



# *The* *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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## **District 8**

Hello from District 8. Welcome to 2024! We have started the new year without our snowbirds and are reminded once again why so many of our snowbirds have gone South for the winter. Snow building up on the ground, winter storm warnings, blizzard conditions, below zero temperatures have all arrived with the new year. Idaho is famous for the fiddle contest in Weiser and great potatoes, and also for great skiing. This is the time of the year when outdoor activities shift towards ice skating and ice fishing, sledding and of course skiing. Outdoor picking parties and barbeques are on hold for while and have moved inside. While we enjoy the beauty of the fresh snow and hoar frost covered trees and bushes, we also need to remember to think about safety. Driving conditions change quickly. Walking includes possible snow and ice and slips and falls need to be avoided. We also need to pay attention to our instruments. Taking instruments outside to go to play music can't be avoided, but temperature changes can damage musical instruments. Leaving an instrument in a vehicle for an extended length of time should be avoided. Winter or summer can both destroy glue joints and lead to repairs that could be avoided. Treat your instruments like one of the family. We also should remember our instruments that we leave at home. Winter air has less water in it than summer air and the humidity in a stored instrument case may become dangerously low. Humidifiers can be used but must be checked regularly to ensure that they are appropriately moist and keeping our stored instruments safe. Enjoy the new year and the winter activities that have arrived and remember that winter safety should include the safety of your instruments both the ones you take with you and the ones that you leave at home.

Happy fiddling from all is us here in the SE corner.

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