



# The IDAHO FIDDLER

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District 6

## Fun jam sessions introduce old time fiddle music to area children

I don't know what has happened with our district's news the last couple of times but honestly our district is alive and well with plenty of playing commitments. Gary Huntington has agreed to remain as our chairman and Margie Collins as co-chairman for another year along with Becky Bingman as secretary/treasurer and yours truly as reporter and historian.

Our group has enjoyed using our new and less complex sound system this year. We have had outside plays every month in addition to our six regularly scheduled monthly commitments at the care facilities and our monthly jam/meeting at Idaho Pizza.

We have been seen in the far reaching communities of Fairfield and Glenns Ferry as well as many local community events. Our exposure at Idaho Pizza continues to provide opportunities to share local fiddle instructor names with interested parents and children so we have been encouraged by the fact that our organization's legacy still has hope of revival with the younger generation.

Guest musicians have included Arlene Watkins from Arizona who plays the accordion, Ted Kirkpatrick from Rigby with his standup bass, and Martin Fewkes of Boise sharing his talents on the guitar and fiddle. George and Gail Philipp who have a summer home in Twin Falls have also joined our organization. George plays fiddle and Gail plays the Mandolin. More recently, John Paustian of Boise has joined us with his guitar and we have

certainly enjoyed his nice singing voice along with his mean picking on the Steel Guitar Rag.

Sept. 3 and 4 found District 6 members who play the fiddle enjoying a workshop taught by Katie Bonn. Katie offered helpful tips, bowing techniques and some new peppy tunes for us to learn. Many thanks to Katie for her time and patience.

We are looking forward to some Christmas party plays for our assisted living facilities and the district Christmas dinner and dancing get-together later this week.

Until next time, Happy Holidays to all, safe travels and hopefully many cherished gatherings with friends and family.

—Mary Baldwin

District 5

## Smith celebrates 90th birthday

In October it was time to celebrate Dee Smith's 90th birthday. Dee is still out there entertaining with his best traditional fiddle tunes.

Our monthly jam sessions at the Eagle Senior Center have attracted some fantastic fiddle players as well as guitar, harmonica, and mandolin players.

Fourteen members turned out to help celebrate a 100 year anniversary for the Wright Community Church in Boise.

The weather set in and it was too tough to get to one play and an-

other was canceled because of construction.

Our close to Thanksgiving was cancelled also because people were gone. That happened to the day players. It is amazing that our evening players go every Monday evening without mishap.

Christmas is done and those songs are put away. We are practicing some fresh spring songs.

A thank you to Betty Gull for offering her home for practice get togethers. We have been joined by new members who are adjusting to our way of life. We certainly appreciate all the new players.

We had a great Christmas Jamboree turnout. About 35 old and new members came to celebrate the year past. We were entertained by the Thompson family fiddlers, Harrison, Simon and Levi with parents, Steve and Drae. Their songs are always in fast forward.

So far we have had a great turnout for our plays. We don't have any snowbirds. Our players stayed well. The weather is letting up. We are looking good.



Feb. 5 – District 2 Cabin Fever Party at Hoot's Cafe, 10 a.m. Buffet lunch at noon.

May 6 and 7 – Spring Board Meeting and Get-together at Hoot's Cafe at White Bird.

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District 9

# Fiddlin' through Idaho's seasons – leaves and snow

Hello fiddlers and a Happy New Year!

I'm not sure what happened to the last three months, but they have sure flown by. After starting back on our regular fall schedule in September, we have been very busy covering all our play dates, and there has been much enthusiasm.

We added another Senior Living site, Whitman Center, to our schedule working it in every other month. These residents were real eager to have us come and we didn't want to say no. So adding them to our list gave us a full schedule for fall and the holiday season.

We were able to cover all the plays we committed to and bring a lot of delight to many who were not able to be out and about, especially

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since the weather has been cold, wet and snowy. And speaking of snow, not only did we have to fight it in December, but late November kept us dashing thru the snow to get to various sites which was somewhat of a challenge when heading out of town.

The most fun time was after Thanksgiving thru Christmas when we were able to play all the great Christmas songs which included some sing alongs at some of the centers and special requests from those in the audience. You could see eyes close and reminisce on some and see toes just a tappin on others.

The holidays are so great and we have one senior site, Good Sam, that goes far beyond the extra mile with decorations around their buildings for Christmas. As usual, it was beautiful again this year. And Bishop Place in Pullman is noted for many differently decorated Christmas trees inside their facility for all to enjoy. This all added to the wonderful feelings of the season as we entertained and were entertained.

On our usual meeting/practice date we had a potluck party which included a great get-together of everyone joining in to jam their favorites. We had a good turnout with a marvelous meal including yummy turkey, dressing and gravy provided by Gary and Karen B., a delicious ham cooked up by Tom, various hot dishes, salads, and desserts provided by those in attendance, and the use of the Eagles Lodge for our party which was all decked out in beautiful Christmas décor thanks to Willard and Barb. It made for a very festive

afternoon. It was nice to see so many able to be there. We were sorry Tom's wife Carolyn was unable to come to the festivities as she had fallen and broke her elbow and was recovering from surgery. She is doing well now.

We had our last play date for 2010 last Thursday at Moscow Senior meal site which was not well attended as we have been fighting snow and very cold weather which most of you have probably been experiencing along with us. Those who attended were very happy to see us and we enjoyed a nice roast beef meal after entertaining them.

So now we look to 2011 and what the future has in store. We start our new year this Tuesday at Bishop Place and the trees will probably all be gone, but the memories will still be there. We all hope the New Year will be great and that fiddlin' will be an enjoyable part of it. Next time we write I hope the snow is gone. Spring will look really good!

Best wishes from us to you.

–Marge Nelson

District 4

## Dist. 4 is slowing down for the winter

Sure was great to see everyone up at Hoots in October. It's always such a fun time!

Hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and that the New Year is treating everyone good!

Now that we're into winter, District 4 will be suspending the normal plays until April. However, the Horseshoe Bend Senior Center potluck/jam will resume in either March or April. District 4 and District 5 members will need to check with us to confirm when that will be.

Not much else to report this time for the newsletter, so until April, hope everyone has a great New Year and lots of fiddling get-togethers!

–Marlene Moore

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