



# District 8 Newsletter

September 2020



## Doing the best we can

Let's talk a bit about things we can do to make our music a bit more pleasing to listen to. A little bit more "put together", Smooth down the rough edges! Now I'm not claiming to be an authority on this subject but sometimes, you'll have to admit, we do sound like ah – ah – well chaos! I know that we are not a "band" per say, but we can maybe sound a little bit closer to one! Case in point?

As I was driving down the road one day, listening to my favorite radio station playing my favorite type of music, when I finally realized something quite interesting. I noticed that when the singer was singing, I could hear a rhythm section (guitar, keyboard, a bass, and drums) playing along with the singer but of course the singer's voice stood out, like he or she was right in front, close to me! (Imagine that)! But I also could hear in "spots" a little something else going on. In between phrases, another instrument, (like a fiddle, or guitar, or dobro, or banjo etc.) would "pop in" with a little "lick" or two. These little "licks" really tied everything together. One other thing, these, little "spots" could also be filled with silence. Well I'm not telling you anything new here, but this may be something we might keep in mind especially when our attendance gets upward of seven or eight players and you might feel "I'm just taking up space". Well you are not! That is, you are not just taking up space, **you are doing your part in that musical number.** You just need to figure out, just what that part is, what can you do to be the most beneficial to help make that musical sound the best that we can.

We can't wait to get back to "normal" after this "COVID" thing gets over and if you're like me, I wonder what will "normal" become for the Old Time Fiddlers? Will we have a certain number of "casualties" (active members dropping out or losing interest)? Perhaps the opposite, membership may grow. Music may be the perfect "antidote" that we all could use to get our lives back to normalcy. My suggestion would be to make it the best we can.

I would like to hear comments on this subject.  
This is Terry with District 8 signing off. for now  
PS. Better times are coming 😊