



Visit our new web site at [www.csotfa.org](http://www.csotfa.org)

**“Preserving and Perpetuating Old Time Fiddle Music”**

## Presidents Message

On Saturday, August 20, the CSOTFA Board of Directors and Officers held their bi-annual meeting via Zoom. All Board members save one were present as were all of the officers. I want to thank everyone who Zoomed in for their participation and for the preparation required to hold this meeting in what was a very efficient manner.

Each Director emailed a report prior to Saturday's meeting about their District's status. It was a great way to share information and I think I might just suggest we do that for all CSOTFA meetings in the future.

Please check out each District's website for information about upcoming events. I caught dates for four of them: August 25-28 at the Western Railroad Museum east of Vacaville (contact Mark Hogan); September 17, Fiddling Down the Tracks in Tehachapi (contact Cathy and Wayne Agnew); October 20-22 the Western Open Fiddle Championships in Red Bluff (contact Tex Ash); and I didn't get the title of the event, but there is something that sounds fantastic happening at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. Contact Mark Hogan for details on that one (Check page 2 for their email addresses)

Mark Hogan will be the new Chairman of the 2023 State Fiddle & Picking Championships which will be held on April 21-22, 2023. The contest will be in the same location in Lodi as it has been for the past two contests.

I am very proud of this group, and am honored to have served as their President for the past several years. The Directors all reported that things are starting to gear up after the Covid shut down, and that is encouraging. Tex and I hope to see you soon at one event or another!

Sharon



## In Memory Of Charles H Murtomaki March 22, 1938 – May 9, 2022



The CSOTFA Board of Directors is sad to report the passing of Chuck Murtomaki. Chuck had been an active member of District 7 since the 80's and had served the association in several capacities over the years. He had served as President multiple occasions and as a member of the Board of Directors as their District Representative on several occasions.

He was a great fiddler and guitar player and loved singing. He loved to sing Country Western tunes and knew “a million of em”. Because of an familiar inherited condition he had to give up the fiddle. But he was a great guitar player.

Chuck was born and raised on a dairy farm in upper Michigan. His family were dairy farmers from Finland. Chuck worked the dairy farm doing all the things that are required to operate a farm.

Chuck was a Navy guy (and a very handsome one I might add) and retired from the Navy after 23 years of service. He was a WO-2 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Specialty Sonarman. Warrant officers serve as technical specialists with command authority within their field of expertise .

(Chuck continued on page 3)

# California State Old Time Fiddlers' Association

## P.O. Box 1703 Oroville, CA 95965

### State Officers

President: Sharon Barrett- texshar@pacbell.net

V. Pres. : Kathy Kampschmidt - kdkampy@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Mary Rose Preston - maryrose@wavecable.com

Treasurer: Robert Curtis - rocurtis@gatewayacceptance.com

Membership: Charley Oveland - croveland@sbcglobal.net

Editor: Cathy Agnew - themimi@roadrunner.com

### State Directors

District 1: Zeke Walker - zeke103@digitalpath.net

District 3: Wayne Agnew- howellagnew@gmail.com

District 4: Pat Nelson -- rpnelson@pacbell.net

District 5: Lyle Dixson - Lyle@DATEQ.NET

District 6: Tex Ash -- texshar@pacbell.net

District 7: Dan Touchstone - dtouchstonefiddler@gmail.com

District 8: Bob Bueling - bob@sympaticomusic.com

District 9: Bob Palasek - r03palasek@sbcglobal.net

District 10: Mark Hogan- hogiemoon@comcast.net

## **DISTRICT MEETING LOCATIONS, DATES, AND TIMES:**

District 1 4th Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Feather River Senior Center 1335 Meyer St. Oroville

District 3 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 2:00-5:00 p.m. 21100 Lonely Lane, Tehachapi Ca

District 4 1st Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m.: Orange Thorpe Pk. Activity Bldg., 1414 Brookhurst, Fullerton

District 5 2nd Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Orangevale Grange, 5807 Walnut Ave. Orangevale CA

District 6 Free Old Time Fiddle Jams 1st Sunday, 1:00 - 3:00 Open Circle Jam, 3:00 Board Meeting St. James Lutheran Church 2500 Shasta View Blvd. Redding ;3rd Sunday, 1:00 Workshop & Jam, 2:00-4:00 Open Mic Palo Cedro Community Hall, 22037 Old Forty-Four Drive Website: <http://www.northstatefiddlers.com><sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>  
Facebook: North State Fiddlers

District 7 2nd Sunday 12:00-2:45PM: 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 Redwood Cafe, Cotati. Every 4th Sunday 3:00 to 5:00. Janette Duncan, Chris Carney, Steve DeLap, 707-570-2745.

(Chuck continued)

After retiring from the Navy Chuck worked at several ship yards in San Diego. Chuck was still in the Navy when he joined CSOTFA .

Chucks main side kick was Willie Randel. These two guys traveled to many Fiddle Contests and CSOTFA events over the years. I personally looked forward to seeing both of them at these events. Even though Chuck wasn't well, he came to the 2021 District 3 Fiddlin Down the Tracks Fiddle contest and played backup for Wayne Agnew and even played in the Band Scramble.

I'm sure there are others who have wonderful memories of Chuck. Chuck was one of the nicest men you would ever want to meet. Many in our association will miss him greatly.

RIP My Friend

Thank you Willie Randel for helping honor Chuck.



2019 State Contest  
Willie, Cathy, Chuck



Chuck & Wayne @ Tehachapi



Chuck playing guitar in Band Scramble

### California State Old Time Fiddlers, District 3

"FIDDLIN' DOWN THE TRACKS"

## 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLE CONTEST SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

Country Oaks Baptist Church  
20915 Schout Rd., Tehachapi, CA

Free Admission to the Public

Sat. 17 @8:00 a.m. Registration

Peewee Division  
Junior- Junior Division  
Junior Division  
Adult Divisions  
Senior Division  
Senior -Senior Division  
Grand Champion Playoff

Twin Fiddle Divisions  
Picking Divisions  
Novelty Division  
Cello/Bass Division  
Jr. Band Scramble  
Adult Band Scramble

### Weiser Certified

Division Winners receive cash prizes, trophy or medal

For More Information Contact  
Gayel Pitchford 661-821-7511 or  
email [captgayel@cybersurfers.net](mailto:captgayel@cybersurfers.net)

Facebook: District 3 California State Old Time Fiddlers  
website [centralcalfiddlers.com](http://centralcalfiddlers.com)



Contest held in memory of  
Charley Oveland  
May 21, 1938 - March 16, 2022  
CSOTFA Membership Secretary

Quilts on Display are provided by the Tehachapi Mountain Quilters

# 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Open Fiddle Championships

## October 20-22, 2022

We invite you to come  
enjoy the music.  
Admission is free!

5<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Gospel  
Singalong

7:00 PM, Thursday  
October 20, 2022

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 20  
7:00 PM- Gospel Singalong  
Friday, October 21  
10:00 AM- Senior, Sr Sr,  
Peewees, Jr Jr Fiddle, Jr and  
Open Picking round 1  
6:30 PM- Fiddle and Picking  
Finals and Junior Jukebox  
Saturday, October 22  
8:30 AM- Jr Piano, Adult,  
Junior and Open fiddle round 1  
1:30 PM- Jr and Open Twin  
Fiddle round 1; Waltz, Hot  
Fiddle, Celtic  
6:15 PM- Finals and Open  
Jukebox



Elks Lodge 355 Gilmore Road Red Bluff CA



Official Western Open Headquarters Hotel  
Call direct for reservations: 530-529-7060

[www.WesternOpenFiddle.com](http://www.WesternOpenFiddle.com) [texshar@pacbell.net](mailto:texshar@pacbell.net) 530-527-6127

# District 1

**Zeke Walker & Mary Preston**

District 1 has been busy; we are continuing to have regular board meetings, jam sessions (Fourth Sundays of the month) and our Fiddle Group Workshops. We had a slight glitch with the Fiddle Group Workshops, but our board got on it right away and found us a new meeting place at no cost. Yay Team!!

In addition to all that, we are doing our best to encourage young people to join us at the jam sessions and the Fiddle Group Workshops. At the jam sessions we've set aside time for them to use the stage either with other musicians or on their own, encourage them to join the circle jam and of course, we offer scholarships to help with their musical education. We are also offering group lessons before the Fiddle Group Workshops for \$5 with Kathy Kampschmidt and Mary Rose Preston teaching.

If you need more information about any of the above items, please check out our website ([www.district1.weebly.com](http://www.district1.weebly.com)) and if you have any questions contact us at our email address ([csotfadistrict1@aol.com](mailto:csotfadistrict1@aol.com)).

Come join us on the fourth Sunday of the month at the Feather River Senior Center, 2335 Myers Street, Oroville, CA 95965. We'd love to see you.

If there any aspiring musicians out there, please come join us! Our district covers the following counties Glenn, Butte, Plumas (excluding the Northern tip), Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Yolo, Sutter & Colusa and even if you aren't a resident of one of these counties, we'd be delighted to have you join us. We'll be glad to direct you to a CSOTFA District closer to you.



District 1's 1st and 3rd Monday evening Fiddle Workshops will be moving to a new location in Oroville starting August 15. We will really miss the Antique Tool Museum where we met for years! You can see many of the old tools on the wall in this picture.

# District 3

**Wayne Agnew**

District 3 is preparing for our 45th Annual Fiddle and Picking Contest, "Fiddlin Down the Tracks".

The contest will be held on September 17th in Tehachapi. The contest will be only a one day event this year. The contest this year will be dedicated in the memory of our member and friend Charley Oveland.

Judges for the contest will be Willie Randel, Stacy Snodgrass, and Avery Ellisman. If you would like to make a few bucks this is the contest. Only two of the fourteen divisions had a full count of contestants last year. \$749 of the prize money was left over from last year's contest. Tehachapi is a neat small town and has a great BBQ restaurant.

# District 4

**Pat Nelson**

District 4 has started meeting in person once again. We just had our August jam at my home. We are a small but fun group. It is very satisfying to play together in person and enjoy music, snacks, conversation, and air-conditioning.

We have 28 members on the books and our in-person meetings have been small but fun. Our current plans are to maintain as many members as possible and to support in-person jams for those who are able and willing to attend.

Currently, we are meeting the first Sunday of the month at noon at my home in Yorba Linda. Changes to location and/or date are voted on at the previous meeting. We have dedicated musicians who enjoy playing together and do not want to lose the opportunity. Our District area is very large geographically, which presents a challenge. We extend an invitation to attend to anyone who expresses interest. Thank you for the support.

# District 5

**Lyle Dixon**

by Jeff Gebhart, D5 President:

Jon Smith & family held a dedication & remembrance service in our June meeting for one of our outstanding long-time members, Stephanie Smith.

Stephanie always lit up our meetings with her larger-than-life performances and as yet none of us have been able to match her yodeling skills.

Special congratulations are in order for two District 5 members who participated in the annual June Weiser National Fiddle Contest: Eric Anderson (#9 ranked) & Eric Malme (#19 ranked) in the Adult Competition. It's an honor to have these talented performers in our club!!!

We are also sending thanks out to attendee Winko Ljizz, of Sacramento's One-Man Band Fame, who tuned up the Grange piano during our July jam, and then proceeded to sing & tickle those ivories with great skill! Here are some snapshots of our June & July meetings:



# District 6

**Tex Ash**

It is that time of year again. District 6 is coming out of the summer hiatus and getting ready for their season of monthly jams. They will be held at the IOOF lodge in downtown Redding. They will be holding a meeting on 4 September to lay out the plans for the 2022/2023 season for the jams, Christmas party, and other events.

Closer to home, Sharon and I are getting the basics ready for the 39th Western Open Fiddle Championships. We are well on the way with getting our judges panel together and have procured the rooms for the judges at the Western Open official hotel, the Red Bluff Comfort Inn and Suites. They have offered the Western Open Fiddlers a substantial discount if you call the hotel direct at (530) 529-7060. The 800 number will NOT get you the discounted rate. The more fiddlers' reservations they have the better it is for next year's donation of rooms for the judges.

The contest will once more be held at the Red Bluff Elks Lodge on 20, 21 & 22 October 2022. The particulars are on the WO web site, [WesternOpenFiddler.com](http://WesternOpenFiddler.com), along with rules, a tentative schedule, and other timely information. We hope to see you at the fiddlers family reunion/contest.

Happy Fiddlin' and Pickin'

# District 7

**Dan Touchstone**

District 7 has been in a transitional mode recently. This past spring, our beloved president, Chuck Murtomaki passed away after a relatively brief bout with cancer. He has been a member of our local club for many years. He was a very fine fiddle player and back up guitarist. He served as district president on several occasions and was a state representative as well. He provided motivation and stability to our club in many ways recently when it was truly needed.. He is truly missed by all of us.

So, our club is without an elected president, but our immediate past president, Linda Rinner, remains supportive on technical matters, which is much appreciated. We also lost our most recent vice president, as Greg Gross moved to Virginia to be closer to family. We are now led by club vice president Sylvia Castelluzzo. She is a very fine fiddler herself, and has been able to coordinate our now monthly jam sessions, the turnout for which has been very encouraging. At our July meeting, we had nine fiddlers and five guitarists.

(District 7 continued on next page)

(District 7 Report continued)

Our district has a long history and strong presence in the San Diego music community. Our stalwart remains Willie Randel whose Missouri style of fiddle playing continues to entertain us.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month, from 12:00 to 2:45, at the Terrace Estates Clubhouse, 1815 Sweetwater Road, Spring Valley, CA. Any other listed meeting found either on our website, or the Soundpost, are not longer held. We'll let everyone know if those meetings are ever resurrected.

We currently have 45 members. As a fiddle club, we are very thankful to be part of the California Old Time Fiddle Association and look forward to participating in upcoming fiddle contests, and other events."

## District 8

**Bob Bueling**

District 8 has been meeting regularly at our normal home in the Oak View Community Center on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. Membership and financial status remain healthy.

In the past few months, we have been experimenting in the big auditorium with various configurations of large-diaphragm condenser microphones. The reviews from both audience and participants have been mixed. At this time, we are back to using the ten-microphone dynamic mic configuration.

In late June, some members performed at the Ojai Lavendar Festival. In addition to the sign-ups for individuals and groups to perform in the "big room", we continue to have an open jam or multiple jams out on the patio as well as the Oak View Community Center's Kunkle Room (air conditioned!).

California State Old-Time Fiddlers, District 8, serving Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties meets every second and fourth Sunday (except Easter and Mother's Day) at the Oak View Community Center, 18 Valley Road, Oak View, CA 93022 and our website is <https://www.csotfad8.org/>

## District 9

**Bob Palasek**

Since the spring of this year, District 9 has resumed its regular, monthly, 4th Sunday jam at its usual venue, the campus of The Castro Valley United Methodist Church, 19806 Wisteria Street, Castro Valley, California 94546, 1:30 to 5 p.m., nominally.

The usual mid-jam potluck lunch has been suspended. And it will continue to be suspended -- not resuming until we are confident that COVID transmission will not be an issue for such an activity. We are adhering to the Alameda County guidelines for COVID precautions.

We have been jamming outside, and will continue to do so as long as the weather allows. Because there is no potluck, attendance seems to limit itself to musicians, family and officers. This comes to between twenty and thirty attendees each month. We see a small number of new musicians showing up for the jam each month.

Members and officers continue outreach to bring in new musicians and others by telling them about the jam whenever such opportunities arise.

This summer we bade farewell to Carl and Dian Brown. They had spent a deal of the past year traveling and visiting throughout the country. And they decided then to move back to Alabama. David, a mandolin player, has served admirably as the editor and the producer of our local District 9 newsletter The Baystrings. He also did a yeoman's job as our District 9 Membership Secretary. Dian has been an important principal in the hospitality and workings of our meetings and pot lucks. We will miss them. We thank them for the years of service they have given to the District 9 members and to the State Contests. We wish them "Happy Trails!" And we hopefully look forward to any return visits they may make to the bay area.



# District 10

Judith Jones

Well, I've been asked, quite a few times, as I'm sure other members of the District 10 Board of Officers have been, whether or not we are going to have another Cloverdale Old Time Fiddle Contest. The answer so far is, yes...however it's not happening in Cloverdale. Mark Hogan has secured a more affordable site for us in Sebastopol. Once the 'where and when' is nailed down we'll inform y'all! It will be in 2023 though!

As you are probably aware the last Contest that we held fell to the awful wiles of.... COVID.....Vendors canceled, audience didn't show, some volunteers figured they had better stay home. We did have contestants though. However, obviously we ended up in the red.

We (D-10 Board) have had discussions of what we were going to do. Drop it or go ahead with a different format. The different format won out. It looks like we will move forward with a combination of a different type of Fiddle Contest, and exhibits from the same era of early day farm implements and household wares, and even a Model T flash tour.

The different type of Fiddle contest which will be held is a Fiddlin' Bee. It is a spin-off of the Fiddle-Off that Tim Rued brought to us after noticing it at a Minnesota Fiddle Contest. That's not to say though that it will ever be a replacement for a good ol' time Fiddle Contest; but it is becoming a growing trend in Midwestern States. Some of you have been to Tim's Fiddle-Off. He introduced it to us in 2016 at the National Heirloom Expo in Santa Rosa and continued it every year until COVID hit. It will happen again in 2023 where Tim will continue with his format of the Fiddle-Off.

The main difference between District 10's Fiddlin' Bee and Tim's Fiddle-Off will be the selection of tunes that will be on the list to be studied from. This list will be comprised of tunes from every District within CSOTFA. We will reach out to you and ask for some of the most played tunes from your area. I found that even within our District 10 area that there are favorite tunes that vary from county to county! Once we gather the tunes from y'all it will be compiled into a "List of Tunes" and put on our District 10's website. Ponder this....just think how many more tunes one can learn from this list; and if one so chooses to test this newly acquired repertoire they can become a contestant at our FIDDLIN' BEE! (and there will be prizes!!!!).

This can be fun for anyone who wishes to put in the time to learn the tunes.....it is not a parlor game.....it will be a 'Contest' of your knowledge of these tunes, one must be able to play the melody and hold the rhythm. See photos below.

The "early day" exhibits will be from a local Branch of Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association (which I also belong to) and private collections. This Association exhibits at different Fairs and Events all over California. (See photos ) And so....2023 here we come!!

Best to you all!



# Membership Report

Ruth Oveland

CSOTFA MEMBERSHIP REPORT - AUGUST 2022				
	HOH	SPOUSE	KIDS	TOTALS
District 1	37	13	6	56
District 3	28	11	10	49
District 4	18	9	1	28
District 5	39	15	5	59
District 6	57	26	17	100
District 7	31	13	1	45
District 8	103	29	2	134
District 9	49	21	6	76
District 10	46	20	8	74
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>621</b>



# Editor Report

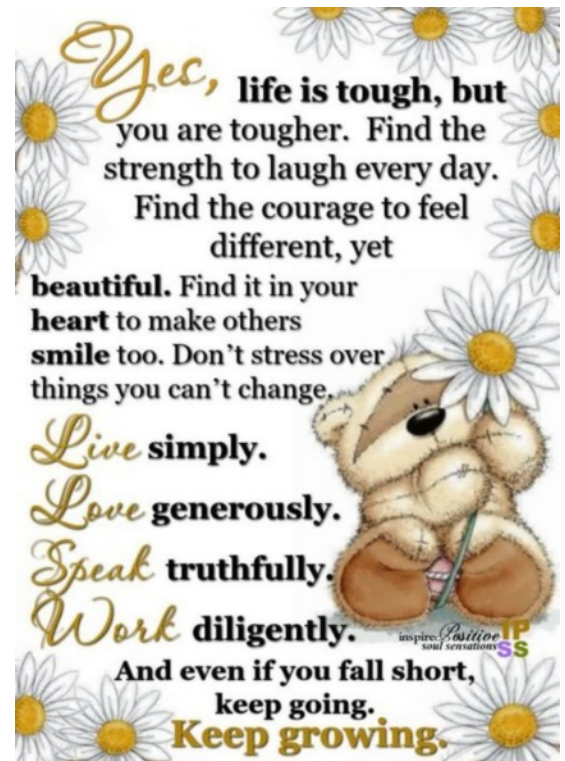
Cathy Agnew

The Board of Directors met via Zoom on Sat. Aug 20. It was nice to see our board members face to face again. The meeting very informative with each director discussing what was going on in their district since most Covid restrictions have been lifted. It was nice to know that folks are coming out and ready to meet and play music again.

Information about the 2 up coming Fiddle Contests was shared. **District 3's "Fiddlin Down the Tracks" is Sept. 17, 2022 and the Western Open Oct. 20-22 , with a Gospel Sing Along on Thursday evening.** The state fiddle contest will be April 21-22, 2023 in Lodi in coordination with the California Bluegrass Association (CBA ). This partnership is working out well for CSOTFA and CBA.

The board is encouraging our members to try to support these contests because this is how we keep promoting old time music and old time fiddling. **We want to ask the Fiddle teachers in the districts to promote the contests and encourage their students to compete.** So if you are a musician consider entering one of these contests. It's really a lot of fun.

A committee was formed with Pat Cronin, Tory May Gillam and Kathy Kampschmidt to brainstorm ideas and form a plan to get more people involved with the CSOTFA fiddle contests. They already have some good ideas. They will report back to the board as they start forming a plan. These 3 ladies can get it done!!







October 10-16, 2022

Lodi Grape Festival Grounds  
413 E. Lockeford Street, Lodi, CA

For more Information:  
<https://californiabluegrass.org/>

Campsite Reservation  
RV water/electric sites are \$40 per night and  
Tent/car/van camping is \$10 per night. There is  
still plenty of room, but you should reserve your  
site soon by contacting Deb Livermore at  
Deblivermore@gmail.com.

the California Bluegrass Association presents:

# THE GOLDEN OLD-TIME CAMPOUT



A gathering for Old-time musicians

August 25-28, 2022  
Western Railway Museum  
Suisun City, CA

Jamming, tent & RV camping

Historic Electric Trains

more info and signups at [californiabluegrass.org](https://californiabluegrass.org)

1951 to 2022 • 71st Anniversary

菲朵鎮

**Taking It To The Street**

**71st ANNUAL FIDDLERS' JAM**

**in Historic Fiddletown, CA**

Presented by the Fiddletown Community Center

**Gold Rush Town Street Festival**

SATURDAY  
Sept. 17  
11-5

Fiddle Contest, Fiddle & Bluegrass Music, Food,  
Craft Vendors, Award-winning Wines, Microbrew Beer

## With 2 Stages

the music doesn't take a break at Fiddletown's historic street fair!

Plus tour Gold Rush buildings, open mic, and more!  
We are F4 (Fiddle, Family and Fido Friendly), and FREE entry.

info@fiddletowncc.org      Parking is limited.      fiddletowncc.org

GVHS presents the 50th Anniversary of the  
**Santa Barbara Old-Time Fiddlers' Festival**  
Saturday October 8, 2022

**Bruce Molsky**

Rafe Stefanini  
Spencer & Rains  
Bragger & Platz  
Peter Feldmann  
SLO County Stumblers

Concerts • Contest  
Workshops • Jams  
Instrument  
Petting Zoo  
& More

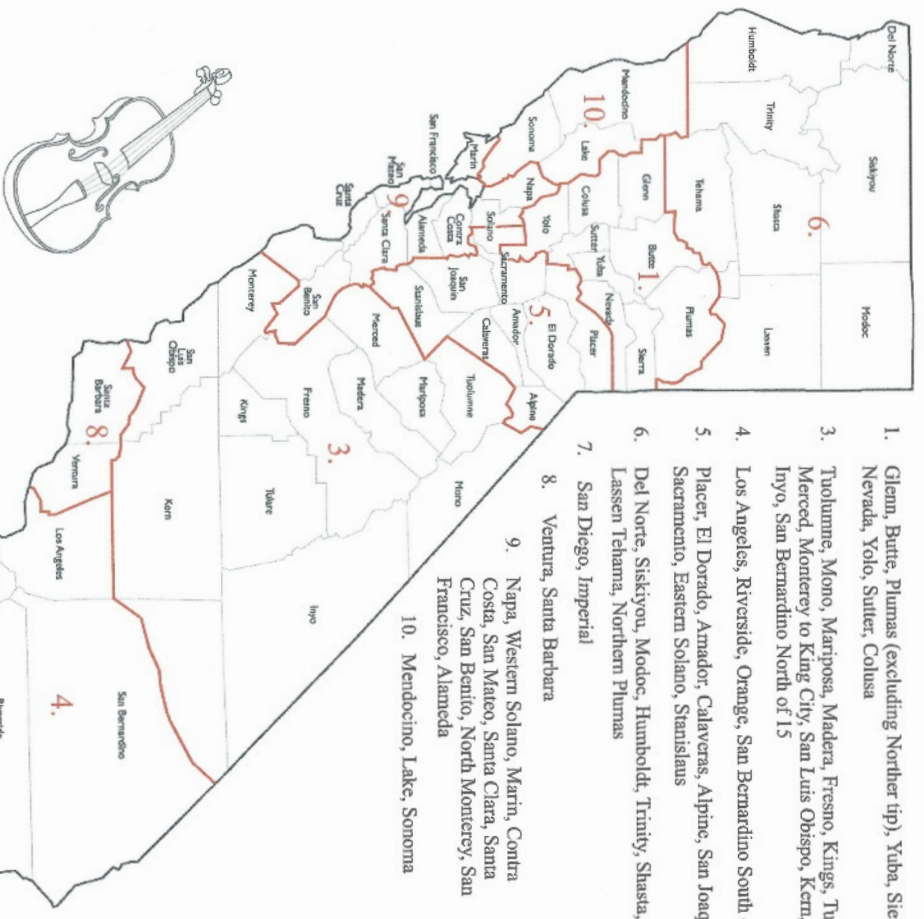
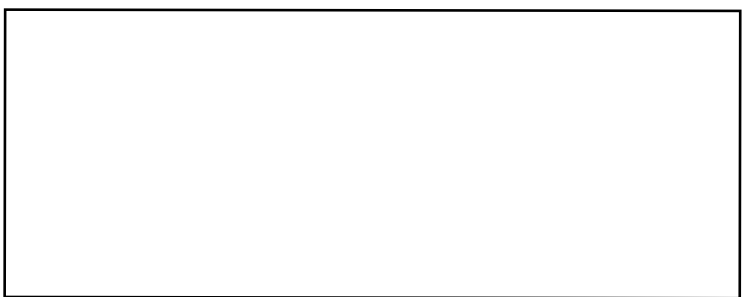
More info and contest registration at [FiddlersFestival.org](https://FiddlersFestival.org)



**THE STANDPOST**  
*The Official Publication*  
*of the*  
**California State Old-Time Fiddlers' Association**

**June-July 2022**

**CSOTFA Districts**



1. Glenn, Butte, Plumas (excluding Northern tip), Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Yolo, Sutter, Colusa
2. Tuolumne, Mono, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Merced, Monterey to King City, San Luis Obispo, Kern, Inyo, San Bernardino North of 15
3. Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino South of 15
4. Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Alpine, San Joaquin, Sacramento, Eastern Solano, Stanislaus
5. Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen Tehama, Northern Plumas
6. San Diego, Imperial
7. Ventura, Santa Barbara
8. Napa, Western Solano, Marin, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, North Monterey, San Francisco, Alameda
9. Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma