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**“Preserving and Perpetuating Old Time Fiddle Music”**

## Presidents Message

Dear Friends,

It certainly has been—and continues to be—a unique, challenging, sometimes scary spring, hasn't it? When Cathy asked me to write some words of encouragement for this edition of the *Soundpost*, I thought I'd “keep on the sunny side,” and give you my list of a few things for which I am grateful:

- 1) Health is certainly at the top of everyone's list. I pray this finds you and yours safe and well, if feeling a bit confined.
- 2) Golf—Our course has remained open with some significant mitigations, which affords us the opportunity for a beautiful walk for a couple of hours (even if the golf itself is far less than wonderful) six days a week. And, as Tex's doctor said, we're not going to catch anything from the herd of turkeys on the back nine.
- 3) Facebook memes-- For someone with a slightly off-center sense of humor, there are some truly hysterical postings on Facebook. Check it out!
- 4) Yarn—I have enough yarn in this house to keep me busy for at least the next 50 years. So far, this has resulted in two afghans, numerous scarves and shawls, and most of a mohair sweater. Tex has made at least 20 scarves. Anyone need anything? I could take orders....
- 5) Weather—Here in Red Bluff we are having a spectacular spring. We even made a field trip to Oroville last week to look at the wildflower display—never getting out of the car, of course.
- 6) Hallmark Christmas movies—need I say more?
- 7) Finally, with all of the fiddle contests, festivals, campouts, jams, rehearsals etc. that have been cancelled, we wanted to offer a glimmer of hope for all of you socially starved musicians. We are definitely planning on holding the Western Open as scheduled in October 2020. Please consider joining us to celebrate with our Fiddle Family.

We miss everyone. We love you all, and we know we will get through this together while apart.

Sharon



## Editor's Note

Hey there everyone,

Because of the current situation in the world today I knew that most districts would not have a report on the happenings in their area. I thought it might be a good time to introduce our members to the State Board of Directors. I requested each officer and each director to send me a bio on themselves plus some fun information about themselves. I also wanted pictures so you could put a name to a face. Some districts took it a bit further and included some of their local board members which made for an interesting article. In the following pages you can read about those who sent in their info. Maybe next month we can get the others.

A couple districts were able to get in a contest before we were all put under “house arrest”!! So there are pictures and results from those contests.

We pray everyone is staying safe and well. And we all look forward to the day we can once again meet, share and enjoy our music.

Sincerely,

Cathy Agnew

# 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: Charley Oveland - croveland@sbcglobal.net

Editor: Cathy Agnew - themimi@roadrunner.com

### State Directors

District 1: Terri e Rockwell - tbrockwell456@gmail.com

District 3: Gayel Pitchford -- captgayel@cybersurfers.net

District 4: Pat Nelson -- rpnelson@pacbell.net

District 5: Lyle Dixson - Lyle@DATEQ.NET

District 6: Tex Ash -- texshar@pacbell.net

District 7: Dan Touchstone-dtouchstonefiddler@gmail.com

District 8: Pat Cronin -sympaticomusic.com

District 9: Bob Palasek - r03palasek@sbcglobal.net

District 10: Mark Hogan- hogiemoon@comcast.net

## **DISTRICT MEETING LOCATIONS, DATES, AND TIMES:**

District 1 4th Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Feather River Senior Center 1335 Meyer St. Oroville

District 3 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 2:00-5:00 p.m. 21100 Lonely Lane, Tehachapi Ca

District 4 1st Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m.: Orange Thorpe Pk. Activity Bldg., 1414 Brookhurst, Fullerton

CA District 5 2nd Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Orangevale Grange, 5807 Walnut Ave. Orangevale CA

District 6 Free Old Time Fiddle Jams 1st Sunday, 1:00 - 3:00 Open Circle Jam, 3:00 Board Meeting St. James Lutheran Church 2500 Shasta View Blvd. Redding ;3rd Sunday, 1:00 Workshop & Jam, 2:00-4:00 Open Mic Palo Cedro Community Hall, 22037 Old Forty-Four Drive Website: <http://www.northstatefiddlers.com><sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>  
Facebook: North State Fiddlers

District 7 2nd Sunday 12:00-2:45PM: Terrace Estates Clubhouse, 1815 Sweetwater Road, Spring Valley, CA  
3rd Sunday 12:30-1:00 PM Workshop, 1:00-3:00 Jam: Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Dr., Room 140 Encinitas CA  
4th Sunday 12:00-2:45 PM: Rancho San Diego Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego, El Cajon, 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 Redwood Cafe, Cotati. Every 4th Sunday 3:00 to 5:00. Janette Duncan, Chris Carney, Steve DeLap, 707-570-2745.



# Meet Our Officers & Directors

**President  
Sharon Barrett**

**Chairman of Board  
Tex Ash**

I was born in Rio Grande City, Texas, in the Free State of Star in 1953. My parents had the good sense to move to California when I was three and settled in Redding in 1961. I graduated from Shasta High there and went 70 miles down the road to get my BA from Chico State and then a Masters in Mathematics Education from Nova Southeastern University. I taught 38 years in the Red Bluff Union Elementary School District and after retiring, was elected to the School Board in the same District where I am currently serving my 7th year.

One of my most enduring (endearing?) characteristics is that I am never bored. I am interested in a wide variety of things and would have been perfectly happy to stay in college forever if someone would support me in the lifestyle to which I aspired. My current (perhaps somewhat obsessive) hobbies are (in no particular order): knitting; sewing; reading; golfing; watching too much TV; and petting one or more of our five cats.

You might not know that I have quite a selection of musical instruments, always thinking that I'll get really into learning how to play one with some degree of competence. These include: a dobro, more than one fiddle, two parlor guitars, baritone ukulele, and a beautiful Martin D35 that I bought from Tom Riddle at the CSOTFA State Contest in Madera many years ago. I also have an electric piano and took piano lessons for two years, quitting because performing at recitals scared the spit out of me. I sang baritone with the Sweet Adelines for about 15 years and it was the hardest thing I have ever done. I am a visual and/or kinesthetic learner, and a cappella harmony really requires one to be an auditory learner-- which I most assuredly am NOT!

Tex and I met in 1986 and have been together ever since. We met at a square dance, and really miss it as square dancing has largely died here in Northern California. When I started hanging out with Tex, that naturally began my involvement with CSOTFA. At the State level, I have served as Secretary as well as President, but am looking for a successor for that job. Any takers?

Just for grins, I am probably the only person you know who HATES peanut butter. I know, I know. That probably makes me an alien or something.

At 10:27 PM on 7 September 1935, Anna Marie (Frank) Ash gave birth to a 9 pound 8 oz. baby boy. That was me. They named me after my two grandpas, but for most of my life, I've been just Tex.

We lived on a farm in the German community of Umbarger, Texas, near my mother's family. When I was 4 years old, my dad got a job with Consolidated Aircraft Co. in San Diego, where he helped build B-24 bombers during the second World War, so I grew up in the San Diego area. I went to public school through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, then parochial school, followed by four years at St. Augustine's High School where I began my musical "career" as the bass drummer in the Saint's marching band. Sometime in my sophomore year, I joined a 12 piece dance band where I was introduced to the double bass.

After high school, I worked for Convair and for my Uncle Ernie on his cattle and cotton ranch. For several years after leaving Convair, my jobs included ranching; cook; dishwasher; surveying; being an extra on the TV shows *26 Men* and *Wagon Train*; and topping it all off with the movie *Rio Bravo* with John Wayne.

Somewhere in there, I was drafted in the Army where I spent most of my time in Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Back to San Diego I went, where my jobs included: technical illustrator; inspection and engineer's aide; truck driver delivering telephone poles; working for National Van lines moving furniture cross country; gravel plant dump truck driver; rodeo bullfighter; and restaurant cook. I moved to Weed CA where I played a lot of music; did surveys in the woods; managed Mae's Truckstop Café; married my first wife who already had two boys and a girl; and we added another boy and a girl. We ultimately moved to Happy Valley outside of Anderson CA, where I spent a couple of years on the Happy Valley School Board and landed what was my most long-term job of them all, resulting in 29 years of work with Simpson Paper Company.

Early in 1983 came a divorce, and in 1986 I asked Sharon to come with me to a square dance in Chico. We were married shortly after on New Year's Eve and it has been the best 34 years of my life. Around when I started work at Simpson, I began playing with some of the oldtime fiddlers of CSOTFA District 6. I have served that District as President and District Director multiple times.

My MC career has included every Western Open since it began in 1982; the North Regional in Bakersfield; many CSOTFA State contests; Weaverville; Oregon State; Nevada Civil War Days Contest; a cute little contest in Hayfork; 25 years at the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest in Weiser; and many more. My musical interests range from Big Band; Dixieland; Ragtime; Hillbilly; Country; Show Tunes; Early Rock and Roll; and, of course, Old Time Fiddle.

**Membership  
Secretary  
Charley Oveland**



Born May 1938 in San Mateo, CA

He began playing the violin at age 7 yrs. Played in the school orchestra and took private lessons as well. When he got to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, he took up the trumpet. In high school he played violin in the school orchestra and trumpet in the marching band. Then came college and family so his musical talent was put on hold.

Charley met his wife Ruth at San Jose State College in 1959 and they were married in December 1960. They have 2 adult children(they're almost senior citizens), 3 adult grand kids and 3 great grand daughters. Charley worked at Hewlett Packard for 32+ years.

In 1994, after a 40 year lapse and following the death of a maternal uncle, his mother gave him his grandfather's fiddle. It needed a bow repair so he took it to Dick Barthelmus in San Jose. While there, he entered a drawing to win a fiddle. He did win it and began his association with the CSOTFA and the Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association(SCVFA). In 1997, he attended Weiser National Fiddle Contest as a spectator and became interested in competing. Among the various contests he's competed are Cloverdale, CA State Fiddle contest, Weiser National contest, Tehachapi Contest, Death Valley Fiddlers contest and several others. He continues as a member in CSOTFA and SCVFA and has served CSOTFA as State Membership Secretary since 2005.

Ruth became involved in District 9 in the early 2000's. At that time Charley was the District 9 Director. In 2005, he became the State Membership Secretary, taking over from Ernie Yoes, and Ruth took over the District 9 Director's position which she held for approximately 13 years. She was Chairman of the State BOD for 3 years and continues to help to make meeting reservations at both the State and local levels when requested.

Charley suffered a mild stroke in 2012, and has worked very hard to get his left hand and fingers agile so he could continue fiddling. He picks up the fiddle at home frequently and when he attends local fiddle jams, he has some good friends to play with.

**Soundpost Editor  
Cathy Agnew**



"I'm Proud To Be An Okie From Muskogee"! Yes there really is a Muskogee, OK. I am the oldest of 11 children. I was raised in a 2 bedroom house with triple bunk beds. Never could figured out how in a 2 bedroom house their was time to produce 11 kids???

Met my husband the summer before my sophomore year in high school. I graduated from High School in 1964 and married my husband Wayne the same year. We celebrated our 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this February. We have two daughters and 4 grandchildren. I am very blessed that they are all close by so I can see them several times a week.

Wayne's family have always been into Country, Bluegrass and Gospel music. He played with his brother and 7 uncles who always played when there were family gatherings. So that's how I got interested in the music.

We transferred with Rockwell International from Oklahoma to California in 1987 and both retired from Boeing. We joined CSOTFA in 1999 after Wayne retired. We have both held offices at the local and state level.

When I'm not following Wayne around to all of the gigs he was playing ,I enjoy doing gourd art . I also do gourd projects with special needs kids and adults. And I spend 3 days a week working with my grandson to dismantle laptop computers for a recycling company.

Wayne and I enjoy going to fiddle contests especially the State. Even though I don't play an instrument, sing or dance I enjoy the music. I tell Wayne that not everyone can play an instrument .. you have to have someone to do all the other stuff that it takes to support an organization while you play music.!! In my next life I'm coming back as a musician so I don't have to wash dishes!!

Through CSOTFA we have had some fun adventures, met some really nice folks and made some very good friends!



## District 1 Director Terrie Rockwell

I was born and raised in upstate NY. I was the seventh of ten children. I went to college in Plattsburgh NY to study Mathematics. I dropped out after a year and moved to California. I took art classes at Sacramento City College. I raised my two daughters in Grass Valley where my husband and I had a drafting business. I became a painter and sold many paintings at art fairs throughout California. I have a website: [terrierockwellart.com](http://terrierockwellart.com). I also have an online shop: [fineartamerica.com/profiles/terrie-rockwell](http://fineartamerica.com/profiles/terrie-rockwell).

I also recently finished my children's book *Jen Led the Way* which you can buy on Amazon.

I finished my bachelors degree at UC Davis in 2001 and have taught math and art at middle schools and high schools in the greater Sacramento Area.

Now I am selling real estate, when we are not under quarantine from the Corona Virus. I love playing fiddle with the District 1 Old Time Fiddlers. They are all such lovely people. I have been playing fiddle for many years, but just started really getting good, because of the support from my Old Time Fiddle friends. I am very sad that the fiddle contest is canceled. I will continue playing fiddle, and hope to jam with my friends through social media during this quarantine.



## State Secretary Mary Rose Preston



I'm a Sacramento girl! I grew up in River Park, near Sac State, and when my two sisters and I were in high school, we moved out to the El Camino Avenue/Carmichael area. I played euphonium in the marching band at Sac State and graduated in the late 1970s.

My family traveled every summer. We have driven from British Columbia to Florida, down to Mexico City, sometimes camping, sometimes staying in motels (not all in one trip).

I grew up on classical music, playing the piano, violin (obviously) and guitar, and as an adult took up the flute. In my teens and twenties I played in the "pit" for 14 musicals. I was introduced to old-time fiddling through playing with a five-piece bluegrass string band called "Wheatstraw," assembled to accompany a musical at Sac State called "The Robber Bridegroom." I had horses for ten years and did a year of weekly Friday night square dancing. I was lucky to have a wonderful partner about my age.

I have played in many community bands and orchestras, plus a ragtime group. I am currently playing in an Irish group in Auburn and the (classical) guitar orchestra with the Sacramento Guitar Society. I enjoy playing in circle jams but I do not like performing solo. Group playing is fun and relaxing. I like the challenge of having to memorize the music. (In Irish sessions, no one uses music!)

My profession since 1999 is Music Teacher at my home studio in Auburn. I have mostly piano and violin students. I am active with the Canyon Keepers, a volunteer group that augments the State Parks staff at the Auburn State Recreation Area, and I help with the Native Garden at ASRA headquarters and the Junior Rangers program in the summer.

I have eight box turtles and two Russian tortoises and they live safely in my backyard in their new state-of-the-art Turtle Barn, safe from predators. They keep me busy all during the warm season. I have had turtles since 1998.

I have been involved with CSOTFA for almost ten years. I am enjoying meeting the people so very much and have learned a lot from everyone. Since I injured my left hand over a year ago, I am not playing the fiddle very much any more. Luckily it does not hurt to play the guitar, so I am playing guitar more and would like to do more singing. The twice-monthly Fiddle Workshops in Oroville (District 1) are very helpful and a lot of fun, and a good way to share new tunes.

## District 3 Director Gayel Pitchford



Profile: Gayel Pitchford, State Director, Dist. 3, CSOTFA

Born: Washington State on a 3-acre farm; poor as a church mouse!

Started piano at age 5, violin at 9. Bought a guitar and taught myself to play at 14. All the other instruments I play, I learned as an adult.

B.A. in American Studies, M.A. in Management; 25+ years as Human Resources executive; 28 years as a Naval Reserve Officer—retired as a Captain (O-6)

Started the Pasadena Community Orchestra—36 years and still in business and Tehachapi Symphony—21 years and still in business

Conduct Tehachapi Strings Orchestra and Tehachapi Junior Orchestra; Concertmaster of Tehachapi Symphony; Fiddlin' Red Hattie in the Friends of Hattie Band; CA State Senior Fiddle Champ in 2010; State Director of Dist. 3 for the past 10 years or so

Author of *Fiddler of the Opry: the Howdy Forrester Story* (Viewpoint Press 2007) and *Howdy's Tunes* (Viewpoint Press 2017).

I love playing/conducting music so I can make people feel good.

## District 4 Director Pat Nelson

Married to high school sweetheart Rick since 1972. I went to UCLA and majored in music. Taught school for 14 years.

Have one child, Zach, who started attending fiddle club when he was 8. He is now 34 and married but no kids. He was the reason I got involved.

I don't know for sure how long I have been President. Maybe 10 years? (Editors note: I think it has been well over 10 years!!) Back then, so many members were older and not interested.

Basically I just unlock the door, make coffee, and organize the parties. So it's not about me, it's about keeping the opportunity for others to get together. That is why I continue to do this.

(Pat did not have a picture to submit.)



**CALIFORNIA  
BLUEGRASS  
ASSOCIATION**

The 2020 California Bluegrass Association Father's Day Festival is Postponed to 2021

Dear CBA Members, Festival Goers, Bluegrass Fans, Musicians, and Pickers,

It is with deep sadness that the CBA Board of Directors must announce the postponement of the 45th Father's Day Festival, which was to be held June 18-21, 2020 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley, California. The CBA Music Camp and Youth Academy held during the festival week are also postponed for this year.

For more information visit: [California Bluegrass Association Website](http://CaliforniaBluegrassAssociation.com)

## District 7 Director Dan Touchstone

I figured I'd introduce each of our officers and advisors. District 7 has a slate of officers that are long time members and give us excellent guidance. by Linda Rinner



**Dan Touchstone is our District 7 Director.** Many of you know Dan, he's an outstanding fiddler. He has been participating in and judging old time fiddle contests for a number of years.



**Linda Rinner**, that would be me on the left of the picture, I'm honored to serve as president of District 7. I'm the newcomer and have only been a member for about 5 years. I play bass guitar when our real bass players can't get to our jam, otherwise I enjoy listening to the music.

**Sandra Rios**, on the right of the picture, is our Treasurer. Sandra has been treasurer for a number of years. She doesn't play an instrument, but is part of the group who enjoys listening.



**Gregory Gross** is our vice president. He has been playing guitar, and sometimes the stand-up bass, amid the Old Time Fiddlers since early 2012. Greg's other guilty pleasures include playing at a weekly open mic' and working microphones for other entertainers.



Chuck Murtomaki is another of our district advisors. He also is a long time member who plays fiddle, rhythm guitar and sings. Chuck has also been a district director.



**Kathy Wolfe** is our secretary. Kathy has been a member from the beginning and has been an officer for many years, She played bass for quite some time, now she is one of us listeners.



**Dale Desmuke**, also a district advisor, plays rhythm guitar and sings. When it's his turn in the circle jam he will frequently request a fiddle tune. He likes to hear all the fiddles play together.



**Lee Schweighauser** is our membership secretary. She is also long time member who enjoys listening to old time fiddle music as well as bluegrass and country music.



**Willie Randel** is one of our district advisors. He is another long time member who is an outstanding fiddler. You've seen him at many fiddle contests. He's also a past district director.



**Avery Ellisman** is also a district advisor. Avery's mission is to promote and preserve old time fiddle music and is the promoter of the Julian Family Fiddle Camp. Along with being the Dad of a championship fiddler he is an excellent fiddler himself. Avery organizes District 7's 3rd Sunday Fiddle Tune Jams in San Diego's North County.



## District 9 Director Bob Palasek

## Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered:

Bob Palasek, presently District 9's State Director, is a retired computer scientist who has lived more than half of his life in Livermore, California. He grew up in the suburbs of Cincinnati and sang in choirs and civic chorales when young. He started out in the folk boom of the 1960's, and has been pursuing several different folk music's ever since. He started participating in District 9 jams in the mid 1980's, first playing Missouri old time, Appalachian old time fiddling, and bringing a deep bluegrass repertoire. For 8 years, until 2014, he was the principal fiddler for a Scandinavian folk dance group. Bob's present goal is to become a bluegrass fiddler, while continuing to enjoy playing all that other fun music.

Reporter: Steve Goldfield, Secretary, District 9

Shredded a few years of old papers that needed shredding. Starting to do more yard work. Reading lots of books. Several people I know are doing regularly (or irregularly) scheduled concerts from home. Missouri fiddler Charlie Walden and his wife Pat have been doing concerts on Wed., Fri., and Sun. Email them at [bigfiddleshow@gmail.com](mailto:bigfiddleshow@gmail.com) and ask to be notified if you want to receive the youtube links for their shows. Eric and Suzy Thompson are doing shows on Tuesdays. Joseph Decosimo, great young Tennessee fiddler, has done two shows so far. I'm sure there are lots more. Several venues are releasing great live shows. Caffe Lena, the Freight, and others are doing that. Caffe Lena has a great show featuring Bruce Molsky and Tony Trischka. Deep End Sessions has one with Alison de Groot and Tatiana Hargreaves and another with the Foghorn String Band.

I doubt that this will end any time soon because before we can open up at all there needs to be massively more testing, both for the virus and for the antibodies. Festivals have been canceled through July, and I'm wondering about August. Regards, Steve

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and all-bran.
3. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
5. If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?
6. It was a whole lot easier to get older, than it was to get wiser.
7. Some days, you're the top dog, some days you're the hydrant.
8. I wish the buck really did stop here; I sure could use a few of them.
9. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
10. Accidents in the back seat cause kids.
11. It is hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
12. The world only beats a path to your door when you're in the bathroom.
13. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.
14. When I'm finally holding all the right cards, everyone wants to play chess.
15. It is not hard to meet expenses . . . They're everywhere.
16. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
17. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter . . . I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm "here after".
18. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
19. It is a lot better to be seen than viewed.
20. Have I sent this message to you before...or did I get it from you!?



# District 3

## Gayel Pitchford



### STRING QUINTET SERENADES ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The Young People’s String Quartet (plus a Bass player), a sub-set of the Tehachapi Symphony Orchestra, just finished a set of three concerts, one each at Tompkins, Cumming Valley, and Golden Hills Elementary Schools, where they played a wide variety of music and demonstrated their individual instruments and talked about why they liked to play them.

The Quartet is composed of First Violin B. J. Zheng and Cellist Rebecca Carol, both juniors at Tehachapi High, and Second Violin Emily Hamilton and Violist Everett Hamilton, both of whom are attending college on-line at the moment. The String Bassist is their strings teacher, Gayel Pitchford, who is the Concertmaster of the Tehachapi Symphony.

The group played various genres of music, including: pop ,chamber music, theme-based music, movie/show tunes, classical and typical American folk music.

This effort is part of the Symphony’s outreach to ensure that young people in the Greater Tehachapi Area are exposed to live music performances and learn about the various instruments that make the music. If you and/or your children are interested in knowing how to get started playing a musical instrument, you may contact the Symphony’s Concertmaster, Gayel Pitchford at 661-823-8249.

The Symphony’s next concert will be on Sunday, May 3, at 4 p.m. at Country Oaks Baptist Church, 20915 Schout Road, Tehachapi. The program will feature Violist April Park, winner of this year’s Young Artist . In addition, the Tehachapi Symphonic Chorus, will be directed by Angela Rodriguez, with the Symphony.

More information at the orchestra website: [www.tehachapiorchestra.com](http://www.tehachapiorchestra.com).

### DISTRICT 3 HOLDS AMATEUR FIDDLE CONTEST

District 3 had its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Amateur Fiddle Contest on March 14 at the Methodist Church in Tehachapi. The Amateur Contest is limited to contestants ages 20 and below. The vibe was mellow and the air rang with the sweet sound of fiddles.

The District picked up a number of families as new members in District 3, and everyone who was there was quite enamored with the high level of music making. Winners were:

#### Pee Wee Fiddle Division

- 1—Luke Wagner, age 7
- 2—Layla Jaster, age 7
- 3—Sidney Middleton, age 6
- 4—Maddox MacLachlan, age 8
- 5—Ryker Maddox, age 6

#### Junior-Junior Fiddle Division

- 1—Ginevra Robbins

#### Junior Fiddle Division

- 1—Joy Robb
- 2—Everett Hamilton

#### Cello/Bass Fiddle Division

- 1—Natalie Whiteside, Bass
- 2—Samuel Torres, Cello
- 3—Emelia Robbins, Cello

#### Twin Fiddles

- 1—Ginevra and Emelia Robbins

#### Picking Division

- 1—Ginevra Robbins
- 2—Joy Robb
- 3—Luke Wagner

#### Novelty Division (any instrument NOT a fiddle or picking instrument)

- 1—Joy Robb, Piano
- 2—Ginevra Robbins, Viola
- 3—Natalie Whiteside, Viola
- 4—Everett Hamilton

#### Band Scramble

Band 1, “Two Violins and One Really Big Violin” was the winner: Joy Robb and Luke Wagner, Fiddles, and Emelia Robbins, Cello

GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFF (among the first place winners of all the Fiddle Divisions) was won by 11-year old Junior-Junior first place winner Ginevra Robbins.

The Youngest Fiddler medal was won by Ryker Maddox, age 6. Judges were Patrick DeLuca, Emily Hamilton, and Jo Stone

**The next “Big Event” for District 3, Lord willing and we are not still quarantined for coronavirus, will be the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Fiddlin’ Down the Tracks contest on September 18 and 19.** In the meantime, stay safe and keep fiddlin’!!

# District 9

**Bob Palasek**

In the bay area, shelter in place orders have been in effect for some time, even before the Governor issued the state wide order on March 19. At this writing, it has been extended into May.

We are all watching for improvements in the pandemic statistics. There are many terms and factors that make up the equation predicting morbidity numbers. Some terms will increase the number, other terms will decrease the number. Which terms dominate, at which points in time in the future, are only estimated, based on the meager experiences that are somewhat related to what's going on now, but in no way the same as what we are experiencing. So predictions are only best guesses, probably less accurate than weather forecasts. Nonetheless, today's news tells us that sheltering in place is having a very positive effect in "flattening the curve."

**District 9 jams and related events have all been suspended until further notice. We look forward to resuming, after state, regional, and local authorities have given the all clear and we know all will be safe.**

From email reports, many of the musicians have been taking the opportunity to "woodshed." So enjoy practicing at home. And enjoy all the home cooked meals, too.  
Take care and be safe.

Reporter: Gordon Rosete, District 9 President

I hope everyone is doing OK healthwise and not going stir crazy at home. Hope you all are playing some music each day as well. I've been working on my sight reading and tackling some of harder pieces that have given me trouble in the past. My yard is looking great, I've fixed everything that needs fixin, my truck has been washed several times and I'm up to 5 to 7 mile walks with my wife each day.

Due to the continuing shelter in place orders, our April jam is not going to happen. We'll have wait for the all clear announcement for "group gatherings" and I'm not sure when that will come about in the "phased" planning to normalize everyting that is being talked about. So we'll hope for the best as to when we can all have another Jam where everyone will be safe and not catch this virus.

# District 10

**Judith Jones**

Well.... yes, the 43rd Cloverdale Old Time Fiddle Contest did take place on March 7th. Sortaof..... kindof.....!!! As I was working on a variety of Forms, web stuff, and etc, I was figuring this year's Festival as a dress rehearsal even before the corona virus took it over. Now, too find the positive side of it all, it definitely is a good run through for 2021.

I am gonna quote from a couple of paragraphs that John Clendenen, prez of District 10, wrote: "This years festival featured a fiddle contest with a good number of participants. Some of these were the best players in their style in the state. Several well-known players attended to jam and to share tunes with others. Of course, this festival was significantly challenged by the onset of the Corona Virus debacle. The majority of the vendors canceled their participation within a day of the event. Despite significant advertising, many frequent attendees simply stayed away, over concerns about the virus.

The festival was well organized and local community groups supported it with a significant number of volunteers. This was the first year of the festival with the current director and an efficient model was developed. If the impacts of the current lock down are not overwhelming, our organization looks forward to leading events like this and others in the future." End quote.

I think John summed it up rather well. We went into the planning of this Old-Time Festival with trepidation. It didn't happen in 2019 because of everything we needed to take over when the Citrus Fair bowed out of their partnership with us. Can't hold this against them, receiving 75% of the net profits of \$2400 from each year, 2017 & 2018, didn't make it a good business decision to continue the partnership.

Here is a condensed list from the Citrus Fair of the duties of what we needed to take over. As one can see, it was enormous. I asked the Citrus Fair to handle a couple of items because we had our hands full with the rest of the list:

Citrus Fair duties included:

Managed all financials	Set up ticketing system,
Secured event insurance	Booked and manage all vendors
Secured ABC Permit	Organized Bar Service
Organized Food Service	Sent flyers to local businesses/sponsors
Created on-site signage	Solicited and contracted sponsors
Provided set-up, day-of and tear-down labor (Katie, Tedie, Jeff)	
Includes setting chairs & tables in auditorium	

I really need to applaud Mike Drayton and John Clendenen for stepping up and handling some of the major items on the list to help make this festival happen. John went all out and solicited sponsors. Mike handled the money part of it all -acquiring the 'squares', handling payouts, deposits, and everything that had to do with his position as District 10 treasurer.

**(District 10 continued)**

And, of course, we have the unsung hero of it all. The person that has pretty much managed the internal workings of the 'Contest' portion of the Festival every year. Rich Craig. I can not thank him enough. The Contest would not be what it is, or has been. His knowledge and work ethic is unsurpassed. I relied on him in 2018 to guide me through it all as I began to learn the internal workings of the contest. He's told me every year "not this year" and I do believe he will be hold true to his word for 2021. Sorry to say!

Due to attrition, each division of the contest had, at least, one person from the previous year. Which of course, is why the contest went off without a hitch. Anything that needed to be handled on the spot was handled, thank you Mike Drayton (Admissions), Terry Hallowes & Christine Palmer Pearson (Fiddle Bosses), Kathy Clendenen & Terry Byrd (Same Day Registration), Jean Craig (Raffle) Doug Laurice (Volunteer Registration), Melanie Hall ( getting me volunteers from the Cloverdale community when I reached out to her), Alan Kendall & Roger Klein (Scoring), Bill Shelley (Photographer), Tina Stenger (Web Designer), our judges: Gus Garelick, Katy Bridges, & Kenny Blacklock, our Entertainment: Rodney Miller, Roxanne Oliva, Rebecca King, Kalia Kliban, the best Sound guy around-Paul Knight, and to our District 10 booth, thank you Janette Duncan & Ernie Noyes.

Thank you Rod and Andi Skelton of Skelton Music. Our one and only vendor that remained. A big thank you to all of you that donated to the Raffle: Bella Vineyards & Wine Caves, Preston Farm & Winery, Bear Republic Brewing Co, Citrus Fair, Papa's Pizza Cafe, Sonoma County Farm Bureau, Dinah & Noah Stroe, me. Thank you to the people and businesses that donated to the Friends of the Festival: About Town Home Improvement, Jean & Rich Craig, Management Connections, Carol Harrison, Steve Hogle, Roger Klein, Alex Krem, Gail Lee, Arlo Miller, Robert Scott, Tim McDonald.

Also, to Julie Atwood of the [rescue@halterfund.org](mailto:rescue@halterfund.org) (PSA) Very helpful information as we are coming into the fire season and, who also became one of our sponsors. Thank you Julie! A huge Thank you to all the Volunteers and Contest Participants that made this Old-Time Festival possible and very enjoyable. I have included a few photos for your enjoyment.

To wrap it all up, I am looking forward to 2021.....it has taken me a month to think this thought!!!! Best regards to you all. Stay safe! Stay healthy!

Judith



Eric Anderson, Ben Lia Braaten Alex Sharps.



Jr/Jr Winners Ari Eli Glasser, Katherine Staninec, Sequoia Dator



Halterproject & The Young Old-Timers



Skelton Vendor



**43rd Cloverdale Old Time Fiddle Contest Winners 2020**

(No Pee -Wee Old Time contestants)

**Jr-Jr.- Old Time Style**

1. Ari Glasser
2. Eli Glaser
3. Sequoia Dator
4. Katherine Staninec

**Texas Style**

1. Leah Bowen
2. Alex Sharps
3. Eric Anderson
4. Laurie Kost

**Junior -Old Time Style**

1. Leah Bowen
2. Rafael Contreras

**Twin Fiddles**

1. Rafael Contreras & Andi Skelton
2. Laurie Kost & Ben LiaBraaten
3. Eli Glasser & Ari Glasser

**Adult -Old Time Style**

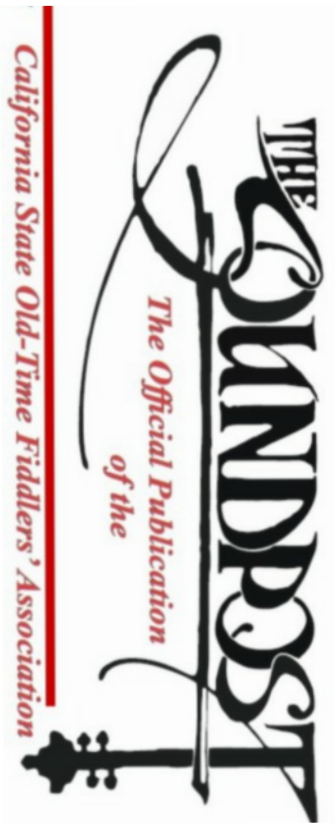
1. Alex Sharps
2. Eric Anderson
3. Ben LiaBraaten
4. Morgan Cochneuer

**Accompanist**

1. a tie: Eric Anderson & Ben LiaBraaten
2. Alex Sharps
3. Jim French

**Senior -Old Time Style**

1. Paul Shelasky
2. Joe Osborn
3. Dinah Stroe



**Mar- April 2020**

**CSOTFA Districts**

1. Glenn, Butte, Plumas (excluding Northern tip), Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Yolo, Sutter, Colusa
2. Tuolumne, Mono, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Merced, Monterey to King City, San Luis Obispo, Kern, Inyo, San Bernardino North of 15
3. Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino South of 15
4. Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Alpine, San Joaquin, Sacramento, Eastern Solano, Stanislaus
5. Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen Tehama, Northern Plumas
6. San Diego, Imperial
7. Ventura, Santa Barbara
8. Napa, Western Solano, Marin, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, North Monterey, San Francisco, Alameda
9. Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma

