



The IDAHO FIDDLER

Published by the
IDAHO OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION

January 2013

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50th Year Of Publication



District 9 January 2013

MAYBE AN EARLY SPRING? MORE TIME TO FIDDLE!

As I got on the computer this morning I read that the groundhog had not seen his shadow meaning an early spring. Well, that may or may not make for more fiddlin time, but spring weather would certainly make for more fun times to fiddle without having to worry about getting places on icy roads. Yea! So we are thinking spring and once more getting out to enjoy places to share our music with others.

January proved to be a routine month with us playing at 7 senior sites including noon lunch plays and evenings at retirement centers. We are always well received and those listening ask us when we will be back so they can look forward to more of one of their favorite entertainment days. I think we all enjoy these plays.

I also received some news from November that is certainly worth noting in our report. One of our top fiddle players, Mabel Vogt, attended the Western Open Fiddle Contest in Red Bluff, CA and won first place in the Senior Division. Way to go, Mabel!

We are now underway practicing songs at our monthly meeting for our live square dance play in May. We played last year for the local square dance club and it was a real hit. It went so well that the club is moving the dance to a larger play site to accommodate

more people this year and the club has sent notices out to surrounding square dance clubs who are showing interest in coming to the event. It should be a great evening having live music to dance to.

And one of our senior players, Lou who plays piano for us, celebrated her 90th birthday and her church had a surprise birthday party for her. We were invited to play for the event and she was very surprised and glad to see us. She played along for some of the songs and then enjoyed her party which included 90 cupcakes that had been made for the potluck meal. It was certainly a nice afternoon.

Other than that, we continue with our music and look forward to coming events as the weather permits. And there is always spring just around the corner. So happy fiddlin!

Marge Nelson

District Chairmen

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The IDAHO FIDDLER

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February 2013

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District 9 February 2013

SPRING IS IN THE COOL AIR

Well, we are just into March and we are getting some sun, but the temperature outside reads 28. But then, it is just the start of the month and it will surely get better. I am noting all the snow drops in the flower beds and that does give a ray of hope for the beautiful bulb plants that will be showing up. Last year a moose enjoyed most of the tulips that were just in the bud stage and were gobbled up. Enjoyed seeing the moose, but did miss the tulips.

February was a routine month for us and we played at 7 sights with no additional plays this month. The winter months are usually pretty routine, but we know with the coming of spring we will have more play dates come along. We always look forward to them. We continue our practice sessions for our live play date for the local square dance club in May which will be a lot of fun. We tried this for the first time last year and it was well received. Mabel, who teaches fiddle, is working hard to help us with this performance, especially with timing which is critical when a caller is giving the moves. The caller is Gary P. who is also one of our players. Gary B., Herb and I are also square dancers, but we will be playing our hearts out that night.

And we are looking forward to our retreat weekend in August at 3-Rivers where we will jam all hours of the day and have classes so that we can all come together at night to show off what we have learned. I, for one, tried ukulele last year and it was a blast. There were 6 of us in the class and we laughed our way thru our performance. Scott, our uke player and teacher, was a delight. So we continue with our activities and look forward to great play dates ahead. We wish you a happy spring and Easter and may there be many great times to fiddle with friends and performances.

Marge Nelson

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The IDAHO FIDDLER

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March 2013

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NEWSLETTER DISTRICT 12 MARCH/APRIL

Hi from District 12

March and April were rather quick in our district. In March we had a special day when we had our Cabin Fever Party. They had previous plans at the Imperial Hall so we moved the party to Dianne Spaeth's home on 9th st. We would like to thank Dianne for her hospitality on such short notice. A good time was had by all. Dianne had her young students join us and that was a treat. We played a lot of "Boil Them Cabbages" but it was good for the fiddlers as well as the students to play together. On March 29th, we had our jam session at Betty Morton's home, and that was lots of fun. Thanks to Betty and Dick. They always make us feel so welcome.

In April, other than our Thursday night jams, we played for the famous mule sale on April 13th and the horse sale on the 20th. The sales and the plays were both successful. People came from all over the western United States and even as far away as Minnesota for the sales. The plays were good even though it turned cold on Saturday. We had a fun time and there was a fair amount of dancing on the barn floors.

In May, we have our Thursday night jams at the Imperial Rec. Hall; and of course, there is Hoot's on May 4th through the 6th. We hope to see many of you there.

I would like to take this time to remind you of other special dates for this summer. June 1st through the 3rd, is the Beverly Kirkpatrick Memorial Campout at the golf course in Rigby. In July on the 12th thru 15th is the Lowman Campout near Lowman, ID.

August 9th thru 12th is the District 12 Campout (previously known as the Leadore Campout) which will be held at the Salmon Meadows Campground in Salmon. They have a building for us to use to play in, restrooms, etc and is within walking distance of town. We will let you know for sure as the time gets closer, in the meantime, see you at Hoot's!

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April 2013

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Howdy From District 8 April 22, 2013

Well we're home from the Southland. Where's Spring? I'm homesick. Sick of being home. We are now official Idaho golfers. We golfed in wind, sunshine, rain, snow and hail- all on the same day!

I rejoined the group for a play at Fairwinds and Liberty Square, and a special play for the folks at the Rigby Senior Center. The group has been adding some new material to our show. I was surprised at a new part Bass player, Ted Kirkpatrick added to "Down Yonder". To put it bluntly, I was stunned speechless!

Chuck Lepper has rejoined us at plays after a lengthy recovery from a medical problem. Great to have him back.

We're already making plans for real summer weather. Take note and add this date to your fun calendar. Cedar Park Campout- May 31, June 1 & 2. This is a nothing-but- fun Fiddler's Campout at the Cedar Park Golf Course, which is just outside Idaho Falls. Lots of jamming, putting contest, potlucks, a Barbeque banquet, band scramble contest, a Saturday night dance and

Sunday Gospel service. If you like fiddling and fun, put this one on your calendar and plan to be there.

Also Idaho Old Time Fiddler's are the host state for the Weiser Contest this summer. Several of us are making arrangements to go over and participate. Getting there, finding a place to stay and playing on stage adds a little stress, but the jamming before and after makes it all worth it. I hope to see you there. Newest news flash- Harold Sorenson, singer, guitar and dobro, broke his finger so bad he is having surgery tomorrow and could possibly out of commission for 6 weeks. He was playing football with his grandkids. They threw the ball to him, he went to catch it and a finger got in the way. Broke the finger, broke a piece of bone off and the tendon is the only thing holding that bone together at all. Could be painful!

I celebrated my seventieth birthday this spring. It sure is terrible to grow old alone. My wife hasn't had a birthday in twenty years.

NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 12

MARCH/APRIL

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March and April were rather quick in our district. In March we had a special day when we had our Cabin Fever Party. They had previous plans at the Imperial Hall so we moved the party to Dianne Spaeth's home on 9th st. We would like to thank Dianne for her

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District 6 April News

Hail, hail the gangs all here, well that is how it felt last night at our regular Monday night play. Our snow birds have returned and we are back to playing at our nursing homes. It is great to have them back, yes I missed them. You definitely could tell they had been somewhere warmer, they had layers of clothes on and it was a warm evening.

Mary and I have been playing at her home during the winter. We worked on some songs that had been giving me some trouble, I got them now and we will be playing them. I also introduced her to a new song and we will be springing that on the group.

It actually was nice to take the winter off from performing at the nursing homes.

Some nights are just cold and slippery and I'd rather be home instead of fighting the weather. We just don't have enough of the group left at home in the winter to play either.

We played songs last night that had to do with springtime, it is a time of year to look forward to. I know the residents were glad to see us and many sang along with our tunes. Afterward we had a lot of them come up and say how glad they were that we were back. Oh, it is great to be missed.

Well I hope this letter finds everyone well. Springtime is time for renewal.

District 6 Reporter Chris Leazer



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June 2013

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Howdy From District 8
June 3, 2013

Our regular Monday and Wednesday plays are going great guns. Since the summer season, unofficially, starts with Memorial Day, I guess it's only right that we've got a Farmer's Market play coming up in June. And since Idaho is the host state at the Fiddle contest in Weiser, I'm making plans to go over, for the first time in a long while. Thanks to Teresa and Mike Long, of Weiser, for facilitating a place for me to stay. I'm looking forward to renewing old acquaintances over there.

And speaking of renewing old acquaintances, the annual Beverly Kirkpatrick OTF Campout was this past weekend at Cedar Park golf course near Ririe, ID. It was great to see so many new folks. What a good reunion. As usual, lots of good food and fiddle friends to share it all

with. We brought everyone into town to play a concert down the green belt for about 60 people. We had a good turnout of musicians including; from Pocatello- Arlene Peterson, newby's Roy McKee and Teresa Norton, Earl and Nadine Crockett, from Downey and Joel and Adele Turner & Ethan. From Salmon Tom & Katie Bonn, Squeak Bukiet, Liz and Ed Jenkins and Rosalie Hawley.

I'd say the tune of the weekend was Corn Flower Waltz. It may not be a new tune, but it was certainly rediscovered this weekend and will become a regular in our plays.

HEALTH MESSAGE; It's the tortoise life for me! My Doctor keeps telling me to exercise! If walking were good for your health, the postman would be immortal. A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water, and is fat. A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years. A tortoise doesn't run and does nothing, yet it lives for 450 years. And you tell me to exercise?? I don't think so.

Harold Sorenson is slowly recovering from his finger mishap. Had a pin removed last week

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and he's patiently (?) waiting out the healing.

Here's my great big thanks to Teresa and Monty for all they did to make the weekend a great success. And thanks to all who provided and/or prepared food. Did I mention the desserts? Ummm, the desserts! Oh, and the Bbq rib dinner. Umm Ummm!

Stay well. May your neighbors respect you, trouble neglect you, the angels protect you and keep on Fiddlin'.

Adios, David Schjeldahl



The IDAHO FIDDLER

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July 2013

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District 6 July Newsletter

Hello Everyone,

Well the warm weather is upon us and I tell you I definitely enjoy playing in the nursing homes this time of year when they have their AC on. Well I enjoy it anytime of year but a cool relief is very welcoming.

We have some summer plays coming up. We will be playing for a 4th of July breakfast in Hollister once again. We play in their city park but, being such a small town we are surrounded by farm land. They feed us a wonderful breakfast and we are out of there before it starts to get hot.

We also will be playing for an annual evening picnic in the Twin Falls City Park. It is a pot luck type picnic and there is always so many great salads. The financial business that puts on the picnic for their investors supplies the meat, and there is usually lots of it.

Once again we will be playing for the Pioneer Picnic up in Fairfield. Those ladies from this town are some of the best cooks I have ever come across. We play in their city park as well. I think that is one of the great things about summertime plays, we get to play outside in city parks.

We are having a monthly jam at George and Gail's house. It is good time to go over the next month's tune list.

I do hope everyone is doing well.

Chris Leazer
District 6 Reporter

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The IDAHO FIDDLER

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August 2013

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Vice President Injured by Uninvited Guest at Salmon Campout.

President seeks revenge. Details to follow.

District 9
July 2013

SUMMER TIME AND THE FIDDLIN IS EASY

Well, here it is almost half way thru August and the July newsletter is not out yet. But hope your summer is going well and there's lots of fiddlin going on.

With it being summer our District did not have very many play dates this month. But this gave all of us an opportunity to enjoy events with other friends and family. We are now looking forward to our campout down at 3-Rivers which will be coming up this weekend and will be a great time for all. Those dates are Aug. 16-18 and everyone is welcome. We will have workshops, jamming, eating and merriment for all. If you can make it, you will have fun.

Debbie Lovel-Carlson gave me a report on our District's participation at Weiser this year which I will include as follows:

"Several members participated in the 2013 National Old Time Fiddle Festival again this year. Mabel Vogt and Sister Debby Carlson played together in the twin fiddle division and also competed in their respective age

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divisions. Mabel won second place in her age group.
Congratulations Mabel!

Fiddlers participating from different states take turns serving as "host state" for any given year. Mabel and Debby helped this year's host state members (Idaho) play on stage each night before the evening performances. Part of the Idaho group played music while riding on a parade float on Saturday.

As usual, the weather was unpredictable and wetter and colder a few days than preferred, but those who stuck it out for the duration were not disappointed in this annual gathering of new and old friends and family. Jack Lyman camped and jammed all week. Brian Banister and family were also in Weiser and watched several days of the competition. Brian Brent, former UI student from Weiser who played with our district for several years, frequented the campground in the evenings and got in on some good jams."

Thank you, Debby.

So that is about all the news we have to offer this month. We were glad that some of our members were able to make Weiser this year and enjoy the event. There is some great fiddling that goes on.

We wish you a great summer as it comes to an end and there is school just around the corner for many. May your fiddle gatherings be the best and will be chatting again next month.

Marge Nelson

Howdy From District 8
August 12, 2013

Ooops! I missed reporting in July. I'm sure there was a good reason for missing it, but I can't remember what it was right now. Our regular Monday and Wednesday plays are going great guns. We've also had a couple of extra plays that were pretty special. We played a concert on the river at the Art Museum gazebo on July 23rd to a great crowd. Then we played a special for Senior Day at the Zoo. Again a great turnout with regular participation from the animals near-by.

I missed the campout at Salmon but I heard great things, as I would expect. Word has it that Ted Kirkpatrick is out for some paybacks. His turn came to name a tune. He called "Little Coquette". The fiddlers started and rudely quit it early. So, if you fiddlers are looking for bass backup in the right key and at the right rhythm don't be surprised if Ted collects!

And the politics concerning the VP and the Pres, well it turned out the VP Ron Moore got bit by a bee. Pres. Monty Mortensen staged a one-man rampage on every bee in the vicinity. Word has it that the bee sting didn't hurt Ron's fiddle playing any.

And also, a young fellow who was working in the Salmon forest somewhere showed up and knocked everybody's socks off with his bass-playing. He also sang, played guitar and banjo and could have done more if we had an instrument for him. He was a pleasant surprise for everyone and entertained us both Saturday night and Sunday morning. We wish him well and hope to see him again sometime.

A bus full of politicians is driving cross-country and wrecks on this guy's farm. He runs out and sees the wreck. It is horrible. So he starts burying all of the politicians. The police show up and ask him if he is sure they are dead? He says, "Well some of the them said they were alive, but you know how politicians lie".

Adios, David Schjeldahl

Obituary

Sunday, July 21, 2013

Ralph E. Peterson

Ralph E. Peterson, 88, of Washington, Utah, formerly of Iona and Idaho Falls, passed away Thursday, July 18, 2013, at Beehive Living Center in St. George, Utah, following a battle with leukemia. Ralph passed peacefully away with his wife, Laura Peterson, and other family members by his side.



Peterson



Ralph was born in Ririe, Idaho, on March 16, 1925, to Nellie and Clay Peterson. He graduated from Idaho Falls High School in 1943, and then began his military service. He served two years in the 551st Bombardment Squadron. He also served in the U.S. Army National Guard from 1958 to 1961 and in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1962 to 1969.

He retired from the Idaho National Laboratory in May 1987 after working at the MTR, ETR, and ATR reactor facilities.

Ralph was an accomplished guitarist and life-long member of the Old Time Fiddlers. He joined the Fiddlers in 1965 and served as Idaho Chairman of District 8 in 1975 and 1976. In 1994, he served as president of the Idaho Old Time Fiddlers. In Utah, he served as District Chairman of the Dixie Chapter and has been an active member for many years.

Ralph was a High Priest in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Over the years, he has served as High Priest Group Leader and Gospel Doctrine Teacher, as well as in many other callings. He was an avid genealogist and spent many long hours serving in the Temple.

Survivors include his wife, Laura Peterson; daughters, Raline (Blaine) Rowley, Janis (Robert) Sadzewicz, Ginger (Robert) Meeks, Charlene Smith, Vickie (David) Ahlstrom, Christine (John) Campbell and Brenda (Michael) Shadler; son, Loren (Elaine) Peterson; stepsons, Lyle Pederson, Brent (Brenda) Pederson, Tom Tomita and "Bill" Tomita; and stepdaughters, Laura Lee Tomita, MaryLynn (Greg) Nelson and Becky Jo Tomita.

Ralph was formerly married to Barbara Oswald (1947-1963) and Peggy Pederson (1963-1984).

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, July 22, at the Washington 6th Branch LDS Chapel, Washington, Utah. Graveside services will be at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday at Fielding Memorial Park Cemetery in Idaho Falls. Military rites will be performed by the Bonneville County Veterans Memorial Team and Idaho Honor Guard. The family will visit with friends from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Tuesday at Wood East Side, 963 S. Ammon Road.

Condolences may be sent to the family online at www.woodfuneralhome.com.



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September 2013

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District 6 September Newsletter

Summer has been great with so much to do. I got so caught up with summertime things that I forgot to make the August newsletter and send it in.

Our group has been making it to our monthly plays at nursing homes. We played in July at Pioneer Picnic in Fairfield. They were honoring their 100th year of this picnic. We had great weather for the play, and as usual the food was wonderful. The ladies up in Fairfield sure do know how to cook.

We also played at the city park in Twin Falls for the Edward Jones Annual Picnic. The weather was threatening to rain, and the wind blew. I decided to sing the song "Keep On The Sunny Side" and I do believe it worked, we didn't get rained on. Once again we enjoyed a potluck dinner with some great homemade root beer.

This summer George and Gail decided to just have a monthly jam at their home. It has been fun playing there and we get to practice on some of those tunes that get a bit rusty.

Well I do hope you are all enjoying the summer and getting out to enjoy some sunshine. Until next time.

Chris Leazer Reporter District 6

District 12 Newsletter – September 2013

The Salmon Campout at Salmon Meadows Campground in August was entertaining to locals and musicians from throughout the State. A young college student in his early twenties from Alabama and

finishing a summer job with the Forest Service found us and introduced us to his music. We enjoyed his singing and playing Mama Cried and Wagon Wheel. Our friends from Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Emmett, Weiser, Rigby, and Boise areas were here. We missed those of you who could not attend and hope to see you next year. The weather was warm and dry so that campers also enjoyed the Sat. Farmers Market and local shopping. We even had a small rodeo sponsored by the Baptist Church for young people so Ted Kirkpatrick was able to watch his granddaughter Quincy perform. The group also played Sat. afternoon at the Town Square.

We had a storm move through Lemhi County on Thurs., Sept. 5th, that left everyone without power from 5:30 p.m. until different times on the sixth. We played at Discovery Care Centre at 7:00 p.m., Thurs., and then on to the recreation room at Imperial Apartments. As it became darker and darker, we played better and better until after 10:00 p.m. It is so much easier to concentrate and really listen for the right tones when there are no distractions. The only light we had was an occasional light from a cell phone. We literally could not see each other! It reminded me of practicing at home with eyes closed. Try it if you never have. Our home North of town was one of the last to get power (noon or so Fri.) so my wonderful husband went to town Fri. morning and bought gas for the

generator which he used to power up my coffee pot to get my day started right. I love that guy!

We have a play for a birthday for our newest member Cindy Frazee's father-in-law on Sunday, the 8th. It should be a large crowd as Ralph has lots of family and friends who will be there. Wish some of you could be here to join us. We love to have surprise visitors to help us out and test our abilities. Isn't it fun to learn new versions and new tunes. Jerry Eastman invited us to play at the Lemhi Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. on Sept. 18th featuring patriotic and gospel music so we are practicing some old music for that. Jerry also invited us to his home at Tendoy at 1:00 p.m. for a jam and finger food on the 21st. We are usually joined by various local players there to add to the fun.

Our next regular play will be at The Meadows Assisted Living

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on the 12th and then finish up with our jam at the recreation room. The usual Thurs. jams after that.
Have a great September!!!
Kay Smith, Dist. 12 (Salmon)

Howdy From District 8 September 10, 2013

Had a nice play last night at Lincoln Court here in Idaho Falls. About 40 folks showed up and helped out with singing the chorus on Beer Barrel Polka. And we got to sing Happy Birthday to Harvey Meyers, who celebrated his ninetieth birthday last week. Harv has been a dedicated regular with his harmonica for a long, long time. He's always a hit with "Good Old Summer Time" and "Blue Skirt Waltz".

We were also invited to play for the largest Republican Party gathering in Idaho last month. All the top party leaders were there as well as some aspiring politicians. Quite a turnout and our music was well received. I couldn't help a little tomfoolery so on my turn I called for "Flop-eared Mule". No one got it but me, but it put a grin on my face. LOL!

Next week we're planning for a jam-out Fiddler's party up at Darryl Harris' lodge at Island Park. This will be my first time and I'm looking forward to it. It looks like a full agenda of eating, fiddling and a little bit of sleeping. Cooler weather should cut down on the bugs a little. It was 25 degrees in West Yellowstone last night. Yikes!!!

Don Reith passed away. He was a charter member of the OTF. He played with us up until about ten years ago when he had a stroke and could not play any more. We offer our condolences to his family and congratulations to the angel band. They just got a good fiddler for their Heavenly choir.

After the play last night an elderly gentleman came up to me to visit. He wanted to tell me about his hard times. After a reflective pause, he said, "All my life I've had to make a living by my wits. Well, half a living is better than none, I guess."

We had our annual meeting and elections on August 23rd. All officers were re-elected with the exception of secretary. Barbara Albert said she couldn't do it any more so Karleen Crow stepped up and accepted the job. Thanks to Barb for her years of service and thanks to Karleen for her willingness to serve. So, officers are Teresa- Chair, Mike- VP, Val- treasure, and Karleen- secretary. Harold will continue as the calendar coordinator and I will try to keep up with the newsletter.

Several went up to the Bluegrass Jam at Gibbonsville last weekend and reported a good time was had by all.

I told Teresa that fiddle music was getting me down. Every night before I go to sleep I see snakes and alligators! She asked, "Have you seen a doctor?"

"Nope," I said, "just snakes and alligators."

Adios, David Schjeldahl

OBITUARIES

Don Rieth

Don Rieth, 89, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013, at his home.

He was born Aug. 14, 1924, in Woodward, Okla., to John and Martha Rieth.

He spent his early years in Woodward. After

he graduated from high school, his family moved to Clarksville, Ark.

In 1948, he and two brothers followed the wheat harvest to Idaho, where he met his future wife, Dolores Hahn, and married her Sept. 20, 1949, at Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

He farmed for their first 25 years in the New Sweden area. In 1976, he retired from farming and moved his family into Idaho Falls, where he took up his carpentry work. Don enjoyed tinkering around in his garage and was always making something. He did a lot of carpentry work for Holy Rosary Church, building tables, stands and even remodeling the priest's house on one occasion.

He was a Third Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus. Don was a charter member of the Idaho Old Time Fiddlers. He would donate his time three times a week, entertaining the elderly at rest homes in Idaho Falls, Rigby and Rexburg, and helped entertain at the senior citizen dances.

He was a wonderful son, husband, father, grandfather and father-in-law.

He is survived by his wife, Dolores; daughters, Carol (Reed) Tracy and Debbie (Bob) Olsen; sons, Terry (Debbie) Rieth and Kevin (Debbie) Rieth; three brothers, Arthur (Mary Ellen) Rieth, Gene (Doris) Rieth and Edward (Rosie) Rieth; a sister, Donna (Marvin) McCall; 11 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Martha Rieth; siblings, Marion and Vernon Rieth and Adele Harvev:



Rieth

son, Michael; and grandson, Corey Caldwell.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, on the corner of Ninth Street and Lee Avenue in Idaho Falls, with Father Raul Covarrubias, celebrant. Burial will follow in New Sweden in Idaho Falls. A rosary will be recited from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday with a viewing following from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Buck-Miller-Hann Funeral Home, 825 E. 17th St. in Idaho Falls.

Online condolences for the family may be left at www.buckmillerhann.com.



The IDAHO FIDDLER

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October District 6 Newsletter

Hi Everyone,

Well it has definitely been a raining cold autumn so far. Luckily that has not dampened our spirits for playing music. We have been playing at all our nursing homes and having a great time of it. I think it is great how we get to know the residents in these homes. They are friends that we see on a regular basis and get to know their likes and dislikes. One of the likes we get to know is a favorite tune or type of music they enjoy most. It is a wonderful feeling for me that I know what will bring a smile to a certain person. I also sing specials songs for certain residence and that makes them feel special. Sometimes were are the only ones who show them that they are special, and they just can't wait 'til we come again. It is sad when we notice a resident is not in the audience, sometimes we find out that they are too ill to come out or that they have passed on. Whatever we find out we feel bad, and later I will say a prayer for them. They become a part of lives and we can't help but be affected by them, good and bad.

We continue to have our monthly jams at Idaho Pizza. We had a lovely young lady join us last time, Mary has been teaching her to play the fiddle. She is doing really well but, unfortunately she was on her way to college out of state so, we won't be seeing her a regular basis. It is great to see the younger generation so interested in these old tunes and carrying on the traditional music.

Shoshone put on a Cowboy Poetry Gathering for a weekend and had an open mike time. Gary, Mary, and Margie went up to put some time in and entertain the audience. Mary went back on Sunday alone

and found a backup guitar player in the crowd, she said he didn't know all her songs but did a pretty good job anyway. Good for you Mary so brave to go on your own. I wish I had'nt been out of town this, sounded like this was a great time. Maybe they will make an annual event out of this. Hope all is well with everyone. Keep a smile on your face and your heart will be smiling too.
District 6 Reporter Chris Leazer

Howdy From District 8 October 4th, 2013

Whoa! The weather has turned. I'm thinking about heading south. Coats, hats and gloves are coming out. That doesn't mean our plays have cooled down any. We played at Fairwinds Senior Center last month. It was not on their regular scheduled play date, but a great audience showed up and they were ready to have some fun- and we did! Guitar picker Darryl Lopez joined us by adding breaks on "Whiskey before Breakfast" and "Red Wing".

All that went up to Island Park for the Fiddler's Jam had a ball. The Harris' were excellent hosts; the food was great (and abundant), the weather held (mostly) and the ATV side trips to the top of Sawtelle Peak and Big Springs. A mother moose and her calf came out to greet us. Take home hits were Darryl's rendition of Charlie Pride's "I'm So Afraid Of Losing You Again" and "Wilson's Clog".

While we were playing at Val Crow's 55th high school reunion, I saw this gal I remembered from school. I slipped up behind her and put my hands on her shoulders. She turned around, took one look at me and squalled like a panther. It wasn't who I thought so I said, "Sorry, but you look like Helen Brown".

She caught her breath and replied, "You ought to see me in my blue dress."

This month schedule has a great big hole in it because our leader and our guitar player are off to Rome. Teresa's day job is as a coordinator for the local foreign exchange program. One of the benefits of the job is to get to travel to foreign places. So, bon voyage to Teresa and Monty. Tell the Pope we said 'Hello', and learn an Italian fiddle tune. My wife came in the bathroom the other day as I was weighing myself. She said, "It doesn't do no good to hold in our stomach like that."

I said, "It does if you want to

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see them numbers!”

If the current government shutdown is effecting you- or just plain irritating you, here’s my thoughts; hopefully both sides will get together, put the needs of American people first and foremost and begin to act like the extremely well paid agents of the American people they were elected to represent.

Diapers and politicians should be changed often both for the same reason.

So, until we meet again, "May your troubles be less, your blessings more, and may nothing but happiness, come through your door.”

Adios, Dave Schjeldahl



The IDAHO FIDDLER

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Greetings from the president

Hope all is going well with our fiddling family. We are closing in on another year of fun and music with all of us striving to learn a little more and play a little better. My Goal is still to get around to as many districts as possible within the next year and help in any way I can. There are many fiddlers in the State that I have not met yet and look forward to meeting as many as I can. I always enjoy seeing people display their talents and contribute to the IOTFA at the campouts and the semi-annual meetings we now hold at HOOTS.

Several of the fiddlers attended the fiddle contests at Weiser this year and helped with the entertainment. Our help was greatly appreciated by the folks at Weiser as they expressed their thanks for our contributions.

The IOTFA will be hosting a contest this year in southeast Idaho. District 8 chairman Teresa Mortensen is taking the lead and I'm sure she would appreciate anyone who would like to participate and help with the event. More information will be forthcoming as she finalizes the exact location, it will most likely be held in Iona Idaho.

Please encourage and invite others to come and play with your groups and make them feel welcome. We are working on a little higher visibility and attracting new

people into the IOTFA, especially our younger players.

If you have suggestions for the organization please don't hesitate to contact any of the IOTFA leadership.

Hope all is well and that you have a happy and warm holiday season.

Fremont G. Mortensen

President IOTFA

District 12 Newsletter – November 2013.

Well—what can I say—Forgot to do my job last month so have two months to relay. We did have our play for the Frazee birthday party on Sept 8th with Ralph's family and friends on a lovely day. We were on a deck high on the bar hill overlooking town and our beautiful mountains and river. It felt like serenading the

valley below.

Our play at the Lemhi Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. on Sept. 18th was patriotic and gospel music. Our group took turns with individuals who had also been invited. It turned out to be an ecumenical event for the tiny Methodist Church. Musicians and audience were impressed. Jerry Eastman also invited us to his home at Tendoy for a jam and finger food on the 21st. Enjoyed visiting with his neighbors and friends who were there also. Ed Jenkins gave us a report on the State Meeting at Hoots in October. Our members attending that were Katie and Tom Bonn, Ed and Liz

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Jenkins and Rosalie Hawley. They had a good time playing with their friends from throughout Idaho. We had our regular plays in October including one where Ed Jenkins' sons came to listen and we enjoyed their comments during the evening. We enjoyed our last play of Oct. on Halloween. At 6:00 p.m. that evening, on Main St., a surprise visit from three headless horsewomen was witnessed by some trick or treaters, business people, shoppers and drivers. It was a traffic stopper and I missed it by one hour. The girls had black capes with white necklines for peepholes and each held a pumpkin head, riding side by side. It made it in the Idaho Falls Post Register and I imagine I will see it again today in our weekly Recorder Herald.

November came so quickly that it is proof that time flies as you get older! Speaking of getting older, Susan Stout turns ?? on Nov. 6th and Susan Harris will be ?? on the 30th. On to Discovery Care Centre the 7th and The Meadows on the 14th. Regular plays Thurs. evenings at Imperial Apts. Rec. Room all month.

Kay Smith, Dist. 12 (Salmon)

Howdy From District 8
November 3rd, 2013

Well, It's happened. We knew it would, and it's finally here! Daylight savings time has ended, the leaves are off the trees (mostly), and the forecast is telling of snow. Summers over! But the cooling of the weather hasn't cooled the warm receptions we get when we go to play. We've had good audiences at all of our regular plays as well as a couple of special plays, most recently at one of the Roberts, ID Wards for their Fall Harvest dinner. The highlight for me was the Prime Rib dinner they shared with us before we played. Yum-um!

Teresa reported some of the news from the recent OTF meeting at Hoots. Specifically, that we would be hosting a fiddle contest next spring. Details will be coming as they materialize, but start planning now for your entries. On a side note- Thanks to Hoots for hosting the fall OTF meetings all these years, but Dang! It's a long ways up there from anywhere. It's hard to get there, hard to stay there and harder to get home after a weekend of fun and fiddling.

My wife was sipping her wine the other day as we sat on the porch. I heard her say, "I love you so much. I don't know how I could ever live without you"... So I asked her, "Is that you or the wine talking?" She replied, "It's me talking to the wine."

Hats off to our Calendar Keeper, Harold Sorenson. He used to be our A1 rhythm guitar man but has taken up the Dobro and he's really coming along with it. He played a beautiful break on "Maiden's Prayer" recently that added a lot to our

overall sound.

My rant of this month is that we are playing at the annual Festival of Trees, Christmas fund raiser- on November 19th! Christmas before Thanksgiving!!! I don't think so!!! I come by this rant naturally. I got it from my Mother. Any body that started singing Christmas Carol before Thanksgiving would be in big trouble with her. We're brushing up on "Over the River and Through the Woods," to try to keep some perspective.

Four surgeons were discussing their favorite patients to operate on. The first surgeon says, "I like to operate on electricians, because when you open them up everything is color coded."

The second surgeon says, "I prefer to operate on accountants, because when you open them up everything is numbered."

The third surgeon says, "I think librarians are the easiest to operate on because everything inside them is in alphabetic order."

The fourth surgeon says, "I've got you all beat. I like to operate on politicians best. They are by far the easiest because they have no guts, no heart, no spine and their head and behind are interchangeable."

Thanksgiving Wishes to you.

May your stuffing be tasty,

May your turkey be plump.

May your potatoes 'n gravy

Have nary a lump.

May your yams be delicious?

May your pies take the prize,

May your Thanks giving dinner

Stay off of your thighs.

Adios, Dave Schjeldahl



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District 6 November Newsletter

Happy Thanksgiving,

Yes can you believe that the holidays are upon us. Time just seems to rush along and before you know it another year has past by.

We have been busy playing music as usual. We have seven nursing homes to play for each month and a monthly jam at a pizza parlor. We have other nursing homes who would like us to play for them but our schedule is full.

During the holidays we get a few extra gigs with company Christmas parties taking place. We have dusted the cobwebs off of the Christmas songs, and they are sounding pretty good. We played for the Festival Of Giving at a local nursery. They had trees and other festive decorations on display from local talented people. It was our first time playing our Christmas tunes in public this year and we did ok. We find these tunes a challenge since we only play them one time a year, and just when we are getting pretty good at playing them then the season is over. One time we had a request of Jingle Bells in July, we played it but won't do it again, it confused some of the residents in the nursing home.

Well I hope all of you have a very Happy Thanksgiving and stay safe in whatever you do. I will be traveling for the holiday but the forecast looks great.

Chris Leazer
Reporter District 6

Howdy From District 8
December 3rd, 2013

Whoa! Another year is rolling to a close. We started the Christmas season early because of a play for The Festival Of Trees on November 19th. We held off on Christmas stuff after that until after Thanksgiving. We're still playing "Turkey in the Straw" in honor of the millions of turkeys who gave their all to the millions of families gatherings this past weekend.

We are so proud of guitar player Dave Smith, and his wife, Elaine, who are debarking on a two year mission to the wilds of Mexico. The Smith's will be heading south the end of December. We wish them well and look forward to their safe return.

Knock, Knock

Who's there?
Mary
Mary who?
Mary Christmas!

Our December calendar includes the regular Monday and Wednesday plays as well as four specials; two church Christmas parties and two civic plays. The church parties are great for several reasons; first, because they feed us and second because the church family is connected to one of our players. There is nothing as good as a hometown audience to make one feel welcome. Finally, because there is usually a mix of ages in the groups. There is nothing like kids at Christmas to get me in the spirit and to share Old Time Fiddling with.

The Friday, Dec. 6th play has me a little concerned because the first part is scheduled for a downtown park, at Park and B Street. The forecast for Friday is in the teens! Winter is here!! I don't play too good with frozen

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fingers. Teresa assures me that there will be a heated tent. TENT!!!! The horrors of Boy Scout winter camping are flashing through my head right now and it is not good. And she wonders why I look forward to going to the Land of The Warm soon. Beside the cold, once past Christmas, I have absolutely no use for winter. So stay tuned, I'll let you know next month how bad the frostbite was.

What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas? "Thanks, I'll never part with it."

Here's wishing you more happiness than all my words can tell, not just alone for Christmas but for all the year as well.

Merry Christmas,
Dave Schjeldahl