



The IDAHO FIDDLER

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District 6

Fun jam sessions introduce old time fiddle music to area children

I don't know what has happened with our district's news the last couple of times but honestly our district is alive and well with plenty of playing commitments. Gary Huntington has agreed to remain as our chairman and Margie Collins as co-chairman for another year along with Becky Bingman as secretary/treasurer and yours truly as reporter and historian.

Our group has enjoyed using our new and less complex sound system this year. We have had outside plays every month in addition to our six regularly scheduled monthly commitments at the care facilities and our monthly jam/meeting at Idaho Pizza.

We have been seen in the far reaching communities of Fairfield and Glenns Ferry as well as many local community events. Our exposure at Idaho Pizza continues to provide opportunities to share local fiddle instructor names with interested parents and children so we have been encouraged by the fact that our organization's legacy still has hope of revival with the younger generation.

Guest musicians have included Arlene Watkins from Arizona who plays the accordion, Ted Kirkpatrick from Rigby with his standup bass, and Martin Fewkes of Boise sharing his talents on the guitar and fiddle. George and Gail Philipp who have a summer home in Twin Falls have also joined our organization. George plays fiddle and Gail plays the Mandolin. More recently, John Paustian of Boise has joined us with his guitar and we have

certainly enjoyed his nice singing voice along with his mean picking on the Steel Guitar Rag.

Sept. 3 and 4 found District 6 members who play the fiddle enjoying a workshop taught by Katie Bonn. Katie offered helpful tips, bowing techniques and some new peppy tunes for us to learn. Many thanks to Katie for her time and patience.

We are looking forward to some Christmas party plays for our assisted living facilities and the district Christmas dinner and dancing get-together later this week.

Until next time, Happy Holidays to all, safe travels and hopefully many cherished gatherings with friends and family.

—Mary Baldwin

District 5

Smith celebrates 90th birthday

In October it was time to celebrate Dee Smith's 90th birthday. Dee is still out there entertaining with his best traditional fiddle tunes.

Our monthly jam sessions at the Eagle Senior Center have attracted some fantastic fiddle players as well as guitar, harmonica, and mandolin players.

Fourteen members turned out to help celebrate a 100 year anniversary for the Wright Community Church in Boise.

The weather set in and it was too tough to get to one play and an-

other was canceled because of construction.

Our close to Thanksgiving was cancelled also because people were gone. That happened to the day players. It is amazing that our evening players go every Monday evening without mishap.

Christmas is done and those songs are put away. We are practicing some fresh spring songs.

A thank you to Betty Gull for offering her home for practice get togethers. We have been joined by new members who are adjusting to our way of life. We certainly appreciate all the new players.

We had a great Christmas Jamboree turnout. About 35 old and new members came to celebrate the year past. We were entertained by the Thompson family fiddlers, Harrison, Simon and Levi with parents, Steve and Drae. Their songs are always in fast forward.

So far we have had a great turnout for our plays. We don't have any snowbirds. Our players stayed well. The weather is letting up. We are looking good.



Feb. 5 – District 2 Cabin Fever Party at Hoot's Cafe, 10 a.m. Buffet lunch at noon.

May 6 and 7 – Spring Board Meeting and Get-together at Hoot's Cafe at White Bird.

