

District 6  
May 2, 2019

Our playing year is off to a good start and we are happy to announce the return of our snowbirds. We are knocking the rust off of several tunes and gearing up for a fun summer.

This District is in hot pursuit of younger musicians to bolster our membership and perpetuate the art of old time fiddling. We are thrilled to have some Junior members learning our tunes and some students joining us at our monthly jams. Even though they are shy, play softly and are often unsure of which notes are correct, the added depth to the music is invigorating.

Our monthly jam at the Idaho Pizza last evening was livened up with two young ladies joining our group and a local guitar player who also sang some vocal numbers.

Hannah Cooper, age 13, was the first student that Fiddle Teacher Mary Baldwin had, starting at the age of six. Hannah is very fond of Irish jigs and has excellent timing. Hannah's younger sister, Ellie Cooper, is playing the guitar well at the age of nine. These outstanding girls are a marvel to watch, a joy to hear and truly have the love of music in their souls. Their father, Jeff, plays the bagpipes and when you can coax him into playing for you; it's a treat to hear this family perform.

Another Junior member, Daniel Johnson, joins us from Oregon and Nevada where he received prior instruction. Daniel is learning our tunes and refining the techniques from his former teachers but Mary Baldwin is honored to assist him in learning the tunes we play in Southern Idaho. Daniel's father, Joe, plays the guitar and District 6 is pleased to help him advance in his skills.

District 6 is also pleased to welcome Mary Hoff and Bob Barton as guitar playing Auxiliary members. It is no small task to learn the chords to the approximate 250 fiddle and dance tunes this District has on our play list.

The crowds at our April and May musical jams keep us challenged with their requests and we had two couples dancing last night. People enjoy hearing the Varsoviene and it is fun to watch these older couples navigate between the tables as they step lively to the beat of the music. What a fun way to spend a couple of hours on a lovely Spring evening.

District 6 has two changes to our monthly play schedule at this point. Woodstone Retirement Center has been converted to senior apartments so has been dropped from our schedule. The monthly play at our Assisted Living Facility in the country, Harmony Place, has been changed to the first Thursday of the month.

This District invites you to come join us anytime you are in the area. Have a fun and safe summer of music.

Mary Baldwin, Reporter