



The *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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RAIN, SLEET, SNOW – YUP, IT’S SPRING!

Well, here we are in the season of spring where if you don’t like the weather, just wait a few minutes! Wow, it has been everything for sure, but the grass is green, the leaves are shooting out and there are lots of daffodils and tulips. Love the spring flowers. Had a moose eat most of my tulips just before they bloomed, so I have to enjoy the neighbor’s who have a fenced yard. Oh well.

Our play dates have been a lot – we played 6 times in one week with adequate members turning out to play, for which we were thankful. We wondered if some of the retirement homes would cancel because of flu, but they all wanted us and we were glad to oblige. We played at the noon meal at Troy and Deary which we don’t do very often during the year and they were well attended by players and meal partakers. They always give us lunch after we play and serve great meals.

We enjoyed playing at the Whitman Center where we usually play every other month, for an appreciation spaghetti dinner they put on for the local volunteer firefighters. It was a money maker for the fire fighters with some coming by to enjoy the meal and music as well. It was nice to be a part of such a worthwhile cause.

We were pleased to learn that Mabel and her sister Debbie attended the N.W. Regional Fiddle Contest in Spokane and Mabel took first place in the Sr. Division. She is now certified and will be playing one evening at the National Fiddle Show in Weiser.

We finally had our play date at the Dahmen Artisan Barn in Uniontown which was one of the play dates we were practicing for. What a great turn-out by fiddlers. We had Dave, Gary B., Gary P., Mabel, Sue, Debbie, Carol, and Herb on fiddle; Tom and Willard on guitar; Whitey and Skip on mandolin; Scott on banjoli; and Marge on bass. Unfortunately, there was only a small crowd that showed up, but we certainly played our hearts out and sounded pretty good if we do so say ourselves.

We are now looking forward to our play date this month for the square dance club where they will be dancing to live music. That should be a great time. Will give a report on that next month.

And we welcomed back our banjo player, Jon, and his wife Char from the snowbird country and are glad to have them back. Always nice to have a banjo addition. Guess that wraps it up for this time. Hope the fiddling goes well for all of you and that the weather will become more cooperative. Happy pickin' and playin'.

-- Marge Nelson

DISTRICT 12

Hi from District 12

March and April were rather quick in our district. In March we had a special day when we had our Cabin Fever Party. They had previous plans at the Imperial Hall so we moved the party to Dianne Spaeth's home on 9th st. We would like to thank Dianne for her hospitality on such short notice. A good time was had by all. Dianne had her young students join us and that was a treat. We played a lot of "Boil Them Cabbages" but it was good for the fiddlers as well as the students to play together. On March 29th, we had our jam session at Betty Morton's home, and that was lots of fun. Thanks to Betty and Dick. They always make us feel so welcome. In April, other than our Thursday night jams, we played for the famous mule sale on April 13th and the horse sale on the 20th. The sales and the plays were both successful. People came from all over the western United States and even as far away as Minnesota for the sales. The plays were

good even though it turned cold on Saturday. We had a fun time and there was a fair amount of dancing on the barn floors. In May, we have our Thursday night jams at the Imperial Rec. Hall; and of course, there is Hoot's on May 4th through the 6th. We hope to see many of you there. I would like to take this time to remind you of other special dates for this summer. June 1st through the 3rd, is the Beverly Kirkpatrick Memorial Campout at the golf course in Rigby. In July on the 12th thru 15th is the Lowman Campout near Lowman, ID. August 9th thru 12th is the District 12 Campout (previously known as the Leadore

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Campout) which will be held at the Salmon Meadows Campground in Salmon. They have a building for us to use to play in, restrooms, etc and is within walking distance of town. We will let you know for sure as the time gets closer, in the meantime, see you at Hoot's!

District 6:

Our members have been plenty busy keeping our regular monthly play schedule as well as two outside plays and more forthcoming in the summer months ahead.

Our monthly play at the Idaho Pizza was well attended earlier this week. A four year old fiddler, Quinn, demonstrated his "Goody Goody Clap Clap" in four different keys as his debut performance. We hope to share in his future progress and perhaps coax his father, Glen, to play with us as well.

Last week our members provided music for the ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the introduction of the community mural in Jerome. If you happen to be on Main Street in Jerome, be sure to check out the mural on the East side of Oops Meat Market. Local artist, Gary Stone, is painting advertisements for local businesses in a fascinating display involving landmarks and topography of this area including both sides of the Snake River. We played outside for a while and then moved inside as attendees took advantage of food and beverages provided by some of the area businesses.

Several members also traveled to Three Creek to play for the birthday celebration of Merle Row, who just turned a young 92. It was an inspiration to observe Merle dance a jig and waltz with various family, friends and neighbors. The green desert valley provided a beautiful setting for the country potluck and happy gathering held at the old family ranch. Grazing cattle, lively antelope, and friendly country folks made the long drive very enjoyable.

Until next time, keep a spring in your step and a smile on your face as you fiddle through life.

Mary Baldwin
Reporter