

Northern Panhandle Fiddlers keep busy

December was a very busy month for the fiddler. We played at the senior center, Festival of Trees, the ECF Christmas party and then on the third Sunday at the fairgrounds exposition hall on a very wintry day that wasn't fit for a dog to be in.

Well January started off very different. The senior center got canceled due to extreme icy roads. We should have played at the nursing home in Sandpoint but had to cancel. We did make our appointment at the nursing home ECF here in Bonners Ferry. Those playing included: Doris Howard, Janet Sapp, Barry Coleman, Jim McCalmant and Sonja and to our surprise Earl Stephens was able to make it.

On the third Sunday we played at the Western Pleasure Ranch. We had a very good crowd. The sun came out and so did the people. Present on fiddle was Doris Howard, Ruth Hogan, Mickie Jacobson, Cindy Paulsgrove, Jason Palmer, and Sonja McCalmant. On guitar Jim McCalmant, Lee Jackson, Barbara Rhodes, and Tom Murry on the mandolin. Janet Sapp on the piano. We had 34 present. Barry Coleman our new chairman was unable to be present due to a previous obligation. He was greatly missed and everyone asked about him. I forgot to mention that the very talented Daniele Otis was also present on fiddle. We truly enjoyed her being there.

Hopefully February holds more sunny days and less snow. We are ready for spring in the northern Panhandle. So till next month may the good Lord Bless and keep all safe and warm.

District 4

Snow birds are having fun and keeping busy

This will be a short version since we (Ron and Marlene) are down in Arizona trying out the Snow Bird scene...we're too busy having fun and playing down here!

We've met lots of wonderful musicians, and renewed acquaintances with others...and of course, there are lots of Idahoans to jam with down here. In fact,

a couple of jams were mostly all Idaho folks!

In January, we had our usual plays plus the Open Acoustic Jam at Coldwater Creek Restaurant that we mentioned in the last newsletter. The Open Jam was a great success...we had over 20 musicians and a wonderful time. The restaurant patrons and the owner were all delighted with the evening. It was lots of fun! We also were successful in having two new members officially join our group. We welcome our new members Dave Thomas and John Goslin!

Thanks to Ken Tooley and Don Ikenberry for keeping the home fires burning and keeping up with our scheduled plays while we're gone. It makes it nice for us to know that we have such a great support team!

Hope winter is treating everyone OK up north!

-Marlene Moore

District 5

Two day blizzard keeps fiddlers close to home

January started out with a two day blizzard. We cancelled our first play for the month and stayed at home by the fire. After that the weather cleared and we made all of our regular plays.

Bonnie and Jason led the fiddle workshop at Ken Thurbers house. We worked on Coo Coo's Nest and reviewed Still on the Hill and Missouri Waltz. The workshops are a great way for the day players and evening players to come together on songs. Check with Bonnie for the time and list of songs for the next workshop.

Patty Ramage invited us to her home for a general practice on the February songs for the day players. It is always a good time. Our group is really serious to get it right. Nothing in the universe travels faster than a bad song. The trouble with playing a song right

the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was. It is so rewarding when we play songs that are familiar and we see so many sing-a-longs, clapping to time, and the "thank you" afterward. Jack Nolan doesn't come to our general practice. All he needs to do is play Redwing and the Irish Washerwoman to make us all look good and to get the best applause. We are sure to get invited back after that.

Several members are planning on the Hoots get-together and the deja moo when we know we've heard those songs before.

Dr. Maurice Burkholder has passed away. He was not a member but has been a big supporter of the Old Time Fiddlers. He always invited us to play at the annual gathering of the antique tool member picnic where we played in the shade under the pines at his mountain ranch.

Our Marilyn Williams has had some sadness creep into her life. She has lost a dear friend. We share this loss for her.

-Ava

