

# The Arizona Fiddler

The official publication of the Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association Inc  
Published every other month at Flagstaff AZ  
Noreen Johnston Editor 7470 Derryberry Flagstaff AZ 86004  
fiddlerslady@aol.com 928-853-3577

## ATTENTION !!!!

Starting January 2020, we will be emailing the newsletter in order to cut cost and work load, This will be your last newsletter unless I receive a current email address or notification that you do not have an email. Members over 80 that have not paid dues up to now will need to pay the \$10 membership dues in order to receive the newsletter. Thank you Noreen, membership secretary and editor.



## REMINDER!!



Membership fees will be due **January 1 2020.**

Individual and family **\$15 per year**

Individual or spouse over 80 **\$10**

Please send dues to

AOTFA Noreen Johntson 7470 Derryberry Flagstaff AZ 86004



Beginning January 2020, the Verde Valley Chapter of the AOTFA will hold their monthly meeting on the **SECOND SUNDAY** of the month. The first meeting of this new format will be **January 12 2020.** Senior Center Cottonwod AZ 1pm to 4pm. Everyone is welcome, either to play an acoustic instrument, sing, or just enjoy.

# 1st Annual Casa Grande Fiddle Contest Saturday, March 14 in Pearl Park.

Registration starts at 9:00, contest starts at 10:00. Jamming in the park Friday night.

Contact Tiffany Dietrich with questions: 520-709-0150 or my7gems@cox.net



No entry fees for AOTFA members so become a member before the contest!

Free dry camping at Pinal County Cowboy Church all weekend starting Thursday. Free breakfast provided at Cowboy Church Saturday morning for campers. (Pearl Park is 10-15 mins from Cowboy Church and there will be plenty of parking at both places).

Contest Sponsors: Pinal Country Cowboy Church, Al & Riley's Air Conditioning, The Brinkman family, Wurst Music, Culver's of Casa Grande, CSC Face Painting, Strings of the Season, The Gathering Restaurant, Terry McShane Luthier, The Marthalar family, Lamont Audio, Brufinel Plumbing, Abiding Impressions, T Time Grill at Mission Royale, Bill and Maria Walters, Ken Kermod Realty, and The Arizona Old Time Fiddlers.



Virginia Mae, the daughter of James William and Clara Grace (Elliott) Kochheiser, was born November 6, 1933 in Des Moines, Iowa. Virginia grew up on the southside of Des Moines near the airport alongside her older brother Everett and younger brother Wayne. Growing up she helped her brother, Everett deliver newspapers on horseback, working on the relative's farms during summer break; being a "little mother" and playmate to Wayne, and as a teenager worked as a car-hop (waitress on roller skates) at Connie & Lou's Drive-In; this is where she met her future husband Bob.

Virginia was only 17 years old when she married Bob, on January 12, 1951; prior to his deployment to Germany during the Korean War. After her marriage she transferred from Lincoln to Norwalk High School graduating in 1951. Following school, she worked for the U.S. Government in Baltimore, MD and then was able to be transferred with that job to be with Bob in Manheim, Germany. Following Bob's discharge, they returned to Norwalk where

Bob worked as the U.S. Postmaster. They started the company, Contract Transport in Norwalk and later moved to Des Moines. They specialized in highway contracting for the U.S. Postal Service. Virginia ran the office, managing routes and finances. She was very active with the National Star Route Mail Carriers Association and the Iowa Motor Truck Association. In the mid 80's Virginia had the honor to speak in front of the U.S. Congress in Washington, DC regarding trucking regulations at the invitation of Senator Chuck Grassley.

Bob and Virginia retired in 1989 and moved their home to Arizona living in Green Valley and later Tucson. Since this time, they spent their winters in Arizona and then travelled to Iowa, living in their motor home during the summer. Bob was a musician and Virginia was his biggest fan. She would make pies and cookies for the members of the band and they often would travel in their RV to events.

Virginia died peacefully on the morning of her 86th birthday, Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at MorningStar at Jordan Creek Senior Living in West Des Moines. She was preceded in death by her parents; older brother, Everett in 2008; her husband, Bob on November 29, 2018; and a son, Wes on March 13, 2019.

Those left to cherish her memory include her children, Sandi (Allen) Bergman of Dallas Center; Jeane Nible of Des Moines, and Jim (Judy) Broxmeyer) Nible of Van Meter; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; a brother Wayne (Dona) Kochheiser; and a host of other family and good friends.



# Happy Birthday January

Donna Cook	1	1
Vicci Seaton	1	1
Wilma Bramwell	1	7
Janet Shelby	1	11
Bud McKirryher	1	14
Brenda Coderre	1	17
Madge Holmes	1	17
Bill Williamson	1	20
Mae Camp	1	22
Don Shrum	1	22
Georgia Brown	1	28
Mickey Long	1	30
Darlene Selle	1	31



# Happy Birthday February

Mary Dana Coar	2	1
Noe Alvarado	2	1
Bill Elsclager	2	3
Linda Lebow	2	5
Ivan Judd	2	5
Gayl Ratigan	2	5
Betty Wilcutt	2	7
Starre Barnett	2	7
Dot Williamson	2	8
Hughie Smith	2	10
Ed Johnston	2	15
MaryCaulkins	2	15
Rosemary Shrum	2	15
Barbara Armstrong	2	18
Deanie Schilling	2	22
Diane Dorothy	2	24
Guy Selle	2	25
Arline Peterson	2	26
Emmett Gundy	2	26
Dan Everts	2	26
Omer Coderre	2	27
Billie Helm	2	27
Ron Peaden	2	28



2020 Officers  
 President Nancy Reynolds  
 Vice President Chuck Johnston  
 Secretary/Treasurer Linda Darland  
 Membership Secretary/Editor Noreen Johnston  
 Board Members  
 Dave Brinkman

Thank you!!!

Howdy fiddler's Bob Williams repair shop here.  
 I realized last year I didn't fiddle play much cuz I was blessed with lots of repair work (thank you all) BUT this year I'll take your repair work home and deliver it at next events so I can join you in the fun jamming.  
 List below events attending for pickup and delivery  
 Salome.... Nov., Jan., March  
 Ajo, AZ...Feb.  
 Lk. Havasu City, AZ... March

Fiddle on,  
 Bob Williams  
 928-733-8990 Or 928-230-3125



St. George Utah - Our dear dad, Paul Marlin Cragun, or "Pablo" as he liked to be called, left this earth to be with his sweetheart and loved ones on July 19, 2018. He was born to loving parents Thomas Marlin Cragun and Laura Potts Cragun on August 23, 1925 in Smithfield, Utah, where he spent a happy boyhood. In 1943 at the age of 17, and with permission from his father, he joined the Navy and was stationed on the U.S.S. Guadalcanal aircraft carrier. He served honorably and upon returning home in 1945, married the beautiful, Verna Clinger of Brigham City, Utah. Together they were the parents of four rambunctious boys, raising them to appreciate the beauty of the outdoors while taking many camping and fishing trips. Verna and Paul divorced in 1974, and in 1976 he met and married Georgia "Jo" Dills. Together they traveled the United States in their RV, making friends wherever they went. They loved to square dance and Paul loved to play the fiddle while accompanied by Jo on the piano. These were the happiest years of Paul's life. Since Jo's death in 2010, Paul kept busy by square dancing up into his 92nd year, flirting with the pretty ladies at the Egg & I and at the hospital cafeteria, and visiting with his friends at Rio Virgin Estates.



Paul is survived by his three sons and their families: Scott (Gay), Corey (Lorraine) and Bruce (ReNae); twelve grandchildren; and his sister, Vernae (Keith) Hansen. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jo; his son, Brent; and brother, Jack.

Funeral services will be held in St. George, Utah on Friday, July 27, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at Metcalf Mortuary, 288 West St. George Blvd. A visitation will be held Friday, prior to services, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the mortuary.

Graveside services with military honors will be held in Smithfield, Utah on Saturday, July 28, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the Smithfield City Cemetery.

## January - February Anniversaries

Hal Porter	1	14	1949
Ivan & Fran Judd	1	15	1959
Darwin & Arlene Kimball	1	18	
Ruth Cook	1	20	1977
Hughie & Esther Smith	1	24	1971
Dorothy Powell	1	25	1944
Lee & Dora Davis	2	03	1946
Kent Chamberlin	2	09	1956
Bob & Linda Williams	2	16	1971
Tracy & Barbara Armstrong	2	18	2000
Roy & Ruth Ireland	2	21	1976



Yuma's Silver Spur Rodeo, Inc. and  
The Territorial Chapter of The Old Time Fiddlers Assoc.  
present

# The 44th Annual Worthen Memorial Old Time Fiddlers' Contest January 10-12, 2020

Grounds open for RV's Tuesday January 7th

Fiddle Tune Workshop Friday January 10 at 3PM

(MUST PRE-Register at [www.Clawdan.com](http://www.Clawdan.com) -- small donation requested for the workshop)

To be held at The Jaycee's Clubhouse  
2577 East County 14th Street; Yuma, Arizona

Contest begins Saturday and Sunday at 10 AM.

Jr. Jr. - 4-12; Junior - 13-17; Young Adult - 18-39; Adult - 40-64; Senior - 65-79; Sr. Sr. - 80 and over

Twin Fiddle; Husband and Wife (one must fiddle, other accompanies)

Trick and/or Fancy; Accompanist; Other Stringed Instruments (mandolin, banjo and etc.)

We will do all of the contest rounds on Saturday January 11th with the Grand Champion round after supper Saturday  
Also the evening Jams will include a Fiddlers Dance Friday and Saturday night - Musicians Sign up at the door  
Cash prizes - Trophies!!!

This year's Judges are John Kennedy, Dan Everts and Paul Dickerson

Open Stage Friday and Saturday night - Sign up at the door

Dry Camping - donations requested!!! Jams!!! Contest and Performances!!!



For more information check our website or contact Dan Levenson by e-mail at: [Clawdan@Clawdan.com](mailto:Clawdan@Clawdan.com)

Please put "Fiddle Contest Inquiry" in the subject line

Schedule and rules at <http://YumaOldTimeFiddlers.com/contest>

-- Small admission charge at the door each day --

## JANUARY

**10 - 12** - Worthen Memorial Fiddle Contest - YUMA, ARIZONA - Yuma Jaycees Clubhouse, 2577 E. County 14th Street - We will do all of the contest rounds on Saturday January 11th with the Grand Champion round after supper Saturday  
Also the evening Jams will include a Fiddlers Dance Friday and Saturday night - Musicians Sign up at the door Dry camping by donation - Open Jamming - Admission Fees - For more information [www.yumaoldtimefiddlers.com](http://www.yumaoldtimefiddlers.com) or Yuma Flyer 2020



**17 - 19** - Desert Fiesta Country Music Jam - SALOME, ARIZONA - Salome Lions Club on Hall Street - Jamming, Stage Performances Friday & Saturday - Meals served by the Lions Friday noon, Saturday Breakfast and Dinner - Gospel Sing on Sunday at 10 - Dry Camping by donation - For more info call 928-671-0474 or email [ldarland53@gmail.com](mailto:ldarland53@gmail.com)

## FEBRUARY

**Jan 30 - Feb 2** - Ajo Old Time Fiddle Contest - AJO, ARIZONA - Ajo Country Club, 77 Mead Road - 3 fun filled days and nights - Jam all day and Dance all night - Thursday night show - Friday and Saturday Dances - Gospel Sing on Sunday morning - Contest Saturday and Sunday - Full service bar and restaurant - 9-hole Golf Course - Dry Camping for a fee - Admission to all events - For more info call Linda 928-671-0474 or email [ldarland53@gmail.com](mailto:ldarland53@gmail.com) or contact Ajo Country Club at 520-387-5011 or [www.ajogolfcourse.com](http://www.ajogolfcourse.com)

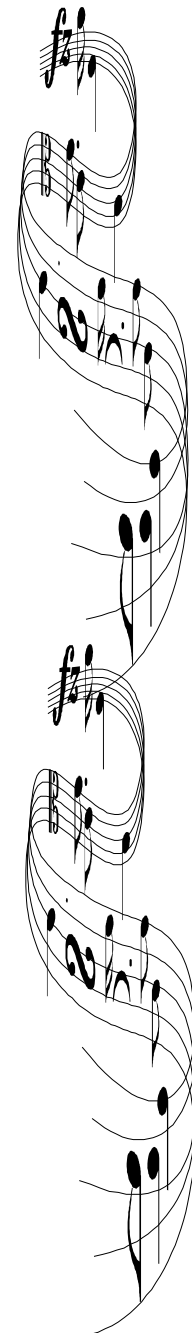
**14 - 16** - Eastern Arizona Old Time Fiddle Contest - SAFFORD, ARIZONA - Graham County Fairgrounds - For more info contact Beth Cox at 520-313-0765

**29** - 80th Annual Tucson Fiddle Contest - TUCSON, ARIZONA - Unitarian Universalist Church 4831 E 22nd Street - From I-10 take the 22nd Street Exit and go East 5.5 miles. The church is on the north side, just east of S. Swan Road - Contest Registration 9 AM - Contest begins at 10 AM - For more information contact Wilbur Welsh at 520-743-7086 or Dallas Parker at 520-954-1383.

## MARCH

**14** 1st Annual Casa Grande fiddle contest  
Pearl Park Casa Grande - 350 E 6th St, Casa Grande, AZ 85122  
Pinal County Cowboy Church - 18171 W Hopi Dr, Casa Grande, AZ 85122  
free parking  
free breakfast for campers  
no entry fees for contest if you are a member of the AZ Old Time Fiddlers  
contact Tiffany Dietrich - [my7gems@cox.net](mailto:my7gems@cox.net)

**20 - 22** - AOTFA Spring Campout - SALOME, ARIZONA - Salome Lions Club - Hall Street - Meal and Bar by the Lions Club - Friday and Saturday Stage Shows - Dry Camping by donation - For more info contact Linda 928-671-0474 or [ldarland53@gmail.com](mailto:ldarland53@gmail.com)



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### Brief History of the Tucson Fiddle Contest\*

The first contest was held February 20th, 1941 during rodeo week. From The Tucson Citizen,  
 Thursday Night Edition, February 20th, 1941:

“Old Time Fiddlers Hold Contest Here”

“Old-time fiddlers competed in an open contest sponsored by the Radio Service Men’s  
 Association and the Chamber of Commerce this afternoon. Taking part in the contest, held at the  
 corner of Stone and Congress, were James A. Jackson, M.H. Cruise, Richard R. Smith, T.T.  
 Martin, G.L. Kelley, Rex Thompson, T.G. Crawford, E.T. Mitchell, Sam Pottorff, and W. F.  
 Crowley.” The first place prize of \$5 was won by Rex Thompson of Phoenix, the second place  
 prize of two rodeo tickets by Wild Horse Shorty Hamby of Benson, and the third place prize of  
 one rodeo ticket by M.H. Cruise of Tucson.

The second contest was held February 1st, 1942 at Armory Park in conjunction with the  
 community sing program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the city recreation  
 department. First place was taken by A.A. Musgrave

In the third contest on January 10th, 1943, a format was established where fiddlers were  
 required to play two breakdowns and a waltz. In addition, a special award was given to the best  
 rendition of “Arkansas Traveler”. V.W. Hamby won first place while Bill Skinner, age 13, won  
 the “Arkansas Traveler” competition.

The contest continued through the next few years as an open contest until in 1952, over-60 and  
 under-60 year old categories were established along with the “Arkansas Traveler” category.

Andy Olsen of Tucson won the over-60 group while Pug Scott won the under-60 division.

The contest continued with little change till the 90’s at Armory Park under the sponsorship of  
 the city recreation department. In the 90’s, the contest was moved to Reid Park where the City  
 Park and Recreation Department sponsored the event. In addition, the contest was expanded to  
 include several age categories and specialty divisions. With recent budget cuts, sponsorship of  
 the contest is now solely in the hands of the Southern Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association  
 (SAOTFA).

Among notable participants over the years are Bill Bradley who first entered the contest in  
 1945 and won in 1948,1949, Pug Scott of Benson, the first woman champion (1952) and Don  
 Johnson who won in the contest at least 7 times.

In 1948, the contest was recorded and sent to the Library of Congress for filing under  
 American folklore.

\*Source of Information is from the Tucson Citizen Archives



nyckelharpe



Chasi  
Warm Springs Apache  
1886

# Fiddle



Peter Stampfel  
The Holy Modal Rounders

A fiddle is a bowed string musical instrument, most often a violin. It is a colloquial term for the violin, used by players in all genres including classical music. Although violins and fiddles are essentially synonymous, the style of the music played may determine specific construction differences between fiddles and classical violins. For example, fiddles may optionally be set up with a bridge with a flatter arch to reduce the range of bow-arm motion needed for techniques such as the double shuffle, a form of bariolage involving rapid alternation between pairs of adjacent strings.[2] To produce a "brighter" tone, compared to the deeper tones of gut or synthetic core strings, fiddlers often use steel strings. The fiddle is part of many traditional (folk) styles, which are typically aural traditions—taught 'by ear' rather than via written music.

Fiddling is the act of playing the fiddle, and fiddlers are musicians that play it. Among musical styles, fiddling tends to produce rhythms that focus on dancing, with associated quick note changes, whereas classical music tends to contain more vibrato and sustained notes. Fiddling is also open to improvisation and embellishment with ornamentation at the player's discretion—in contrast to orchestral performances, which adhere to the composer's notes to reproduce a work faithfully. It is less common for a classically trained violinist to play folk music, but today, many fiddlers (e.g., Alasdair Fraser, Brittany Haas, Alison Krauss, etc.) have classical training. (Fiddle - wikipedia)

## History



Kenny Baker  
bluegrass fiddler

## Klezmer fiddlers wedding Ukraine ca 1925





## Territorial Chapter Doings

Dear Fiddlers,

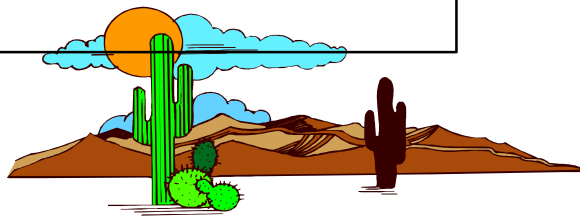
Almost another year going to pass soon. Lot of activities going on for Christmas. Went to breakfast this morning with 12 of our 'Go to breakfast club'. There are about 18 of us. One of our leaders bought a whole bunch of Christmas hats put in a large red sack, told us all to reach in the bag and get yours. Lots of colorful displays of battery pack Christmas lights to wear around your neck. I got one with reindeer antlers that had bells on it with lights. A couple next table said you guys sure are having a good time. Only problem with the lights is when the battery wears down, you have to go on the internet to get stuff any more, not even Wally's world carries them. Been to two dozen stores to try and get the devices that causes Christmas lights to 'twinkle'. Not to be found.

We are still having a good time at our regular venues, playing fiddle tunes and music. We started a regular workshop on Thursday afternoons that can get intense some times. I can't read a lick of music, not even tablature, only by ear. Missed several times because I was down with some kind of TIFOOOCUS or a bad way of the flu. Went to my doctor, he gave me a antibiotic as big as my thumb. Had to choke that down twice a day.

Results of our election, new officers are: President - Dan Everts, VP - Frank Moore, Treasurer - Janet Shelby, Membership Secretary - Fred Lapcheska, Recording Sec. - Sandy Woods, Newsletter - Dennis Russell, Board - Roscoe Perry, State Reps Don Geer and Guy Selle.

Does anybody remember the tune Muhlenberg County down by the Green River. I can't remember the tune. It got stolen, so if anyone has the words, I would appreciate it to forward to me. One other thing, I got my passport stolen a while back. I keep it in a linen drawer with socks and gear, the cleaning lady took it. I had to make a police report. The police said what they do is cut out your photo and put someone else's in there about the size of a nail head and use it to go back and forth across the order...beware people....

Have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year  
Editor Dennis Russell



## Attend a Monthly Chapter Meeting

### Rim Country - Payson area

Mount Cross Lutheran Church

Log cabin building

601 E Hwy 260 Payson AZ

Third Thursday

Casual lessons 4:15 to 6:00pm

with acoustic instruments on hand

"Jam session" 5:00 to 8:30 pm

Contact Caitlin Wilson - wilsonsetc@gmail.com

**NEW**

**NEW**

### Southern AZ - Tucson area

Unitarian Universalist Church

4831 E 22 Street Tucson AZ 85709

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Contact Wilbur Welsh 520-743-7086



Territorial - Yuma area

Contact Dan Everts 509-953-0079

### Verde Valley - Cottonwood area

**NEW DAY !!!**

**Second Sunday 1 - 4 pm**

Senior Citizens Hall

500 E Cherry Cottonwood AZ

Contact Fran Judd 928-634-77963



Whew !!!



**Happy  
New  
Year!**

Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association  
Application for Membership  
Renewal or Change of Address

Annual Dues \$15 per family

(Starting January 1, 2020) Over 80 + 3 years membership  
in good standing \$10 (includes partner)

New Member  Renewal  Change of Address

**Please print**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Summer City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**If Different**

Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Winter City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Man's Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Lady's Birthday \_\_\_\_\_  
Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Children under age 18 living at home \_\_\_\_\_

Chapters

- |                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rim Country  | Payson area     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SAOTF        | Tucson area     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Territorial  | Yuma area       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verde Valley | Cottonwood area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Valley       | Phoenix area    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent  | Anywhere        |

Members may join One principal chapter and one associate chapter

Please send state dues to:  
Noreen Johnston Membership Secretary  
7470 Derryberry Flagstaff AZ 86004



Arizona Old Time Fiddlers  
7470 Derryberry  
Flagstaff AZ 86004

January - February 2020