



The *IDAHO FIDDLER*

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MANY MONTHS ROLLED INTO ONE

Hello from District 9. Some how this year got away from me with a lot of things happening that I hadn't planned on. Therefore, this is the first Newsletter since April and I am going to try and summarize the highlights of the remainder of the year. So here goes.

May, 2014

With Spring in full swing -- we covered our usual play sites which were enjoyed by many, and we always enjoy playing. But this month was again our chance to play live music for the local square dance club, The Palouse Promenaders, which we have really enjoyed in the past. We had a great turn-out and the evening was rockin! Gary Potratz, who is the square dance caller and a fiddler, had everyone swinging and promenading to our toe tappin live music. Again, a great success which we and the dancers enjoyed. And we also performed for the National Association of Retired Federal Employees Convention for their banquet and had a great response from that as well. Also found out that Debby Carlson attended the Glacier Fiddle Festival in Kalispell, Mont. in April and placed 5th in her division. And this spring she was at the Spirit of the West Fiddle Contest in Ellensburg, WA where she placed 4th in her division. Yea Debbie! Mabel Vogt competed in the N.W. Regional Fiddle Show in Spokane, WA in April and placed 1st in both Senior and Senior/Senior divisions. Yahoo Mabel!!

June, 2014

In June we went to our summer schedule which means less play sites since many begin

summer activities and are gone making the availability of fiddlers less for the play dates. But we did enjoy playing once again for the Bishop Place BBQ which is an annual event for them and they are one of our regularly scheduled play sites we cover each month. We all dress somewhat western and have a good time. They also include a tractor show with the event and one of our fiddlers, Dave Bezdicek, brought his tractor in for the show. It is a beauty! And Mabel Vogt participated in the National Old Time Fiddle contest in Weiser, ID and took second place in Senior/Senior. Way to go, Mabel!!

July, 2014

We covered our regular play sites for the summer with not as many fiddlers, but those we played for still enjoyed our being there.

August, 2014

This month always begins with the Scenic Six Fiddle Show in Potlatch, ID which is coordinated by Mabel Vogt and several of our fiddlers enjoy playing for the event. It is not a contest, but a night of pure fiddle pleasure and Mabel has her young performance group, The Junior Jammers, participating. They are great and the older crowd really enjoy their entertainment. We also did our annual play date at Elk River, ID which is up in the wooded area and they celebrate Elk River Daze with a parade, cake walk which several of our group participate in, kids games and us playing outside the

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Huckleberry Haven for a period of time with an audience who bring up their chairs and love to listen. We are then treated to a huckleberry ice cream cone which we all look forward to. This too is the regular month we have our fiddle retreat down at 3-Rivers Resort where we play and eat from Friday to Sunday and just have a great time. But this year the resort was threatened by a forest fire and we had to cancel. Dave Bezdicek was able to make arrangements to have a one day retreat on the Sunday we would have been at 3-Rivers in Moscow, and we had a potluck and played the rest of the day doing the activities we would have done on Saturday at 3-Rivers. We kept connected to find out in the end the resort was not harmed by the flames and we are glad to hear we will back next year.

September, 2014

This month we returned to our regular schedule to cover all the play sites we are at during the school year. Everyone got back from many summer experiences and it was good to have us all together again to practice and perform for all the senior sites. A good group once again played at the Latah County Fair in Moscow, ID and there was a good turnout of players and listeners. We are on an outdoor stage and most of the fair grounds can hear while we are performing. Mabel Vogt also performed again, this time at the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort for their annual Fiddle Contest. And she snagged a second place in Senior Division. Congrats again, Mabel!

October-November, 2014

Both of these months were routine with players covering the senior sites and all enjoying the toe tappin music.

December, 2014

We are now in the midst of the Christmas rush and playing Christmas songs at our regular sites which the seniors love. We always chuckle a bit since we only play Christmas songs during the month of December and we start off a bit rough and have it down by the last play site. But everyone enjoys. We will be having our Christmas potluck, meeting and practice this coming Sunday. We will be playing at 3 sites the following week to end the year and will look forward to the start of 2015.

So this bring you up to date on Dist. 9 and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Marge Nelson, Secretary

Howdy From District 8
December 7th, 2014

Two thoughts; Wow! It's Christmas. And, where did 2014 go? It sure went by fast. We are hot into our special Christmas fiddle program. It includes Rudolph, Jingle Bells, Silver Bells, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, and a special finish with Silent Night and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. The program is filled in with fiddle tunes from our traditional list as well. The hard part is remembering words of songs that we haven't sung in eleven months. That's where memory-by-committee comes in handy. One of my greatest joys is seeing the smiles on the faces of our audience and having folks sing along.

We'll be taking Christmas week off so that we can be with family and friends. Remember, Christmas should not be about what's under the tree, but who's around it.

Our annual Christmas party is scheduled to be at Darryl and Chris Harris' again this year. We sure appreciate their hospitality. We'll eat and jam and eat some more.

We are looking forward to a quick recovery for Harold Sorensen who is recovering from knee replacement surgery. We sure miss his Dobro as well as his singing. We wish him as speedy and uneventful recovery. Maybe the Christmas party will draw him out. We hope so.

We've been enjoying the flat pickin' guitar of Darryl Lopez. He challenges us speed wise. I don't know about the rest, but he's got me on the edge of disaster. The added voice of his guitar sure gets people sitting up.

Several of us are making plans to head South right after Christmas. It's been a mild winter so far, here in southeast Idaho but, not warm enough. As for me, I'll see you in the spring.

Here's wishing you and yours the very merriest Christmas and the most prosperous New Year. Stay safe and Keep on Fiddling.

Adios, David Schjeldahl