



“Preserving and Perpetuating Old Time Fiddle Music”

www.csotfa.org

President’s Message

A greeting from Sharon

Greetings to our Fiddle Family,

We hope this finds you well and looking forward to spring and to the start of fiddle contest season. Your CSOTFA Board and Officers met via Zoom on Saturday, February 22, and worked on the plans for the CSOTFA Fiddle and Picking Contest in Lodi on April 18 and 19. The contest will again be at the Grape Festival Fairground in conjunction with the CBA Spring Campout. Come on down and enjoy the different variations of old-time fiddle music!

The next contest that Tex and I plan to attend is the Nevada Old-Time Fiddlers’ Contest in Eureka, NV on May 16 and 17 at the wonderful, restored Eureka Opera House. June, of course, brings the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest in Weiser, ID on June 16-21. There are many other relatively nearby events, including CBA events and contests in Oregon and Washington. I hope you can attend one or more of these. Also, I would be remiss if I didn't remind you of the 42nd Western Open Fiddle Championships in Red Bluff on October 24 and 25.

Have a wonderful spring and we hope to see you in Lodi in April.

Sharon



Kyla Kozlowski competing at the 2024 California State OldTime Fiddle & Picking Championships in Lodi

2025 CSOTFA Old-Time Fiddle & Picking Championships

When: Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19

Where: Lodi Grape Festival Fairgrounds
Jackson Hall
413 E Lockeford Street
Lodi, CA

CSOTFA website: <https://www.csotfa.org/>

CBA Spring Campout

When: April 15-20 at the fairgrounds

Reservations required

Email: campout@californiabluegrass.net



Tim Rued playing the nyckelharpa, a traditional Swedish instrument that has been played, in one form or another as it evolved, for more than 600 years

District 9

Adapting to meet current conditions

Bob Palasek, Director; Todd Townsend, Reporter

CSOTFA District 9 can report itself fully recovered from the COVID disaster, with changes needed to club operations to fit current conditions of an aging membership. We are very pleased to report that membership is now in the 40 region, and our financial condition is well able to support all current operations. We feel that emphasizing attendance at the monthly meetings by players is the road to financial strength and has naturally led to increased membership and renewals. Of course, listeners are always welcome, but the work of promoting attendance by non-players is beyond the club's resources at this time.

We are proud to say that the District 9 website has been refurbished and placed on a sound financial footing, and we hope to begin using it to promote club meetings in the new year

The club consistently operates robust Jams at its monthly meetings, with a standing Old Time Jam in its own room, and a mixed genre (but all traditional) Jam in the Big Room. In good weather, our outdoor areas are always in use, either by small groups rehearsing or a larger jam circle. Old-time fiddle is heard at all jam circles but is near 100% of the tunes in the traditional jam.

Changes to club operations to fit the "new Normal" include replacing the Sunday lunch with a potluck dessert table that requires little cleanup and fewer workers, and also making the use of microphones to aid singers in the Big Room a sporadic thing based on the needs of the players and the size of the Big Room Jam.

We hope to receive more visitors from other CSOTFA districts and are well able to accommodate them at this time, with 2-3 jams at every Meeting.

A membership meeting is scheduled for our January 4th-Sunday Jam where we will finalize elections.



Jamming at Walker Creek Music Camp

District 10

The latest updates from our neck of the woods

Tim Rued, Director; Judith Jones, Reporter

OK here's a little update from our neck of the woods. Of course, of course, of course, as you all have... we also have quite a selection of jams to choose from. If ya can't make it to one you can try another. We also have musicians performing in various establishments for our enjoyment. And for all you Walker Creek Music Camp fans -registration is happening now

Another fun thing to do is to attend the Sonoma County Bluegrass and Folk Festival on March 8th at the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center. <https://californiabluegrass.org/cbaevent/sonoma-festival/>

So, if you happen to be in *their* neck of the woods, stop in and join the jam!

Walker Creek Music Camp

Friday, April 25 - Monday, April 28, 2025

Registration **OPENS** at **NOON** on Monday, February 10, 2025!

Teachers:

- Neal Chin Ukulele
- John Shain Blues guitarist
- Kendl Winter - Clawhammer Banjo
- Brandon Godman - Bluegrass Fiddle
- Karen Celia Heil - Old-time Fiddle
- Adam Roszkiewicz - Bluegrass Mandolin
- Patrick Sauber - Bluegrass Banjo
- Mike Witcher - Dobro
- Greg Schochet - Western Swing Guitar
- Eli West - Flatpicking Guitar
- John Reischman - Bluegrass Mandolin
- Michaela Mae and Ryan Harlin - Vocal Harmony class
- Dave Keenan - Western Swing Vocal Repertoire class
- Bethany Sorkey - Bluegrass Ensemble class.
- Krishna Feeney - M&M's (Music & More) Youth Program



Historic image from District 10 website

District 5

Holding strong

Lyle Dixson, Director



A well-attended District 5 jam

Congratulations to those elected and we are looking forward to another year of playing music at the Orangevale Grange, our monthly meeting location. On a sad note, in memoriam, the following members have passed recently: Bob Baumert, Doug Dempster, Paul Spiker, and Don Spike. We deeply appreciate their attendance, loyalty, and dedication to the club for so many years, and they will be sorely missed. Attached are photos of recent Orangevale Grange Meetings.



District 5 has held its annual election for 2025 officers with the following results:

- District President: Jeff Gebhart
- District Vice-President: Eric Anderson
- District Treasurer: Sandi Anderson
- Membership Chair: Mary McGowan
- Secretary: Carol Spiker
- Advisors: Carl Malotte & Rick Fairall

Photos from the 2024 State Contest in Lodi



Pat Scott & Tom Spence - 2024 CSOTFA Contest



Eli Clegg - 2024 CSOTFA Contest



Fiddlers competing at 2024 California State Old Time Fiddle and Picking Championships.

District 8 - What's Up?

A host of musical talents

Sid Brown, Director



Elaine Keller playing backup harmonica.

District 8 has not had an entry in the Soundpost for over a year (my bad) so let me start off with how the membership is doing. In a word "Great"! In a little more detail, we should all be pleased to know that numbers are holding at about 120 members. More importantly, we have a broad range of ages from early teenager to over 90 and all bring a host of musical talents and appreciation to our membership. Katie Hamilton, our youngest musician, has been playing fiddle since she was 5 ½ years old and she is very accomplished. Her tonality and timing are spot on and a pleasure to hear. But that's not all she also plays mandolin at our jams and at home she also plays ukulele, piano, guitar, and sings. Katie and her mother, Anne, joined CSOTFA in late 2023. They are a very welcomed addition because of their enthusiasm and dedication (they must be dedicated because they drive about 1 ½ hours to get here from east of LA).

Our 90 and over group is well represented in our membership and our oldest member, who is well into her 90's, is Elaine Keller. Elaine has led a storied life and has been very active in the community. It would be interesting to do a bio of her in a later edition.



District 8 performers Charletta Erb, Gordon Roberts, Craig Maltman, and Don Martin.

Shown below is our board for 2025 which is the same as last year's except for the welcomed addition of Cherie McCabe. Yeah! Cherie has taken over the membership duties from Joe Johnson who wore two hats last year (Treasurer and Membership Secretary).



From left to right the board members are Debby Finley Delamore, Board Chair; Joe Johnson, Treasurer; Jim Friery, Advisor; Cherie McCabe, Membership Secretary; Dianna Brown, Advisor; Sid Brown, VP and State Director; Kenny Luper, Advisor; Bob Levin, Entertainment Director; Michael Taylor, Publicist.



District 8 holiday dinner attracted 60 members.

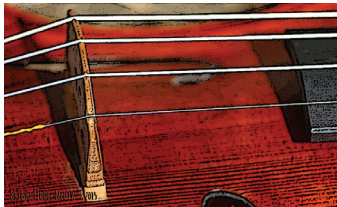
California State Old Time Fiddlers Association

Dedicated to the preservation & perpetuation of old-time fiddle music

2025 57th Annual

Open Fiddle & Picking Championships

In coordination with California Bluegrass Association



Visit our website
www.csotfa.org

for full listings of
schedules, divisions,
rules & guidelines



RV Camping
\$45 per night

Tent/vehicle Camping
\$15 per night

Reservations required

Email: campout@californiabluegrass.net



Contest Co-Chairs

Mark Hogan

707-479-5529

email: hogiemoon@comcast.net

Sharon Barrett

530-604-5279

email: texshar@pacbell.net



CBA Spring Campout

April 15-20, 2025

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

April 18-19, 2025



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: Teresa Ward -- tward.butte@gmail.com

State Directors

District 1: Ann Michels -- Anne11Michels49@gmail.com
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 Touchstone -- dtouchstonefiddler@gmail.com
District 8: Sid Brown -- sidnyb@outlook.com
District 9: Bob Palasek - r03palasek@sbcglobal.net
District 10: Tim Rued -- timrued@aol.com



2024 Junior-Junior Contest Winners

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 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** 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.



Mark Hogan, 2024 Conest Announcer

CSOTFA Districts



Revised 3-12-18
By Willie Randel

Spring California Bluegrass Association Events



[Spring Campout](#)

April 15-20, 2025
Campout and California State Old Time
Fiddle & Pickin' Championships
Lodi Grape Festival Grounds, Lodi, CA

[Photos from the 2024 Spring Campout](#)



[Julian Fiddle Camp](#)

May 7-11, 2025
Not just for fiddles! Instruction in
multiple string instruments.
Whispering Winds Camp, Julian, CA
[Photos from the 2024 Fiddle Camp](#)



[CBA Summer Music Camp](#)

June 8-11, 2025
Learn from the pros before the Father's
Day Festival.
Nevada County Fairgrounds
Grass Valley, CA

[Photos from 2024 Music Camp](#)