



The IDAHO FIDDLER

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District 2

Stephens featured on 'Evening of Memories program for heritage center

The Riggins Heritage Center puts on a monthly program called "Evening of Memories," featuring local folks and recording their stories and recollections of the area's past. January's program featured Duane Stephens and a solid two hours of fiddle music, including many tunes that were passed down within his fiddling family. The crowd loved it and the time flew by!

The Cabin Fever gathering at Hoot's drew more folks than I expected, considering the wintry conditions outside. Even the New Meadows Senior Bus made it to White Bird. We started playing before 10 a.m. and broke at noon for Hoot's buffet dinner. We had almost two dozen signing up for the afternoon show. Brandi and Velma Trivett play-

ed their fiddles especially for their grandmother, Ruth Vavra. I am saddened to report that Ruth passed away this past week, not long after hearing her grandkids play.

We are finding this winter to be pretty old-fashioned, too. With the key elements of the State Fiddle Contest now in place, the legwork is underway regardless of winter. The contest is set for April 4 and 5 at the Grangeville Elementary School Multipurpose room, in Grangeville.

I know that contest work will keep us busy these next two months, but I find the local enthusiasm from the community to be very encouraging, with many offers of help and support for the State Fiddle Contest.

-GMS

District 9

Winter dominates our spare time

Fun play enjoyed at farmers market in historic 1912 building

January is supposed to be a winter month in this country and believe me, it has been. I have about 24 inches of snow although it is hard to measure as there are drifts 60 inches deep and some places with only 8 inches. I have a friend that sent me some pictures from Deary and the snow is really deep there. I only hope that by the time everyone reads this, we will see signs of melting and in a mild way so flooding is not a problem. A couple of our play dates were cancelled due to snow but, for the most part, we have made our commitments.

One extra play date this month was

at the 1912 building in Moscow for a farmers market. It was a great time as we played on the balcony from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. We had 14 musicians and played about every tune that we knew with a good response from the crowd.

We were saddened to learn this week that long-time member George "Scotty" Scott had passed away. George, who was a barber in Pullman for many years, loved to play fiddle. He was a left-handed fiddler who good naturedly took a lot of jokes about playing his fiddle backwards. George will certainly be missed by our group as well as members from other districts.

-Gary Bloomfield

District 1A

Northern Idaho fiddlers jams help keep them warm

The new year, 2008, started very cold. We in Northern Idaho haven't had it this cold for years now, and we have to get used to it again.

We had our first jam session in 2008 at the Western Pleasure Guest Ranch in Bonner County on Sunday, Jan. 20. It was a cold day. We had some snow but a few were brave enough to venture out and we did have a good time. Around 25 were in attendance. Those playing were Mickie Jacobson, Janet Sapp, Ruth Hoglan, Jim and Sonja McCalmant, Eleanor Erickson, Barbara Rhodes, Cindy Paulsgrove, Danielle Schooner (we were happy she took time out of her busy life to come help us) and of course, Doris Howard.

The third Wednesday we played for the E.C.F. Wing of the hospital in Bonners. Those playing were Earl Stephens, Ruth Hoglan, Eleanor Erickson, Janet Sapp, Jim and Sonja McCalmant, Barry Coleman and Doris Howard. Another fun time which pleased a lot of older folks and made their day a little more pleasant.

We are looking forward to a little warmer weather as we face the rest of the New Year. Keep in mind - Hope is the ability to hear the music of the future.

-Doris Howard



April 4-5 - State Fiddle Contest, Grangeville Elementary School auditorium. See inside this issue for more information and entry form.

