



# 2024

## 56th Annual California State Old Time Open Fiddle & Picking Championships

### Welcome

California State Old Time Fiddler's Association

Officers and Board of Directors:

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Vice President: Kathy Kampschmidt

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District 5: Lyle Dixson

District 6: Tex Ash

District 7: Dan Touchstone

District 8: Sid Brown

District 9: Bob Palasek

District 10: Tim Rued

We would like to extend an invitation to one and all to the CSOTFA Fiddle and Picking Championships. Whether it is your first time to attend a contest or your 50th, I know that you will experience something new for the very first time.

We want to encourage all fiddlers, guitar, mandolin, banjo players, whatever your level of play, to enter the different competitions. There are 8 fiddle, 2 twin fiddle, and 2 picking divisions, and they will feature contestants ranging from very young, to very experienced, and everyone in between.

Friday night we celebrate the variety of musical performances in our Anything Goes division. We are so excited to be once again partnering with the California Bluegrass Assoc. for our State Fiddle Contest and we are excited to see our friends and be able to share our music once more.

Each competition round is limited to four minutes, and the top competitors will move on to a final round. There will also be plenty of time to jam with old friends and make new friends. Fiddler folks LOVE sharing their music and you are welcome to walk around and enjoy the various "jams" that you'll find all over the campground. Hope to see you there!!

Sharon

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### Friday, April 19

- 1:30 PM CSOTFA General Membership Meeting
- 2:30 PM **Registration Opens**
- 3:00 PM **Judges' Meeting**
- 3:15 PM Opening
- 3:30 PM Senior Senior Round 1 (age 70 and over)
- 4:15 PM Senior Round 1 (age 55-69)
- 5:00 PM **Dinner Break**
- 6:00 PM Senior Senior Finals (age 70 and over)
- 6:25 PM Senior Finals (age 60-69)
- 6:50 PM Awards: Senior Senior, Oldest Fiddler, Senior
- 7:00 PM **Anything Goes** followed by the awards

#### Saturday, April 20

- 8:00 AM **Registration Opens**
- 8:30 AM **Judges' Meeting**
- 9:30 AM Young Adult Round 1 (age 18-36)
- 10:00 AM Adult Round 1 (age 37-59)
- 10:30 AM Peewee Round 1 (age 8 and under)
- 11:15 AM Jr Jr Round 1 (age 9-12)
- 12:00 PM Junior Round 1 (age 13-17)
- 12:45 PM **Lunch**
- 2:00 PM Jr Twin Fiddle Round 1 (17 and under)
- 2:30 PM Open Twin Fiddle Round 1 (any age)
- 3:00 PM Junior Picking Round 1 (17 and under)
- 3:30 PM Open Picking Round 1 (any age)
- 4:00 PM Open Round 1 (any age)
- 4:30 PM **Dinner Break**
- 6:00 PM Colors, Flag Salute, Invocation,
- 6:15 PM Peewee Finals (age 8 and under)
- 6:40 PM Jr Jr Finals (age 9-12)
- 7:05 PM Jr Picking Finals (age 17 and under)
- 7:20 PM Jr Twin Fiddle Finals (age 17 and under)
- 7:35 PM Awards: Peewee, Youngest Fiddlers, Jr Jr, Jr Picking, Jr Twin Fiddle
- 7:50 PM Open Twin Fiddle Finals (any age)
- 8:05 PM Open Picking Finals (any age)
- 8:20 PM Young Adult Finals (age 18-36)
- 8:45 PM Adult Finals (age 37-59)
- 9:10 PM Junior Finals (age 13-17)
- 9:35 PM Open Finals (any age)
- 10:00 PM Awards: Open Twin Fiddle, Open Picking, Young Adult, Adult, Junior, Open

*NOTE: This is a tentative schedule. Times may vary, depending upon the number of contestants. Contestants must check in at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start of their division.*

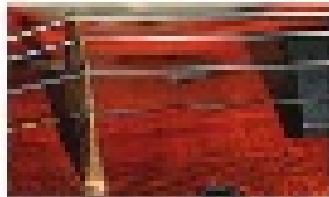
# California State Old Time Fiddlers Association

Dedicated to the preservation & perpetuation of old time fiddle music:

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## 2024 56th Annual California State Old Time Open Fiddle & Picking Championships

In coordination with California Bluegrass Association



Visit our website  
[www.csotfa.org](http://www.csotfa.org)  
for full listings of  
schedules, divisions,  
rules & guidelines



RV Camping  
at Fairgrounds  
\$40 per night  
Limited hookups.

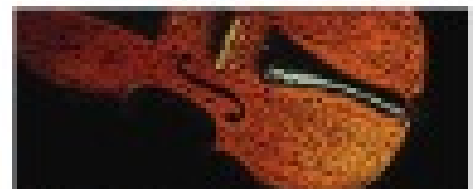
Tent/vehicle camping  
\$10 per night  
Reservations required

Contact: [DebiWemore@CaliforniaBluegrass.net](mailto:DebiWemore@CaliforniaBluegrass.net)



For More Info  
Call Contest Co-Chair  
Mark Hogan:  
707-479-5229  
email: [hogemoon@comcast.net](mailto:hogemoon@comcast.net)

Sharon Darnell  
530-604-5279  
email: [tesshar@pacbell.net](mailto:tesshar@pacbell.net)



**Spring Campout**

April 16-21, 2024

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Lodi Grape Festival Fairgrounds  
Jackson Hall 413 E. Lockeford St. Lodi, CA

April 19th, 20th 2024

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**Superintendent Jim French**

# 2024 Contest Dedicated to Jim French Oct. 4, 1951-May 19, 2023



**#1 Fiddle Accompanist Jim French!  
This is the Jim French we all knew  
and loved!!**

CSOTFA lost a musician, educator, encourager of all young musicians, friend and an all around wonderful man. Loved by all and gone to soon. If you attended fiddle contests then you have seen and know of Jim French. Every fiddler wanted Jim to back them up! He was the # 1 guy! Contests won't be the same without Jim French. He will be missed by our fiddle community.

Jim was born on Oct. 4, 1951, in Oneida, NY. Jim's family left New York for Chicago, then ultimately, moved to Fremont, Calif., in 1967. Jim and Carla both were graduates of Mission San Jose High School and were married in 1970 in the Little Brown Church in Sunol.

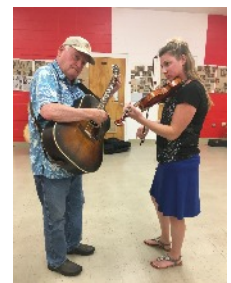
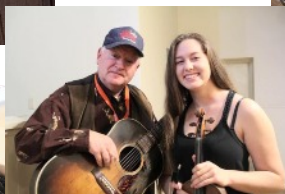
Jim graduated from Cal State Hayward. Jim and Carla moved from the Bay Area to Ruth Lake for Jim's first teaching job at Southern Trinity High School and was a special education teacher and wrestling coach. Jim loved to bass fish on Ruth Lake and Trinity Lake; he learned how to bass fish while living in Ruth Lake.

Jim enjoyed a fulfilling and wonderful career in special education which led him to end his career as the Trinity County Superintendent of Schools. He loved the people of Trinity County, as well as the natural beauty it has to offer. In Jim's 47 years here, he hiked every mountain peak in the Trinity Alps and swam in almost every lake and river and tried to catch every bass!

Jim's passion for music started with the guitar in the 1960's with his brother Larry and he played in myriad types of bands. During his busy career, he worked with many young musicians and loved traveling and playing in fiddle contests and built many strong relationships with all the musicians and their families.

Jim is survived by his wife of 52 years Carla; daughters April and Kathryn; son-in-law Mario and grandsons Emiliano, Vincent, Luca and his beloved Finn; and his brothers Jeff, Miles and John. He was predeceased by his brother Larry Dean French.

There are many great tributes to Jim on his Facebook page. These pictures below are Facebook posts by Liz Warner, Tawna Brown,, Lyle Dixon, and Shira Ellisman





## How the Judges Judge

**Fiddle Divisions** - Judging is based on: Old-Time style - 25%, Rhythm/Danceability - 25%, Clarity & Tone, 25% Difficulty - 25%. All scores are cumulative.

**Open Division** - Any age is eligible, but the contestant may not enter their appropriate age division as well.

**Picking Division** - Any age is eligible. Picking instruments are: guitar, banjo and mandolin. Contestants must play two (2) Old-time fiddle style tunes of choice, a fast & a slow tune. Judging based on: Picking ability - 25%, Rhythm/Danceability - 25%, Clarity & Tone, 25% Difficulty - 25%. This is ONE round only and has no time limit

**Accompanist-** Place determined by the number of appearances on stage

**Twin Fiddle Division-**Any age is eligible & no entry fee. Constants must play two (2) Old-time fiddle style tunes of choice, a fast & a slow tune. Judging based on: Harmony-25%, Rhythm/Danceability-25%, Clarity & Tone-25% and Difficulty-25%. Constants may use tunes that were used in the fiddle contest. This is ONE round only & has no time limit. Medals are awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> Places.

**Anything Goes** -Entry Fee of \$20 per Individual or Group (up to five (5)). Contestants may play two (2) tunes of choice, fast or slow, vocals or instrumental . Time limit is SIX (6) minutes.

## Donations & Sponsorships

**We need your help!** Here is your opportunity to help sponsor or make a donation to help support the 2024 State Contest.

The yearly contest is the most important state sponsored event of the year. Your donation will help encourage these fiddlers to keep on working hard and improving their skills. If you would like to sponsor any one of these divisions and the place prize money you can do so by emailing

Sharon Barrett at:  
texshar@pacbell.com

Or

**Just Mail your check to:**  
Robert Curtis  
60 Vernal Ct.  
Alamo, CA 94507

**Thank You Very Much**

## Prizes & Awards

### PeeWee (ages 8 & under)

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$50 & trophy  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$25 & Medal  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$15 & Medal  
4<sup>th</sup> " \$10 & Medal  
5<sup>th</sup> " \$5 & Medal  
6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Medals

### Junior-Junior (ages 9-12)

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$100 & Trophy  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$50 & Medal  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$25 & Medal  
4<sup>th</sup> " \$15 & Medal  
5<sup>th</sup> " \$10 & Medal  
6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Medals

### Junior (Ages 13-17)

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$125 & Trophy  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$75 & Medal  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$50 & Medal  
4<sup>th</sup> " \$35 & Medal  
5<sup>th</sup> " \$20 & Medal  
6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Medals

### Young Adult (Ages 18-36)

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$150 & Trophy  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$100 & Medal  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$75 & Medal  
4<sup>th</sup> " \$50 & Medal  
5<sup>th</sup> " \$25 & Medal

### Adult (Ages 37-54)

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$150 & Trophy  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$100 & Medal  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$75 & Medal  
4<sup>th</sup> " \$50 & Medal  
5<sup>th</sup> " \$25 & Medal

### Senior (Ages 55-69)

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$150 & Trophy  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$100 & Medal  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$75 & Medal  
4<sup>th</sup> " \$50 & Medal  
5<sup>th</sup> " \$25 & Medal

### Senior-Senior (Ages 70+)

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$150 & Trophy  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$100 & Medal  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$75 & Medal  
4<sup>th</sup> " \$50 & Medal  
5<sup>th</sup> " \$25 & Medal

### Open (Any Age)

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$250 & Trophy  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$175 & Medal  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$125 & Medal  
4<sup>th</sup> " \$100 & Medal  
5<sup>th</sup> " \$75 & Medal

### Jr Twin Fiddles

(Age 17 & Under)  
1<sup>st</sup> Place \$50 ea.  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$25 ea.  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$15 ea.  
4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> " Medals

### Adult Twin Fiddles (18 & over)

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$75 ea.  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$40 ea.  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$20 ea.  
4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> " Medals

### Junior Picking (17 & Under)

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$100  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$50  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$40  
4<sup>th</sup> " \$20  
5<sup>th</sup> " \$15

### Open Picking (Any Age)

1<sup>st</sup> " \$100  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$50  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$40  
4<sup>th</sup> " \$25  
5<sup>th</sup> " \$15

### Accompanist (Any Age)

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$150  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$100  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$75  
4<sup>th</sup> " \$60  
5<sup>th</sup> " \$45

### Anything Goes (all ages)

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$250  
2<sup>nd</sup> " \$125  
3<sup>rd</sup> " \$75  
4<sup>th</sup> " \$50

**Youngest Fiddler Boy &  
Girl & Oldest Fiddler  
Medals for each**

## 2024 CSOTFA General Contest Rules

**This contest is open to any musician. The highest scoring California resident in each division will be declared the California State Champion. California residency is defined as six (6) months as a California resident or having a California Driver's License. Contestant does not have to belong to the CSOTFA.**

1. Entry form must be completed in full and entry fee paid. Registration for each division will close when the first contestant steps on stage. Your registration is not complete until your tune sheet has been turned into Traffic. Registration will close Saturday after all fiddle and picking preliminaries have finished and final rounds are posted.
2. DIVISIONS: Peewee (8 years and under); Junior Junior (9-12 years); Junior (13-17 years); Young Adult (18-36 years); Adult (37-59 years); Senior (60-69 years); Senior Senior (70 years and over); Open (any age); Junior Twin Fiddle (both 17 years and younger); Open Twin Fiddle (any age); Junior Picking (17 years and younger); Open Picking (any age). A contestant may not enter more than one fiddle division, but may additionally enter Accompanist, Twin Fiddle, and/or one Picking Division. Any contestant entering multiple divisions must complete and turn in a separate tune sheet for each round in each division.
3. An Accompanist must register and play with at least one contestant in competition—excluding entertainment. Accompanist awards are given according to the number of times an accompanist plays during competition rounds **and only count if the contestant has listed the accompanist on the tune sheet**. All commercial recording rights are reserved and shall become the property of the CSOTFA. Signing of the registration form shall waive such rights.
4. **Initial Order of Play will be drawn by lottery approximately 30 minutes before the start of each division. The committee will draw before each round for a new Order of Play. If a contestant is not ready to play when called by the MC, he/she will be dropped to the end of the division and incur a 10 point penalty. Any contestant registered and not playing the initial round will be eliminated from the contest and forfeit all fees for the remainder of the contest. Total playing time is four minutes fifteen seconds. There is no grace period. Timing will start when the contestant or any accompanist plays any note on stage. Two points will be deducted for every ten seconds or portion thereof over four minutes fifteen seconds.**
5. **In the event of a tie involving prize money after the final round, the high scores for the final round for the tied contestants will be compared and the contestant with the higher score will be deemed to have won the tie. If the scores are still tied, the contestants will be deemed to have tied for the placement and will split the prize money for that place and the one below it.**
6. If a contestant qualifies and does not play the Final round, he/she will forfeit his/her standing in the Final Round. The next contestant will move up and play in the Final Round.
7. Contestants may play without accompanist or with no more than three accompanists, no more than two of which may be standard guitars. **Having more than two standard guitars as accompaniment will incur a 5 point penalty.** An accompanist may not play the melody of the tune.
8. No instrument with electrical amplification will be allowed on stage. This is strictly an acoustical contest.
9. No sheet music shall be displayed while contesting. There are no vocals allowed. This is an instrumental contest.
10. **If a string breaks, or there is other "equipment failure", the contestant will have the option to continue to play, or to stop at that point. If the tune is completed, it will be judged as played. If the contestant stops, he/she will be moved to the end of the round and will play a complete round, regardless of whether or not any tunes were completed before the incident.**
11. Any contestant or accompanist who acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, is intoxicated or is under the influence of drugs: will not be allowed to perform; will forfeit entry fee and prize money; and will be asked to leave the contest. Appropriate attire is expected, including shirt and shoes.
12. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Contest Chairman and signed by not less than three contestants of the contest division within three (3) hours of the protest occurrence.
13. All decisions of the judges and/or Contest Committee are final.
14. Contestants are responsible for picking up their own score sheets at the registration table at the end of the contest. Final results will be printed in the *Soundpost* and posted on the website.
15. All questions regarding contest rules, procedures, and personnel must be addressed to the Contest committee.

1ST PLACE PAYS \$250

# ANYTHING GOES CONTEST



- CONTESTANTS SOLO OR GROUP OF 5 MAX
- TWO TUNES OF CHOICE
- 6 MINUTES TIME LIMIT (START OF TUNE OR USE OF MIC.)
- JUDGING BASED ON: AUDIENCE APPEAL, STAGE PRESENCE, ORIGINALITY, TECHNICAL ABILITY

**\$20 SIGNUP**

SIGNUP CLOSES AT 5:30 on Friday



# CSOTFA ANYTHING GOES RULES

1. Any acoustic instrument may be played during this division.
  - a. Bands/Groups/vocals may be included.
2. **Sign up is mandatory by 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19, 2024.**
3. Contestants may play two (2) tune of their choice: fast or slow, vocals or instrumentals.
4. Time limit is 6 minutes. Time starts when you start tune or say something to audience.
5. **Contestants will be allowed to have a group size of up to 5 on stage. Lead Contestant may not be on stage more than once except to play rhythm backup for another Contestant.**
6. Judging will be based on: Audience Appeal, Stage Presence, Originality, and Technical Ability.
7. 10 points will be deducted for going over time and for every 10 seconds afterwards
8. Fee is \$20 per individual or group. Entry registration at Anything Goes Table.
9. Contestants will draw for playing order.
10. Prize money distribution as noted below:  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$250    2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$125    3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$75    4<sup>th</sup> Place - \$50