



The IDAHO FIDDLER

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District 12

Two Cabin Fever Parties are being planned at the American Legion Hall

Now that the turkey has been digested, we are looking forward to Christmas and all of the related festivities.

We are delighted that Teresa Tomita and District 8 are willing to host the 2006 Old Time Fiddlers Contest on April 5 in Iona, Idaho. We missed having the contest last year, but it couldn't be helped.

November was a short, and rather quiet month for this District. We didn't have any extra plays, and with Thanksgiving being on Thursday, we did not have our regular business meeting, potluck and jam. However, we were (and are) thankful for all of our wonderful fiddling friends.

We had a short meeting at the jam session on Nov. 17. Sort of an educational meeting, as we were trying to explain to Tim Gordish just where Hoots

is located. I don't think we were too successful, but since he comes from Red Wing, Minn., what can we expect? Perhaps we can find a substitute pastor for the weekend in May and show him where it is. We know once he finds out, he will never want to miss it again.

About halfway through the short meeting, our own Norma McFarland came staggering in with her mittens in one hand and her guitar in the other. But no matter how she made her entrance, we were so glad to see her. She had been gone for five weeks visiting family and friends back east. (She went to New York in 2001 and was there when the twin towers were destroyed.) It is never too quiet where Norma is. Welcome home, Norma.

We are already making plans for our first two Cabin Fever parties. The first

one will be Jan. 14 at the American Legion Hall, starting at 1 p.m., with a potluck dinner. District 12 will furnish the fried chicken. After dinner, we will jam and stop for a leftovers supper and jam some more until everyone is played out. We will do the same on Feb. 18, at the same place, with the same agenda, except that District 12 will furnish the roast beef. We hope you all can come and join in the fun. I'm sure we can find extra beds and bathrooms, so plan on it.

Our calendar for December is as follows:

Dec. 1 - Discovery Care at 7 p.m. and the American Legion at 8 p.m.

Dec. 8 - At the Senior Citizens at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 10 - At the Jones and Casey Funeral Home for a Time of Remembrance at 3:30 p.m.

Dec. 15 - At the Carmen Grange for their Christmas Party at 7 p.m. After the party, we will all go on up the creek to the Morton Ranch to finish out the evening.

Dec. 22 - We will be at the American Legion at 7 p.m. for our regular monthly potluck, business meeting and jam.

Dec. 31 - We will be having our New Year's Eve Party at the Bonn Home starting at 6 p.m. What a way to start the New Year — with good friends and good music!

All of us in District 12 would like to wish you one and all a safe and wonderful holiday. Hug a loved one for us.

—Rosalie Hawley



Jan. 14 — District 12 Cabin Fever Party, American Legion Hall, 1 p.m.

Jan. 28 - District 2 Cabin Fever Party and Jam Session at Hoot's Cafe in White Bird at 10 a.m.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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District 5

Fiddlers enjoy surprise Christmas party at Valley View Retirement Center

Christmas is rushing in with snow, rain, and bad roads. Our Christmas party was cancelled until Dec. 9 hoping for better weather. Some very brave folks showed up only to find the door locked. Our telephone tree did the best job possible letting us know about the cancellation.

Bonnie reports her fiddlers had a surprise Christmas party given them by Valley View Retirement Center where they have played for the past eight years. About eighty people were in the audience. It was a grand evening.

Rex Kite reports from Mountain Home they were invited to play at the Red Rock Christian Church in Boise for an ordination service for their minister.

Those playing regularly are Metzger, Owen, Rex, Lyle and they are occasionally joined by visitors to help out. Rex reports that Donnie Brubaker is recovering from a broken leg and will be joining the band when she recovers.

Maxine's fiddlers played at seven

retirement and assisted livings in November, and had three practices at Betty's to work on songs for Christmas. Her group has been asked to entertain at the Whitney Church on Dec. 16 and will start playing at 5:45 p.m. The Whitney Church sponsors a dinner for the homeless every year.

Maxine's fiddlers will have a fiddle practice on Jan. 18 at 1 p.m. at Betty's house and a general practice on Jan. 30 at 1 p.m., again at Betty's. In addition to the regular plays, Maxine's fiddlers will play at the Elks Rehabilitation Hospital on Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. and then at Southwind on Jan. 11 at 2 p.m.

We have been joined by the Werner family. Kathy plays guitar and her husband and daughter play fiddle. Also Pat Ramage's daughter, Christine Nay, has joined and plays the mandolin. Welcome.

Rena Lute and Art Baltzor have come to practice at Betty's. Rena plays fiddle and Art plays piano. Welcome again.
—Ava Lutteman

District 8

Music enjoyed at Festival of Trees

Dear Fiddlers,

Well, December is winding up, and 2005 is winding down. I hope you've all had a good Thanksgiving and are surviving WINTER....that is, those of us who are staying north for the winter. We, in District 8, are missing Joe and Barbara Albert, Ron Bate, and I am probably forgetting some of our "family" that have become snowbirds.

November held two extra plays for our groups — one at Rosetta Assisted Living, a facility we haven't played before AND the annual Festival of Trees at the Shilo Inn. They have invited us back for that 5-6 years, so they must enjoy us, AND we are still getting

various spectators at each of our plays.

We practiced many Christmas songs at our November Jam, and the last few plays, being the last we'd play for them until after Christmas. We have done a lot of Christmas songs.

In December, we have two "specials," one for a Qwest celebration at the Red Lion Hotel, and one at Eastern Idaho Technical College. We are also playing at the Riverview Assisted Living, and may end up alternating it each month with Good Samaritan Center. Things are always changing.

Tonight, we had our December Jam at Leo's where 17 of us were in attendance, with five spectators. Harvey brought his homemade fudge for all. We discussed dues being due, the plays for December, and limiting the group due to the small area to play in at Rosetta.

We also discussed "balance" in our group. We normally only have three fiddles, 1-2 banjos, several guitars, a bass and a mandolin...and four harmonicas. We didn't know whether to limit the number of those by trading off each week with a different player, having all of them just tone down and stand back so as not to overpower the group, or what??? Do any of you other districts ever deal with an uneven number of non-string instruments, or can fill us in on any solutions or by-laws regarding that???? Of course, the bottom line is being an organization where everyone is invited, and which entertains our audiences with a GOOD variety of fiddle music...presidents of districts DO run into some issues occasionally. But the bottom line feeling is everyone enjoys being a part of such a fun group, especially if the members are as nice and fun to be with as those in District 8.

We wish you all a Very Merry CHRISTmas, (I am, personally, very vehement regarding the mayhem in the news of replacing "CHRISTMAS" with "HOLIDAYS!") Be safe, have fun, and we'll communicate in 2006!
—Gail Fielding



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