



The IDAHO FIDDLER

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District 2

Student fiddlers shine at Hoot's

Two gatherings at Hoot's in January highlighted the activities of our district. Inclement weather kept attendance down at our Cabin Fever bash on the 8th, but approximately 25 IOTF members, students, and visiting musicians provided lots of good music for local fans who came to listen and dance. We are considering holding this event in February next year to avoid the January storms.

We were delighted to have Marion and Mary Moore here for the Cabin Fever party, and proud of them for braving the elements to come and play for us. It was a pleasure to have Bob and Dory Tuttle from Viola, Idaho, as well as two of their talented grown-up grandchildren who shared their fiddle and guitar skills. Montana musicians who also braved the storm were Mike and Tari Conroy and Dale and Debbie Kerns. Always fun to have them sit in. Those of you who didn't make it, please know that you were missed, but you can make up for it by showing up for our February 26 jam session at the IOOF Hall in Riggins. Mark your calendars!

On January 18 we played for the 70th wedding anniversary party in honor of Joe and Ada Wilson, long-time Salmon River residents and devoted fans and sponsors of fiddling events. This impressive milestone in their lives was well celebrated at Hoot's with more than 200 friends and family. In addition to the Idaho Fiddlers, entertainment was provided by several family members and other local musicians. The gala reception and dance was followed by a potluck supper at the old Whitebird Odd Fellows Hall, where some of us continued to play our fiddles until the end of the day, in an atmosphere reminiscent of early 20th-century times, complete with rough benches, a big pot-bellied stove,

and no microphones.

We are proud that the following student fiddlers also played with us at one or both of the above occasions: Ann Cook, Rachele Hammell, Brandy Trivett, Dylan and Dustin Rinker, and Kathreen Steiner. Fran has started two more beginners, Desiree Garrett and Jordan Hackler. Brandy has finished two years of mentoring, and will be honored at the May meeting at Hoot's. Martin Fewkes, chairman of the Fiddles Forever program, stated that District 2 leads the state association in creating new fiddlers. Chairman Gary Solberg remarked, "If you want old time fiddlers to play for you in the nursing home, you'd better start growing your own!"

In the area of not-so-good news, Dylan took a fall on the ski slopes last week and suffered a fractured vertebra. Doctors say the injury will not cause permanent damage, but he's out of sports for the season. We wish you a quick recovery, Dylan, and lots of fiddling practice while you're getting well.

It's good to see Louise Bracher back after a long illness, and we wish each and all of you best of health and happy fiddling.

Until next time, keep practicing! You're gonna get good!

—FWC

District 6

Brant celebrates 97th birthday

January is gone and February is upon us. Where has all the snow gone? It could be another short water year.

A lot of sickness is going on among our members. As our frustrations in life increase, there is no better way to overcome them, than by getting up a

jam session or two and playing some music.

It was good to have Pete and Olgi Arbaugh down to brother Jim's place for a jam session. We had a nice turnout and everyone present had a good time.

The east side group had to cancel a few plays due to a snowstorm but overall we have met most of our commitments.

We were asked to play for a dance at the Gooding Senior Center and a good time was had by all. We were invited back to play for another one, Feb. 12.

Nancy and Larry Weeks have moved to the Rexburg area. They found their dream house and decided to move now. We wish them the best. It will be our loss and another district's gain. Nancy entered a Christmas story contest and won first place! Congratulations Nancy!

Loretta Brant enjoyed a very nice 97th birthday party at the St. Benedict's Care Center in Jerome. She played three songs on her fiddle to the delight of everyone present. She plays with us when we entertain there.

Our next meeting date is Feb. 12.

—Edna Day



February 26 — District Two Jam Session at the Riggins IOOF Hall at 1 p.m.

March 19 - Banana Belt Show at the Lewiston Senior Center, 1 p.m.

April 29, 30 and May 1 — Hoot's get-together.

