** was not presented in 2020 nor 2021 as there were no nominations.



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John M. "Scott" Phillips

Three years ago I allowed my good friends to convince me to stand for President of OOTFA. Little did I (or anyone) know how that would turn out! Three years later I am finally replaced. It has been an eventful two terms. Committees have accomplished a great deal and the association will benefit as it moves into the future. I am pleased that I was able to serve and look towards many more years sharing old time music with friends.

Looks like the end of the line! Thank you one and all for working with and supporting me through the last three years.

I have every confidence the new officers will do their best to carry OOTFA into the future.

The meeting in Burns was a success. Many thanks to the District 9 folks who made it possible.

We have new state officers, and soon, new district officers. Please contact them soon and ask what you can do to help your association. See you at the next gathering.

And remember our silent fiddles. ~ Scott

Two **Norm Nash Distinguished Service Awards** were presented at the High Desert Campout. We missed last year due to COVID.)



2020 Jerry & Linda Parks of Lebanon (District 6)



2021 Eileen Walter of Portland (District 7)

National Fiddle Contest in Weiser, Idaho, June, 2021. COVID has made an impact on the contest, but people arrived, eager to compete, some participating virtually. Our members from OOTFA who participated will be mentioned in the August Hoedowner.

New OOTFA Member July 2021

Sally Keeney Salem (8)



District I

Klamath Falls Area

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Greetings All from District One, It's with a pretty heavy heart that I am writing this month about another fiddle falling silent here in District One. Our one and only **Ms. Faye Patterson** passed away on May 24th 2021. I will miss her so very much. Ms. Faye and **Phillip Fry** were my daughter **Lena** and my fiddle teachers, along with **Ms. Sheila Fry** as our cheerleader, back-up teacher and Team Mom. We spent many a Wednesday night learning to play the fiddle at Ms. Faye's house, always with coffee and cookies and much laughter and joy. I remember wanting to play some of Ms. Faye's songs so badly and feeling as if I could never get there. She always believed in Lena and I...she always said if we wanted to, we could. She never gave up on us, therefore we never gave up either. I loved when she would tear off on a song, especially on her mandolin, which just became a magical instrument in her arms. She could tear off on her fiddle too, and there were many times I just watched her in awe. She inspired me in so many ways! She was always a Lady, through and through. She loved everyone and if she loved you even more, you were one of the lucky ones she called baby. I would say "I love you Ms. Faye, and she would say "I love you too Baby". I always told her I wanted to be her when I grew up...and I hope someday God will allow me to bless someone else in friendship and music the way she so richly blessed me. Ms. Faye's fiddle may have fallen silent but I know in Heaven she is making a JOYFUL noise! know that there are many who will miss her deeply and are feeling her loss greatly. She was a special lady to many and a stranger to few...she was legendary!

In other district news, I would like to wish everyone in our district who has either a Birthday or an Anniversary in July a very happy day! I am traveling right now and celebrating my daughter's recent High School Graduation. I would also like to wish **Mary Knapp-Mitts** a very special congratulations on her recent marriage. Mary has been very active in our district, and on behalf of all of District One, we wish you all the best, Mary! May you and your husband have many



Isom & Faye Patterson in 2000

wonderful, happy, healthy and blessed years together! The only event we have in July is supporting District 1E in their fundraiser "Rope for Hope" in Nevada towards the end of July. We have several members who are traveling to participate and support it...drive safe guys and have FUN. Keep Fiddling.

~ Jenny Dreyer, District 1 Reporter

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Secretary-Treasurer/Membership: Sharilyn McLain
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Reporters: Nancy Yialouris & Terry McLain

By The time you read this the Burns Jam will be over. Thanks, District 9, you guys are awesome!

We have played the last two First Fridays at the courthouse lawn. Always a good time. Played 5 hours this last time. Arlene Henny was at the microphone for the first time - good job! And, of course, Rosa Lee always sounds good. Larry and Nancy keep the rhythm along with Mike on bass. We are the lucky group to have so much talent with so few members.

On July 17, from 2-7, we play on E Street. Larry is in charge of that one. Always a good time and of course we still do Thursday night jams at Rosa Lee's. That is just a couple hours as some still work and may have been in the log yard early as the day was just getting started. Keep the strings hot - life is good!

~ Terry McLain, District 1E Reporter

District 3 Bend, Redmond, The Dalles

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Co-Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant

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

It seems I picked a challenging year to accept the District 3 Chair. Yes, COVID has been the main challenge. However, we've had other challenges. But it still has been fun and I look forward to more opportunities.

I'm reminded of a joke a friend at Church used to say, repeatedly, "Churches would be great places if it weren't for the people in them." You have to think about it for a second.

It seems we've had some local conflict over the **Central Oregon Music Gathering**, what it is and what it should be called. The dissent is completely understandable.

When I first saw the "Country Music Gathering" advertised, a few years ago, I was not very interested. However, I saw it was sponsored by OOTFA, an organization I was a member of in the 80's & 90's. I went and saw it was a lot more than country music. Fortunately, I took my fiddle and went to some jams and workshops, eventually re-joining OOTFA.

Back to our local conflict: conflict can actually be very positive. You only have conflict when people are passionate about something. Conflict leads to opportunity.

So to resolve our challenges I have made some executive decisions. I accept full responsibility for these changes with the goal of having a positive music gathering. Mind you, our only officers in District 3 are **Karen Bennett** and myself. We do have service opportunities.

It will now be called the **Central Oregon Acoustic Music Gathering** at the **Crook County Fairgrounds**, September 16,17,18. I'm trying to encompass all OOTFA genres: bluegrass, oldtime, country, etc. This not just a Country Music or Fiddle Music event. At the Burns Gathering **Leroy Newport** and gang had a lively swing jam going.

I expect to have all of the same elements as in the past: jams, workshops, band scramble, dancing, open mic if people want.

It's likely the event will be on a smaller scale than previous due to pandemic impact. I have three goals for this event:

1. Support the mission of OOTFA: To Perpetuate and Promote Oldtime Fiddling and Oldtime Music
2. Try to engage younger people. We can see the time stamp on this organization
3. We need to break even financially. We need to self-fund. **Kim Martin** made a good point to me: "It's hard to hit up sponsors after the challenges of the last year". Some of our previous sponsors are out of business.

Last point: we need volunteers. I think we are up to eight volunteers. I believe we will need a minimum of twelve to fifteen. Volunteers from other districts are welcome and appreciated.

Thanks again, to all of the managers of the previous **Central Oregon Gatherings**.

~ George Bretz, District 3 Chairman

District 4 Grants Pass, Medford, Ashland

Chair: **Scotty Phillips** 541-601-5753 scottp307@gmail.com

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Membership Chair: **Carol Ferrara** lencarol2000@gmail.com

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!](#)

Music is beginning to echo off the mountains here in District 4. **Judy McGarvey's Tuesday Afternoon Jammers** group is gaining interest from more musicians. All musicians with different levels of experience are welcome and will find it fun and good practice. The group meets every Tuesday afternoon from 4-6:00 at the **First United Methodist Church** in Medford. For more info contact Judy at 541-779-8145.

Some of District 4 members performed for the bonfire/wiener roast at the **RV Park in the Cascades**. The night was almost perfect. The bonfire lit up the campground and the Smores were delicious. The visitors to the park relaxed and enjoyed the music and some danced the "Chicken Dance" and also the "Hokey Pokey". The district will be back performing again on July 17 and August 21 from 7-9:00, so mark your calendar so you won't miss the fun.

Continued on next page

District 4 lost a very dear member, **Marie Nelli**, in May. She and her sister, **Lillian Orlinski**, moved to Grants Pass, from New York City, to live with their nephew and niece, **John** and **Augusta Pumilia** in 2014. They were immediately adopted by District 4 banjo player **Niquita Wilkinson** and the entire membership subsequently took them into their hearts and they were immediately the "**Aunties**". I asked John to email me the details of her passing and his reply was so eloquent here it is in his own words:

OOTFA District 4 member, Marie Nelli, passed away on May 22, 2021. The monthly jams heartened her back to musical memories of childhood days in Brooklyn, New York. Marie was enthralled by the patriotic and turn-of-the-century popular music that her father played on his



"Auntie" Marie Nelli

mandolin accompanied by his brothers on guitar, banjo and fiddle. Such was the enthusiasm this city girl brought to the "peanut gallery". Up until the time of failing health forced her to be housebound she attended

the monthly jams all over Southern Oregon. Though we will miss her, thanks to the Fiddlers, the oldtime music Marie loved plays on! She will be very missed!

Get your instruments tuned up and mark your calendar for July 7 for the **Downtown Medford Community Gathering**. District 4 will be providing the oldtime music for a fun lunchtime gathering put on by the city of Medford from 11-2:00. There will be food trucks there and it will be hosted by the First United Methodist Church and will be held in their parking lot. This will be an excellent opportunity to present our music to a large audience so, please, we need a good turnout of musicians.

I should have news from the State Meeting next month in my report. Judy McGarvey represented our district and will take notes for me, so...stay tuned and stay cool! See you all soon!

~ Judy Lyons, District 4 Reporter

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Reporters: Al & Nicole Pierce 530-227-1230 enkidu444@aol.com

Greetings from District 5! Things are opening up and looking up here on the coast. We had a music opportunity come our way this month, and after a long year of solitude, our musicians were finally able to play together again.



District 5 at Inland Point Retirement Community in North Bend

On June 1st, we were able to perform at **Inland Point Assisted Retirement Community** in North Bend. Our musicians were sorely missed and much appreciated by the audience. Highlights of the show included "Summertime" with **Dawn Vonderlin** on flute and **Verna Lee** on vocals, and longtime favorites "Redwing," "Red River Valley," and "You are my Sunshine." **Pat** and **Bill Winfrey** provided vocals and harmonica respectively for "Broken Vessels," and **Ruth Weyer** sang "Hallelujah I'm a Bum," another favorite tune. **Linda Sweatt** gave us a rousing rendition of "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah." Some other tunes we got to hear after our long hibernation: "Whiskey Before Breakfast," "Redhaired Boy," "Ashokan Farewell," "Golden Slippers," and "Tennessee Waltz." A total of 14 musicians came to entertain the lovely folks at Inland Point. In addition, we have an upcoming performance scheduled for June 21st at **Pacific View Senior Living Community** in Bandon.

A special thank you goes out to Ruth Weyer who represented District 5 at the annual meeting and **High Desert Campout** in Burns. Thank you, Ruth, for all of your help and for everything you do for District 5! You are truly appreciated for your dedication and hard work. We here in District 5 wish all of you good health and good times in your upcoming music adventures.

~ Al & Nicole Pierce, District 5 Reporters

District 6 Eugene, Corvallis. Lebanon Area

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Treasurer: Bernie Roberts 541-689-5764 beroberts285@comcast.net
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Scholarships: Tony Humphreys 541-505-9792 gtfarma@peak.org
Reporter: Shirley Humphreys 541-505-9792 shirleysafarma@yahoo.com

District 6 Meeting & Jam
Central Grange
87200 Central Road
East of Veneta
Saturday, July 17
10 am - 3 pm

This will all be subject to state and county guidelines, or OOTFA directives, about meetings and gatherings based on COVID-19 conditions at that time.

Betsy Janeczek's Musical Adventures

I grew up in eastern Pennsylvania. My parents started me on piano lessons at the age of 6 which I quit when I was a teen and picked up a guitar. I'm still grateful for those early lessons, as they allowed me to read music and self-learn many other instruments.

After college I spent part of a year traveling overland across Asia with my explorer brother. We joined my parents who were living in Tanzania (my dad was a Doctor), We all climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and went to wild animal preserves doing photography. Tired of travel, I came back to the states and went to visit my sister, living in eastern West Virginia, where I stayed for 20 years.

I was playing autoharp then. Up in Pocahontas County I was lucky to be around the infamous musical **Hammonds** family, they all played oldtime music in vibrant fashion and they urged us youngsters to come join the circles, and we all learned the tunes by ear. I also played the guitar and sang with my hippie friends in big jam circles but wasn't very good, and when I got **Andy**, still my husband after 40 years, I relished how well he can play. We got married there, built a hand-hewn log house, kept chickens, goats and a big garden, and had two children.

Betsy plays her mandolin while Allison Lindley and Julia Milleson fiddle at the High Desert Campout.

Janet Braymen is taking pics.



Betsy is usually seen playing mandolin, but she is experienced with many other musical instruments

We moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1991, and a few years later I took up the mandolin. Out West we fell in with Swing players, learned all about Texas 2-step dancing and western swing music, it's still a great passion for us.

We moved to Durango, Colorado in 2005 to take care of my parents. Durango is mostly a bluegrass town, but I joined a mandolin ensemble group and we read music and played light classical, for weddings and at Renaissance fairs: what a treat.

Our son lives in Portland which brought us here to Eugene in 2017. We have been welcomed into many music circles here and we play with the **Deer and Antelope Band**. We listen to **Jivin' Johnny's KRVM Saturday morning Country Classics** show and we are still learning songs. Happy to be here.

Birthday Greetings: Lynn Baran (7/3), Emily Moyle (7/11), Amy Burrow (7/14), Sal Fiducia (7/26), Jerry Parks (5/28)

Wedding Anniversaries: Bernie and Marie Roberts (7/18)

We want to thank you Betsy for your great story!

~ Shirley Humphreys District 6 Reporter

District 7 Portland, Northern Coast Area

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Dear OOTFA Friends, I hope that all of you are doing well and are enjoying some nice summer weather here in Oregon. I am sure that we have all enjoyed getting out and about these days and that probably most of us have been playing music with others. District 7 members played our first “gig” in a long time at **Cherry Park Plaza Retirement Center** in June and we look forward to many more gigs in the near future.

This month I would like to write about District 7 member, **Claudia Zinser**. I had a long talk with her this morning but before we got started on her musical background she told me she was hoping for a break in the rain so that she could start burning the brush on her acreage. She had been gathering it since our big ice storm and only had a few more days before the burning season was over. Hope the sun came out for you, Claudia. Thanks for sharing your busy time with me.

Claudia began her musical life at age 4 by taking piano lessons. By age 6 she thought that learning the violin would be better because she could carry it to her lessons. At age 7 she began taking lessons from a woman who belonged to a group of music teachers who traveled between small cities and offered lessons to children who wanted to learn to play an instrument. Her teacher was a wonderful person who had her students play in all kinds of recitals in the Vancouver area. Often Claudia played with a group of students at the **Fern Prairie Grange**. She called them her band and they learned a lot playing together. The interesting thing is that her traveling teacher, **Mrs. Conn**, did not play the violin but was able to teach the “band” members how to play their instruments. After High School she went to **Clark College** in Washington to study music but after a few years decided to get married and then stopped playing the violin for a while. However, she learned to play the guitar and spent time giving piano lessons at home.



Claudia Zinser

Fifteen years later she decided to go back to school (**Lewis and Clarke**) where she got her teaching degree and began teaching music in the **North Clackamas School District**. She taught a variety of music classes to 12 schools twice a week for 30 minutes. She usually taught orchestra/strings and made sure the students knew how to tune their instruments and taught them right off the bat to play a rousing version of “Boil them Cabbage Down”.

Over the years her students found a lot of success in her classrooms and many of them wanted to come after school for some help, so she recruited some of her better players to help. There were many times when she had 20 students after school. About the time she was thinking about retirement a lot of students were asking her not to retire until they had taken

en her string class. They had heard from previous students about how quickly they found success and how much they all enjoyed playing for the big Christmas program at **Clackamas Town Center** each year where everyone could play all the songs (including “Boil them Cabbage Down”) in tune and by ear. By the time she knew it would be her last year she

was teaching 400 students with 40 in each class! I think that it was very satisfying for her to know that she influenced so many students over the years.

Now in addition to playing with OOTFA, Claudia also plays with an Estacada community multigenerational orchestra where she is having fun teaching a 10 and 12 year olds “Boil them Cabbage Down” and “Cripple Creek”!

~ Elaine Schmidt, District 7 Reporter.

Please Save the Date: **Bob's Bash Memorial**, August 14, noon, at the Jorgensen's. Bring your instrument, a chair, and a dish to share. Everyone is welcome.

District 8 Salem, McMinnville, Tillamook/Newport

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July 1 Slo-Jam at Marie Bailey's home 1-3 pm
learn or review District 8 jam tunes.

July 4 Independence, Riverview Park Ampitheater.
Park in lot near the river. Play time is now
5-6 p.m. Let Marie know if you can come.

July 10 Martha Hughes'
Basic Fiddle Class via zoom 9 am

July 15 Slo-Jam at Marie Bailey's home 1-3 pm

Be on alert for other upcoming events

~ Gayle Clarity, District 8 Reporter

Fiddler & Traveler **Gayle was born in Seattle, Washington.** **Gayle Clarity**

By Joyce Orsini

Her mother played the accordion and her father played the clarinet, although not very actively. Gayle started playing violin in the 4th grade; sang in the high school and church choir. After graduation she majored in music education at **Western Washington University** in Bellingham.

She played violin in the college string orchestra and full orchestra. She also played viola one year in the string orchestra and had piano lessons. After a couple of years of college she started playing the French horn because "it seemed like more fun" in the band and community orchestras.

She got married at the end of college at WWCE which then took her to Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, then Washington DC, then to Fulda, Germany – as her husband joined the Army. Their first child was born in Frankfurt, Germany.

Some years later, Gayle studied data processing at **North Seattle Community College** and worked for Boeing in data processing for 13 years.

For 10 to 12 years she didn't play the violin, but then in February 1994, after retirement, she started to travel around by herself in a camper van. She wound up in Chama, New Mexico, where she bought a log house which was her "house home" for 5 years. That summer (1994) she traveled up to Colorado where she got introduced to some good fiddlers at a contest in Canon City, Colorado and another contest at Royal Gorge, Colorado the next day.

The next winter, in Arizona, she attended a few fiddle contests, then bought a fiddle and started learning to play fiddle style and playing by ear.

She traveled around the United States, sight-seeing and playing music. It wasn't long before she wanted a larger, mid-sized RV for traveling. She entered music contests and found it was fun – well, actually, jamming was more fun!

In her travels, she spent parts of 3 winters in Florida – mostly bluegrass festivals there – and 6 winters in Texas and did lots of jamming with folks and entertaining at RV parks. She says that she didn't grow up with country music, but learned to play some of it by ear at RV park jams. [Her parents watched **Lawrence Welk** on TV Saturday nights].

Friends that Gayle met at a bluegrass park in Texarkana (in 1999) had decided to move to Mountain View, Arkansas. There is a folk center there with jamming on the town square. There wasn't much music around Chama, NM, so this was a strong "draw". Arkansas had a different culture and lots of music. It was also a "jumping off point" for places farther east and south. All in all, Gayle says that she has traveled to 42 states including Hawaii and Alaska, and has been to Canada, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, Mexico, Tahiti, Germany, England, The Netherlands, Italy and Austria as well.



Gayle Clarity in fine form

After 5 years of living in Arkansas it was time to move back to the Northwest, as her children still live in Washington. Gayle moved to Woodburn, Oregon in 2005. She won in her age division in the **Oregon State Fiddle Contest** and in 2008 she won first place in the Senior Senior division in the **National Fiddle Contest** in Weiser, Idaho.

She judged in a few contests after that.

Although she now lives in Woodburn, Gayle spends winters in the south, usually in Arizona. The last couple of months she has had "house concerts" for her neighbors. She plays 15-16 tunes to a concert, demonstrating different styles of fiddle tunes; i.e., hoedowns, waltzes, songs for singing, some for dancing; a jig, a schottische, etc. Gayle is a dynamic District 8 performer, as well as D-8 Hoedowner Reporter and Notice Correspondent.

District 9 Burns, John Day Area

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Reporter: Marianne Andrews

We are starting back with small group jams on Friday nights. Call **Joan Suther** if you have questions.

We wish **Linda Borelli** a speedy and complete recovery from her broken hip.

We are glad that y'all came to our **High Desert Campout**. Hope everyone had a great time. We sure did.

A big hello to the **Peyrollaz's** and **Don Williams**. We wish you all a great summertime.

Randy Gibson, Janet Braymen, and Don Greenfield played during **Obsidian Days** in early June, and were joined by a young singer, **Nick** from Hood River, who happened to be passing through.

Musically Yours, Marianne Andrews,
District 9 Reporter

Highlights from the High Desert Campout

Folks came, renewed friendships, met new folks and played and played. It was warm, very warm but only really hot for a few hours each day. Cooler nights were welcomed. About 80 folks were in attendance enjoying the camaraderie. A shout out to a couple of the nights in shining armor: Art Bigelow (District 3) wrangled the tree frog from the women's shower after quite a chase, saving any future visitors from a cute, little, surprise. Terry McLain (District 1E) saved the day with extra chock blocks, jumper cables and fiddle maintenance.

District 9 thanks everyone who made the long trip over. Without the players and clappers there wouldn't be an event. Janet Braymen, Randy Gibson, Joan Suther and Don Greenfield were the core organizers this year with support from the rest of District 9 and are thrilled with the results. A huge thanks to Mary Ausmus for the thankless job of keeping the bathrooms clean as well as other high touch surfaces.

It was great to see everyone for a jammin' good time. Next year's High Desert event will be June 16, 17, and 18, 2022. ~ Janet Braymen

District 10 Roseburg, Canyonville, Sutherlin Area

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In May, we elected new officers. Several attended the **High Desert Campout** in Burns on June 17-19. Our thanks to District 9. On June 25-27, we hosted a three-day membership drive and jam at the **Umpqua Valley Arts Association's Summer Arts Festival**. Many thanks to everyone who assisted. On July 10, **Chuck Stayer** is hosting a 10 am jam at **Larry's Automotive** in Winston during the parade. Food and drink provided.

Dolores Booher invites any musician who loves to jam to bring your instrument, chair, and sack lunch, and join an all-day jam at the **Booher Farm** on Saturday, July 3. Great fun is planned. If coming from a distance, you're welcome to camp on the property, arriving the night before (tents or RVs) and staying until Sunday morning. The Booher's will provide ice water, trash cans, and portable toilets. They'll have a Saturday evening potluck, and she'll make waffles and trimmings for Sunday morning breakfast. Cost per person is \$5 to cover expenses. They hope to have a stage and sound system for a sign-up performance. For more info, contact Dolores by text or phone to 541-849-2171. Their address is 2058 Scotts Valley Road, Yoncalla, Oregon 97499

In July, we celebrate birthdays for **Richard Poelstra** (July 4), **Kelly Wadsworth** (July 6), **Colleen Hanks** (July 22), **Liz Crain** (July 26), **Mary Oswald** (July 26) and **Jerry Ashford** (July 28).

I'm sad to report that **Fred Young** passed away on May 27. He was 93 years old. A service will be on Friday, July 9 at the **Roseburg Veterans' National Cemetery Memorial Grounds**, at either 9 am or 11 am. We'll let you know via the OOTFA District 10 Googlegroup. A video honoring Fred can be seen on YouTube and the OOTFA Facebook page.

~ Joe Ross, District 10 Reporter

Allison Lindley *Carrying On Her Grandpa's Fiddling Tradition*

Allison Lindley was inspired by her grandfather, Earl “Don” Wiles. Born in 1924 in Baker, Don Wiles had moved to Weiser, Idaho when he was ten. His father, grandfather, and several uncles were fiddlers, and when Don was just seven he started sneaking his dad’s fiddle out from under his bed. Within two years, he was playing for dances. Don played for dances, shows and contests for sixty years, and was active in the **Idaho Oldtime Fiddlers Association**. He liked to fix up old beat-up fiddles and pass them on to would-be fiddlers who couldn’t otherwise afford an instrument. Don passed away in 1993.



Allison Lindley

Admiring her grandpa’s playing, Allison started violin in elementary school in Auburn, Washington. She attended the Idaho Oldtime Fiddlers convention with her grandfather. “He couldn’t read music, and I couldn’t play by ear. We never really got to play together. He wasn’t that interested in what I played, and I couldn’t keep up with his fiddling.” Allison played in the orchestra through college, but didn’t enjoy the classical music scene, so she put her violin away for ten years.

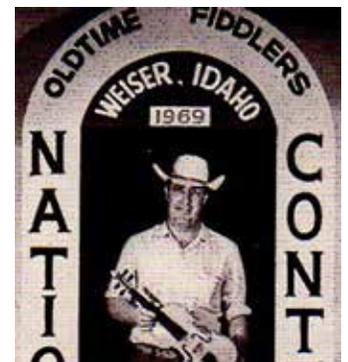
In 1995, she inherited a couple of her grandpa’s fiddles, and one of them, an instrument built in Germany 120 years ago, really caught her ear. “I got it out just to tune it up. It had a pretty voice and just wanted to sing. It knows my grandpa’s tunes if I can just coax them out of there, right?”

Allison has several tapes of her grandfather playing tunes like “Happy Gaucho”, “Possum Up a Gum Stump”, “Red Apple Rag”, “East Tennessee Blues”, “Flowers from Heaven”, “Fisher’s Hornpipe”, “Cacklin’ Hen” and “Flop-Eared Mule”. Allison wanted to learn his tunes so she began to play by ear. “It’s a different way of approaching music. Fiddling is a way of feeling the music, playing it from the heart, and presenting it with expression.”

She had barely gotten involved with the **Washington Oldtime Fiddlers** and attended the **Centralia Oldtime Music Campout**, before she and her husband Kevin moved to Jerome, Idaho in 2008 to pastor at the **Life Church of the Magic Valley**. In Jerome, she met **Dollie Daniels**, an Idahoan who had taken up fiddle in her fifties, inspired many, and taught kids and adults how to fiddle. Dollie lived to age 100, and Allison still today plays “Dollie’s Waltz” as a tribute to her. “She always taught that waltz to all her young students,” laughs Allison, “but she’d call it by their name. They really liked that.”

Allison discovered several different Idaho fiddling groups, the **Gem State Fiddlers, Fiddlers Inc.**, and **Idaho Oldtime Fiddlers Association**. “Because I could play in tune,” states Allison, “they’d let me come and play in any group.” During her nine years in Idaho, she played at church and entertained at community events and senior centers. She also entered fiddle contests in Hailey and Weiser, playing her grandpa’s tunes. “In contests, my main goal was to cover my gas, lunch and entry fee,” says Allison.

In 2017, Allison and Kevin moved to Winston, Oregon to pastor at the **Winston Assembly of God Church**. “During our first week in Oregon I looked on-line to connect with OOTFA,” recalls Allison. “I did that right away to make some fiddle friends, and they’ve become an extended family. They’re an amazing community of fun musicians to play with and learn from. I’m continuing to learn new techniques and variations on tunes.”



Earl “Don” Wiles

Allison also plays guitar, bass, piano and sings. She’d taken a guitar class in high school “for an easy credit,” put that instrument away for about a decade, but picked it up again when her husband became a youth pastor in 2003. She’s always liked to sing but didn’t have much use for it. “My sisters and mom sang a lot with the **Sweet Adelines**. They traveled around the world singing competitively. I can hear the harmonies. I sing every day and every week in church. I’d like to learn more bluegrass and gospel. Grandpa played ‘Get Out and Get Under the Moon’, and I learned the lyrics many years later. I like fiddling now. The more I do it, the more I enjoy it. If my grandpa was around today, we’d have a great time fiddling and jamming together.”

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



Web Index

Online Resources for Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers

- [Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Association](#) Official Website for State
- [OOTFA Facebook](#) Facebook Page
- [National Fiddle Contest](#) Weiser, Idaho
- [West Cascades Fiddle Camp & Workshop](#) Canceled for 2021
- [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 6 Instructional Videos](#) YouTube Videos
- [District 7 Facebook](#) Portland, Northern Coast Area
- [District 10 Facebook](#) Roseburg, Canyonville, Sutherlin Area
- [Hoedowner Archive](#) OOTFA Newsletter Since 1967
- [Join OOTFA!](#) Registration Form to Join OOTFA
- [Tune of the Month](#) A Pretty Girl Milking Her Cow
- [Tune of the Month Archive](#)

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.

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

High Desert Campout 2021



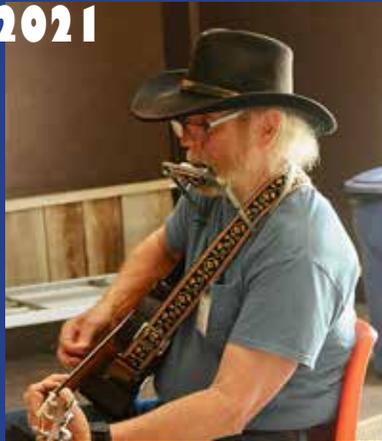
Leroy Newport



Oran Barr



Julia Milleson & Marie Bailey



John Schultz



David Altman, Gayle Clarity, Marcella Easley & Fred Davis



Janet Braymen & Linda Parks