



# *The IDAHO FIDDLER*

Published by the  
IDAHO OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION

January 2014

VOL. 51 NO. 1

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Howdy From District 8  
December 28th, 2013

Well we made it through another- busy December and year. Christmas season is over, but what good memories. In addition to our regular Monday and Wednesday plays we had eight special plays this month and a wonderful Christmas party and jam at the Harris' home. Thanks Chris and Darryl for hosting us. Our last, sort of, Christmas play will be on Dec. 26th at the Idaho Falls Museum from 2 - 3 P.M.

December is a special time to share Old Time Fiddling. Tunes like Jingle Bells, Silent Night and Santa Claus Is Coming To Town become standard fare and easily put smiles on faces of kids from two to ninety-two. Santa arrived during several of our plays. What a great time of the year.

December was a big time birthday month for our group too. A great big Happy Birthday to Harold Sorensen, Charlie Lahm and Monty Mortenson. Just remember boys, with age come skills. It's called multi-tasking. I can fiddle, laugh, cough, sneeze, and pee all at the same time. Dang!! My advice to you is don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up!

Many of us are getting ready to head south til spring. Dave Smith will be heading to Mexico for a two year church mission. Darryl Harris will be heading to Mesquite, NV where he is helping to organize a group of

musicians for jamming and invite plays. Ted Kirkpatrick will be heading south soon. Yours truly will be heading south til it warms up. Not sure yet on the where and when. The adventure continues. Right now we're looking forward to warmer weather, but before long we'll be looking forward to getting back home and to playing with our fiddle friends again.

My New Year resolution is going to be to relearn some of my favorite fiddle tune. Tunes like Fisher's Hornpipe, Rachael, Sailor's Hornpipe, Cookoo's Nest, Beggar Man (aka Red Haired Boy), Ook Pick and St. Ann's Reel. All great tunes, I don't know why I ever quit playing them. Time to

rediscover them again.

Don't forget to put the Spring Fiddle Contest on your schedule. It is currently scheduled for May 9th and 10th, here in the Idaho Falls area. It will NOT be a certified contest so we are not bound by Weiser rule. It will be a fun contest with many special categories.

I want to end with a special "Thank You" to all my Old Time Fiddler friends here. They are so kind and generous with their talents, time and their

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music. It is a pleasure to be with them and a very special blessing for me to be able to play with them. Thank you.

May your neighbors respect you, may trouble neglect you and may the Angels protect you now and on into the New Year.

Happy New Year  
Dave Schjeldahl



# *The IDAHO FIDDLER*

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February 2014

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District 9 October-December 2013

FALL, WINTER, AND HOLIDAYS

Greetings from District 9. These last 3 months flew by without me getting a Newsletter out and now I need to put 3 months in one. November and December are always busy with the holidays and extra plays which is a lot of fun, but I don't keep up on paper work as well. At any rate, will try to just give you the highlights of the past 3 months.

Of course the last 3 months of the year each have a significant holiday and we try to include music for each when we are playing. In October we enjoyed playing for all our regular sites which included a tri-play day of 3 sites, two in Pullman and one in Moscow. We play at the Sr. Meal site in Pullman and they always include us for the noon lunch. We also play at a Sr. site at Bishop Place in Pullman, Sr. meal site in Potlatch, Moscow Sr. meal, Good Sam Sr. site, and this month we also played in Troy which we only play for a few times each year. They are all great sites to play for and the enthusiasm is fun. October also found us electing officers for the coming year. The positions stayed the same with Skip and Carol as Co-Chairpersons, Dave as Vice Chairman, Marge as Secretary, and Tom as Treasurer. We were sorry that our piano player, Lou who will be 91 in January, fell and hurt her bad knee and injured a wrist. She had to spend some time in the hospital and was out of commission for a while but was able to get back in the swing of things later on. Shelly and Carol established a web site for the District which will be nice for communication. It is <http://idahofiddlers.webs.com>.

November again found us at the usual places with one play date being moved to the following week because of Veterans Day. All play dates were well received and we tried to make music for the fall season. Lewiston put on a Fiddle Show on November 9<sup>th</sup> that all were invited to attend. And we played in Kendrick which we play every other month. This again is a Sr. Meal site and they always offer a great meal to enjoy before we go back up the hill. Gary and Karen went on a trip to Australia for a little over a couple of weeks

and reported that the experience was terrific. And we got out the Christmas music at the practice meeting to brush up for December.

In December we enjoyed our first play date of the month at Bishop Place since they always put out such wonderful decorations including 30 trees throughout the facility this year. It is very festive and a lot of fun. It is also the first time we do Christmas music for the season and we are always a bit rusty. But everyone still seemed to have a good time. We did a special play for Deary as they wanted us to come up and play Christmas music. I hear it was a great play day. We had our annual Christmas Potluck party at the regular practice/meeting date and enjoyed ham, turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy and many wonderful side dishes and desserts. Wally's wife, Sharon, made the best dinner rolls which everyone really enjoyed. Lou was able to attend with the help of her son and his wife, and Ernie was there as well with his care giver which gave us all a chance to say hello and enjoy some time with them. We ended the month

with the Potlatch play which included a visit from Santa and everyone received a candy cane which brought back some fun memories.

That brings us up to January which I will get a report out for next month. We hope 2014 will be a marvelous year for all of you and we wish you lots of good fiddlin and fun. Until next time our best to all of you.

Marge Nelson

Howdy from District 8

Our regular quick witted funny reporter Dave Schjeldahl is down south enjoying the warmth and sunshine along with Daryl Harris and Ted Kirkpatrick. Although I am not sure why

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they think they need to do that. It was a balmy 4 degrees here with a wind chill of -19. Why oh why did we not go with them. I hope they bring some warmth and sunshine back with them. Our Dave Smith is now in Mexico on his mission and having some wild adventures. We will miss him and his wife dearly, and we wish them well.

Anyway, I will do my best to inform you of how we are doing. January got us back to our regularly scheduled plays with very few extra plays. Everyone in my district likes me again this month. We lost our dear sweet Harvey Meyer this month. He was 90 years old and played the harmonica up until that last week. He was playing with us on Monday and was gone on Friday. We will miss him dearly. He always had some witty thing to tell me before we played on Mondays.

The only extra play we had was a spur of the moment Blue and Gold Banquet for the Boy Scouts. There was quite a large group there and the parents seemed to really enjoy the music. The Boys? Well, let's just say they tried their hardest to drown us out with the games and fun they were having.

Martin Fewkes joined us the first week of February for both of our weekly plays. He always challenges us with songs we don't know and he didn't let us down this time either. He played Amelia's Waltz. A beautiful tune and I think we will work hard to learn that one.

The last newsletter stated that Idaho Falls would be doing a contest. We have decided to do a show to benefit The Red Cross instead as we think we will get more response to that. Any questions, please feel free to call Teresa Mortensen in District 8 for details. Date to follow.

We hope this winter is treating you all well and your music is warming the hearts of those you play for. We all know that music heals the soul and is a pleasure for all. Best wishes and we will be in touch next month.

Teresa Mortensen



# *The* *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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District 12 Newsletter – January 2014.

The holidays are behind us now and the New Year's resolutions abound. Do you think you will practice more, join in on more jam sessions, or just go on as usual? We meet in Salmon once a week to jam and twice a month to play at the Discovery Care Centre and The Meadows Assisted Living Center—all on Thurs. evenings. We have lost some of our elderly fans and it is so sad to visit and know that we will no longer be able to play for them.

We had a wonderful New Years Eve party at the home of Katy & Tom Bonn in their beautifully decorated home overlooking Big Flat. There was a good turnout and Tom's turkey and scrumptious ham accompanied the many potluck dishes. Some of the guys enjoyed playing cards and the rest of us fiddled and visited with old and new friends. Marlene & Ron Moore helped Tom & Katy prepare for the crowd and I'm sure they helped take down the decorations so they could all get on the road.

I am writing this in Salt Lake City at the home of one of my sister's daughters Christa Hansen. She lives on a hill overlooking the entire city and what an evening jewel view!! We were visited for dinner by one of her other sisters from Utah with her family. It has been a long day with lunch with my sister and her husband Steve & Pat Kauer in Blackfoot. Ed and I are on our way to Lake Havasu to enjoy the warmth there, do some fishing, fiddling, painting and pine needle basket making. Rosalie Hawley will write the next newsletter.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!



Kay Smith, Dist. 12 (Salmon)

## District 12 Newsletter – February 2014

The early part of the month I was in Arizona so missed the plays at the Discovery Care Center and the Meadows Assisted Living. We have had some problems with heat at our regular jam location so on the 20<sup>th</sup> we met at Diane & Scott Spaeth's warm home. We are recalling some tunes that are enjoyable again like Forty Year Ago Waltz and Rustic Dance.

On Sat., the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00p.m. we enjoyed a Cabin Fever Jam at Jerry and Marian Eastman's home near Tendoy. They are fantastic hosts where we enjoyed potluck finger foods and Marian's wonderful soup. Phoebe Bird

and fiddle joined us and also a neighbor Lisa was there with her mandolin.

On Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> we met at Susan Stout's home where Cindy Frazee and Jerry Eastman enjoyed singing and playing A Fool Such As I and we dusted off Stone's Rag. I called Detour as I enjoyed listening and watching it played this month on the Jimmy Sturr Show on RFD TV. It is easy to learn. Another tune that we played that is fun is The Spanish Two Step. We had our monthly

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meeting at Susan's; and plan to jam on March 6th, after our play at 7:00p.m. at Discovery, at Cindy Frazee's home high on the Bar Hill. Maybe the Imperial Apts. Recreation Hall heating system will be more dependable soon. Meanwhile, we are enjoying a change of venue. We plan to play at The Meadows Assisted Living on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March.

Would welcome any of you at our jams, but you might want to check to see where we are playing on Thurs. evenings as we look for a warm place and that could be in town or up a creek somewhere!

Happy fiddling!

Kay Smith, Dist. 12 (Salmon)



# *The* *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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April 20, 2014

Well we're home from the Southland. Fate wasn't with us as we had a forty mph head wind coming north out of Utah. That and paying my taxes caused me to question the direction we were taking.

I rejoined our group for a play at a local church party. They feed us and enjoyed the show. They had a request for "Your old Gray Bonnet". Guess what? We almost knew it- it is now on the must learn list. Fairwinds and Liberty Square plays next week. Teresa and Monty have added a new duet to our show. We're also playing through a new, high tech P.A. system. But the biggest WOW was Darryl Harris was playing on a new old (1974) Martin D 35, signed by Jon Stewart, of the Kingston Trio- I'm so jealous!

We're making plans for a show coming up real soon. Take note and add this date to your fun calendar. We are hosting a special benefit concert to support our local Idaho Falls Soup Kitchen. It is scheduled for May 20th at 7:00 P.M. at the Rocky Mountain Middle School auditorium. We'll be joining with Jacie and Joe Sites Junior fiddlers in presenting this concert. It should be a great show

highlighting some great young fiddler's, promoting the Old Time Fiddler's organization and supporting the efforts of the Idaho Falls Soup Kitchen. We sure hope you can make it. You can't beat the price- three cans of food. All donations will go to the Soup Kitchen.

Did you hear about the bandleader who got struck by lightning? He made a very good conductor.

“May your troubles be less, your blessings more, and may nothing but happiness, come through your door.”

Adios, David Schjeldahl

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May 2014

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District 9  
March, April 2014

## SPRING IS HERE!

Greetings from District 9. I am writing this in the latter part of May since things have been happening that have kept me from keeping up with my duties and now I am going to get back in order. So am checking the calendar to see what went on in March and April.

Looks like March was a pretty routine month with play sites including Bishop, our Tri-Play date, Good Sam, Clark House, Kendrick, and Moscow Senior. We had our regular meeting and again practiced songs from the square dance we will be playing live music for. This is becoming an annual event and we are excited for that. Then on a sad note, we ended March with the loss of one of our long time members, Ernie Bunch, who passed away on March 28th at the age of 89. Ernie was a great guitar player and the best ever on his harmonica. He served in WWII and was the recipient of 2 Purple Hearts and numerous other awards. He wasn't able to play as much with the fiddlers, but always played at the Moscow Sr. Meal site and did so the month before he died. He will be missed by all of us.

In April we made our site dates, and some of us also played for Ernie's funeral. The whole group who attended the funeral also played at the reception in honor of Ernie. We also played at Ridgepoint which is a Sr. independent living facility and we are usually asked to play for them one evening each year. Deary Sr. Meal site and Troy Sr. Meal were also on our agenda, and we only play a few times a year for them. We also had our reminder from Dave about making reservations for our Three Rivers campout weekend which is coming up in August and open to all Idaho fiddlers. Next month we will be playing for the square dance club which will be a good time, and we are playing for the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. So play dates abound. We wish you a great

spring and will be checking in again in June. Happy fiddling!

Marge Nelson,  
Secretary

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June 2014

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Howdy From District 8  
April 29, 2014

Well we've been home for a little over a month and I think the wind didn't blow about three days in that time. Every time we play though, the wind wasn't blowing inside, unless you count the hot air that comes forth occasionally. We do have a good time.

I was thinking of making a fitness movie for folks my age, and calling it "Pumping Rust".

The big news on our calendar this next month is our annual camp-out at Cedar Park Golf Course in Ririe, just 14 miles north east of Idaho Falls. The dates are June 6th, 7th, & 8th. There will be jamming and chicken potluck dinner on Friday afternoon and evening. Saturday features a putting golf tournament, a concert in Idaho Falls at the Art Museum gazebo on the green belt and then the famous BBQ rib dinner provided by Cedar Park's own Greg Smith. If you're still able to move, there is a public dance & jam that evening. Sunday will wrap up with a breakfast and a Gospel Hour. Teresa is in charge of the weather and so far she's batting a thousand. Camping is available with or without hook-ups. If you haven't been over for this one, here's your opportunity.

The Soup Kitchen fundraiser concert last month was a great success. Jacie Sites Fiddle Kids were a big hit and we got some strokes too. The concert raised about \$300 and twenty-four big boxes of canned food- all going to the Soup Kitchen of Idaho Falls.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

“May your troubles be less, your blessings more, and may nothing but happiness, come through your door.”

Adios, David  
Schjeldahl

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July 2014

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District 12 July 2014

It is the 4th of July and the fireworks are lighting the sky, the dogs in town are hiding in the bathtubs and I am on the deadline again giving the scoop on Dist. 12.

We had a fun jam last night with our play at Discovery Care Centre prior. Although not a meeting night, discussion pertaining to the upcoming campout ensued and some fine tuning and new ideas were discussed. The Dist. 12 Salmon Campout is set for Aug. 8, 9 & 10th at the Salmon Meadows Campground, 400 N. St. Charles St., 756-2640.

You can refer to the Upcoming Events on the iotfa website. We hope that you all are planning on attending this event as it gets bigger and more interesting each year.

We have some sad news to relay regarding Dick Morton, Betty's husband. Dick passed away May 4th in Boise at the age of 89. Memorial services will be held on Monday, July 7th at the Salmon Elks Lodge 1620. We have been asked to play "There is a Star-Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere" and are beginning and ending it with "Taps." He was a wonderful friend to all of us and a loyal member of the fiddlers. We will miss him.

Hope you all had a fantastic 4th of July. We have been playing numerous patriotic tunes which I just love to hear and play. Hope to see all of you in August.

Kay Smith District 12

Howdy From District 8

June 25, 2014

Wow! What a blast weekend! The Cedar Park Campout is all over, but the memories linger. First off, thanks to the great cooks and all the volunteers, and there were a bunch. From my shaky memory, (That's scary) Harold, Monte, Mike, Tom and others. We ate well and never ran out of food. The food highlight was the Saturday evening barbecued rib dinner prepared by Greg, of the Cedar Park Golf Course. "Out of Bounds!"

We had a nice turn out of out-of-town fiddlers from the Pocatello area on Saturday. There were fiddlers from Meridian, Salmon, Pocatello, Twin Falls and the greater Idaho Falls area. Teresa was in charge of the weather (again) and she did a good job, except for a little wind.

We Jammed Friday til our fingers hurt, then again on Saturday with a break for breakfast and lunch- Oh, and a golf-putting contest. Harold Sorenson won big time, with no challenge from past winners, Darryl Harris and Ron Moore (because they weren't there).

We put on a fine concert in Idaho Falls, at the Gazebo by the Art Museum on the green belt. We had a nice audience turn out and great weather. One couple came all the way

from Germany to attend.

We wrapped it up on Sunday morning with a Dutch oven breakfast, (thanks Tom) followed by a Gospel Circle, rather than a Service. Everyone seemed to like it and we all left with Spirits uplifted.

The regular plays for the month of June went well. Harold Sorensen is our calendar guy and here's a closing thought from his calendar. "When you throw your weight around, be ready to have it thrown around by somebody else".

Adios, David

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District 12 Newsletter – August 2014

Hello everyone from your friends in District 12.

We meet in Salmon every Thurs. from 7:00-10:00 p.m. to jam including an hour twice a month to play at the Discovery Care Centre and The Meadows Assisted Living Center.

On July 26<sup>th</sup> we had a play for the Andrews Family Reunion in Leadore at the City Park Campground. The players were fed a great meal and had an enjoyable afternoon. There was plenty of toe tapping and dancing too. District 12's Salmon Campout will be held August 8, 9 and breakfast on the 10<sup>th</sup>. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, Fri., there will be an evening meal and open acoustic jam. Sat. will have lots of playing including a 2:00-4:00p.m. session at the Town Square Park on the River next to the bear sculpture. It is across from City Hall and our fairly new Mexican restaurant. The meal will be back at camp at 6:00p.m. with play resuming at the Town Square Park at 7:00p.m. It is hoped that this location will draw some locals to listen to everyone. Of course, there is Sun. breakfast and play before everyone departs. Read more in the Events portion of IOTFA's website. Hope you can all attend. Maybe bringing your favorite folding chair would be a good idea if possible. Hope you can receive this before you leave home!! Have a great trip! Keep your ears to the many tunes we are so fortunate to be learning with each other. Kay Smith, Salmon

Howdy From District 8 Aug 1st, 2014

I'm back to report a great show we had been invited to present, by the Greater Idaho Fall Community Council. We performed to an energetic crowd on the green belt by the river on Tuesday, July 8th. The series, entitled "Music on the Green" presents a different local musical group each week. We played for an hour and a little more and got lots of positive feedback in the form of singing along, clapping in time, toe tapping and generous applause. It was a treat for us to have such an encouraging crowd. A cool breeze off the river and the shade of the trees mitigated the warm weather.

Mike was harassed a little for his conservative bow work, but he persevered and played on anyway, although he was as nervous as a chicken playing leapfrog with a porcupine.

Our regular Monday and Wednesday plays are going on as usual this month, with extra

plays at a Farmer's Market on the 19th and an LDS Church party that evening.

We're also playing for a Harris Family Reunion at Island Park and a Cattlemen's Assoc. picnic.

I bought a new suit with two pair of pants. But, you know, it's been too hot lately to wear two pair of pants.

Several of us are making plans to head up to Salmon for the summer camp out on August 8th, 9th and 10th. I hope to see you there.

We want to give a special welcome to new members, Terry and Mauna Kerswell.

I think we're all looking forward to August. It's the only month without a major holiday in it, and

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that might just lighten our schedule just a bit. We're looking forward to the dog days of summer.

Adios, David Schjeldahl



# *The* *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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September 2014

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Howdy From District 8  
Aug. 31, 2014

Wow, That was a fast month. We had good attendance on our usual Monday and Wednesday plays as well as a couple special plays. We had a great turn out for Senior Day at the Tautphaus Park Zoo. “Did I tell you that they crossed an elephant with a gopher?” “What’d they get?” “I don’t know what they call it, but they’ve got some really big hole down there.”

Several of our folks made it over to Salmon for the campout and all reported a good time with lots of food and no bees this year.

We performed at the Rexburg Tabernacle, on August 20th, as part of the Rexburg Summer Art Series, for an appreciative audience. It rained and thundered all through

our performance. It made for a dramatic show.

While we were playing at the Lincoln Court, suddenly there was a very loud POP!!! We looked around and saw Teresa holding her fiddle, like a drowned cat, with a look of shock on her face. Her bridge had collapsed!!! Not to worry. Mike Weeks jumped to the rescue, swapped fiddles with her and fixed her fiddle while the show went on. Everyone liked the excitement so much we may make

it a regular part of our show.

Add to that a Farmer's Market play that rounded out a busy month for us. Which brings us to the September schedule -----, what schedule?

Oh, yeah, we're taking the month of Sept. off- except for a weekend jam at

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Darryl Harris' Island Park home. "Why are we taking a month off?" you ask. Well, because our chairwoman is going back to school, & school starts in Sept. & because we're fairly worn out from a long, hot summer of plenty of plays. We will resume our regular play schedule in Oct.

The Jam at Darryl's will also include our annual meeting as well as the election of officers.

Adios, David Schjeldahl



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Howdy From District 8  
November 4th, 2014

We're back! Yup, that month off went by pretty fast. That was September. We played our usual Monday and Wednesday plays during the month of October without our illustrious leader, Teresa, who was off going to school to become a licensed real estate agent. We made it, but just barely. She made it too and is almost there. We sure miss her strong lead fiddle when she's not with us.

She did make it for some special weekend plays- most notable was on October fourth. Our fiddlers toured from Ashton for an afternoon play at the Ashton Living Center then south to Firth for an evening barn dance for the Intermountain Appaloosa Horse Club. Both crowds enjoyed our show, but it was a special treat for us to play for a group of dancers- real dancers.

I forgot to report that we had our annual meeting and election while we were retreating up in Island Park in September. The officers for this term are the same as last year. Teresa Mortensen remains as our chairperson, Mike Weeks is vice chair, Val Crowe is treasure and his wife, Carlene remains as secretary. Harold Sorensen will continue to do the calendar and yours truly will continue as newsletter reporter.

Terry Kerswell, our newest guitar player/singer, is coming out with a nice rendition of an old calypso folk song, “Yellow Bird”. A different style for us but we’re learning and the audiences seem to like it. Teresa is pressing us with a couple of new tunes and songs

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too. It's kinda strange when we should be singing "Over the River and Through the Woods" and beginning to remember Christmas material.

Here's a Thanksgiving joke for you. What did the turkey say to the farmer? "Quack, quack."

Here's wishing you and yours a very Thankful Thanksgiving

Adios, David Schjeldahl





# *The* *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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District 9

May -- December 2014

## MANY MONTHS ROLLED INTO ONE

Hello from District 9. Some how this year got away from me with a lot of things happening that I hadn't planned on. Therefore, this is the first Newsletter since April and I am going to try and summarize the highlights of the remainder of the year. So here goes.

May, 2014

With Spring in full swing -- we covered our usual play sites which were enjoyed by many, and we always enjoy playing. But this month was again our chance to play live music for the local square dance club, The Palouse Promenaders, which we have really enjoyed in the past. We had a great turn-out and the evening was rockin! Gary Potratz, who is the square dance caller and a fiddler, had everyone swinging and promenading to our toe tappin live music. Again, a great success which we and the dancers enjoyed. And we also performed for the National Association of Retired Federal Employees Convention for their banquet and had a great response from that as well. Also found out that Debby Carlson attended the Glacier Fiddle Festival in Kalispell, Mont. in April and placed 5th in her division. And this spring she was at the Spirit of the West Fiddle Contest in Ellensburg, WA where she placed 4th in her division. Yea Debbie! Mabel Vogt competed in the N.W. Regional Fiddle Show in Spokane, WA in April and placed 1st in both Senior and Senior/Senior divisions. Yahoo Mabel!!

June, 2014

In June we went to our summer schedule which means less play sites since many begin

summer activities and are gone making the availability of fiddlers less for the play dates. But we did enjoy playing once again for the Bishop Place BBQ which is an annual event for them and they are one of our regularly scheduled play sites we cover each month. We all dress somewhat western and have a good time. They also include a tractor show with the event and one of our fiddlers, Dave Bezdicek, brought his tractor in for the show. It is a beauty! And Mabel Vogt participated in the National Old Time Fiddle contest in Weiser, ID and took second place in Senior/Senior. Way to go, Mabel!!

July, 2014

We covered our regular play sites for the summer with not as many fiddlers, but those we played for still enjoyed our being there.

August, 2014

This month always begins with the Scenic Six Fiddle Show in Potlatch, ID which is coordinated by Mabel Vogt and several of our fiddlers enjoy playing for the event. It is not a contest, but a night of pure fiddle pleasure and Mabel has her young performance group, The Junior Jammers, participating. They are great and the older crowd really enjoy their entertainment. We also did our annual play date at Elk River, ID which is up in the wooded area and they celebrate Elk River Daze with a parade, cake walk which several of our group participate in, kids games and us playing outside the

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Huckleberry Haven for a period of time with an audience who bring up their chairs and love to listen. We are then treated to a huckleberry ice cream cone which we all look forward to. This too is the regular month we have our fiddle retreat down at 3-Rivers Resort where we play and eat from Friday to Sunday and just have a great time. But this year the resort was threatened by a forest fire and we had to cancel. Dave Bezdicek was able to make arrangements to have a one day retreat on the Sunday we would have been at 3-Rivers in Moscow, and we had a potluck and played the rest of the day doing the activities we would have done on Saturday at 3-Rivers. We kept connected to find out in the end the resort was not harmed by the flames and we are glad to hear we will back next year.

#### September, 2014

This month we returned to our regular schedule to cover all the play sites we are at during the school year. Everyone got back from many summer experiences and it was good to have us all together again to practice and perform for all the senior sites. A good group once again played at the Latah County Fair in Moscow, ID and there was a good turnout of players and listeners. We are on an outdoor stage and most of the fair grounds can hear while we are performing. Mabel Vogt also performed again, this time at the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort for their annual Fiddle Contest. And she snagged a second place in Senior Division. Congrats again, Mabel!

#### October-November, 2014

Both of these months were routine with players covering the senior sites and all enjoying the toe tappin music.

#### December, 2014

We are now in the midst of the Christmas rush and playing Christmas songs at our regular sites which the seniors love. We always chuckle a bit since we only play Christmas songs during the month of December and we start off a bit rough and have it down by the last play site. But everyone enjoys. We will be having our Christmas potluck, meeting and practice this coming Sunday. We will be playing at 3 sites the following week to end the year and will look forward to the start of 2015.

So this bring you up to date on Dist. 9 and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Marge Nelson, Secretary

Howdy From District 8  
December 7th, 2014

Two thoughts; Wow! It's Christmas. And, where did 2014 go? It sure went by fast. We are hot into our special Christmas fiddle program. It includes Rudolph, Jingle Bells, Silver Bells, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, and a special finish with Silent Night and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. The program is filled in with fiddle tunes from our traditional list as well. The hard part is remembering words of songs that we haven't sung in eleven months. That's where memory-by-committee comes in handy. One of my greatest joys is seeing the smiles on the faces of our audience and having folks sing along.

We'll be taking Christmas week off so that we can be with family and friends. Remember, Christmas should not be about what's under the tree, but who's around it.

Our annual Christmas party is scheduled to be at Darryl and Chris Harris' again this year. We sure appreciate their hospitality. We'll eat and jam and eat some more.

We are looking forward to a quick recovery for Harold Sorensen who is recovering from knee replacement surgery. We sure miss his Dobro as well as his singing. We wish him as speedy and uneventful recovery. Maybe the Christmas party will draw him out. We hope so.

We've been enjoying the flat pickin' guitar of Darryl Lopez. He challenges us speed wise. I don't know about the rest, but he's got me on the edge of disaster. The added voice of his guitar sure gets people sitting up.

Several of us are making plans to head South right after Christmas. It's been a mild winter so far, here in southeast Idaho but, not warm enough. As for me, I'll see you in the spring.

Here's wishing you and yours the very merriest Christmas and the most prosperous New Year. Stay safe and Keep on Fiddling.

Adios, David Schjeldahl