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“Preserving and Perpetuating Old Time Fiddle Music”

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CSOTFA State Fiddle Contest 2021 ??

California Bluegrass Association has contacted CSOTFA State Board to see if our organization would be interested in joining them at Lodi Grape Festival again this year and hold our State Fiddle Contest during their Spring Campout, if they are able to have their campout.

CSOTFA board plans to have a Zoom meeting as soon as it can be arranged. CBA would like to have our answer by the time of their Feb. 20 board meeting. CBA will be making a go/no go decision at this meeting. We all continue to hope that we can hold it, even if it's a little different, i.e. no Saturday night dinner.

But of course “the best laid plans of mice and men” will depend on the status of the Covid Pandemic. So stay tuned. We will keep you updated.

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: Charley Oveland - croveland@sbcglobal.net

Editor: Cathy Agnew - themimi@roadrunner.com

State Directors

District 1: Vacant

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: Vacant

District 8: Bob Bueling-- bob@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 2nd 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>^[1]_{SEP}
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.

District 1

Mary Preston

District 1's officers remain the same.

Therese Rockwell, former District 1 Rep., has re-located to South Carolina to be near family. She loves it there and enjoys helping out with her young grandchildren, and has already made some musical contacts she will pursue when it is safe to do so. She misses her fiddler friends in Oroville and we miss her!

This is no doubt happening around the state more reports of people getting together outside to play music distanced, masked, some in the Oroville area!

LEARNING TO COUNT AFTER 68 YEARS

Rayburn McDonald - District 1 Membership Chair



By 1945 my family had traveled U.S. Route 66 from Oklahoma to California three times. I attended the second grade in Gridley, CA when I was seven years old. Then another three trips back and forth brought me back to Gridley in 1951, where I attended the 8th, 9th, and 10th grades.

The numerous trips from Oklahoma to California were spent picking cotton, moving from field to field, living in a tent in the fields along the way and sleeping on the ground in the open air. One season we lived in the Labor Camp by the Feather River east of Gridley. The camp only had tents with wooden floors, and at night we would sit outside on the steps and listen folks playing and singing while sitting on their doorsteps.

During the years 1938-56, we traveled in a model-A Ford sedan with Mom, Dad and six children. All of us from the oldest to the youngest had to pick cotton. If anyone has read the book *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck published in 1939, they will have a vivid picture of the life we led. The Dust Bowl era was over, but the Okies, Arkies, Kansans and others took much longer to recover from those desperate times.

Along the road we cooked all our meals on an open fire outside the tent. Occasionally we would sing around the fire while dinner was being cooked. Dinner usually consisted of potatoes, biscuits, and gravy. It was a great treat if any meat was provided. I had learned to bake biscuits in a covered iron skillet buried in the hot coals by the time I was eleven years old.

In 1952, after finally settling in Gridley, I had a job washing dishes in my mother's small café located across the street from the Gridley police station/city hall and next to the theater. I was fourteen when a man entered the café and borrowed a small amount of money from my mother. He left his Gibson F-hole acoustic guitar for collateral. He never returned to retrieve the guitar, so my mother gave it to me. That was the beginning of my music playing days. My brother-in-law taught me the three chords G, C, D, and I probably wore the strings completely out playing those three chords. I would sing Lefty Frizzell's song "Mom and Dad's Waltz," Hank Thompson's "Wild side Of Life," Hank Williams' "Cold, Cold Heart," and a few others.

In 1955, I enlisted in the Army and spent the next twenty years playing and singing in the barracks with anyone who might have an instrument. Or we would go to a local beer bar and play and sing at one of the tables. Customers would always keep the table filled with more open bottles of beer than we could possibly drink. However, like all good scouts, we tried our best to consume it all.

I retired from the Army in 1976, at thirty-seven years old. I had always kept a guitar, but it stayed in the closet most of the time for the next ten years or so. In 1986 I moved back to Butte County and began sporadically joining the California Bluegrass Association and Old Time Fiddlers. I paid dues now and then until about 1992 when I became a regular member of the Old Time Fiddlers, where I currently serve on the board as District 1 Membership Chair.

I have attended many contests and campouts over the years but have never entered any contest. I have thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship, and everyone has been so helpful in my musical improvement. It took a very long time, but when I finally began to hear chord changes it was like an awakening in my ears. You might expect that someone who has had a guitar around for sixty-eight years would be an expert by now, but I had other priorities. I have only recently begun to learn to count time and stay on beat. That makes a better experience for everyone!

District 3

Gayel Pitchford

FIDDLER B.J. ZHENG WINS HOWDY FORRESTER SCHOLARSHIP



We awarded the Howdy Forrester Scholarship last night Dec. 11, at the Tehachapi Symphony's live streamed concert. Because fiddlers and orchestra string players are inter-changeable in this town, it was easy to get them to make the award for us on their live stream. The Symphony players were excited that BJ won it, because he is one of them, and the entire presentation went out to thousands of people. The Conductor talked about the Old Time Fiddlers, the scholarship, BJ, and even showed a copy of my book and asked people to buy it. I think they turned BJ into a rock star!!

The Symphony, which includes quite a few of our fiddlers, is rehearsing again for another concert to be live-streamed on the Tehachapi Symphony Facebook page on Sunday, March 7 at 4:00 p.m. We are doing Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini with a fabulous young pianist named Dominik Yoder, Schumann's 4th Symphony, and a piece called Ethiopia's Shadow in America, by the Black female composer Florence Price. Lots of pretty melodies in all of this music and a chance to see a great young musician. Of course, we are doing all the rehearsals and concert masked and distanced, and there is no audience in the hall for the concert.

We have live-streamed our last two orchestra concerts and have had over 2,000 viewers for each one (normal audiences for us are about 500), including people from as far away as Los Angeles (120 miles) who sent us donations during the live stream even!!

Perhaps some of our fiddlers could put together a show and live stream it. If our State website had a Donate button, so people could donate to us during and after the show, and it would go into our Paypal account, we could easily build a following and collect enough money to pay for someone to film the live stream. . .just sayin' We could probably do a masked and distanced fiddle contest—without a live audience—and live stream that!! Technology could save us.

Music production is one of the few things that is allowed under the State virus guidelines, but it has to be done WITHOUT a live audience. So live stream is a real winner!! And it allows our musicians to keep

On Friday night, 11 December, District 3's 14th annual Howdy Forrester Scholarship was awarded to Tehachapi fiddler B. J. Zheng. The award consists of a thousand dollar scholarship, plus a plaque and having the winner's name also inscribed on the perpetual plaque which is exhibited at the fiddle contest each year. The award goes to the fiddler who best embodies the spirit of Big Howdy Forrester and is funded by Howdy's son, Bob, who lives in the Nashville, TN, area. District 3 started the scholarship in 2007, in conjunction with the publication that year of *Fiddler of the Opry; the Howdy Forrester Story*, which is Howdy's biography.

This award would normally be made at the annual Fiddlin' Down the Tracks fiddle contest, but this year's contest was canceled because of the corona virus epidemic. Since B.J. also plays in the Tehachapi Symphony, Dist. 3 asked the Symphony to make the award at their Symphony concert, which was live streamed onto their Facebook page.

As it turned out, the Symphony had an almost full page story about the concert in the Bakersfield Californian newspaper on Thursday, so they probably had an on-line audience of thousands. The award was made during the live stream.

B.J. Zheng has won many medals and trophies for his fiddling, and he always plays some of Howdy Forrester's tunes in the contests. In addition to being a first violin in the Symphony, B.J. is the Concertmaster of the Tehachapi Strings Orchestra, plays first violin in the Symphony's Young People's String Quartet, and is an advanced pianist, for which he has also won awards.

He is a straight "A" student at Tehachapi High School and plans to attend college in September of 2021. He will be majoring in Medicine and wants to become a doctor, although he says that he will never give up his music playing.

District 4

Pat Nelson

District 4 officially rang in 2021 with our first official zoom jam on January 3. We had 14 attendees! It was so nice to see and hear everyone after so long. Thanks to member Patty McCollum for setting up and facilitating the meeting. Our next jam is scheduled for February 7, 1-3 p.m. Looking forward to seeing everyone again!

District 5

Lyle Dixon

The First District 5 Zoom Jam was held on the normal 2nd Sunday of the Month Jam Date of January 10, 2021, led by Vice-President Eric Anderson.

There were about 22 participants. Eric would share the Chord charts and lead the group using a pre-recorded guitar accompaniment. The individual participants would then follow the leader, but would be muted from the rest of the participants, but they could still be seen and be seen by all. There are technical restrictions that make a full multi-way real-time feed impossible.

The jam session was followed with an open mic. Each participant was "given the mic" (session was un-muted) so all the other Zoom participants could hear and play along. The plan is to continue holding Zoom jam's will COVID-19 restrictions prevent in person jam sessions. All of the participants were pleased with this method.. and happy to see each other again.

District 8

Bob Bueling

The count of COVID-19 cases in Ventura County are still high and hospital bed availability is extremely low. Therefore, the whole county is still locked down and Ventura County Parks and Recreation has not allowed group meetings in the Oak View Community Center since March.

While we are locked down, District 8 is considering possible alternate ways to perform including Zoom concerts. We have been holding Board of Director meetings via Zoom and some of us have taken part in various workshops and jam sessions via Zoom. Although there are some challenges inherent to using virtual meetings, we are still able to converse and share music. This helps somewhat to ease the isolation.

The District 8 Board of Directors has had some changes for 2021. Sus Cortez has stepped down from the President position and Pat Cronin of Camarillo has stepped up from the State Director position to become the new District 8 President.

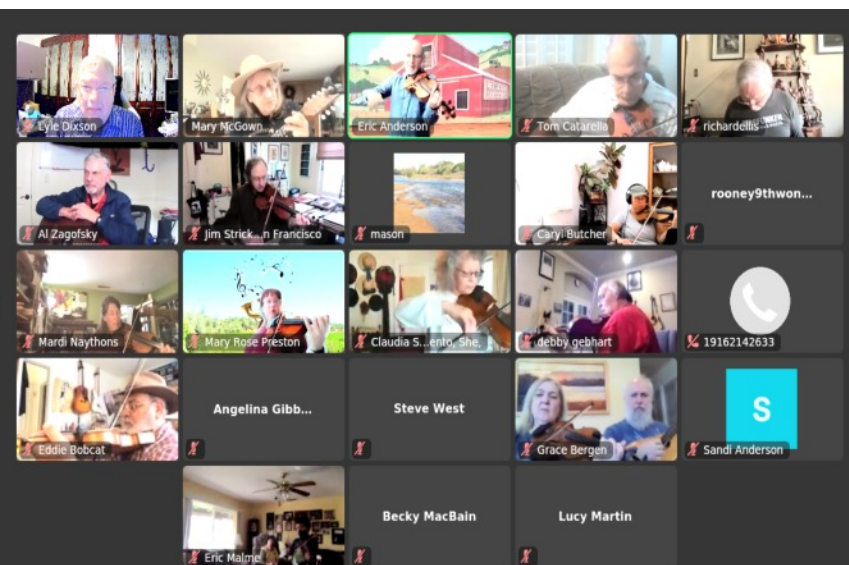
Bob Bueling, also of Camarillo has volunteered for the District 8 State Director position. Bob is a long-time member of District 8 and served as District Vice President and then President in the 2001-2002 timeframe and served as Board Advisor several subsequent years. Pat and Bob are duet partners (Sympaticomusic.com) and plan to attend state meetings together when conditions allow it.

Former District President and Board Advisor, Joe Johnson has stepped into the District 8 Treasurer position.

Lori Litow of Malibu, newly recruited into the District by Pat and Bob, has already volunteered to take on the Recording Secretary and Membership manager position which we have now combined into one position. Lori is a retired ER nurse and has held positions on several Boards of Directors and is rapidly taking grip of what is needed and smartly stepped into the job.

District 8 Board Vice President, Jim Friery and Advisors Ray Magee, Bob Levin, Debby Finley Delamore, Dave Gaddis and Michael Taylor remain in position.

District 8 has contracted with a member to build a new Website which will include the ability to join and renew membership online. We hope to orient pages on the site for community outreach and possibly post member performances there. More to come.



District 9

Bob Palasek

District 9 officers had an email discussion with the following consensus: all of District 9's Officers and Advisors have agreed to remain in their respective offices into the new year for the time being (*pro tem*). This will likely continue until events turn out that we can actually meet and have a District election.

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

Some observations about the pandemic.

December came. And remarkably, science and technology brought safe and efficacious vaccines, in a rapid time frame that has never been previously seen, and with a technology not ever before applied at population scale. Of course, there will always be fits and starts, especially with things that have never been tried before. And so that ambitious goal of reaching twenty million immunizations by the end of 2020 was not reached. But the good news is that things were moving along, and progressing with unprecedented achievement to where 3 million doses were given by the end of December.

At the beginning of January, Dr. Anthony Fauci reported that the country was administering a half million immunization shots per day. Doing some math, I find that 100 million shots-in-arms by the time of the 100th day of the new administration (30 April), inoculations will have to scale up to 1.5 million per day. (And this week I saw someone suggesting a target of 2 million per day, going bigger as it were.) The math says that to get to the ability to give 1.5 million shots per day, we need to add, each and every day, a capability of another 10,000 additional daily shots.

So we might ask, is 2 million inoculations per day a lot? Consider first that by now, the American COVID-19 death count has exceeded the number of American lives lost in World War II. This Is Big. This crisis is at least as big as that of World War II.

How many people need to be immunized? A web search tells us that herd immunity achieves when between 70 and 90 percent of the population have attained individual immunity. Choosing 90% for my back-of-envelope calculation, because it's likely that that more infectious British strain will come to dominate in a couple of months, 90% of the U.S.'s population of 328 million, comes to 295 million who need to be immunized. By 30 April, 50 million will have already been immunized in the first 100 days (two shots per person). Plus there's another 10 million who were immunized before the start of the 100 days,. So by 30 April, 60 million will have been immunized and there will still be another 235 million to go. At two shots for each immunization, that's 470 million shots. At 2 million shots per day, that's 235 days from April 30. That gets us there in the 4th week of December.

Using this baseline, we can look at a couple of mathematical perturbations.

If we assume those 25 million who have already been infected are consequently immune (still an open question), then the target date would decrease by 25 days, to the end of November.

If we assume only 70% individual immunity is needed for herd immunity (not really likely), then the herd immunity date would decrease to mid-October.

All of these estimates assume everything will go at full capacity with no setbacks, no hiccups, no bottlenecks. So these are best case scenarios.

California's population is 12% of the U.S.'s. For its 39 million people to be immunized in the same time frame, California's share of 2 million shots per day is 240,000 shots per day.

The personally sad news to report is that my mother-in-law, who lived in central Pennsylvania, passed away this January 5 due to a COVID-19 infection. For months, her area of the state had relatively good statistics. But after Thanksgiving, her county saw a major surge of COVID-19 cases, and despite the best efforts of her nursing home's staff, numbers of residents and staff, including Mom, tested positive. She started to noticeably go down hill starting on 17 December; she passed away on 5 January.

So,

Take care and be safe.

Follow the guidelines.

Stay in touch, although remotely.

Keep practicing, and try new stuff, both musical and culinary.

District 10

Judith Jones

List of Officers for 2020/2021:

President: John Clendenen

Vice President: Don Coffin

Secretary: Judith Jones

Treasurer: Mike Drayton

Membership Secretary: Judith Jones

District Director: Mark Hogan.

Advisory Councils: Sue Condit, Gus Garelick, Tim Rued.

And we also have our Scholarship Committee consisting of:
John Clendenen, Gus Garelick, Judith Jones.

Our District Website: <http://www.csotf10.org> administrator:
Chris Carney.

Many of us are using 'Zoom' with the connections that are being sent to us via Facebook, oldtimesSF, etc. I think 'Zoom' is probably the one and only good thing that came out of this pandemic. It allows us the ability to connect worldwide with fellow musicians.

Someone who wants to join the list can send an empty message to oldtimeSF+subscribe@groups.io from whatever address they want subscribed. They'll automatically get a response email with a link to confirm their subscription. Or go to groups.io/g/oldtimeSF If you are not a member, use "Sign Up" at top right corner. If you are a member, log in to view messages, change your account settings, etc.

A 'Zoom' instruction that is just in it's infancy - If you are interested in learning some Swedish tunes go to <http://www.folksweden.com> to get in touch with Tim Rued, an avid sponsor of Swedish tunes and culture.

Now, speaking as District 10's Membership Sec, please remember to send in your Membership Renewals.

That's it for now.....hopefully more in the next issue.

Sewing Skills Required

I have a hand-pieced/hand-quilted quilt that has too much damage and wear to be useful as a blanket. If I donate it to Goodwill, it will probably end up in a landfill.

Some years back, I purchased a fiddle blanket that Erynn Marshall had made from an old quilt. It serves the purpose and makes me smile every time I open my fiddle case. I thought there might be someone out there with sewing skills who would like to do the same with this one. There are enough intact areas of this quilt to make several blankets. Let me know if you're interested.

sharry.mullin@gmail.com

Sharry

Membership Report

Charley Oveland

MEMBERSHIP REPORT UPDATE – January 1, 2021

District 1 HOH – 28; Spouses – 16; Kids – 4; Total 58

District 3 HOH – 30; Spouses – 9; Kids – 11; Total 50

District 4 HOH – 24; Spouses – 10; Kids – 1; Total 35

District 5 HOH – 60; Spouses – 25; Kids – 13; Total 98

District 6 HOH - 52; Spouses – 21; Kids – 17; Total 90

District 7 HOH – 33; Spouses – 10; Kids – 2; Total 45

District 8 HOH - 75; Spouses – 37; Kids – 4; Total 116

District 9 HOH – 51; Spouses – 23; Kids – 6; Total 80

District 10 HOH – 48; Spouses – 17; Kids – 9; Total 75

Totals - HOH – 401; Spouses – 168; Kids – 67;

Overall Total - 636



Found this picture among the many! These musicians were playing at a Senior Living Facility in Oroville during Fiddle Week. There are 4 past CSOTFA Presidents in this picture. I believe Eric Anderson was President at the time. The other 3 are Wayne Agnew, Patrick DeLuca (behind Wayne) and Bill Whitfield in the back .

Just for Fun!!

This may be harder than you may think. Test your Brain! The answers will be on the tip of your tongue, but you just can't quite remember the correct answer. Youngsters, you don't have a chance.

01. After the Lone Ranger saved the day and rode off into the sunset, the grateful citizens would ask, "Who was that masked man?" Invariably, someone would answer, "I don't know, but he left this behind." What did he leave behind? A _____.

02. When the Beatles first came to the U.S. In early 1964, we all watched them on The _____ Show.

03. "Get your kicks, _____!"

04. The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed to _____.'

05. 'In the jungle, the mighty jungle, _____.'

06. After the Twist, The Mashed Potato, and the Watusi, we 'danced' under a stick that was lowered as low as we could go in a dance called the '_____.'

07. Nestle's makes the very best... _____.'

08. Satchmo was America's 'Ambassador of Goodwill.' Our parents shared this great jazz trumpet player with us. His name was _____.

09. What takes a licking and keeps on ticking? _____.

10. Red Skeleton's hobo character was named _____ and Red always ended his television show by saying, 'Good Night, and '_____.'

11. Some Americans who protested the Vietnam War did so by burning their _____.

12. The cute little car with the engine in the back and the trunk in the front was called the VW. What other names did it go by? _____ or _____.

13. In 1971, singer Don MacLean sang a song about, 'the day the music died.' This was a tribute to _____.

14. We can remember the first satellite placed into orbit The Russians did it. It was called _____.

15. One of the big fads of the late 50's and 60's was a large plastic ring that we twirled around our waist. It was called the _____ - _____.

16. Remember LS/MFT _____ / _____.

17. Hey Kids! What time is it? It's _____!

18. Who knows what secrets lie in the hearts of men? Only The _____ Knows!

19. There was a song that came out in the 60's that was "a grave yard smash". Its name was the _____!

20. Alka Seltzer used a "boy with a tablet on his head" as it's Logo/Representative. What was the boy's name _____.

ANSWERS: 01. A silver bullet 02. The Ed Sullivan Show 03. On Route 66 04. To protect the innocent 05. The Lion Sleeps Tonight 06. The limbo 07. Chocolate 08. Louis Armstrong 09. The Timex Watch 10. Freddy, The Freeloader and 'Good Night and God Bless.' 11. Draft Cards (Bras were also burned. 12. Beetle or Bug 13. Buddy Holly 14. Sputnik 15. Hoola-hoop 16. Lucky Strike / Means Fine Tobacco 17. Howdy Doody Time 18. Shadow 19. Monster Mash 20. Speedy



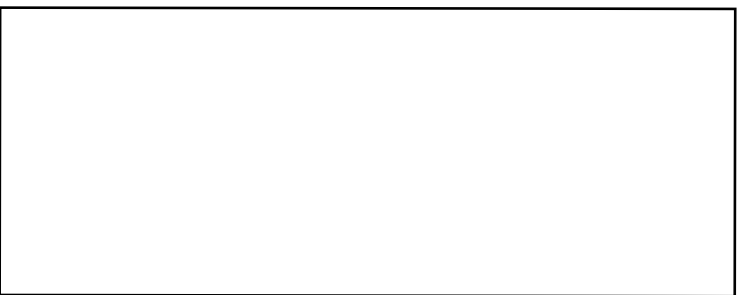
THE STANDPOST

The Official Publication
of the
California State Old-Time Fiddlers' Association

Jan-Feb 2021

CSOTFA Districts

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



Revised 3-12-18
By Willie Randel