



The *IDAHO FIDDLER*

Published by the

IDAHO OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION

January 2020

VOL. 57 NO. 1

District 8

Time warp!

Let's see now, give me a minute to figure out when I'm at, and where I'm supposed to be when I get to where I'm going. At the top of this newsletter it says January 2020!

"Heck, I'm just getting over the indigestion caused by that thanksgiving turkey I ate" and now, Christmas? Is it "Christmas past", or "Christmas present" or "Christmas yet to come"? What ever, I hope you all will have, or are having, or had a very merry Christmas. At the time of this writing (tow) we just put up our Christmas tree, (we will decorate it tomorrow). I guess what I'm trying to say is; "I'm not sure what is most interesting to write about? Yesterday, today, or tomorrow? "Awk - - -ward! There is such a time laps from the time I write up a newsletter to the time you can read it on the iotfa.org website. I think for now, I can print off a few copies to hand out at our OTF Christmas party scheduled on the

In with the new, out with the old! (a timeless issue)

In our quest in keeping our music "fresh", trying think of new tunes to add to our play list, are we letting go of some of the great tunes we used to play? Now I am not a "veteran " old time fiddler, so I don't have to go back very far into our song list to find songs or tunes that I'm not familiar with or have not played for a long long time. Last week, (tow) we were playing at the Idaho Falls senior citizen center and just as I was coming up to the mic. (with a new song in mind to sing), an elderly gentleman asked us to sing a Burl Ives song. As we stood there, (stuttering and stammering looking at each other). I remembered the Burl Ives song I used to sing that was tucked away in our play list and tucked away in the cobwebs of my memory, "A Little Bitty Tear Let Me Down"

(aka “my little bitty brain let me down”). Needless to say, I had forgotten most of the words, "it once was a sugar cookie but turned back into a salty pickle" (I’m referring back to last month's newsletter here). It was a pretty good song, but kind of got lost in the archived 400 + song list. So, I just took a deep breath and sang what ever came out. (ya, I had to make up some of the words along the way). It was a “pickle” song – but what can I say? It was me trying to sing a Burl Ives song, what do you expect?

With that experience in mind, is there any good reason not to draw from our “archive song list” to pick out a favorite song or tune and kind of “recycle” it. Dust it off, shine it up, as an example, take the song “They cut down the old pine tree”! How many of you remember that song or even heard of it? I can’t say I’ve ever heard us play that one. I’m sure there are others that could use some dusting and polishing. Maybe a little “re-arranging”. That could be fun to do!

If you think about it, if we have 8 to 10 plays a month, and play 20 to 24 songs at each play, what’s the chances of any one patron having to listen to the same song more than two or three times a month? I don’t think they would get too tired of that, (We are the ones who may get tired of playing the same song over and over), but the more we play it over and over the better we get at learning it and what keys they are played in, and who knows how many patrons “cycle” through these places that we play

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for. We could play the same songs for months, and never know how many people hear the same songs that we play. I guess that with odds like that, the idea of “recycling” would be a valid Idea, and it also “helps save the planet”! So, if you are getting brain freeze over trying to think up a new song, browse through the “Archived District. 8 Play list and see what you can come up with?

By the way “Happy New year”! Have you all made your “New Year’s resolutions”? What is your guess how long you will keep the resolutions you made? Most of mine only last about one week if that. I don’t know how many years I resolved to learn to play that darned old pedal steel guitar that I have in my music room. I get heart burn just to think about it?

The winter months are here now, but the Holidays come with them. November and December can get pretty busy for us all, and not just with more plays but Christmas and lots of personal things like family gatherings, parties, shopping, decorating, etc. etc. goes on for us all and the “jam/business mtgs.” may take a back seat. Here is where that never-ending gremlin “supply and demand” steps in. I’ll pick up on that idea in our next Newsletter next year. So, enjoy the holidays. Merry Christmas to all, be safe and stay tuned in!

From our Readers:

Note: comments, and suggestions are from the readers and is not the reflections of District 8 of the IOTFA.

From Terry: Last night (Dec.12) Mauna and I went to the Bar-J Wrangler concert and we saw that Monty and Teresa, and Dave were there also. What a GREAT show. I was “blown away” at Tim (the fiddler) playing that “cross-tuned (I think) fiddle. And Donny on the pedal steel guitar. I don’t know if I want to dust off my pedal steel guitar and try to learn it, or just cure my depression and take a matchstick to it? They were and always are an inspiration to me.

I am always looking for comments, e-mails or texts or notes, or anything from our players and members.

You can Email me at bbpicker45@gmail.com

Or Text me at (208) 569 9496

District 5

HELLO FIDDLERS:

WE ARE HOPING EVERYONE HAD A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS, SPENDING

TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND, OF COURSE, INDULGING IN YOUR FAVORITE FOODS AND DESSERTS. I KNOW WE SURE DID!!! WE MADE LOTS OF CANDY THIS YEAR AND COOKIES AND OF COURSE BANANA NUT BREAD TO GIVE TO OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. CHRISTMAS IS ALWAYS FUN, CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS IN THE SERVICES OF CHURCHES AND ETC.

BUT NOW IT IS TIME TO GET BACK TO BUSINESS WITH OUR FIDDLING AROUND AND LEARNING NEW SONGS FOR THE NEW YEAR 2020.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR DISTRICT FIVE WAS HELD AT THE GOLDEN CORRAL IN BOISE. THE MUSIC PROGRAM WAS LED BY BONNIE LONGSTRETH, WHO LEADS OUT IN THE NIGHT FIDDLE GROUP. MY HUSBAND AND I COULDN'T ATTEND THE CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS YEAR, BUT FROM WHAT THE FIDDLERS SAY THE PARTY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AND ENJOYED THE MUSIC AND THE FOOD VERY MUCH. ONE THING ABOUT THE GOLDEN CORRAL THEY HAVE A VARIETY OF FOOD AND PLENTY FOR EVERYONE TO CHOOSE FROM. THE DESSERTS ARE OUTSTANDING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

OUR MEETING IN NOVEMBER WASN'T WELL ATTENDED, HOWEVER, RON MOORE GAVE A SHORT OUTLINE OF THE LAST OTF BOARD MEETING . HE EXPLAINED TO US THAT THAT BOARD HAS BEEN WORKING HARD ON REVISING THE BY-LAWS FOR THE IOTF. THESE WILL NOT BE READY TO VOTE ON UNTIL THE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER IN 2020. THE ORIGINAL BY-LAWS WERE WRITTEN IN 1968 AND REVISED IN 2010. ONCE THE FINAL DRAFT IS FINISHED AT OUR MAY MEETING, EACH DISTRICT CHAIRMAN WILL RECEIVE A COPY TO DISTRIBUTE TO EACH GROUP. QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS SUBJECT OF THE BY-LAWS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR CHAIRMAN, JERRY VANBUREN 208-546-8232 AND HE CAN POINT YOU TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE .

VI SCHEWE DONATED SOME MUSICAL EQUIPMENT TO THE FIDDLERS. THE EAST GROUP TOOK THE MICROPHONE AND MUSIC STAND. THE LONG CHORDS WILL BE USED FOR THE FIDDLING JAM HERE IN THE SENIOR CENTER IN EAGLE. SINCE NO ONE COULD USE THE CRATE 2 CHANNEL AMP, JUDY VANBUREN MADE A MOTION TO HAVE ARNIE LYLE AND RICH MATTHEWS LOOK IT OVER TO SEE IF WE COULD SELL

IT AND THEY DECIDED IT WOULD BE WORTH \$25.00. THE FIDDLERS WERE ALL IN AGREEMENT AND AMP WILL BE SOLD FOR \$25.00.

THE EAST FIDDLING GROUP LEAD BY BETTY GULL REPORTED THEY HAVE HAD SOME SICKNESS IN HER GROUP, SO WE ARE HOPING THEY ARE DOING BETTER NOW. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO HELP THIS GROUP OUT PLEASE LET BETTY GULL KNOW. (208-887-2113) THE WEST GROUP LEAD BY RICHARD MATTHEWS HAS 4 PLAYS A MONTH AND IF ANYONE WISHES TO HELP THIS GROUP OUT PLEASE CALL RICH FOR TIMES AND ETC. ((208-412-8974)

THE NIGHT GROUP LEAD BY BONNIEI LONGSTRETH IS STILL DOING HER SAME PLAYS 4 TIMES A MONTH . QUESTIONS CONCERNING HER PLAYS PLEASE CALL. (208-724-5632)

WE ARE STILL HAVING THE IDOTF JAMS ON THE 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6:30. EVERYONE IS WELCOMED TO COME AND PARTIPATE IN THE FUN. I BELIEVE THIS IS ALL I HAVE TO REPORT FOR THIS MONTH. ANY INFORMATION THAT ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE REPORTED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL. (208-830-1278)

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR YOUR REPORTER

LINDA LYLE (208-830-1278)

A MERRY HEART DOES GOOD, LIKE MEDICINE, BUT A BROKEN SPIRIT DRIES THE BONES.

PROVERBS 17:22

THEREFORE, WHETHER YOU EAT OR DRIN, OR WHATEVER YOU DO, DO ALL THE GLORY OF GOD.

1ST. CORINTHIANS 10:31



The *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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February 2020

VOL. 57 NO. 2

District 8

February of this year has 29 days in the month which tells me that it is leap year! Does that mean we can just leap right over February go right into March? Sometimes during the winter, I wish I could do just that! Oh, you snowbirds are “lucky dogs, lucky dogs”!

By the way, I wonder if y'all are getting our newsletters down south or wherever you are? I'm not having much luck in getting responses from anyone, up here in Idaho or from you that left in search of warmth. We would like to hear from you and see if you are still playing music, maybe tell us anything that you think might be of interest to us all. Are there OTF (or similar) Groups where you spend the winters? Let us know about them, Let's communicate, let's keep district 8 alive. For all of District 8 members, you can respond to these newsletters by calling or text me at (208) 569 9496 or email me at bbpicker45@gmail.com .

Referring back to our December newsletter I wrote “November and December can get pretty busy for us all, and not just with more plays but Christmas and lots of personal thing like family gatherings, parties, shopping, decorating, etc. etc. goes on for us all and the “jam/business mtgs.” may take a back seat. Here is where that never-ending gremlin “supply and demand” steps in. I'll pick up on that idea in our next Newsletter”. Remember that? Now that the “demand” (number of play's) are dwindling down, up here in the “Northland”, some of us got our heads together and decided we need to not just jam but to “**practice**”. Jams' is fun for playing what we already know but it is not as productive as “practicing” the tunes that we are not quite up to speed on or learning something new! So, we scheduled a time and place where to **practice** maybe two or three songs but really learn them. Each of us have different levels of experience so we can work on that. In that same newsletter I compared our music to the salt with the sugar”, or the “pickles with the cookies”. This is where we can better turn our “pickles into cookies “.

This is Terry from District 8 signing off!

From our Readers:

This is where the “Responses from our Readers” are placed, so here they are!

Uh - - - well uh - - - where are responses?

Note: comments, and suggestions are from the readers and is not the reflections of District 8 of the IOTFA.

I am always looking for comments, e-mails or texts or notes, or anything from our players and members.

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The *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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March 2020

VOL. 57 NO. 3

May Meeting in Mountain Home has been Cancelled

District 5

Hello Fiddlers:

It has been quite awhile since I've had a newsletter posted on the web, so this time we might have some news to report.

First of all, the District 5 fiddlers are only having their monthly meetings every other month, but the jams are still on the 1st Thursday of EVERY month. In February the District 5 jam was a great success! The VanBurens brought baked potatoes and everyone else pitched in and brought toppings and etc. They had 14 musicians turn out, so that was super. My husband and I were not able to attend last months jam due to some traveling that we were doing at the time. So, I do hope everyone enjoyed the evening out playing music. We hope to see everyone out for the MEETING AND JAM this 1st Thursday in March 5. If anyone needs more details concerning the meeting in March, please call our chairman, Jerry Van Buren 208-546-8232.

Jack Moon has reported that he will have a Facebook page ready by the end of the month of February. It was suggested the co-chairs talk to their groups to see who wants to friend it when it is ready. Jack has also been working on IOTFA District 5 cards for each member to be able to hand out to interested friends or acquaintances to join the fiddlers or come visit or whatever their interest may be.

Our chairman, Jerry VanBuren reported that the May Idaho Old Time Fiddlers state meeting will be held on May 1 & 2. It is determined now to have the Spring and Fall the meetings at the Elks Facility in Mountain Home, Idaho in 2020. Rv spaces and indoor facilities are available.

The board will finalize the draft of the by-laws at the May meeting then passed along to the membership for a final vote in the September meeting. Any concerns or questions please call our chairman, Jerry Van Buren.

Betty Gull reports the East group will have 3 plays this month. Rich Mathews reports all is well in the West group. Richard also welcomed anyone that would like to come and share their talents.

Bonnie Longstreth is the night group leader and she reports everyone is doing fine.

There isn't too much to report this time on the Web, but I do hope everyone is practicing some new tunes to share with the group. I am working on a couple myself. It's always a new challenge to learn new music pieces.

I hope that this letter finds everyone doing well and ready to come join us, District 5, in Eagle at the Eagle Senior Center at 6 pm for the meeting and later the jam. Let's invite our friends and neighbors to come play

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or listen, or sing.

We can all have a good time just playing music, it gives a merry heart!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Your reporter
Lyle (208 830 1278)

Linda

Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone, we find it with another.

Thomas Merton

District 8

Most of our plays are at senior living centers or Nursing Holmes and we get a lot of good comments and words of thanks from the residents (sometimes we even get candy) and lately we have had a following of a dance couple (LeRoy Duenes & Colene Baker) that kind of follow us from play to play because they just like to dance to our music, and they can really “kick-it-up”. They even get some of the residents to join in. It’s a lot of fun!

You’ve probably heard the term “one size fits all”? May I add, “one size may fit all but not comfortable”! The Old Time Fiddlers is an organization of musicians with an array of instruments, skill levels, and expectations. We all want to sound our best, but the reality is “we can only sound as good as the least of us”. We may be able to work out the pickles in our music (things like; chords, words, stops, etc.) but to get rid of all the pickle juice (the sound, the “togetherness”, the “feeling”) that lingers on is another thing. I may be using the term “musicians” kind of broadly here, since we are just a group of friends who enjoy learning to play the kind of music we enjoy playing and learning from one another. So, what’s the point of all this gibberish? I guess that it’s “we are what we are! We continue to learn, help each other, to practice our craft and put in as much pride in our music as we can muster up. Enjoy our music and accept our limitations. Smile at the cookies and grin at our pickles. ☐ I guess you could say that our sugar cookies have a slight pickle flavor to them. ☐



The IDAHO FIDDLER

Published by the

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April 2020

VOL. 57 NO. 4

May Meeting in Mountain Home has been Cancelled

District 8

For the last few plays, we have been “bringing back” a few old tunes that (at least I) haven’t played for a long time and I have gotten quite “rusty” on! My “little bitty brain is letting me down”. I have to apologize for that. So if I’m struggling with those old songs (meaning I haven’t played for long time) and I struggle with the new songs (that I haven’t learned yet), I’m bringing a lot of “pickles” into our music aren’t I? (Please help me I’m falling)! Woe is me, woe is me! Am I alone here? I guess all I have to do is practice, right? Ya’ Right!

Dit - Dit - - Dit Dit - Dit Dit Dit . We interrupt this “hum-dumb” newsletter for some breaking news from the CDC In Washington DC. Because of the large number of Coronavirus (aka COVID-19) outbreaks here in the US., District 8 of the Idaho Old Time fiddlers were restricted from playing at the “Teton Post Acute Care & Rehabilitation Center” (Teton Rehab). Wow! (True story). Did you hear that the most popular, fastest growing, Virus deterrent song in the world today is ? It goes “A, B, C, D, E, F, G, - - H, I, J. (you all probably know the rest) Everyone should sing that song while washing their hands. I can only imagine sitting on the “pot” in a public restroom listening to everyone singing that song while washing their hands!

IOTFA Social Distancing

Who came up with that? What does that mean? How do we do that?

Fortunately, Over the past year or so, in an effort to help Mauna and I (try to) learn many of the tunes we play, I would set my little-itty-bitty recorder somewhere, and record the play, then later, when I get the chance to download the recording into my computer, edit out the unnecessary noise and jokes and burn onto a “CD”. I can just put the CD into my player and play along at a “distance”. I think that I made some extra of these CDs so you too may also practice “Distance jamming”. If you would like to do some “Distance jamming”, just let me know and I can set you up with a CD of “The Virtual District 8 Old Time Fiddlers” so then you’re playing right along with yourself those who you know and use to playing with, and knowing your safe from that nasty old virus bug!

By the time I get this newsletter to you, everybody will be closing their doors! So, let’s all keep on practicing however we can and keep safe, keep in touch

(without touching)!

You can Email me at bbpicker45@gmail.com

Or Text me at (208) 569 9496

This is Terry,
signing off for District 8

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The *IDAHO FIDDLER*

Published by the

IDAHO OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION

May 2020

VOL. 57 NO. 5

District 8

Hello from District 8 where we are bored silly and not able to play music for our favorite people at the care centers. It is just not right. But we did get the opportunity for a very small group to ride on a trailer around the outside of Fairwinds Assisted Living a couple of times and then one time outside at Morningstar Assisted Living. So that helps my attitude. I am very ready to get back to music and seeing my fiddle family which brings me to the next thing

DISTRICT 8 CAMPOUT Yes we will be having our campout and we will even be legal with governor so we are super excited! Please break out of the lock down with us and come play music and just have a great time. The dates are June 5,6,7 at Cedar Park Golf Course in Rigby. All the pertinent information is on the web page under district 8. We would sure love to see your smiling faces. Dry camping is available there and we do have shelter if the weather doesn't straighten out. So nothing to worry about.

That's it for us during this boring time. We sure hope all of you are doing well and staying healthy and haven't gone stir crazy like we have.

See you in June

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The *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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IDAHO OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION

June 2020

VOL. 57 NO. 6

DISTRICT 8

Thanks to Teresa for last month's newsletter, I appreciated it. I kind of "dropped the ball", but I had no desire or news to pass along. Needless to say, my idea of an interactive newsletter has not worked out too well! I have not received anything or heard anything from District 8 members, and without input, there is no output!

Chicken Little

Oh! is it time to wake up yet? I think I have been in hibernation for the past five months. I'm kind of afraid to go outside! I'm afraid the sky might fall on me! Ya', I guess that's the "chicken little" coming out in me!

I know, times have changed, I am not the same little boy who read and kind of believed in fairy tales like "chicken little" but look at it this way. In today's world, would you consider taking off on a trip to - say, St. George, Utah, on uncertain road conditions (COVID 19), in an old vehicle that has seen better days, (the elderly) without even buckling up your seatbelts, (face masks, social distances) just so you can "toot your horn" (play and sing)? As for myself, I guess that I do believe in "Chicken Little".

I know many of you may feel as healthy as young pups, I also know that many of us are in a "high risk" group, (over the age of 65, or have underlying health conditions) of contracting the dreaded COVID-19 disease. I also know we are all looking forward to the time we can all get together and "toot our horns".

District 8 is trying to “softly” re-enter our presence in our communities by playing in smaller groups (five or six players), on the outside the facilities doors to maintain social distancing. I guess we all need to “suck it up” and not be offended if we are not all invited to some of the plays. After all, sometimes we would get as many as ten or fifteen players at some of our plays (kind of excessive), but we are now in a pandemic situation and not in “normal” times!

“What-cha-been-doing”?

I’m kind of fishing for some response from our readers (if there are any) so humor me and let us know what you have been doing during this “lockdown”? It might be kind of fun to hear of your experience (or inexperience). Have you been improving your culinary skills, or learning something new, or like me, just watching the news on TV? Actually, I have been learning to play my 8-string lap steel guitar and I’m also refurbishing my basement that got flooded last year. Now, wasn’t that interesting? I’ve noticed on Facebook that at least a couple of you are playing music, and Teresa is learning to play the mandolin, and she is sounding really good! How about the rest of you? Send me your experiences and I’ll be glad to include them in our newsletters

We, meaning what members we could gather up, have had a couple of plays that has kind of been “out of the box” plays. We were what you mite say was “curb side” players. Yup, we kind of took our music to the streets of the elderly, right in front of their individual homes. We would play a couple of tunes, get back on our band wagon’s, and paraded off to another house porch. It was fun to see the happiness it gave the, (as well as some of their neighbors). We did this on June 13th and today, he 20th. We will be doing it again on June the 27th. I’ll have to admit that for a few of us “old duffers” it was quite labor intense. We visited 10 or 12 places each time. That meant loading up our instruments (including the big bass), drive to the next location, play a song or two, load up our instruments, drive to the next house, and we did this scattered throughout Idaho Falls. Just call us “the traveling minstrels”!

This is Terry of District 8

Signing off

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The *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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July 2020

VOL. 57 NO. 7

DISTRICT 8

During these uncertain times, our district is starting to play again for some of the assisted living venues now. We are not playing inside but with the great weather that we are having, we can now play outside, and they're really loving it.

We also met July 10th for a 100th Birthday jam for Inga. It was really fun and Teresa read a biography of her that she wrote a few years ago. She was asked for her secret to longevity, she said "simple, just keep breathing in and out and dance". Hum, I think I'll just give the breathing a try!

Are any of you having the same problem of remembering how to play some of the standard tunes like I am? Since this "COVID 19" shut down, I guess that I kind of shutdown everything, including keeping up with my music. We did use that period to get a few products done around our home which took up a lot of our time. But with all our stuff crammed into one or two rooms, while working on different rooms, we were kind of limited on keeping up with our music! "I know, I know" that's no excuse, but "that's my story and I'm sticking to it!"

We did, of course play out to Mud Lake museum for an incredibly fun crowd, and we all had a fun time 😊 uh, at least I think we did? Did you all have a fun time?

I have not heard back from anyone in our district, so I don't really know what's been happening or going on outside my "bubble", so let me know if something is fun, or interesting going on in your bubble. I have been trying to get District 8 to "bubble up together". No luck yet!

This is Terry, signing off for now

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The *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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DISTRICT 8

Summer is definitely upon us now. I just got through complaining about how cold and miserable winter is, then Mother Nature warms us up with summer, now I get to complain about the heat! One thing we can agree on, is that we can never get tired of complaining about the weather.

I hope you all are keeping yourself safe from the pandemic. That is something that we all complain about, but it is real. It is affecting us all in one way or another. Let's all do what we need to do to keep ourselves and others safe.

How are you doing with keeping "up to speed" with the OTF music? I know how easy it is to just put your instruments away because you now have no one to play with. If you are like me, it is so easy to find other things to do at home but play my instrument by myself. I would like to hear from you. How do you keep yourself active in your OTF music? I know that there are many things that you can do, what is your way? Let me know so we can share it with the rest of the group. (See below for text & email info).

I see on Facebook that some of you have found ways to keep active playing, which is great, just make sure your keeping yourself and others safe.

By the way, I received an email from Scott Holman, a banjo player in Washington. (Surprise, surprise, surprise! I guess that at least one person actually read one of our newsletters). He is an active member of the WOTFA in Washington state. He said "I have been playing old time banjo since 1964 and guitar since 1988. I sing a bit as well". Scott will be moving into our district area this fall and looking forward to playing with us. He plays banjo the old style (I guess that's claw style?). We all hope that his move will enjoyable and safe.

Well I guess that it's about time to put this newsletter bed. Let us keep in touch and be safe. This is Terry signing off for District 8.

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DISTRICT 8

Summer is almost over and we have missed playing at our regular plays so much. And we have missed getting together with all of you fiddlers from all over the State. I, for one, am ready for life to get back on track. I hope all of you have been staying healthy and enjoying a little quieter life than normal. We are sad that Raynae Redman and her hubby will be leaving Idaho, and District 2, but very happy for them to be closer to family. Family is what it is all about.

We are also sad to share that our bass player, co chairman of District 8, and dear friend Mauna Kerswell left this world on Friday, September 4, 2020 to be with our Heavenly Father and those that have passed on before her. She will be dearly missed.

We are having a workshop with Mike and Tari Conroy in Island Park in October and we are super excited for that. We love the Conroys and we are so lucky that they will come and do these workshops with us. I am sure it is not an easy task. With different levels of talent and understanding and patience, holy mama, it is not an easy one.

That's it for now from District 8. Hope to see all of you soon

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The **IDAHO FIDDLER**

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Let's talk a bit about things we can do to make our music a bit more pleasing to listen to. A little bit more "put together", Smooth down the rough edges! Now I'm not claiming to be an authority on this subject but sometimes, you'll have to admit, we do sound like ah – ah – well chaos! I know that we are not a "band" per say, but we can maybe sound a little bit closer to one! Case in point?

As I was driving down the road one day, listening to my favorite radio station playing my favorite type of music, when I finally realized something quite interesting. I noticed that when the singer was singing, I could hear a rhythm section (guitar, keyboard, a bass, and drums) playing along with the singer but of course the singer's voice stood out, like he or she was right in front, close to me! (Imagine that)! But I also could hear in "spots" a little something else going on. In between phrases, another instrument, (like a fiddle, or guitar, or dobro, or banjo etc.) would "pop in" with a little "lick" or two. These little "licks" really tied everything together. One other thing, these, little "spots" could also be filled with silence. Well I'm not telling you anything new here, but this may be something we might keep in mind especially when our attendance gets upward of seven or eight players and you might feel "I'm just taking up space". Well you are not! That is, you are not just taking up space, **you are doing your part in that musical number**. You just need to figure out, just what that part is, what can you do to be the most beneficial to help make that musical sound the best that we can.

We can't wait to get back to "normal" after this "COVID" thing gets over and if you're like me, I wonder what will "normal" become for the Old Time Fiddlers? Will we have a certain number of "casualties" (active members dropping out or losing interest)? Perhaps the opposite, membership may grow. Music may be the perfect "antidote" that we all could use to get our lives back to normalcy. My suggestion would be to make it the best we can.

I would like to hear comments on this subject. This is Terry with District 8 signing off. for now
PS. Better times are coming\$ &#"

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The
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