



# *The* *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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## **District 8**

Hello from District 8. Time marches on and its already March. Have you ever noticed that the calendar isn't the only place that time is marching? Sometime when we play, we speed up or slow down and it isn't planned. It seems like every time we play Devil's Dream that we start at one speed and then race to the end of the song. Sometimes we start a song fast and find out that some of the backup isn't keeping up. Are speed changes a problem? The players probably notice it more that the audience, but it might be a problem that we just aren't paying attention to. Can it be corrected? Many people will say that practicing with a metronome is recommended or even mandatory.

Personally, I have never found a metronome that can keep good time. An alternative might be a play-along app such as Strum Machine or drum machines. Whatever you choose might improve your playing. Singers often like to modify their tempo to enhance a song or to personalize their version. The backup then must decide if it is better to keep a constant tempo or try to follow the vocal. Usually keeping a constant tempo (like a metronome) is best. Adding a beat or marching along to a different drummer is very difficult do successfully and usually requires a lot of rehearsal to get right. Much like the tenth of March when we go to Daylight Saving time. If you have never done it before you might just end up lost and confused with a lot of people looking at you when you show up late.

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

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