



The IDAHO FIDDLER

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District 9

Members enjoy Kittitas fiddler's workshop

July was a hot and windy month on the Palouse which brought the crops along toward harvest quicker than expected. Even with the lack of June rains harvest is still running about two weeks later than normal.

Our regular summer schedule is Bishop Place (senior living) in Pullman the first Tuesday of the month. Clark House (senior living) in Moscow the first Thursday of every other month. Good Samaritan (care center) in Moscow the second Thursday of the month.

The second Tuesday of the month we play Avalon (care center) in Pullman at 10:15, then Pullman Senior lunch at 11:30, followed by Gritman Adult Day Care in Moscow at 1:30. The fourth Tuesday is Aspen Park (care center) in Moscow.

All of these along with a couple of jam/meetings keep us very busy and when you throw in a few fishing trips, vacations and grandkid visits we have been short a few players at some gigs.

Several of our members spent most of last week in Kittitas for the Washington fiddler's workshop and reported that it was time very well spent.

The Potlatch Scenic six fiddle show was a great success again this year. Mabel Vogt and the Potlatch arts council have put this show on for 16 years and several members of District 9 always participate. It makes for a fun evening with the young and older players entertaining to a good audience

Lou Stevens has had a bout with pneumonia and spent four days in the hospital and is now home. The good news is that she is continuing

to recover from her broken neck and has been playing with us up until the pneumonia.

—Gary Bloomfield

District 2

Young fiddlers help keep the music flowing at Raspberry Festival

As I write this, we just finished playing fiddle music for the annual Raspberry Festival at St. Gertrude's Convent, and it was larger than ever. In fact, I think it was the largest attendance at this event we have played for and the District Two fiddlers had an uninterrupted two hours of playing time.

It wasn't all that long ago when there were enough members in District Two that the players from just the Grangeville and Cottonwood area were all that was needed to provide the fiddle music for the Raspberry Festival. I wish that those days were still here, but the reality is that most of the old regular Prairie players who used to play for the Raspberry Festival have since passed on. The event goes on, though, and we still have a few local upper Camas Prairie players like Francis and Netta Ellsworth and Helen Marshall from Ferdinand and Nezperce to continue the tradition.

One of the main reasons that District Two is still able to play fiddle music for the St. Gertrude's fundraiser is because we have Fran Widener who has taught some new fiddle players the old fiddle tunes, and those newer players now step up to help.

Special thanks to Ann Cook, Kathreen Steiner, and Rachelle Hamell from Riggins who helped carry the fiddle-playing load this year. Also, thanks to Leland Seggarman, a be-

giner fiddler in our District. Leland, who recently moved with his family to American Falls, came back to visit and to help us play at the Raspberry Festival.

Adapting to current times is going to require some changes, I think. I never thought I would see the time when \$50 was not enough money to fill up a Subaru. I am finding that gas prices and the long distances we have in District Two are probably now the main decision factors for most of what we do or don't do in the way of fiddling, the costs of which must come out of our own pocket. I already see a trend toward centralization in order to limit travel distances and its expense.

The Labor Day play for the Rebekah Hillbilly Breakfast fund-raiser at the high school in New Meadows is on again for this year, starting at 7 a.m. Mountain Time, Monday, Sept. 1, with music going until 11 a.m. As before, because of the early time, travel distance, and gas prices, we will rely on those who are willing and those who are the closest to play at this event. It might be early in the morning, but for four hours, we do get to play a lot of fiddle music for a lot of folks!

—GMS



Sept. 1 - Rebekah Hillbilly Breakfast fund-raiser at the New Meadows High School, starting at 7 a.m.

Sept. 26-27 - 2008 State Convention at the Courtyard by Marriott in Meridian.