



# *The* *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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From The President:

Idaho old time fiddlers

Another year has passed and it seems each one went faster than the last.

As we embark on yet another year let me thank each member of our organization for your efforts and dedication to providing entertainment to those who are most in need. As I look on the faces of the people that we play for and see the light in their eyes and sometimes following along it is a testament to the wisdom of the founding of our group.

We continue to encourage others to join with us and try to shore up our numbers. This has been met with some success but continues to be a slow and challenging process.

As we begin another year I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can and certainly encourage all of you on your efforts.

Let us follow the advice of the greatest teacher of all and “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you”. Speak kind words and be of service where you can.

Sincerely

Fremont G. Mortensen

President IOTFA

District 9

August thru December 2015

## WINTER IS HERE AND SO IS THE END OF THE YEAR

Wow, here it is -- December 29th to be exact, and the year got way ahead of me when it came to the Newsletter. So no excuses, just didn't get it done. Will now give you a quick review of the months missed to let you know what went on up in our neck of the woods.

This will be different as I am starting with August and it was really hot this year and ending with December and it is really cold now with temps expected to go down into the teens at night in the next few days. Brrrrrrr!

### AUGUST

The month began with the Scenic Six fiddle show which is an annual event organized by Mabel Vogt from the Old Time fiddlers where local stringed instrument players come to perform in groups or with designated back-up and the Junior Jammers give a wonderful play of songs that they entertain with in the area. Many of our District 9 players participate in this event.

We also played at Elk River Day again this year which is an annual event including a parade,

District 1 - Vacant

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District 6 – Gary Huntington, 4360A Clear Lakes Grade, Buhl, Idaho 83316. 420-3345. [grhuntl@gmail.com](mailto:grhuntl@gmail.com). Board Member At large, Katie Bonn, P.O. Box 87 83462, [tomkatiebonn@gmail.com](mailto:tomkatiebonn@gmail.com).

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logging events, a cake walk and lunch served in the park. We play outside the Huckleberry Inn and are treated with huckleberry ice cream cones when we finish. It was a hot day, but the ice cream made it a lot cooler.

And once again, we were not able to have our Retreat campout which we were going to enjoy at a new campground. Reason? Again, forest fires which happened last year. It was a very sorry occasion and we were so sorry that so many lost so much. We even had the smoke up in our area for a long time. Where we would have been camping was being used by fire fighters and equipment location which was much more important. So we ended up once again just having a day event at Schierman's Event Center which is local and just did the afternoon potluck meal with meat provided and lots of playing.

### SEPTEMBER

In September we were back to our usual schedule including all the Sr. meal sites and plays that we do not play at in the Summer. Most of the fiddlers also played for a Celebration of Life memorial service for one of our members who passed away earlier in the year while he and his wife were south for the winter. We lost John Grimes who was a very fine banjo player, and wife Charlene was playing with us on ukulele and still does when she is up here in the warmer months. We miss John very much and look forward to when Charlene returns home in the spring. The service was outstanding with a good attendance. We also played at the Latah County Fair and had a good turnout with many listening to the music and some even dancing.

### OCTOBER

This month we added a new play location to travels. We had been going to Potlatch to play for the Sr. Meal site and found out that Colfax wanted us to come play for them as well. It worked out that we could do Potlatch and then drive over to Colfax to their Sr. Living Residence before returning home. It makes a little longer day, but the residents were so delighted to have us and we now include them whenever we play at Potlatch. And then we did our usual play dates during the month as well.

### NOVEMBER

Once again, it was time to get the Christmas music out and practice up for the month of December. We did our usual play dates this month enjoying good times and great meals at many of the meal sites. They are always most thoughtful to feed us for playing. We run anywhere from 9 up to 15 players at the sites we go to and all do enjoy. But next month will be Christmas music

and we are always a bit rusty.

## DECEMBER

So here we are in December and we did our last play date on the 18th. This was the end of a busy week as we had our Christmas party practice potluck on Sunday, our tri-play of 3 different locations on Monday, Deary Sr. Meal site on Tuesday, and Potlatch Sr. Meal site on Friday. That's one party and 6 plays in one week. Wow! I think we were getting the Christmas music down pretty well by the last play date. We start a little rusty, but finally get it together.

We will start the new year next week at Bishop Place on Tuesday and continue from there into our many plays we enjoy. So with that we hope you had a wonderful Christmas season and we wish you all a Happy New Year and happy playing!!

Marge Nelson, Secretary

## District 8

Hello from District 8. I hope you are all wintering as well as you can. I know I am freezing. We have had about 2 weeks of really cold weather. -17 some days. Thank goodness, it is up in the 20's now so I can at least move around.

We all had a wonderful Christmas season this year with many extra plays for churches and parties along with our regular monthly plays. I have the best district ever, because no matter how busy we get, they all just come and smile and play music and have a great time. And that is what it is all about. If you go out and perform and are having a great time, the audience is having a great time as well. There are times when we play certain songs that turn on a light in someone's eyes, or brings a tear to their eye or a smile on their face that I remember why we do this day after day and week and week, and yes, year after year. The love of music and the love of the people is what we are all about.

I hope you all had just as great of a Christmas as we did here in the Idaho Falls area. Now it is a new year and we start over with spring, and the summer and we get busy again. For that, I can't wait.

This month, we are playing for an adult special needs group and I hope we can do good enough for them. They love to dance and love music in general so I think we will be good enough. I really enjoy watching them come alive to our style of Old time Fiddle music.

We have a few of our members that are enjoying warmer weather for the winter and we wish them all well. Maybe with any luck, we can go down and visit for a short time this year. I hear there is some really good music down there.

As always, keep safe, and remember why we do what we do and we wish you all the best.

Teresa Mortensen