



"Preserving and Perpetuating Old-time Fiddle Music"

www.csotfa.org

President's Message

The Western Open will be celebrating its 42nd contest on October 23-25, 2025, back at the Red Bluff Elks Lodge. We look forward to seeing our Fiddle Family as we get together to share our music. RV parking with electric and water hookups with a dump station on site is available at the Elks and you do not need to pre-register. Just come into the hall and chase me down and I'll get you registered. You may pre-register to compete if you like, but again, feel free to come into the hall starting Thursday afternoon and we can get you registered. Check out the tentative schedule on the website to find out the approximate time you will be competing. We added a Junior Junior Picking Division this year and tried to keep all of the divisions for the youngsters on Saturday.

We are very excited to announce our judges: Aaron Lowe, Spokane WA; Starr McMullen, Corvallis OR; Katy Bridges, Sebastopol CA; Dan Touchstone, San Diego CA; and Lucie Benham, Redding CA. Our headquarters hotel is the Comfort Suites. Please call them directly at 530-529-7060 for reservations and be sure to mention that you're part of our Fiddle Family. Hope to see all of you in a few short weeks at the Western Open Fiddle Championships!

Sharon

PS Did you hear that Wayne Agnew had died recently? He will surely be missed.

Western Open Coming Soon!



CSOTFA Needs a Membership Secretary!

To find out more, see page 7 of this newsletter or contact Sharon at (530) 604-5279

2025 Western Open Tentative Schedule

*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. Also, entertainment slots may be deleted or extended as needed.*

Thursday, October 23

7:00 PM Old Time Gospel Singalong

Friday, October 24

8:00 AM **Registration Opens**
 8:45 AM **Fiddle Judges' Meeting**
 9:00 AM Senior (age 55-69) Round 1
 9:30 AM Sr Sr (age 70 and older) Round 1
 10:00 AM Adult (age 18-54) Round 1
 10:45 AM Jr Picking (age 17 and under) Round 1
 11:15 AM Open Picking (any age) Round 1
 11:45 AM **Lunch**
 1:00 PM Robert Strawn Waltz Contest (any age)
 2:30 PM Swing Fiddle Contest (any age)
 3:00 PM Celtic Contest (any age)
 4:45 PM **Dinner**
 6:00 PM Colors, Flag Salute, Invocation
 6:15 PM Judges Play
 6:45 PM Senior Finals (age 55-69)
 7:10 PM Senior Senior Finals (age 70 and over)
 7:35 PM Adult Finals (age 18-54)
 8:00 PM Jr Picking Finals (age 17 and under)
 8:15 PM Open Picking Finals (any age)
 8:30 PM **Entertainment**
 8:45 PM Open Jukebox (any age)
 9:30 PM Awards:
 Waltz, Swing, Celtic, Senior, Senior
 Senior, Oldest Fiddler, Adult, Junior
 Picking, Open Picking, Open Jukebox

Saturday, October 25

8:00 AM **Registration Opens**
 8:30 AM Peewee Piano (age 8 and under)
 9:00 AM Jr Jr Piano (age 12 and under)
 9:30 AM Junior Piano (age 17 and under)
 10:00 AM **Fiddle Judges' Meeting**
 10:15 AM Awards: All Junior Piano Divisions
 10:30 AM Peewee (age 8 and under) Round 1
 11:00 AM Jr Jr (age 9-12) Round 1
 11:30 AM Jr Jr Picking (age 12 and under) Rnd 1
 12:15 PM **Lunch**
 1:30 PM Junior (age 17 and under) Round 1
 2:30 PM Open (any age) Round 1
 3:30 PM Jr Twin Fiddle (17 and under) Round 1
 4:15 PM Open Twin Fiddle (any age) Round 1
 5:00 PM **Dinner Break**
 6:00 PM Colors, Flag Salute, Invocation
 6:15 PM Judges Play
 6:45 PM Jr Jr Picking Finals (age 12 and under)
 7:00 PM Jr Twin Fiddle Finals (age 17 and under)
 7:15 PM Open Twin Fiddle Finals (any age)
 7:30 PM Peewee Finals (age 8 and under)
 7:50 PM Jr Jr Finals (age 9-12)
 8:15 PM Awards: Junior Twin, Open Twin, Jr Jr
 Picking, Youngest Picker, Peewee,
 Youngest Fiddler, Junior Junior
 Junior Finals (age 17 and under)
 Open Finals (any age)
 Junior Jukebox (age 17 and under)
 Awards:
 Accompanist, Junior, Junior Jukebox,
 Open

8:30 PM
 8:55 PM
 9:20 PM
 9:50 PM



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Edited 5/22/2024



2025 Western Open Registration

Name _____

Address _____ Birthdate _____ Age _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Occupation _____

Hobbies _____

Recent Contests Won _____

Name on Guest Badge _____

Instrument teacher (s) _____

Divisions

Senior Senior	\$20	Open	\$35	Jr Piano (PW, JJ, J)	\$10
Senior	\$20	Jr Twin (each)	\$10	Junior Jukebox	\$10
Adult	\$20	Open Twin (each)	\$10	Open Jukebox	\$10
Junior	\$20	Waltz	\$10	Jr Jr Picking	\$10
Junior Junior	\$15	Swing Fiddle	\$10	Junior Picking	\$10
Peewee	\$10	Celtic	\$10	Open Picking	\$10
				Accompanist	\$15

Total _____

Name of Twin Fiddler _____ Picking Instrument _____

In consideration of California State Old Time Fiddle Association, District 6, expending time and monies promoting and hosting the Western Open Fiddle Championships and the opportunity of the undersigned to participate therein, the undersigned does hereby release, transfer, and assign to the Western Open Fiddle Championships any and all rights to commercial recordings, videos, and/or photographs which may be made by the Western Open Fiddle Championships, its agents or assigns, of the current year's Western Open Fiddle Championships.

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.

You may pre-register by mailing this registration form and a check made out to WESTERN OPEN FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIPS to PO Box 101, Red Bluff CA 96080.



District One Activities by Anne Michels

In District 1 (aka The Oroville Old Time Fiddlers) we have been keeping active and enjoying our music! We currently have 48 members (35 primary, 5 spouses, 8 children). We continue to have a monthly jam on the 4th Sunday of the month and generally have 10 - 20 in attendance. After a circle jam lasting 90 minutes, we take a pizza break. We offer an opportunity for small groups to perform on stage during the pizza break. The circle jam will resume after the performances if there is enough time and energy.

District 1 continues to offer a fiddle workshop once a month, on the 2nd Friday in the evening. The workshop has recently focused on guitar backup for fiddle tunes, and playing backup fiddle.

District 1 has developed three small performing groups from within our membership. These groups take turns performing at a local rest home on a monthly basis. One of our small groups may begin playing at a local coffee house once a month to increase awareness of our organization. We are exploring the possibility of playing once or twice a month during lunchtime at the Senior Citizens Center. We usually have two or three community events that we perform at during the Christmas season (which will be here before we know it!)

We try to attract more people, especially young people, to join us by offering music scholarships and an instrument lending library

District 4 - Small but Mighty! by Pat Nelson

District 4 is small but mighty! We continue to meet (mostly) on the first Sunday of the month.

In September, we welcomed back Ben Stave, one of our intrepid bass players. Ben, 16, spent the summer as a life guard in Huntington Beach and was mighty busy on the summer weekends.

We also welcomed back Jim Maurer, who missed several jams due to knee surgery. Jim (and his walker!) made the drive from south county and made the hill on my driveway. Glad to have you back, Jim!

Thanks go out to our members who bring treats to share every month. We are indeed a well-fed group. Happy fall to everyone!



Gary Lindberg keeps the beat in District 1!



District 5 News by Jeff Gebhardt

Congratulations are in order for all District #5 members who attended and completed in the National Old Time Fiddle Contest in Weiser this year. In some of the toughest competition in the country, Eric Malme placed 11th in the Senior category and Eric Anderson placed 10th in the Adult division while also winning the Fanciest Fiddling Category! And, of course, thanks to Lyle Dixon, our District 5 State Representative, for his video coverage of the event.

Our members, in addition to participating in the monthly Orangevale Grange meetings, have been contributing to local communities by sharing old time music performances with them. A shout out to Rick Fairall who has organized a monthly jam at the Eskaton Gold River Senior home where many of our members play to a very appreciative audience. Also, kudos to Mel Chapman who has set up a monthly jam at Holly's Hill Winery located in the beautiful hills near Placerville. Attached are some photos of our recent jams. Thanks to all our members for their continued attendance and support.



District 7 Finale by Dan Touchstone

District 7, which we have always referred to as our "fiddle club," held its final meeting and jam session on June 26. At that point, our membership had dwindled to fewer than five members.

As you may have heard, many of our key founding members have recently left us for greener pastures. Last fall, we also lost our monthly meeting and jam venue. But even before that, attendance at the jams had dropped to three or four musicians, sometimes none of whom played the guitar. Lacking a slate of officers, we elected to terminate the club in accordance with the California State Old Time Fiddle Association bylaws.

Our final gathering was a combination memorial service for long-time member Cathy Wolf, who passed away in April, and a catered lunch and jam that included several members of the San Diego Bluegrass Association, who were there to offer their support. It was an appropriate but sad send-off for all of us.

Our club was founded over fifty years ago by some wonderful musicians and patrons of old-time fiddle music in the San Diego area. Some of our more famous early members included Stuart Duncan of bluegrass fame. Other members who are no longer with us include Ernie Yoes, Willie Randel, Robbie Ivy, Chuck Murtomaki, Bob Shields, Sam Necochea, Leon Touchstone, and Don Bidwell. Fred Lohmann, Carol McCollum, Bob Henry, and Larry Edwards are founders who continue to be active fiddle players. Our membership has included several national champion fiddle players, such as Starr McMullen, who continues to compete, and Hughie Smith, who still performs his music regularly. but have many very fond memories and look forward to more music.

I personally wish to thank Lee Schweighauser, our long-time membership director, for keeping us all together these last few years. And I thank Lee Fowler and Paul Wolf for being at our jams every month to support our music. A tribute also goes out to Dale Desmuke for playing backup guitar so we could fiddle around.





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: Open

Editor: Teresa Ward – tward.butte@gmail.com

State Directors

District 1: Ann Michels – Anne11Michels49@gmail.com

District 3:

District 4: Pat Nelson – rpnelson@pacbell.net

District 5: Lyle Dixson - Lyle@DATEQ.NET

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

District 8: Sid Brown – sidnyb@outlook.com

District 9: Bob Palasek - r03palasek@sbcglobal.net

District 10: Tim Rued – timrued@aol.com

Want more info about the open Membership Secretary position?

Check out the official description from the CSOTFA bylaws below:

4.09 Membership Secretary

The Membership Secretary shall perform such duties as may be directed by the State Board of Directors, including:

- a) Keep and maintain a Membership Roster containing the name and address of each member, enrollment date, date of termination of membership, date dues are to be paid;
- b) Provide Districts with forms and instructions for use in enrollment procedures;
- c) Provide Districts with membership cards for issuance to members; and
- d) Keep and maintain the District Map as approved by the State Board of Directors, pursuant to Section 5.02 of these Bylaws.

DISTRICT MEETING LOCATIONS, DATES, AND TIMES

- District 1** 4th Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Feather River Senior Center, 1335 Myers St. Oroville, CA <https://csotfad1.weebly.com>
- District 3** 2nd Sunday 2:00-5:00 p.m.: 21100 Lonely Lane, Tehachapi, CA
- District 4** 1st 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** 1st 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
3rd 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: <https://www.northstatefiddlers.com/> Facebook: North State Fiddlers
- 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** 1st Sunday 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Church of the Oaks, Janette Duncan 707-570-2745, Chris Carney 707-765-1937.
2nd Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Rotary Valley Senior Center, Pat Palmer 415-305-4250.
3rd Saturday 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. Charles Street Village Clubhouse, Heidi Chesney 510-846-7642.



District 1 encourages young musicians to join regular jams!

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CSOTFA Districts

