



The *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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District 8

Time warp!

Let's see now, give me a minute to figure out when I'm at, and where I'm supposed to be when I get to where I'm going. At the top of this newsletter it says January 2020!

"Heck, I'm just getting over the indigestion caused by that thanksgiving turkey I ate" and now, Christmas? Is it "Christmas past", or "Christmas present" or "Christmas yet to come"? What ever, I hope you all will have, or are having, or had a very merry Christmas. At the time of this writing (tow) we just put up our Christmas tree, (we will decorate it tomorrow). I guess what I'm trying to say is; "I'm not sure what is most interesting to write about? Yesterday, today, or tomorrow? "Awk - - -ward! There is such a time laps from the time I write up a newsletter to the time you can read it on the iotfa.org website. I think for now, I can print off a few copies to hand out at our OTF Christmas party scheduled on the

In with the new, out with the old! (a timeless issue)

In our quest in keeping our music "fresh", trying think of new tunes to add to our play list, are we letting go of some of the great tunes we used to play? Now I am not a "veteran " old time fiddler, so I don't have to go back very far into our song list to find songs or tunes that I'm not familiar with or have not played for a long long time. Last week, (tow) we were playing at the Idaho Falls senior citizen center and just as I was coming up to the mic. (with a new song in mind to sing), an elderly gentleman asked us to sing a Burl Ives song. As we stood there, (stuttering and stammering looking at each other). I remembered the Burl Ives song I used to sing that was tucked away in our play list and tucked away in the cobwebs of my memory, "A Little Bitty Tear Let Me Down"

(aka “my little bitty brain let me down”). Needless to say, I had forgotten most of the words, "it once was a sugar cookie but turned back into a salty pickle" (I’m referring back to last month's newsletter here). It was a pretty good song, but kind of got lost in the archived 400 + song list. So, I just took a deep breath and sang what ever came out. (ya, I had to make up some of the words along the way). It was a “pickle” song – but what can I say? It was me trying to sing a Burl Ives song, what do you expect?

With that experience in mind, is there any good reason not to draw from our “archive song list” to pick out a favorite song or tune and kind of “recycle” it. Dust it off, shine it up, as an example, take the song “They cut down the old pine tree”! How many of you remember that song or even heard of it? I can’t say I’ve ever heard us play that one. I’m sure there are others that could use some dusting and polishing. Maybe a little “re-arranging”. That could be fun to do!

If you think about it, if we have 8 to 10 plays a month, and play 20 to 24 songs at each play, what’s the chances of any one patron having to listen to the same song more than two or three times a month? I don’t think they would get too tired of that, (We are the ones who may get tired of playing the same song over and over), but the more we play it over and over the better we get at learning it and what keys they are played in, and who knows how many patrons “cycle” through these places that we play

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for. We could play the same songs for months, and never know how many people hear the same songs that we play. I guess that with odds like that, the idea of “recycling” would be a valid Idea, and it also “helps save the planet”! So, if you are getting brain freeze over trying to think up a new song, browse through the “Archived District. 8 Play list and see what you can come up with?

By the way “Happy New year”! Have you all made your “New Year’s resolutions”? What is your guess how long you will keep the resolutions you made? Most of mine only last about one week if that. I don’t know how many years I resolved to learn to play that darned old pedal steel guitar that I have in my music room. I get heart burn just to think about it?

The winter months are here now, but the Holidays come with them. November and December can get pretty busy for us all, and not just with more plays but Christmas and lots of personal things like family gatherings, parties, shopping, decorating, etc. etc. goes on for us all and the “jam/business mtgs.” may take a back seat. Here is where that never-ending gremlin “supply and demand” steps in. I’ll pick up on that idea in our next Newsletter next year. So, enjoy the holidays. Merry Christmas to all, be safe and stay tuned in!

From our Readers:

Note: comments, and suggestions are from the readers and is not the reflections of District 8 of the IOTFA.

From Terry: Last night (Dec.12) Mauna and I went to the Bar-J Wrangler concert and we saw that Monty and Teresa, and Dave were there also. What a GREAT show. I was “blown away” at Tim (the fiddler) playing that “cross-tuned (I think) fiddle. And Donny on the pedal steel guitar. I don’t know if I want to dust off my pedal steel guitar and try to learn it, or just cure my depression and take a matchstick to it? They were and always are an inspiration to me.

I am always looking for comments, e-mails or texts or notes, or anything from our players and members.

You can Email me at bbpicker45@gmail.com

Or Text me at (208) 569 9496

District 5

HELLO FIDDLERS:

WE ARE HOPING EVERYONE HAD A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS, SPENDING

TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND, OF COURSE, INDULGING IN YOUR FAVORITE FOODS AND DESSERTS. I KNOW WE SURE DID!!! WE MADE LOTS OF CANDY THIS YEAR AND COOKIES AND OF COURSE BANANA NUT BREAD TO GIVE TO OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. CHRISTMAS IS ALWAYS FUN, CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS IN THE SERVICES OF CHURCHES AND ETC.

BUT NOW IT IS TIME TO GET BACK TO BUSINESS WITH OUR FIDDLING AROUND AND LEARNING NEW SONGS FOR THE NEW YEAR 2020.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR DISTRICT FIVE WAS HELD AT THE GOLDEN CORRAL IN BOISE. THE MUSIC PROGRAM WAS LED BY BONNIE LONGSTRETH, WHO LEADS OUT IN THE NIGHT FIDDLE GROUP. MY HUSBAND AND I COULDN'T ATTEND THE CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS YEAR, BUT FROM WHAT THE FIDDLERS SAY THE PARTY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AND ENJOYED THE MUSIC AND THE FOOD VERY MUCH. ONE THING ABOUT THE GOLDEN CORRAL THEY HAVE A VARIETY OF FOOD AND PLENTY FOR EVERYONE TO CHOOSE FROM. THE DESSERTS ARE OUTSTANDING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

OUR MEETING IN NOVEMBER WASN'T WELL ATTENDED, HOWEVER, RON MOORE GAVE A SHORT OUTLINE OF THE LAST OTF BOARD MEETING . HE EXPLAINED TO US THAT THAT BOARD HAS BEEN WORKING HARD ON REVISING THE BY-LAWS FOR THE IOTF. THESE WILL NOT BE READY TO VOTE ON UNTIL THE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER IN 2020. THE ORIGINAL BY-LAWS WERE WRITTEN IN 1968 AND REVISED IN 2010. ONCE THE FINAL DRAFT IS FINISHED AT OUR MAY MEETING, EACH DISTRICT CHAIRMAN WILL RECEIVE A COPY TO DISTRIBUTE TO EACH GROUP. QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS SUBJECT OF THE BY-LAWS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR CHAIRMAN, JERRY VANBUREN 208-546-8232 AND HE CAN POINT YOU TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE .

VI SCHEWE DONATED SOME MUSICAL EQUIPMENT TO THE FIDDLERS. THE EAST GROUP TOOK THE MICROPHONE AND MUSIC STAND. THE LONG CHORDS WILL BE USED FOR THE FIDDLING JAM HERE IN THE SENIOR CENTER IN EAGLE. SINCE NO ONE COULD USE THE CRATE 2 CHANNEL AMP, JUDY VANBUREN MADE A MOTION TO HAVE ARNIE LYLE AND RICH MATTHEWS LOOK IT OVER TO SEE IF WE COULD SELL

IT AND THEY DECIDED IT WOULD BE WORTH \$25.00. THE FIDDLERS WERE ALL IN AGREEMENT AND AMP WILL BE SOLD FOR \$25.00.

THE EAST FIDDLING GROUP LEAD BY BETTY GULL REPORTED THEY HAVE HAD SOME SICKNESS IN HER GROUP, SO WE ARE HOPING THEY ARE DOING BETTER NOW. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO HELP THIS GROUP OUT PLEASE LET BETTY GULL KNOW. (208-887-2113) THE WEST GROUP LEAD BY RICHARD MATTHEWS HAS 4 PLAYS A MONTH AND IF ANYONE WISHES TO HELP THIS GROUP OUT PLEASE CALL RICH FOR TIMES AND ETC. ((208-412-8974)

THE NIGHT GROUP LEAD BY BONNIEI LONGSTRETH IS STILL DOING HER SAME PLAYS 4 TIMES A MONTH . QUESTIONS CONCERNING HER PLAYS PLEASE CALL. (208-724-5632)

WE ARE STILL HAVING THE IDOTF JAMS ON THE 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6:30. EVERYONE IS WELCOMED TO COME AND PARTIPATE IN THE FUN. I BELIEVE THIS IS ALL I HAVE TO REPORT FOR THIS MONTH. ANY INFORMATION THAT ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE REPORTED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL. (208-830-1278)

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR YOUR REPORTER

LINDA LYLE (208-830-1278)

A MERRY HEART DOES GOOD, LIKE MEDICINE, BUT A BROKEN SPIRIT DRIES THE BONES.

PROVERBS 17:22

THEREFORE, WHETHER YOU EAT OR DRIN, OR WHATEVER YOU DO, DO ALL THE GLORY OF GOD.

1ST. CORINTHIANS 10:31