



The *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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From the Chairman

We are presently organized into three playing groups, the Night group led by Bonnie, the East group led by Betty, the West group led by Rich. While our three groups are doing well, our Thursday evening jam recently has not been well attended. In November we had twelve musicians in attendance and it was a good jam. In October there were about eight of our performing musicians there. This caused me to ponder and reflect the notion of not having the jam, or maybe not having a potluck before the jam. But as I listened to those who were in attendance and upon reflection, I sense we should continue with both the potlucks and the jams. There are at least three reasons to do so: One it is there to promote participation, two the food is foundational to fellowship and camaraderie and third it promotes friendship and harmony (more ways than one).

Getting together in a jam has the potential to draw the varied groups together and we can all learn from each other irrespective of the level of the musicians performing. We may hear a tune we are not familiar with and that can promote growth in our musicianship. That seems to me to go to one of the core values of the Idaho Old Time Fiddler organization.

Secondly, food is foundational to fellowship. I am not aware of any church that does not promote fellowship with the use of food. It follows that an organization such as ours can use the same philosophy. When you set down to eat, there is a moment to get to know someone a little better. I noticed that we have a few members who are single, and the meal is truly a blessing to them. They get a nourishing meal and may even get

to take some left overs home. That is really worthwhile to continue. I suppose I could summarize this in – it gives us an opportunity to be sensitive to the needs of each person who comes.

Thirdly, we form friendships. Music may be the catalyst; but it does not take much to realize our life has been enriched by those around us. And as we appreciate each other we have the opportunity for the development of friends that we are very concerned with. We have an opportunity to work out some tunes together. Producing good music is a labor of love and it takes a lot of mistakes before a tune is ready for presentation. This is also a core value of the Idaho Old Time Fiddlers.

So, because of these values I want to encourage participation in our monthly jams and to encourage each of us to bring good stuff for consumption at our potlucks. It helps keeping our organization “in tune.” Jerry Van Buren

DISTRICT 8

Baby it’s cold outside!!
We are near zero here or
at least have been for a
few days. But the good
news, things are
warming up to a
whopping 30 degrees
next week. No single
digit lows. I can feel the
heat already.

I don’t know about
yours, but our district is
swamped with extra
plays this month. We
have several community
event parties to play for.
Christmas is always a

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magical time and we love helping to brighten the moods of the people we play for. Sometimes Christmas can be hard when you are all alone and we just hope we help in that way.

We did play for the Festival of Tree for a grateful audience. Not super large but those that were there did love our music.

We miss our snowbirds and it seems we get more and more of our group leaving every year. I wish I was one of them, but someone must hold the fort down here. So, I am here and freezing. Looking forward to the new year as it is closer to Spring.

All of us here in district wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please be safe and enjoy family and life to the fullest this season and every day.

Love

Teresa Mortensen