

Presidents Message

Greetings from the sometimes snowy Northern California!

We are definitely on the downhill slide going into the CSOTFA Fiddle and Picking Championships to be held in Lodi on April 21-23, 2023. Instead of my typical message to you, this time I'd like to give you the current state of the income/expenses for the upcoming contest and follow that up with a request for donations.

As it stands right now, various Districts and individuals have donated (or pledged) a total of \$3435 toward the total prize money of \$4380. Many thanks for these generous donations! They definitely help. However, the total cost for the contest will be something around \$11,000.

These expenses include not just prize money, but hall rental, sound system, medallions, judges' and MC fees. We do anticipate some income from gate donations, the raffle, vendor income, and participant entry fees which last year totaled around \$3000.

As you can see, we have quite a ways to go. I don't know how to say this without it sounding just a tad desperate, so here goes....

If any District, CSOTFA member or just a friend who wants to support oldtime fiddle music and would be able to make a donation, it would be greatly appreciated.

You may bring a check to the contest, give it to your Director, or mail it to me at Sharon Barrett, PO Box 101, Red Bluff CA 96080.

Thank you so much, and we look forward to seeing you in Lodi!

Sharon Barrett, President

2023 55th Annual California State Old Time Open Fiddle & Picking Championships April 21-22, 2023

This is CSOTFA's biggest event of the year. We are required by our By-Laws to conduct a California state contest and we have opened it up to out of state contestants.

As you can see this is the 55th year for the contest and after so many years it is now in danger of being our last year. None of us want to see this happen. We need sponsors, donations and support to keep the contest alive for many more years.

If you would like to make a donation or a sponsorship in memory or honor of a friend or loved one it will be published in the Contest Program. (<u>See Sharon's note</u>)

Some contest information & forms are included in this newsletter to encourage more participation from our members. Consider coming to the contest and entering!!

Also, there is a lot of jamming going on all around the fair grounds with our friends from the California Bluegrass Association. You can even camp out if you like! It really is a lot of fun.

There are also other contests in northern & southern California see flyers on page 9.

This years contest will be dedicated to the memory of Art Kee who passed away in Dec 2022. Art was very well known and loved in the fiddle music world as well as the contest world. He is missed by so many CSOTFA folks.

Cathy Agnew, Editor

California State Old Time Fiddlers' Association P.O. Box 1703 Oroville, CA 95965

State Officers

President: Sharon Barrett -texshar@pacbell.net V. Pres: Kathy Kampschmidt -kdkampy@sbcglobal.net Secretary: Mary Rose Preston- maryrose@wavecable.com Treasurer: Robert Curtis - rocurtis@gatewayacceptance.com Membership: Ruth Oveland - roveland@sbcglobal.net Editor: Cathy Agnew -catherineagnew448@gmail.com

State Directors

District 1: Zeke Walker - zeke103@digitalpath.net District 3: Wayne Agnew- howellagnew@gmail.com District 4: Pat Nelson -- rpnelson@pacbell.net District 5: Lyle Dixson - Lyle@DATEQ.NET District 6: Tex Ash -- texshar@pacbell.net District 7: Dan Touhstone - dtouchstonefiddler@gmail.com District 8: Sid Brown - sidnyb@outlook.com District 9: Bob Palasek - r03palasek@sbcglobal.net District 10: Tim Rued - timrued@aol.com

DISTRICT MEETING LOCATIONS, DATES, AND TIMES:

District 1	4 th Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Feather River Senior Center, 1335 Meyer St. Oroville, CA https://csotfad1.weebly.com		
District 3	2 nd Sunday 2:00-5:00 p.m.: 21100 Lonely Lane, Tehachapi, CA		
District 4	1 st Sunday 12:00-3:00 p.m.: 17392 Chicago Ave., Yorba Linda, CA RSVP at 714-524-6673		
District 5	2nd Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Orangevale Grange, 5807 Walnut Ave, Orangevale, CA		
District 6	1 st Sunday 1:00-3:00 p.m. Open Circle Jam, 3:00 p.m. Board Meeting St. James Lutheran Church , 2500 Shasta View Blvd,, Redding: 3 rd Sunday, 1:00 p.m. Workshop & Jam, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Open Mic. , Palo Cedro Community Hall, 22037 Old Forty-Four Drive . Website: http:www.northstatefiddlers.com Facebook :North State Fiddlers		
District 7	2nd Sunday 12:00-2:45 p.m.: Terrace Estates Clubhouse, 1815 Sweetwater Road, Spring Valley, CA		
District 8	2nd & 4th Sunday 1:30-4:00 p.m.: Oak View Community Center, 18 Valley Rd., Oak View, CA		
District 9	4th Sunday 1:30-5:00 p.m.: United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria St., Castro Valley, CA		
District 10	4 th Sunday 3:00-5:00: Redwood Cafe, Cotati. Janette Duncan, Chris Carney, Steve DeLap, 707-570-2745		



California State Old Time Fiddlers Association

2023

55th Annual

California State

Old Time Open Fiddle

& Picking Championships

April 21-22, 2023

Lodi Grape Festival Fairgrounds Jackson Hall 413 E. Lockeford St.

RV Camping at Fairgrounds \$40 per night. Limited hookups. Tent/vehicle

camping \$10 per night. **Reservations required Contact: Deblivermore@California**

Bluegrass.net

Lodi, CA

In coordination with



CBA Spring Campout April 18-22, 2023

For More Info Call Contest Co-Chair Mark Hogan 707-479-5529 email: hogiemoon@comcast.net Sharon Barrett 530-604-5279 email: texshar@pacbell.net

Visit our website www.csotfa.org for full listings of schedules, divisions, rules & guidelines

ALIFORNIA STATE OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION & PERPETUATION OF OLD TIME FIDDLE MUSIC

Prizes & Awards

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PeeWee (ages 8 & under)	Jr Tv
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1 st Place	\$250	
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Girl & Oldest Fiddler					
Medals for each.					
1,100					

Contest Schedule

Friday, April 21,2023

1:30 PM	CSOTFA General Membership Meeting
2:30 PM	Registration Opens
3:00 PM	Judges' Meeting
3:15 PM	Opening
3:30 PM	Senior Senior Round 1 (age 70 and over)
4:15 PM	Senior Round 1 (age 55-69)
5:00 PM	Dinner Break
6:00 PM	Senior Senior Finals (age 70 and over)
6:25 PM	Senior Finals (age 55-69)
6:50 PM	Awards: Senior Senior, Oldest Fiddler, Senior
7:00 PM	Anything Goes followed by the awards

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Saturday, April 22,2023 Saturday, April 23

8:00 AM	Registration Opens
8:30 AM	Judges' Meeting
9:30 AM	Young Adult Round 1 (age 18-36)
10:00 AM	Adult Round 1 (age 37-59)
10:30 AM	Peewee Round 1 (age 8 and under)
11:15 AM	Jr Jr Round 1 (age 9-12)
	Junior Round 1 (age 13-17)
12:45 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM	Jr Twin Fiddle Round 1 (17 and under)
2:30 PM	Open Twin Fiddle Round 1 (any age)
3:00 PM	Junior Picking Round 1 (17 and under)
3:30 PM	Open Picking Round 1 (any age)
4:00 PM	Open Round 1 (any age)
4:30 PM	Dinner Break
6:00 PM	Colors, Flag Salute, Invocation, Huffman Award
6:15 PM	Peewee Finals (age 8 and under)
6:40 PM	Jr Jr Finals (age 9-12)
7:05 PM	
7:20 PM	Jr Twin Fiddle Finals (age 17 and under)
7:35 PM	Awards: Peewee, Youngest Fiddlers,
	Jr Jr, Jr Picking, Jr Twin Fiddle
7:50 PM	Open Twin Fiddle Finals (any age)
8:05 PM	Open Picking Finals (any age)
8:20 PM	Young Adult Finals (age 18-36)
8:45 PM	Adult Finals (age 37-59)
9:10 PM	Junior Finals (age 13-17)
9:35 PM	Open Finals (any age)
10:00 PM	Awards: Open Twin Fiddle, Open Picking,
	Young Adult, Adult, Junior, Open

NOTE: This is a **tentative schedule**. Times may vary, depending upon the number of contestants. Contestants must check in at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start of their division.



2023 CSOTFA Registration

Address	Birthdate	Age
City	State	Zip
Email	Phone	
Occupation		
Hobbies		
Recent Contests Won		
Instrument teacher (s)		
	Divisions	
Senior Senior (70 & over) \$15 Senior (60-69) \$15 Adult (37-59) \$15 Young Adult (18-36)\$15 Junior (13-17) \$12 Junior Junior (9-12) \$10 Peewee (8 & under) \$5 Open (any age) \$25 Junior Picking (17 & under) \$10 Open Picking (any age) \$10 Accompanist (any age) \$15 Jr Twin (17 & under) \$5 each Open Twin (any age) \$5 each CSOTFA Member		
Picking Instrument	Total	

Name of Twin Fiddler

In consideration of California State Old Time Fiddlers Association expending time and monies promoting and hosting the California State Oldtime Fiddle and Picking Championships and the opportunity of the undersigned to participate therein, the undersigned does hereby release, transfer, and assign to the California State Old Time Fiddlers Association any and all rights to commercial recordings, videos, and/or photographs which may be made by the California State Old Time Fiddlers Association, its agents or assignees, of the current year's California State Old Time Fiddle and Picking Championships.

Date

 Date
 Signature

 Presented by the California State Old Time Fiddle Association, a California non-profit and U.S. IRS 501(c)(3)
 charitable corporation, formed to educate and perpetuate the art and cultural heritage of Fiddle Music.

If you would like to pre-register, please fill out the registration form & mail along with a check by April 10 (no refunds) to:

Sharon Barrett, PO Box 101, Red Bluff CA 96080



District 1 has been preparing our baskets for the upcoming Championships Raffle. Hope everyone plans to attend.

We continue to have our Jams (on the 4th Sunday of the month at 1335 Myers Street, Oroville) and workshops (1st and 3rd Monday of the month at Chateau Mobile Home Estates Clubhouse, 1047 14th Street, Oroville) with some really great teachers providing group lessons before the workshops. Check out the website (www.csotfad1.weebly.com) for details on the time and location for the jams and the workshops and any changes of locations, days or times.

We are actively encouraging youngsters to come to our jams and the workshops via their music teachers. We also have a lending library of instruments for any young or old aspiring musicians. We invite all you aspiring musicians in Butte County and surrounding areas to come and join us.

We welcome anyone with an acoustic instrument.



Not much going on in District 3 except looking forward to the 46th Annual Fiddlin Down the Tracks contest Sept. 23, 2023. This years Chairman will be Lisa Rosa. See flyer on page 9 for more details.

Also we would like to encourage our members to support the State Fiddle contest in Lodi April 21-22.

The Anything Goes division at the State contest is the most fun and basically the entertainment for Friday night. The rules and prize money are on page 10. So get your group together and enter !! You might win \$250.



District 4 met this past weekend at Pat Nelson's home, our current monthly location. Many Irish tunes were on the agenda as a nod to St. Patrick's Day and green was the predominant color of the treats. We are enjoying our intimate gatherings and our members graciously share tunes and suggestions with each other. Our next jam is 12 - 3 on April 2. District 4 meets the 1st Sunday 12:00-3:00 p.m.: 17392 Chicago Ave., Yorba Linda, CA RSVP at 714-524-6673.

District 5 Lyle Dixon

At our Jam in February I became aware that not all of our members are aware of some of the many internet fiddle resources that are easily accessible and available to help us improve and develop our fiddling skills. These sources can greatly expand our knowledge of old time fiddling tunes & of old time music. I am just going to list several sites that I have found very helpful in giving you access to hundreds of old time tunes! These sites are easy to Google or to find using your particular search engine.

My number one favorite: 641 Fiddle Tunes-Jim's Roots & Blues Calendar. At Jim's you can select a song and it will bring up a sheet music version of that song! Also it has a video (sometimes more than one) of persons or groups performing the song.

A similar site: Old Time Fiddle Tunes. This site has over 850 traditional fiddle tunes in a little different format & style than Jim's but with the same basic options. Neither of these sites of course has every song you may be looking for but they sure provide a wealth of fiddle material!

Finally I would like to bring up a positive CSOTFA human resource that is available to all of us: Go to YouTube Search and enter Fiddle Supporter (Lyle Dixson). You will not be disappointed. Lyle has videoed years & years of fiddle contests in all parts of our country as well as numerous informal fiddle jams. In fact if you have been in a fiddle contest chances are good that you will be in one of Lyle's presentations. If you are scoping out the competition or just like listening to & viewing fantastic performances this is the site for you! Hats off to you Lyle for all of your hard work & dedication!

Thanks! Jeff Gebhart: District#5 President





District 7 held our first jam of the new year on the second Sunday of the month, as we always do. We had excellent attendance with twelve musicians, nine of whom where fiddle players. But before January was over, we had lost three long time members of our club. Sandra Rios, Dixie Necochea, and Roger Hale all passed within just a few days of each other. They were integral members of our organization and they will be truly missed.

We continue to hold monthly jams open to all acoustic instruments on the second Sunday of each month at the Terrace Estates Mobile Home Park,1815 Sweetwater Road, Spring Valley, CA . A number of residents of the park are regular patrons and avid listeners of our old time music.

We are in the process of updating and revising our website with the help of past presidents Linda Rinner and Greg Gross. And we thank Greg for his generous assistance in funding the site.

Artists & Crafters Wanted

Are an artist or a crafter ?? How about setting up a booth at the State Fiddle Contest April 21-22,2023 ??

We are looking for artists with unique, one of a kind, hand crafted items. The booth fee is very reasonable at \$25 for both days plus we ask that you donate one item valued at \$50 for our raffle. There are limited spaces inside but more space outside. So get your reservations soon!!

If you are interested please contact me and I will send you a contract:

Cathy Agnew at catherineagnew448@gmail.com

Thanks,

Cathy

District 8

Sid Brown

After the Christmas dinner, the new board members were sworn in. From left to right, the board is: Ken Luper ,Advisor Sid Brown, State Director Bob Levin, Advisor Jim Friery, Publicity Chair Joe Johnson,Treasury & Membership Secretary Debby Finley Delamore, Vice President Ray Magee ,President Marilyn Flynn, Recorder Not Shown are advisors Dianna Brown, Mike Taylor, and Gordon Roberts





Sus Corez received the Huffman award this year. She is one of our past presidents; was very dedicated to our organization and spent many hours of her free time promoting and holding things together during challenging times.

Although our bank account has been holding steady, we've had some good news. One of our main sources of income is coming back to life and that is playing gigs. Late last year a troupe of five played at "Saint John's Hospital Continuing Care " in Camarillo for their Holiday party. A fun time was had by all; everyone was singing along and the staff was dancing to the music. The musicians were from left toright: Fred Rothenberg, Ray Magee, Debby Finley Delamore, Robert Challen, and Lynn Wolfe.





District 9 has been meeting regularly for its 4th Sunday jam at the Castro Valley United Methodist Church hall, 19806 Wisteria Street, Castro Valley. The jam starts at 1:30.

January's jam had a somewhat sparse attendance, but in February attendance picked up substantially. A good time was had by all.

Our district board met and decided that with the state and the county's loosening of COVID restrictions,we could again introduce the potluck as part of the jam's program. But this will not happen until we have found two regular volunteers to manage the potluck and the kitchen. This issue is still being worked.



Here's another -SPOTLIGHT ON- one of our District 10 members- Bruce Sexauer. I asked one of our members if he would do a write up on Bruce. I didn't feel I could do it justice. Here it is:

Everybody who plays music has a similar goal: play a tune as best you can and then next time, play it a little better. Bruce Sexauer fits that description as a musician but more notably as a luthier. Although reaching GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) status in the crowded field of custom guitar building is unlikely, some would argue that Sexauer's creations can't get much better.

Sexauer guitars are in the capable hands of good musicians all over the world, including Joe Satriani and Wayne Serman (with Imagin Dragons). Steve Stallings, founder of the Unofficial Martin Guitar Forum, on Sexauer: "I would describe Bruce's approach as being based in tradition but he incorporates evolutionary design improvements in his instruments that make them high-end music machines. He also is an accomplished player and he brings those senses and experiences to his craft. Bruce is one of the few luthiers who works without body molds and can literally make any size or shape a client might be looking for." In a podcast last year, Sexauer said "My goal is to be the best guitar maker in the world — the Stradivarius of hand-made guitars." He tried to quit but it isn't working out. "After two attempts to retire, I have given it up and taken a new commission as recently as a half hour ago," Sexauer, 75, said in the first week of March. "One instrument at a time, till I drop, apparently."

Starting in Canada more than 55 years ago, he eventually found his way to temperate Sonoma County with weather conditions conducive to year-round building. He's still at it in his Petaluma shop, but not just guitars. He's also moved into designing and building violins.

Starting with solid-body electric guitars in 1968 after being inspired by blues guitarist Buddy Guy, Sexauer has made more than 600 guitars — mostly flat-top, steel string acoustic. Average price for a Sexauer guitar is about \$15,000. He's also designed and built harps, ukuleles, psaltries, dulcimers and most recently violins. He's made a dozen fiddles so far. His musical journey now has him playing old-time tunes on his homemade fiddles. "I had a singer/songwriter career for my first 15 years of music," Sexauer said. "Then I got into swing with an accent on improvisation, and finally (so far), Americana." After starting to build violins in 2001, Sexauer has been honing a variety of chops on the fiddle.

"My interest was more bluegrass, but lacking the necessary skill, old time and Celtic offered me a social context for music," Sexauer said.

In addition to his own handmade instruments, Sexauer has a variety of other stringed instruments — many of them for sale. Navigating the learning curve for violins, "caused me to accumulate about 30 decent fiddles and it is time for me to pass them on to others at fair prices," Sexauer said. To learn more, commission a guitar or find out what tunes he's working on this week:

Websitesexauerlutherie.comEmailbruce@mojoluthier.comCell(707) 478-2080Shop(707) 782-1044



The author of this article did not wish me to publish his name.....no it wasn't Bruce! and I didn't write this, therefore, I refuse to take credit for this very well written article of this very special man. So I'm signing it with:

By: Monsieur Mo'dest H. Umble



iddle Guitar Mandolin Banjo Bass Vocals

May 3 - 7, 2023

GET ON BOARD!

The 2023 Julian Family Fiddle Camp (JFFC) has opened registration and, if things go like they did last year, the Camp will be fully subscribed in no time. We'll again be held at Camp Whispering Winds - a rural, well-appointed family retreat center offering bunks in cabins, a limited number of semi-private rooms, and space for dry RV and tent camping (dedicated showers and toilet facilities nearby). For one price you get your room, all meals, instruction and admission to our Friday and Saturday night public concerts. Heck, it you get your registration and full payment in by the end of February, you get 5% off your total fee. Yes, it's a deal, so GO FOR

JFFC@californiabluegrass.net

JFFC merges with CBA!

JFFC is proud to announce that it is now a part of the <u>California Bluegrass</u> <u>Association (CBA). CBA was founded nearly 50 years ago, with mission to</u> <u>encourage, foster and cultivate</u> the preservation, appreciation, understanding, enjoyment, support, and performance of Bluegrass, Old-time, gospel, and traditional instrumental and vocal music of the United States. CBA's purpose is aligned with that of JFFC's, and the new relationship is one that will ensure JFFC's continuance in San Diego County for many years to come. As Founder and Director of JFFC for the past dozen years, I will stay on as Director of JFFC, helping to assure continuity and to realize a smooth transition of JFFC into the hands of a large and well-established organization.

Avery Ellisman



California State Old Time Fiddlers, District 3 Weiser Certified "FIDDLIN' DOWN THE TRACKS"

46[™] ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLE CONTEST SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

Country Oaks Baptist Church

20915 Schout Rd., Tehachapi, CA

Free Admission Open to the Public

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Peewee Division Junior- Junior Division Junior Division Adult Division Senior Division Senior - Senior Division Grand Champion Playoff

Twin Fiddle Divisions Picking Divisions Novelty Division Cello/Bass Division Jr. Band Scramble Adult Band Scramble

Division Winners receive cash prizes, trophy or medal

Contest Held in Honor of Carl Parnell

For More Information Contact

Lisa Rosa: 559-903-4642 or

email: 2ofmanyrosas@gmail.com

Gayel Pitchford: 661-821-7511 or

email: captgayel@cybersurfers.net

Facebook: District 3 California State Old Time Fiddlers website centralcalfiddlers.com

Quilts on Display are provided by the Tehachapi Mountain Quilters





CSOTFA

ANYTHING GOES RULES

- Any acoustic instrument may be played during this division.

 Bands/Groups/vocals may be included.
- Sign up is mandatory by 5:30pm on Friday, April 21, 2023.
- 3. Contestants may play two (2) tune of their choice: fast or slow, vocals or instrumentals.
- 4. Time limit is 6 minutes. Time starts when you start tune or say something to audience.
- Contestants will be allowed to have a group size of up to 5 on stage. Lead Contestant may not be on stage more than once except to play rhythm backup for another Contestant.
- Judging will be based on: Audience Appeal, Stage Presence, Originality, and Technical Ability.
- 10 points will be deducted for going over time and for every 10 seconds afterwards
- 8. Fee is \$20 per individual or group. Entry registration at Anything Goes Table.
- 9. Contestants will draw for playing order.
- Prize money distribution as noted below: 1st Place - \$250 2nd Place - \$125 3nd Place - \$75 4th Place - \$50 5th Place - \$25

For info: Wayne Agnew @ 805-517-1131 or @ Email CSOTFA@roadrunner.com



The CBA Spring Campout and California State Old Time Fiddle & Picking Championships will be held April 18 – 23, 2023.

Anything Goes 2022









The 48th annual Festival will be held June 15 through 18, 2023 in Grass Valley. Pre-sales tickets are now available.

For more information on these events and others see californiabluegrass.org





