



# The IDAHO FIDDLER

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## District 4

### Fiddlers featured in local newspaper

Instead of writing a report this month, I thought it would be more fun to pass along the interview that was written for the Emmett Messenger-Index by reporter Wade Shaddy.

by Wade Shaddy

#### Emmett Messenger-Index

Tradition. In modern times it can be hard to find. But there are those who insist that it be done the old way. Joy Halliwell and Ken Tooley are two of these people. Through persistent effort, and perseverance of a hobby and skill they both love, the District Four division of the Old Time Fiddlers of Idaho has been revitalized.

"The organization has been active for a long time, but due to lack of leadership, it disbanded a while back," says Halliwell, the new chairman of the IOTF. "I was active in the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers for eighteen years. Then after I had organized a jam session when I was snowbirding in Arizona, I had the idea to reinvigorate the District Four chapter, which bases in Emmett."

After Halliwell decided on the plan it didn't take long for her to contact the State President of the IOTF and learn that she needed to establish a residency in Idaho for two full years before she could carry out the idea. "We continued to play even though we weren't officially part of the organization," she said. "And the fact that we have access to the Heritage Hall

here in town for our local jams was one of the reasons we moved here."

The insistence on long held traditions of the group are taken very seriously.

"We have a model that we all follow," Halliwell says. "We are dedicated to the revival, and preservation of old time fiddle music." An aversion to amplified instruments has been a trademark of the group. "We are not amplified," she says. "Those are state IOTF rules."

The group will use microphones however for singers and accompanying instruments, and if the place where they are playing is very large they will mike the fiddles as well.

One of the places that the group plays is nursing homes, events like the Cherry Festival, and recently they had a gig for the Red Hat Society. "We are very family oriented," says Ken Tooley, a guitar player in the group. "We are willing and able to play almost anywhere if we are asked and we're always on the lookout for new members and to reactivate old members. There's so much talent out there and they have so much to offer. Many people say they're not good enough, so we encourage them to just come to a jam, sit in the background and practice, then when they're ready they can come up front. But even then, people in nursing homes really don't care if you make a mistake or not."

The IOTF consists of not only fiddles, but all stringed instruments, and those who sing as well. Halliwell encourages all those who might be interested in coming out for entertainment, or to join in on a jam session to stop by the Heritage Place Clubhouse at 12th and Johns on the first Tuesday of the month at seven o'clock. Or you can call Halliwell for more information at 398-8125.

## District 7

### All play dates met & enjoyed in December

We were able to make all of our play dates for December.

We feel sad for the loss of Don Orchard to cancer, he will be missed by all the homes we play at. He liked to joke and play harmonica with Clint Shipman and we know he is in a better place, but he will be missed a lot.

We are finally getting some snow which is needed, we hope it don't stop us from making our play dates.

Clint got home from Tennessee and is looking to get back in the swing of things. While in Tennessee he bought a new dobro.

—Clint Shipman



January 22 — District 12 Cabin Fever Party and Potluck, 1 p.m. at the American Legion Hall.

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

