

OREGON • OLD TIME • FIDDLERS' THE HOEDOWNER

Volume 29, Issue 3

Established 1964

ootfa.org

March 2021

Oregon State Fiddle Contest UPDATE

Only a year ago we were getting ready for the 2020 Oregon State Fiddle Contest, which alas, was not to be. Missing another one was not something that many of us wanted to consider, so we are working towards an on-line contest to be held on Saturday, March 20, 2021.

Here is some information which we have so far:

The rules will be similar to what they have been, minus an Entertainment Showcase.

Contestants may play unaccompanied, with live accompanists (if you are lucky enough to have some with you!), with pre-recorded back-up, with a metronome, or with other rhythmic devices.



Lena Dreyer is an impressive young fiddler and much, much more. See what her Mom has to say on page 3



OOTFA President Scott Phillips and his wife, Linda. Scott's musical story is told in District 4's report on pages 4 & 5

In order to keep the contest to one day, it's necessary to set limits

as to how many contestants will be in each division. The contest is open to everyone; however, Oregon residents will get first priority.

As in the past, there will be no contest entry fee, but contestants will be asked to belong to **Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Association**.

We are happy to announce our three terrific judges: **Sherry McKenzie** from Texas, **Jeanine Orme** from Oregon, and **Miya Saito-Beckman** from Oregon. All three are phenomenal fiddlers, teachers, & well qualified judges - we are fortunate to have them judge our contest.

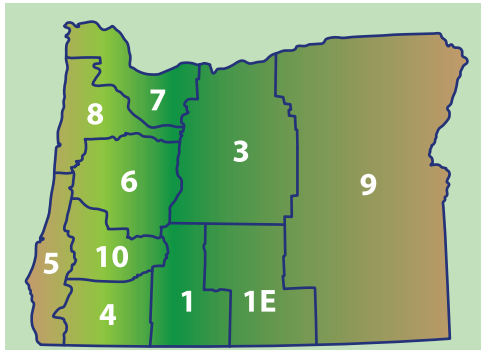
We will let you know when the **Oregon State Fiddle Contest** on-line registration site is ready. Sign up promptly at that time, as some divisions may fill up. If you wish to participate and have never done so before (or didn't receive a preliminary email on February 9) please email pattiluse@comcast.net so you will be on the Contest Contact List.

Additional details will be available soon and will be sent to the Contest Contact List. After that, it will be sent to all OOTFA members who have email addresses. BUT REMEMBER, register promptly as there will be a cut-off date.

I sincerely hope you'll join us and enjoy this new adventure – no travel necessary, and no crowds!

Take care and keep fiddling!

~ Eileen Walter, 503-701-1578 call or text



Officers

President

Scott Phillips

541-899-7139

PO Box 525

Jacksonville, OR 97530

jmp@grrtech.com

Vice President

Donna Reuter

541-386-2633

650 Vineyard Road

Hood River, OR 97031

fiddledr@gmail.com

Secretary and Membership

Patti Luse

541-915-3231

979 Ascot Drive

Eugene, OR 97401

pattiluse@comcast.net

Treasurer

Linda Parks

541-905-2313

36989 Deadwood Drive

Lebanon, OR 97355

LindaParks1980@gmail.com

Editor

Robin Lindsey

458-205-9215

845 Taylor Street

Eugene, OR 97402

qat_boy@msn.com



A line from a 1976 Steve Miller song (Fly Like An Eagle) pretty much sums up things; "Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future."

OOTFA President's Report

Again after looking at where we are and where we might (more than likely) be this year, I don't see a convention happening in May. Our state contest will be virtual, as will the **National Fiddle Contest** in Weiser. Burns is on hold as well. If shots are caught up and restrictions are reduced, the fall membership meeting could happen. You need to know that committees and host districts for events are standing ready for when the time comes.

I am scheduling quarterly state board meetings, via **Zoom**, on April 17th at 10:00 and on June 19th at 10:00. By then we should have a better handle on what we are allowed to do.

I hear that there are "bubbles" popping up all over the state. I encourage all to do activities safely as we want you with us when the pandemic passes. I am glad to hear the music still flows.

At this point over half of our memberships are Life Membership households. The board is doing it's best to stay within budget. Virtual meetings help. Paid dues help. Donations help. We must all remember this is a volunteer organization. Support from every member will let us survive this situation.

As always, please remember our silent fiddles. ~ Scott

Today I saw a story on a web site

titled "What Do You Miss Most during COVID Isolation". I didn't read the story, but I know the answer that most of us would have to that question. I really miss seeing you all and backing up all the awesome fiddlers in our organization.

Editor's Notes

One person I have been missing a lot lately is **Lew Holt**. I have looked forward to Lew's **Editor Emeritus** column that usually appears each month on this page. Lew fell on Christmas day and ended up in a rehab facility for 40 days. He has opted out of his column recently, but when he starts feeling more up to it he says he will occasionally share a memory or two with us again. He has a lot of them as he has been deeply involved with OOTFA for many years.

Lew was a huge help to me a few years back when I put together a slide presentation of past OOTFA award winners and National Treasures for the **Central Oregon Country Music Gathering**. Most of the photos I used were from his collection that spans several decades. Those pics can be found on the OOTFA website.

I am glad Lew has his wife, **Alice**, by his side. This pandemic has kept a lot of people who are in assisted living homes or rehab facilities from seeing their families, as well as the friends that round out their lives.

Many folks who have written me recently have added that they are excited to have received their COVID shots. Strange times when getting poked with a needle is something to get excited about.

Several OOTFA members have appeared in my dreams recently. I don't think there is a deeper Jungian meaning to interpret. I am taking those dreams literally. I simply miss you.

With virtual hugs & kisses ~ Robin

District I Klamath Falls Area

Chair: Sheila Fry 541-850-9062 sheilaand@yahoo.com
Co-Chair: Irene Ruddock 541-882-6418 irenelcmar@q.com
Secretary: Edna Jenkins 541-891-9155 ednaspics@yahoo.com
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,

This month, as I fondly think of it, is **Fiddle Contest Month**. Normally some of us would be going to Salem, to participate or enjoy the music at the fiddle contest. Because of COVID, those of us who participate, will be participating remotely...via online.

This month, I wanted to write about a young lady in our district. She initially wanted to play the fiddle because she did not want to play ANY of the band instruments that were being offered in band when she was in 6th grade. Her mom found three teacher's willing to co-teach her fiddle. The teacher's were all in **OOTFA**.

Because the fiddle this young lady had to use was too big for her, one of the teachers said, "Mom, you're going to use this fiddle and I have a smaller fiddle that your daughter can use!" Thus, not just one person was learning the fiddle but two! It started this young lady and her mom on a grand adventure!

District 1E Lakeview, Silver Lake Area

Chair: Terry McLain 541-219-0896 terry233.tm@gmail.com
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
Reporters: Nancy Yialouris & Terry McLain

When Larry and I first started to play Larry used to watch **Cliff Tennell** from Klamath Falls to figure out what chord to play. One time somebody stepped in the way and he couldn't see where to go, so he quit playing. When the song finished **Don Gish** turned around and smacked Larry across the back of the hand with his fiddle bow and said, "never stop the rhythm." Larry never forgot that lesson. No matter how lost he was the rhythm never stopped.

We were at the **State Convention** and **Dad** had the opportunity to play with **Ruth Loring**. When he got done he told Larry to play just like that. Many hours were spent watching **Johnny Swearingen**, **Bob Huffman**, our **Uncle George McLain** and many many other Rhythm players.

This young lady has participated in past fiddle contests, both as a contestant and as a volunteer. She has played her fiddle for farmers markets, assisted living facilities, and even played her fiddle once during a school talent show (Where her **Dad** paid her \$50 bucks if she would do it because he knew she was shy, LOL). One of her most memorable times playing was for a Fundraiser at Starbucks, that her Mom set up to support a local girl's family, after the little girl had passed away from an inoperable brain tumor. The fundraiser raised close to \$1,000 for the family right before Christmas. It was a moment she won't ever forget... the power of music! This young lady is **Lena Dreyer**.

Lena is a senior in high school and has not had a "normal" senior year because of COVID 19. She is currently ranked #1 in her senior class, and has already been accepted to **Oregon Institute of Technology** for Fall 2021 and plans to major in Medical Imaging. Lena would like to specifically thank **Ms. Faye Patterson**, **Mr. "P" (Phillip Fry)** and **Ms. Sheila Fry** for the many hours of time and talent they dedicated to teaching her to play the fiddle... the love and support they have given her has helped form her into the amazing woman she has become.

Johnny Rodgers would like to sincerely thank everyone who either called or sent letters and cards of condolences to him due to the recent passing of his wife, **Darleth Rodgers**. It meant the world to him and he's very thankful.

March Birthdays: **Faye Patterson**, **Virginia Priddy**, and **Hannah Scott**.

March Anniversaries: **Bill** and **Ann Bonser**, **James** and **Jenny Dreyer**.

~ Jenny Dreyer, District 1 Reporter

We are lucky to have Larry. It wasn't to long ago we were playing "Tennessee Waltz." We played it a couple times, he said, "play it again." I found another chord. He says when he gets tired his left hand just moves and sometime it even works.

District 1E has reserved the **Booster Hall** in Christmas Valley April 29-May 2 and is inviting all OOTFA members to come join in. More details to come.

~ Terry McLain, District 1E Reporter



Terry & Larry McLain

District 3 Bend, Redmond, The Dalles

Chair: George Bretz 503-705-4593 georgekellybretz@gmail.com

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](http://centraloregonfiddlers.com)

A Musical Journey by Karen Bennett

One of the interesting aspects of Oldtime Fiddlers organizations is learning the musical background of its members, so here is my story.

I was raised within about a mile of **Central Grange** in Veneta (District 6), where **OOTFA** has held many jam sessions and shows over the years. The Grange's stage is the home of my first two public musical performances as a child in the mid 1950's. I sang "Bicycle Built For Two" (the girl's part) and "All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth". My family was "lightly" musical, and home consisted of my parents' house and also my grandparents' house. On adjacent properties lived two aunts & their families. Yes, this was an extended farm family situation.

My mother was born and raised in Hawaii. She sang frequently and played the ukulele. My grandparents had two fascinating items in their home. The upright piano and old-fashioned pump organ were fun to play with and they made loud noises. Next came a piano in my parents' house along with piano lessons from a neighbor lady. I liked to play from "The Golden Book of Favorite Songs", first copyrighted in 1915. Several of the tunes in that book are played by the Oldtime Fiddlers today.

In 1991 I married **Steve**, who plays guitar. Several of the **Bennett** family members played various instruments and were in country bands. His Dad, **Gene Bennett**, was an amazing lead guitar player. Shortly before moving to Idaho in 1999, we learned about the **National Oldtime Fiddlers Contest & Festival** in Weiser, Idaho, and we first attended in 2000. A few years later, we joined the **Gem State Fiddlers** and the **Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers**. Before we knew what hit us, we were part of a 5-piece band, called the **Bob Miller Band**. We had the usual gigs; local festivals, care facilities, weddings, church. Near the end of 2015, both **Bob Miller** (bass player) and I decided to retire from our day jobs. We moved back to Oregon, this time to **Crooked River Ranch**. Bob and his wife **June** (banjo player) bought a home in Arizona. Steve & I joined the **Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers** at the **Burns Jamboree** in 2016.

Our musical skills have expanded over the years. I now also play mandolin and ukulele. Now Steve sings, plays a 6-string banjo, and has learned some fancy guitar chords. In addition to traditional oldtime and classic country music, we play jazz, gospel and older popular music. I play by ear and also read music. For performances and jam sessions, playing by ear is by far the best. Reading music is great for learning tunes, playing more difficult tunes, and especially for discovering music you would otherwise overlook.

District 4 Grants Pass, Medford, Ashland

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

Co-Chair: Jessie Lotts 541-816-1954 jessielotts22@gmail.com

Secretary: Ron Bolstad 541-488-3593 bolstad@mind.net

Treasurer: Barbara Basden 541-772-0579 barbara.basden@gmail.com

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](http://OOTFA4.org) [Check Us Out!](#)

After some arm twisting I convinced **OOTFA Chairman, Scott Phillips**, to let me highlight him for my report this month. Scott came to our organization though **Judy McGarvey** when they were both members of the **Rogue Valley Yacht Club** where they enjoyed their hobby of sailing the many lakes in Southern Oregon. At a skippers' meeting Scott mentioned that his grandpa had played the fiddle and his fiddle was still treasured by the family, and that he would like to learn to play the fiddle. And Judy replied "you get a fiddle and I'll teach you to play."

Scott mulled the idea over for a few months and then went to **Larry's Music** and rented a fiddle and joined Judy and a few other musicians at her home a couple of times a week to practice. When he began to feel comfortable with the instrument he went to the **Central Point Pawn** shop and traded for a fiddle that he had to refurbish to make playable. When he had worked with Judy and attended several gigs and jams he decided he would continue to play oldtime music. At one monthly jam **Pat Manion** and Judy McGarvey decided it was time for his debut and pushed him on-stage and he successfully played Red River Valley. Scott joined OOTFA and District 4 in 1998.

A goal that Scott had for himself was to one day play "grandpa's fiddle" which was at his dad's home in New York State. His dad had promised him that when he could play two tunes, successfully, the fiddle would be his. In the spring of 1998, Scott and wife, Linda, boarded all eleven family pets in a kennel and flew to New York.

continued on next page

continued from page 4

Scott's father must have been confident his son would do what he had come to do because he had "grandpa's fiddle" completely refurbished and it was in excellent condition. Scott put the well loved instrument under his chin and the fiddle came back to life to the tune of "Tennessee Waltz" then followed by "Those Enduring Young Charms". The fiddle went back to Oregon with Scott and the promise it would always remain in the family.

Scott's different avenues of service to OOTFA began with a trip to the **Canyonville Fiddle Contest** with Judy McGarvey and her first adventure into the world of contest fiddling. There Scott, met for the first time, **Eileen Walter, Donna Reuters** and **Lew** and



Vintage Scott Phillips, before he dyed his hair

Alice Holt, contest committee members. Scott innocently asked Lew Holt, "What can I do to help?" And that was the beginning of Scott's 20 year commitment to the contest as Stage Manager for the **Oregon State Fiddle Contests** every year. An important part of his job is to escort each contestant on stage and up to the microphone. His calm, confident and assuring manner calms the nerves of the contestant and helps them perform at their best.

Scott has held many offices in District 4. He has served as Treasurer, Vice Chairman, Chairman and consistently as Parliamentarian. At the state level he has held office as the State Parliamentarian and is now State Chairman and continues in this office guiding the organization through the difficulties the pandemic has brought.

When asked what his vision is for OOTFA in the future, he says. "The future will be strong because it is built on the foundation of talented and dedicated members." He recalls his memory of learning to play "Road to Boston" from teacher, **Donna Foreman**, at one of the earliest fiddle camps held at Thousand Trails. Look at the growth and expansion the **West Cascade Fiddle Camp Committee** members have achieved each year. His memories of learning to play from such wonderful musicians, many of them gone now; **Don Lindsey, Pat Manion, Gene Williams,**

and **Ruel Teague**, just to name a few; great musicians who taught so many others to play, and now their music lives on. The **Oregon State Fiddle Contests** headed by **Eileen Walter** and her talented Committee have grown. The contest has become popular with contestants from around the west. Scott believes that the dedication to the purpose of the organization is so important to members new and older, that the future for OOTFA is bright.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all you **Irish** and to you who wanna be Irish for the day too. The future for OOTFA is bright!

~ Judy Lyons, District 4 Reporter

District 5

Southern Coast Area

Chair: Kriss Fenton 541-260-6756 krissfenton2@gmail.com
Co-Chair: Luke VerHagen 541-587-4313 lukenchar@msn.com
Secretary: Jolly Hibbits 541-982-4445 egretflats@wildblue.net
Treasurer: Dawn Vonderlin 541-347-4561 dawndoreen@hotmail.com
Membership: Pat Foht 541-412-8169 plfoht@gmail.com
Reporters: Al & Nicole Pierce 530-227-1230 enkidu444@aol.com

First of all, a shout-out to Jolly for encouraging me to start this project.

An Incompleat Historie of Ye Olde Tyme American Musik, Part the Fyrst

Initial caveat: the fiddle is **The** instrument associated with oldtime American music. The fiddle was perhaps the most popular of all European stringed instruments – they were readily available, traveled well, and well-suited to all kinds of music, from "**Boil Them Cabbage Down**" to **Bach**. The fiddle could handle them all.

When did the first fiddle arrive in America?

Archeologists at the original **Jamestown** site (est. 1607) have uncovered no evidence of a fiddle, at least not yet, but have found the mouthpiece of a recorder, a couple of trumpet mouthpieces (think bugle) and a jaw harp.

There is no listing on the **Mayflower** of a fiddle, though there were drums and a bugles. Bugles were used to for communication on ships, and drums were used to call town meetings.

In fact, there is no listing or mention of any fiddle on any British ship during this period. This led to at least one historian to conclude that the fiddle probably arrived on early European ships. However, by 1620, there was a fiddler in America.

continued on next page

America's First Fiddler, John Utie

According to Oxford's "The Musical Quarterly," (Vol 36, 1950), one **John Utie** arrived from England in 1620, with his wife **Mary Anne** on the English ship **Francis Boneventure**.

Note: **Lord Baltimore** would later grant John's son **Nathaniel** a 1500 acre island still known as Spesutie Island, which is Latin for Utie's Hope. (WIKI)

District 6 Eugene, Corvallis. Lebanon Area

Chair: Ernie Connelly 541-517-9531 e.mc2@comcast.net
Vice Chair: Betsy Janeczek 541-852-9188 path303@gmail.com
Secretary: Amy Burrow 541-998-6294 aru.bur6294@gmail.com
Treasurer: Bernie Roberts 541-689-5764 beroberts285@comcast.net
Membership: Linda Parks LindaParks1980@gmail.com
541-905-2313 36989 Deadwood Dr. Lebanon, OR 97355
Scholarships: Tony Humphreys 541-505-9792 gtfarma@peak.org
Reporter: Shirley Humphreys 541-505-9792 shirleysafarma@yahoo.com

Birthday Greetings: **Patti Luse** (3/11), **Linda Danielson** (3/7)

Wedding Anniversaries: **Sal and Darlene Fiduica** (3/15),
Wayne and Annie Carter (3/30)

~ Shirley Humphreys, District 6 Reporter

My Time As A Member of the Oldtime Fiddlers Association by Keith Barr

If memory serves me right, and at times it does not, I became a member of this fine organization, about 15 years ago. How I became a member is a story in itself. My wife **Chris**, at the time, was enrolled in aerobic exercise classes at the Oakway Fitness Center. Her instructor was leaving for another position and asked if anyone in the class knew any musicians that would come in and play music for her last session instead of playing CD's. Chris mentioned "My husband plays guitar, so I'll ask him." I said "Well sure, I'll do it."



Keith Barr is a folksy kind of guy

There seems little doubt that John was not the only person hailing from the British Isles who smuggled a fiddle into the New World, and the fiddle certainly found a home here: by 1736, organized fiddle contests were widely advertised.

Next month we'll take a look at a few of the many different flavors of old time American fiddle music: Cajun, French-Canadian, Down-East, Metis, Athabaskan, and who knows? -- it wasn't only in Appalachia that the fiddle was King.

Have a great March and stay safe!

~ Al & Nicole Pierce, District 5 Reporters

On the day of the last session as I entered the exercise room, I glanced over to the far side of the room and there stood a couple of older fellows, one with a bass, the other with a mandolin in hand. The bass player spoke first, "Hi, I'm Ken and this is Joe, you must be the guitar player, I see by your case." That was my introduction into this organization.

I recall, we played a rough rendition of the song "Wagon Wheel" as the ladies bent and stretched. After the session ended I was given an application to join this great organization. I have been playing for many years having grown up during the **Great American Folk Music Scare** of the late 50's and 60's, and enjoying the likes of The Kingston Trio, PPM, Lime Lighters, Pete Seeger, Tom Paxton, and Woody.

I started out playing with a group called the **Hillbilly Band** then, after about a year, got together with **Addison Talbot** as a member of **Bigfoot Lane**. We made several CDs and played around the area. After five years with BFL I joined up with my good friends **Hal Weiner & Bev Schriver** to form the next installment of the **New Folksters**. With the Folksters we were fortunate enough to perform at several festivals in Oregon, Washington and Arizona.

Currently besides playing with the **Fiddlers** I play with the **Sorrel Way Jam**, a group led by **Gary Baran**. Because of COVID, playing groups have come to a stop. I miss all of the activities and chances to play with so many fine friends and musicians. Let's hope before too long we can tune-up and sing-out.

To all of my friends in the Oldtime Fiddlers, stay safe.

Just a note: I sure hope **Ken Luse** and **Joe Moyle** will forgive me calling them old fellows.

HOEDOWNER

Tune of the Month

Thanks to Karen
Bennett of District 3
for this tune

Also known as **The Green Mountain**, **Judy's Reel** and various other iterations of a woman behind a bar. **The Maid Behind the Bar** is another iconic reel, usually played in the key of D major, that you will no doubt be familiar with if you've been following Irish traditional music over the years.

It first appeared in print as **Judy's Reel** in **Ryan's Mammoth Collection** published in Boston in 1883 and then in **O'Neill's, Music of Ireland** (1903) as **The Green Mountain**. Its origins, however, are seemingly a good century before that and by the 1850s **The Maid Behind the Bar** was a dance tune favourite in the USA no doubt brought over by refugees the **Great Irish Famine**. YouTube Link: [Liam O'Connor](#)

Maid Behind the Bar

1 $\text{♩} = 140$

A

4 Bm Bm A

6 D D

8 Bm G A 1. D A 2. D

11 D D

B

13 Em Em A

15 D G D A

17 Bm G A 1. D A 2. D

HOEDOWNER

Tune of the Month



Thanks to David Altman
for providing this tune

Midnight on the Water was written by **Luke Thomasson**, the father of renowned fiddler **Benny Thomasson**. **Mark O'Connor** and I both learned how to play it from Benny, and he showed us how to combine it with **Bona-part's Retreat**.

Unfortunately, there are no reasonably accurate transcriptions of this tune because it was composed in what's often called the **Dead Man's Cross Tuning**. Because many fiddlers insist that cross tuning is not appropriate (Wrong!), most **OOTFA** fiddlers who play the tune refuse to play it as it was intended by the Thomasson family. This transcription shows the low D for several notes, but each fiddler can add other drones in different parts of the song. Both the **Fiddler's Fakebook** and the **Traditional Tune Archives** correctly identify the tuning. To actually play the tune as composed, a fiddler **MUST** retune to **DDAD**, or you are missing too many of the haunting tones intended for this waltz, as it was originally created. It's actually easier to play in the original tuning, and more importantly you can bring back the idea of imitating bagpipes, which was what Luke wanted to do because of their Scottish ancestry. Benny also said this tuning was frequently used by fiddlers with Scottish heritage who were trying to make an imitation of bagpipes.

To hear and see performances of **Midnight on the Water** look on **YouTube** for versions by [Benny Thomasson](#), [Mark O'Connor](#), [John Hartford](#) and others.

Midnight on the Water

Luke Thomasson

Sheet music for **Midnight on the Water** in 3/4 time, key of D major. The music is written on five staves. Chord symbols are provided above the notes: D, G, D, A, D, Em, Bm, G, D, D, G, A, D. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing triplets. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#).

District 7 Portland, Northern Coast Area

Chair: Dave Altman 503-320-7177 daltmanpdx@gmail.com
Co-Chair: Marcella Easley 503-855-3535 marlueasly@gmail.com
Sec/Treas: Fred Davis 503-598-6692 cynfred01@icloud.com
Scheduler: Ron Zabudsky 503-630-7499 rdzinstruments@msn.com
Membership: Marcella Easley 503-855-3535 marlueasly@gmail.com
Reporter: Elaine Schmidt 503-318-5045 elaineschmidt79@yahoo.com

Hello OOTFA members, hope you are all doing well. It has been pretty quiet in District 7 this month as it has been in all of OOTFA these days. It is hard to believe that we have now been living this very unusual lifestyle for a year! Who would have thought! It is exciting to see a few things coming back like the **Virtual Oregon State Fiddle Contest** on March 20th and with the COVID Vaccine becoming more available this summer, we may be able to play together soon...hope so.

By the time you receive this **Hoedowner** the weather should be much nicer than it is today. We have had four days of major snow and ice storms. My husband and I just came inside after walking for awhile in all the snow. It was deep and cold but it was good to get outside again. We spent most of this weekend at virtual music programs. Pete attended the virtual **American Banjo Gathering**, and I went to **The Lovers' Waltz Weekend** put on by **Jay Ungar** and **Molly Mason**. They taught selections from their best selling album, "The Lovers' Waltz." It was at the virtual **Ashokan Music and Dance Camp** and was perfect for **Valentine's Day** weekend. There were two full days of fiddle, guitar, and piano classes. The melody players learned basic tunes, plus harmony, ornamentation and expression. The accompanists learned chords, bass runs, dynamics and rhythm techniques. They had concerts, jams, a "camper song and tune circle" and two lunch hangouts. It wrapped up with a virtual **Valentines Day Concert** where "campers" could dance, play, or just listen to beautiful music; waltzes, classics from country music, and jazz. Here are six beautiful tunes that I learned: "The Montague Processional", "The Lovers' Waltz", "The Lovers' Lament (The Blackest Crow)", "Love of My Life", "The Mountain House", and "Louisiana Wedding Bells".

New OOTFA Members

Anne, Gary & Harlow Gump
Greg Roberts

March 2021

Terrebonne (3)
Eugene (6)



Donna and Dick Foreman, beloved long-time members of District 7

You can look up this music in Jay and Molly's albums on **YouTube**.

One thing that I loved about this "camp" is that I have access to their archives for one year so I can listen to the classes over and over. I would love to hear what you all are doing with your music! Have you taken any Zoom classes or learned some new tunes. I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best! ~ Elaine Schmidt, District 7 Reporter

District 8 Salem, McMinnville, Tillamook/Newport

Chair: Marie Bailey 503-835-7185 bambaily36@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair: Johnnie Williams 503-435-2059 jwjwwSr1@aol.com
Sec/ Membership: Brenda Hallgrimson 503-476-5380
daryl-bren@juno.com 6920 S.E. Wallace Rd., Dayton, OR 97114
Treasurer: Loita Colebank 971-432-9122 loitajc@gmail.com
Scheduler: Ted Hunt 503-837-0446 trhunt315@gmail.com
Reporter & Notices: Gayle Clarity 503-899-7485 gaylrose@gmail.com

Mar 4 Slo-Jam at Marie Bailey's home 1-3 pm

Opportunity to learn or review District 8 jam tunes.

Mar 13 Martha Hughes' Zoom class at 9 am

Mar 18 Slo-Jam at Marie Bailey's home 1-3 pm

For the link for Zoom for Martha's class, contact Martha Hughes to get on her class email list. You can email Martha at mh.hughes8@gmail.com to join up, or send any inquiry.

Take Care You All. Let's keep in touch. Send us stories about what you're doing during this strange time.

~ Gayle Clarity, District 8 Reporter

Special feature by Marie Bailey on next page

Master Fiddler and Teacher by Marie Bailey

I've always liked violin, but had to wait for lessons until my older sister lost interest in taking piano, so my folks could afford them for me. I started at 8 years old learning classical music. I joined my grade school orchestra and didn't stop until I graduated high school and lost the connection. My fascination was the



Marie Bailey, no longer an Odd Ball

Bluegrass bands and how the fiddlers played. Life took over and 40 years later I remarried to a music lover and guitar player, **Bob Bailey**. He gave me a violin, as my original had been sold, and gradually introduced me to music theory which I'd never had. That opened up a whole new world and freed me from the score sheet. We played jams with musicians he knew and went to Oldtime Jams at Guthrie Park in Dallas, Oregon for years where we met **Alan Ede**, who encouraged us to join **OOTFA**. That was also my introduction to Oldtime Music.

That was the beginning of learning the tricks and stylings of fiddling, as my favorite music had always been the Big Band Swing sound. I was the "Odd Ball" in most of my early years in OOTFA for playing the old swing tunes. We joined in 1997 and it has been "home" since then.

When it was apparent that we had few teachers in our district I began giving lessons and donated my time. I then started up a scholarship program to assist district member fiddlers with lesson costs. Our district then shared our program with other districts who inquired. At present this is the third time I've served as Chair or Vice Chair of District 8. I also hold Chair on the scholarship committee. One of our newer members has started an on-line beginner's class, and I hold twice a month Slo-Jams open to all. This is an effort for members to learn our common tunes and an opportunity for new member recruitment.

An interest in music has been an absorbing and rewarding retirement hobby. I also play with a group of mixed Country and Oldtime musicians under the name "**Mavericks**". As a member of this group I was honored in 2008 with entry to the **Yamhill County Country Folk Music Hall of Fame** for dedicated service in music entertainment to the public.

OOTFA has been that connection I lost so long ago. Thank you to all the wonderful musicians in this group for your support and help. You have enriched my life. ~

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

We are still on a pause with our Friday Night Jams due to an increase of COVID-19 in our county. Hello to everyone out there in our district. We sure miss seeing our friends.

Don Greenfield has been taking part in the Thursday night **Portland Collection Sight-reading Zoom Jams**. The Collection is a book of old-time and contra dance music.

Janet Braymen took part in **Quarantune 3.0**, a hammered and mountain dulcimer festival, where people world wide participate. She retired at the end of January and now has the energy and time to practice what she learned.

We are thankful that **George Sahlberg** is steadily improving.

We would like to say hello to **Chris** and **Greg Bates**. Hope you're doing well out there. Also, we would like to wish **Darlene Wingfield** speedy recovery, after all the health issues this winter.

We are also happily shoveling snow and skiing, as winter finally arrived in late January. We're used to snow, but still commiserate with you folks in the valley—especially all the loss of trees and such.

So, even though we haven't been meeting as a group, people are staying active in various ways.

~ Musically Yours, Marianne Andrews,
District 9 Reporter

District 10 Roseburg, Canyonville, Sutherlin Area

Chairperson & Program Coordinator: Jude Stensland

541-430-2080 jude999s@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Jim Kuether 503-260-5972 j.kuether@yahoo.com

Secretary: Kelly Wadsworth 541-643-7113
queenkellybee@gmail.com

Treasurer: Gynn Deaton 541-839-4501 gynnnde@gmail.com

Membership: Sharon Thompson 541-430-5898
mamabear3506@centurytel.net

Kitchen Mgr: Sandy Harter 541-340-3430
sandharter@gmail.com

Sound Person: Jim Leininger 714-852-8144 leinfam@earthlink.net

Reporter/Publicist: Joe Ross 541-673-9759 rossjoe@hotmail.com

Erik Schnautz celebrated his birthday on Feb 12. He's a fine Roseburg-based guitarist, ukulele player and singer. In March, we celebrate birthdays of **Jean Hanson** (March 1), **Frank Moore** (March 10) and **Gene Hodson** (March 24). Happy Anniversary to **Jim** and **Joyce Kuether** on March 10.

Our featured fiddler Kelly Wadsworth has served as District 10's secretary for several years. From her earliest memory, there was a grand piano in her family's living room. Later, that gave way to a different piano, an organ, then another piano. Kelly had lessons from various teachers whose main goal was to teach her how to read music. Kelly's dad played the piano quite well, and he didn't use music. Kelly's grandfather played a button accordion with his guitar playing friends, and they'd play for dances and backyard potlucks. Kelly says, "I'd sit at the piano, pick out tunes and try to add some left hand. Once in a while it would make the sound I was looking for, because I accidentally found the right chord." Kelly married the love of her life. Scott's mother, **Lorraine Wadsworth**, a fabulous pianist, became Kelly's piano teacher and answered all of her deepest music theory questions. It all came together, and Kelly learned that she really could play piano the way her grandfather played accordion.



Kelly Wadsworth

Kelly recalls, "In 1986, our five-year-old daughter wanted to play violin. I jumped on that immediately, and she took off like a rocket. Over the next five years, I kept up with her, but life and additional children were my priority. She quickly was ahead of me, and there was no catching up."

Jude Stensland says, "It's been a year of surprises, disappointments, and discovery. We're eagerly waiting for warmer weather when we'll again play in my driveway and other outdoor sites. We might even start some impromptu performances." After five years of retirement, Jude is working part-time as a COVID tracker. She talks to people in quarantine, explaining rules, making recommendations, and answering the COVID Hotline on weekends. Jude states, "I grieve for the lives lost to this disease, and urge everyone to get their vaccine as soon as it's available. In the meantime, mask, wash and distance. It's gonna get better soon!"

On a humorous note, my friend **Paddy** was recently in court. After an eight hour trial, he pleaded guilty. The judge said, "Why didn't you plead guilty at first and save the court all this time?" Paddy replied, "I thought I was innocent until I heard all the evidence!"

May the luck of the Irish be with you!

~ Joe Ross, District 10 Reporter

Years later, a friend invited Kelly to an **OOTFA** meeting and jam. Kelly states, "I went, I played, and I knew these were my people. They were patient, kind and welcoming. I practiced, I learned tunes, I attended fiddle camp with a few of my grandchildren, and I played with our local youth orchestra for five years to learn how to read better."

Kelly practices daily on either piano, fiddle or both. Her husband plays stand-up bass and jazz trombone, and they find themselves playing after dinner almost every night! Kelly offers, "Taking up the fiddle at age 50 was a great decision, and I highly recommend it!"

Kelly's a decent piano player and also plays 4-string plectrum banjo. So she thought...how hard can the fiddle be? "It was harder than I thought," says Kelly, "but with help from OOTFA and great friends, I was able to learn tunes and participate in jams. I twisted the arms of my guitar playing sons, and they helped me practice. Little by little, I improved and was able to withstand the sound of my own practicing!"

Twelve years later, Kelly still practices a lot and plays with other people as much as possible, though that's a challenge these days. She and her husband Scott continue improving day by day.

Kelly reflects, "Like anything else, we can accomplish what we make up our minds to do. I'm not even close to what I would like to be musically, but I'm having a great time on the road to getting there!" ~

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



March 2021

Patti Luse, Membership Chair

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](#)

Weiser, Idaho

[West Cascades Fiddle Camp & Workshop](#)

Pleasant Hill

[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](#)

Maid Behind the Bar [Liam O'Connor](#)

Midnight on the Water [Benny Thomasson](#), [Mark O'Connor](#), [John Hartford](#)

[Tune of the Month Archive](#)

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



Top L-R

1. Lena Dreyer
2. Faye Patterson,
3. Kelly Wadsworth
& Karen Pohl

Bottom L-R

1. Ed Bergeron
2. Wayne Carter
& Ken Luse
3. Sheila Fry