



# *The* *IDAHO FIDDLER*

Published by the

IDAHO OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION

December 2019

VOL. 56 NO. 12

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## District 8

Well, here we are in December, (aka the holidays). I, for one hope that the "Christmas bug" will bite me, ya' know, kind of a "pick me up", feel the joy, spread kindness, be of good cheer! But most of all, fill me up with the love of others that we should share with everyone. I hope that I can express that kind of feeling in my music! (♫ jingle dingle bells, jingle dingle bells, jingle all de' way "twang"♫).

In our October newsletter, I threw out an idea "We could make our newsletters have a little bit of **interactivity** (that's the big word I used) among us! Kind of a "forum" or have a part of it reserved for comments and ideas from the readers (that's you)". Remember that? Oh well, that was an idea that just might, or is going down the toilet. Maybe not now.

## Hello?

Hello? Ah Hello-O-o? Is anyone out there? Where are you? I guess the newsletters I sent out must be somewhere out in cyber space, maybe they got caught up in some ice crystals and can't get out! Ya' that's where they must be! No one will break the ice and establish communication with me! Or could it be me? This time of the year it's common to get "brain freeze"! I guess. OK! OK! I get it! No one wants to "break the ice"! Just keep it as "Status Quo"! - - - Wait, - - - wait a minute, I hear something coming in, it's a, ah, could it be? Yes! it's a reply! "Way to go"! (**See "From our Readers" below**)

You've probably heard the expression "one man's music is another man's noise"? I need to keep that in my mind sometimes when we are playing at some of the "plays". Sometimes we are "tight" and it is sounding good and it's really fun, at other times we are ah, well ah kind of "loose". I know that it comes with job, "the salt with the sugar", or the "pickles with the cookies". When a new song is introduced, it takes a few times, (or several times) to "get the salted pickles out of the sugar cookies"! Consider this, if only one salted pickle gets in with a

bag of sugar cookies, we can consider it as a pretty good play. But if two or three pickles gets in, it becomes kind of a train wreck. What can we do? How can we prevent a “train wreck?” Well “DAAAA!!! Add more sugar cookies? OR leave some of the salted pickles for another time or another play? We have been encouraged to learn more new pickles, songs, and introduce them at our “jam/business mtgs. That is where we **learn and practice** new songs that have been introduced. Kind of sweeten up, or take out the pickles, ya know, change the pickles into cookies.

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 thing 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!

This is Terry signing off “till next year”

### From our Readers;

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

### From Terry

I'm going to try to work up a John Denver song "Christmas for Cowboys"! It's a simple, 4 cord song in 3/4 time in the key of D. The lead in chord progression runs up to the 4<sup>th</sup> chord G, it goes **G – D – A7 – Bm** then **G – D – A7 – D**. Repeat those two progressions over and over 'till I run out of words to sing. Three verses and an instrument interlude (G

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– D – A7 – D) should do it!

Barb' mentioned to me:

Terry, I really enjoy the newsletters, I think some of the songs we play are getting a little long! Three, maybe four verses should be plenty. Also, let's keep them "danceable "

*Right on Barb! I'm not much of a dancer, but if I was,*

*I'd probably drop to the floor after 3 verses! Thanks for your comments*

*Terry*

A reader noted on stage appearance.

I noted that at times when someone up to the mic singing or playing, some will walk over and talk (or whisper) to another member. That is really quite distracting and not very professional (I know we are not professionals) but whoever is performing wonders what he or she is doing? This subject has come up before in "jam/business mtgs." but to no avail. The audience is probably questioning what is going on. If possible, keep communications with others in the group until after the play or share it with everyone

From Terry

When we setup our "stuff" at "Plays", let's try to put our instrument cases and other stuff all in as small of area as we can, together, not scattered around and probably not on top of furniture that can be damaged. If possible, let's try to keep it out- of- sight (not all ways possible), but let's "clean up our act"! Make our "area" as neat as possible!