



“Preserving and Perpetuating Old Time Fiddle Music”
www.csotfa.org

President’s Message

Greetings to all of our Fiddle Family,

The CSOTFA State Fiddle Championships in Lodi last month were very successful, although lightly attended. The fact that they were held on Easter weekend or may not have had something to do with that.

The CSOTFA Board and Officers held a Zoom meeting on May 3. In addition to reviewing the contest, most of the meeting was spent discussing the state of the CSOTFA Association. We are experiencing a significant drop in membership, and as a result, the Board passed two standing rules to amend our Bylaws:

1) We are creating a Member at Large category, where a person does not have to become a member of a specific district. Among other things, this will facilitate membership from out of state members. They will pay dues directly to the State Treasurer and will send membership forms directly to the State Membership Chair;

2) We are removing the requirement for a minimum number of members for a District to remain viable. Several of our Districts have shrunk below the minimum of 25 members, but we want to ensure all who are interested in membership in the CSOTFA are welcome to join the organization.

In continuing our discussion about the decline in membership, we formed a subcommittee which will meet and brainstorm ideas. We encourage anyone who has any suggestions, to please contact your Director, or send your suggestions directly to me.

Fiddle Contest season is in full swing. Tex and I attended the Nevada State contest a week and a half ago and experienced the high desert’s idea of spring when we got snowed on as we were packing to come home. I know many of you will be attending the National Oldtime Fiddlers’ Contest in Weiser, ID beginning Father’s Day weekend. I also believe that several of our fiddlers will be attending as Certified contestants having won their division at the Western Open, CSOTFA Contest, or Nevada State Contest. Good luck to all of you. We know you’ll have a good time, wherever you find the opportunity to share your music.

Sharon Barrett, President



2025 CSOTFA Contest : Youngest Girl and Boy - Ada Torge and William Torge

2025 CSOTFA Old-Time Fiddle & Picking Championships

Certified Winners

- Senior-Senior - Mikki Feeney
- Senior - Sheri Eby
- Pee Wee (Small Fry) - Ada Torge
- Junior-Junior - Robin Sorensen
- Junior - Noemi Blacklock
- Young Adult - Gracie Benham
- Adult - Eric Anderson
- Open - Lucy Crary

[The National Oldtime Fiddlers’ Contest & Festival](#)

Monday, June 16th – Saturday, June 21st, 2025

CSOTFA Fiddle & Picking Championships

2025 Contest Results

Certified Winners

- Pee Wee (Small Fry) - Ada Torge
- Junior-Junior - Robin Sorensen
- Junior - Noemi Blacklock
- Young Adult - Gracie Benham
- Adult - Eric Anderson
- Senior - Sheri Eby
- Senior-Senior - Mikki Feeney
- Open - Lucy Crary

Division Winners

- Pee Wee
 1. Ada Torge
 2. Remington Daniel
 3. Ander Sorensen
 4. William Torge
- Junior-Junior
 1. Robin Sorensen
 2. Marah Benham
 3. Kyla Kozlowski
 4. Audrey Clark

Division Winners

- Junior
 1. Noemi Blacklock
 2. Lucie Benham
 3. Kylan Malme
 4. Koll Malme
 5. Briley Davenport
- Young Adult
 1. Gracie Benham
- Adult
 1. Eric Anderson
 2. Ben LiaBraaten
 3. Jenni Eddy
 4. Melissa Gtremonti
 5. Madrone Eddy
- Senior
 1. Sheri Eby
 2. Eric Malme
 3. Karen Linde-Lusich
- Senior-Senior
 1. Mikki Feeney
 2. Kathy Kampschmidt
 3. Jeff Gebhart
 4. Carl Malotte
- Open
 1. Lucy Crary
 2. Stacey Snodgrass

CSOTFA 2025 Fiddle & Picking Championships Certified Winners

Contest Photos by Julie Gillam



Senior-Senior - Mikki Feeny



Senior - Sheri Eby



Adult - Eric Anderson



Young Adult - Gracie Benham



Junior - Noemi Blacklock



Junior--Junior - Robin Sorensen



Pee Wee (Small Fry) - Ada Torge



Open - Lucy Cray

CSOTFA 2025 Fiddle & Picking Championships Division Winners



Pee Wee from left: Ada Torge (1st), William Torge (4th), Ander Sorensen (3rd), Remington Daniel (2nd),



Junior- Junior from left: Kyla Kozlowski (3rd), Audrey Clark (4th), Marah Benham (2nd), Robin Sorensen (1st)



Junior from left: Lucie Benham (2nd), Kylan Malme (3rd), Koll Malme (4th), Noemi Blacklock (1st), Briley Davenport (5th)



Young Adult: Gracie Benham

CSOTFA 2025 Fiddle & Picking Championships Division Winners (continued)



Adult from left: Eric Anderson (1st), Ben LiaBraaten (2nd), Madrone Eddy (5th), Jenni Eddy (3rd), (Melissa Gtrementi (4th)



Senior from left: Eric Malme (2nd), Sheri Eby (1st), Kara Linde-Lusick (3rd)



Senior-Senior from left: Mikki Feeney (1st), Carl Malotte (4th), Jeff Gebhart (3rd), Kathy Kampschmidt (2nd)



Open from left: Lucy Crary (1st), Stacey Snodgrass (2nd)

CSOTFA 2025 Fiddle & Picking Championships Division Winners (continued)



Junior Twin Fiddle from left: Kyla Kozlowski and Briley Davenport



Adult Twin Fiddle from left: Mikki Feeney & Kathy Kampschmidt. Lucy Crary & Ben LiaBraaten, Melissa Gtrementi & Lisa Roxa



Adult Picking from left: Mikki Feeney, Lucy Crary, Eric Anderson



Accompanists from left: Al Myers, Ben LiaBraaten, Tom Spence, Eric Anderson

Life Filled with Music: Reflections on More than 50 Years in the Old Time Fiddlers

by Jim Ward, District 1

Growing up there was always music being played in our home, either on phonograph, radio, reel-to-reel tapes, someone practicing, or a jam session. I didn't become interested in playing the fiddle until around the age of 12 when I learned you could make money with it. I watched my brother, Scott, and my dad, Doug, place and win in contests, and money was part of the award. Out of my other four siblings, my two sisters played a little on the piano, my oldest brother played the guitar, and my other brother, who was a couple of years older than I, just played the radio!



Jim Ward playing at a District 1 jam

The first contest I entered was in Folsom in 1972. I placed 3rd and won \$5. Over the years, I've played contests in 6 western states including California. I placed in some but never won first place. I've entered and placed in Oroville, Auburn, Covelo, Madera, Redding, and Georgetown contests, to mention a few. Although I have been to Weiser many times during the Nationals, I never entered but jammed all night some days during the event.

Jam sessions were a big part of growing up. It

seemed there was always a jam at least twice a month at someone's house, either for someone's birthday, anniversary, holiday, BBQ, or a special guest(s), such as state fiddle champions Loyd Wanzer, Virgil Evans, or Bill Yohey. Jams were held at District 1 founding members' homes. Ray Giles, a renowned fiddler, lived in Yankee Hill; the Mitchells in Concow played bass

and tenor banjo; the Chrismans in Bangor played mandolins; Wayne Wagner played the harmonica; Floyd Chilton built the fiddle I play now; and Aaron DeCamp, an Arkansas fiddler and longtime guitar player and backup for my dad.

I remember one summer when we vacationed in Silverdale, Washington, off Puget Sound, visiting my dad's mother, sister, and brother. My dad's sister Dolores was married to Texas fiddler Glenn Berry, a major influence on fiddlers in Western Washington. He held big jam sessions along with his friends Marty Dahlgren, a western swing, country and square dance fiddler, and Benny Thomasson, another Texas fiddler, during our visits. I was influenced by a lot of the people I have mentioned and learned a lot of tunes from. I really don't have a "per se" style of fiddling, but over the last 53 years playing music, some key fiddlers who made an impression on me were Howdy Forester, Texas Shorty, and Junior Daughtry. For Bluegrass, there were the Skillet Lickers, Possum Hunters, and the Dillards. For progressive Bluegrass, David Grisman, Rhonda Vincent, and Johnny Staats have influenced me the most.

I played in a couple of bands that played country to country rock on weekends in the early '80s - mostly top 40s charts. One band could never agree on a name, but it was run by Oly Gramps, a steel guitar player, and I always considered it his band. In 1988-89, I played in a Bluegrass band, Black Rock, when I worked up in Oregon. I have been graced by having the chance to jam a little with some great entertainers like Ricky Skaggs, Marty Stuart, Willie Nelson, and Merle Haggard. Although I don't play as much as I once did, and there aren't as many contests or events as there once were, I am glad there are still a few going, and grateful for District 1 and other districts' jams, as well as the youngsters joining our organization to help perpetuate it forward. I love fiddle music and I'm always learning and trying to improve my craft, playing with things made of wood and wire!

District 8 Celebrates Extraordinary Contributions

by Sid Brown

We had an extraordinarily tightknit and capable Board last year headed by the talented Debby Finley Delamore. She is just a ball of fire, a talented musician, plays several instruments, sings, and is a lawyer (retired) which helped in the negotiations with the county. She is shown to the right receiving the prestigious Huffman award at the Holiday dinner for her seemingly tireless energy and work to keep everything running smoothly.

Her biggest accomplishment was to guide the board to solve the rent increase riddle. This was a big deal! For the last 40+ years we have been renting the Oak View Community Center for 22 Sundays each year for \$900, an extremely reasonable price. We all knew the rent was going to go up sooner or later, but the county wanted to raise the rent to \$3300 a year. This was of course way more than we could afford. Debbie and the board spent hours working on this, surveying alternate venues, meeting with the county representatives, and justifying a lower price. At the annual BBQ the membership was given three alternatives. Most of the membership voted to stay in Oak View and to pledge to come up with the extra cash. The donation requests went out shortly after that by email and much to everyone's surprise, we raised more than enough. In the meantime, Debby, Joe Johnson, and Barbara Kennedy had negotiated the county into a reduced price of \$2500 a year for at least the next 2 years. Bottom line according to Joe Johnson, our treasurer, we have enough to pay the rent for the next three years!



Debby Finley Delamore receiving prestigious Huffman Award

District 5 Shines at 2025 Contest

by Jeff Gebhart

Here's a rundown of the CSOTFA gathering and contest that was held in Lodi on April 18-19. Thanks to all of District 5 Lodi attendees, and, of course, thanks to all of you who work so hard to put this event together.

- 3rd Place: Jeff Gebhart in the **Senior-Senior Division** (age 70 & over)
- 4th Place: Carl Malotte. Carl also received the **Oldest Fiddler Award**.
- 2nd Place: Eric Malme in the **Senior Division** (age 60-69)
- 1st Place: Eric Anderson in the **Adult Round** (age 37-59)
- 2nd Place: Eric Anderson in **Open Picking**
- 2nd Place: Eric Anderson in the **Accompanist/ Backup Category**
- 3-Way Tie: Eric Anderson in the **Anything Goes Competition**
- 3rd Place: Kylan Malme in the **Junior Division** (age 13-17)
- 4th Place: Koll Malme in the **Junior Division** (age 13-17)

Thanks to Sandi Anderson and family, Ron Clark and family, Mel Chapman, Rick Fairall, and Ed Galvin for attending the event. Apologies to anyone I missed. Rick, Ed, and I enjoyed a long day of jamming on Saturday with many of the CBA Members. And a big hand goes out to **Lyle Dixon, our District #5 State Director**, for his long & arduous job of video recording all the various contest categories. You can view this event & many more contests around the country by going to [FiddleSupporter \(Lyle Dixon\)](#) on YouTube.



District 5 monthly Orangevale jam

District 4 Annual Barbeque

by Pat Nelson

District 4 had our monthly Jam June 1st and combined it with our yearly BBQ. We had fiddlers, spouses, and guests, loads of food, and lots of music. Thanks to all who attended, provided food, and played great tunes!



District 4 BBQ fun!



District 4 Jam



California State Old Time Fiddlers' Association

P.O. Box 1703 Oroville, CA 95965

State Officers

President: Sharon Barrett -- texshar@pacbell.net
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District 1: Ann Michels -- Anne11Michels49@gmail.com
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District 4: Pat Nelson -- rpnelson@pacbell.net
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District 6: Tex Ash -- texshar@pacbell.net
District 7: Dan Touchstone -- dtouchstonefiddler@gmail.com
District 8: Sid Brown -- sidnyb@outlook.com
District 9: Bob Palasek - r03palasek@sbcglobal.net
District 10: Tim Rued -- timrued@aol.com



2025 Senior-Senior Contest Winners

DISTRICT MEETING LOCATIONS, DATES, AND TIMES

- District 1** 4th Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Feather River Senior Center, 1335 Myers St. Oroville, CA <https://csoftad1.weebly.com>
- District 3** 2nd Sunday 2:00-5:00 p.m.: 21100 Lonely Lane, Tehachapi, CA
- District 4** 1st Sunday 12:00-3:00 p.m.: 17392 Chicago Ave., Yorba Linda, CA
RSVP at 714-524-6673 District 5 2nd Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Orangevale Grange, 5807 Walnut Ave, Orangevale, CA
- District 6** 1st Sunday, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Circle Jam, followed by a Board Meeting at Cottonwood Creek Charter School, 3425 Bush Street, Cottonwood, CA 96002
3rd Sunday, 1:00- 3:00 p.m. Open Mic, Open Mic at Cottonwood Creek Charter School, 3425 Bush Street, Cottonwood, CA 96002
For more information, visit our website: <https://www.northstatefiddlers.com>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/csoftad6>
Sign up to receive our announcements at: <https://www.northstatefiddlers.com/em>
- District 7** 2nd Sunday 12:00-2:45 p.m.: Terrace Estates Clubhouse, 1815 Sweetwater Road, Spring Valley, CA
- District 8** 2nd & 4th Sunday 1:30-4:00 p.m.: Oak View Community Center, 18 Valley Rd., Oak View, CA
- District 9** 4th Sunday 1:30-5:00 p.m.: United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria St., Castro Valley, CA
- District 10** 1st Sunday 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Church of the Oaks, Janette Duncan 707-570-2745, Chris Carney 707-765-1937.
2nd Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Rotary Valley Senior Center, Pat Palmer 415-305-4250.
3rd Saturday 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. Charles Street Village Clubhouse, Heidi Chesney 510-846-7642.



*District 1's Anne Michels & John Bartel
manage the Contest snack bar*

June 2025

CSOTFA Districts



Summer California Bluegrass Association Events



[CBA Summer Music Camp](#)

June 8-11, 2025

Learn from the pros before the Father's Day Festival.

Nevada County Fairgrounds
Grass Valley, CA

[Photos from 2024 Music Camp](#)



[The Youth Academy](#)

June 11-14, 2025

A four-day music camp for 8 to 16-year-olds held during the CBA Father's Day Festival.

Grass Valley, CA

[Photos from 2024 Youth Programs](#)



[Father's Day Festival](#)

June 12-15, 2025

A premier West Coast bluegrass festival.
Nevada County Fairgrounds
Grass Valley, California.

[Photos from the 2024 Festival](#)



[Golden Old-time Campout](#)

August 21-24, 2025

3 days and 3 nights devoted to the playing of Old-time music and fun.

[Photos from the 2024 Campout](#)