

THE ARIZONA FIDDLER

Official Publication of the Arizona Old Time Fiddle Association Inc. Published bi-monthly

Dave Brinkman, Editor banjodb@gmail.com

Webpage: <http://www.arizonaoldtimefiddlers.org/> Facebook: [Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association](#)

July/August 2026

Contact Noreen Johnston to pay your dues. fiddlerslady@aol.com See Form on p. 8

Upcoming Events

[Rocky Mountain Regional](#) July 11, 2026. Central Wyoming Fair. Casper, WY

[Peabody Hale Contest](#) July 25, 2026. Crawford, Nebraska. City Park. 63rd Annual.

[Willamette Valley Contest](#) August 1, 2026. Corvallis, Oregon.

[Elbert County Fair High Plains Fiddlefest Contest](#) August 2, 2026. Kiowa, Colorado.

[Picking in the Pines Bluegrass Festival](#) September 18-20. Flagstaff, Arizona.

State Fiddle Contest. October 3 in Payson, Arizona
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[Salome Fiddle Fest](#). November 6-8, 2026 Salome, Arizona.

[Wickenburg Bluegrass Festival](#) November 13-15 Wickenburg, Arizona.

[AOTFA Events List](#) See Arizona Old Time Fiddle Association Webpage

State Contest

The Vertilee Floyd Memorial State Fiddle Contest will be held October 3 in **Payson**. The contest will be part of a larger event involving Mazatzal Casino, Gila County Fair, and Payson Parks and Recreation. Details will be coming soon from [Payson Parks and Recreation](#).

Paul Rolland

In Arizona, the name “Rolland” is often linked to fiddle music. But most fiddlers might not know Paul Rolland. Paul Rolland was a world-renowned expert in string pedagogy—the art and science of teaching people to play stringed instruments.

Paul Rolland was the father of Peter Rolland and spent over 30 years teaching music at the University of Illinois. Born in 1911, he picked up the violin at age eleven. He studied at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest and played as a solo violinist and first violinist in the Budapest Symphony. He initially came to the US as a performer in string quartets but eventually focused on music education.



Paul Rolland

Paul was fascinated by how the movements involved in playing could be analyzed and improved. He became well-known for his teaching methods, writing dozens of articles and books, speaking at conferences and conventions, and creating a series of films to show his methods. Through the Illinois String Research Project, which he and colleagues at the University of Illinois developed, they created a program for children that emphasized establishing good movement patterns early on. He was also one of the founders of the American String Teachers Association.

Paul Rolland believed that teachers should learn and teach freedom of movement and use clear, specific, and concise instructions when teaching. His approach to pedagogy was very analytical, and his teaching method was highly systematic and logical. His book, “*The Teaching of Action in String Playing*” (1974), explained the methods of movement and how to avoid tension while playing.

Paul Rolland was the first to use science-based research to explore how movement plays a role in learning stringed-instrument performance techniques. His movement-centered approach has had a global impact on teaching children to play stringed instruments.

Plaque honoring Paul Rolland, University of Illinois School of Music

Sources for this article:

Conversation with Peter Rolland on February 21, 2026

Eisele, Mark Joseph. [The Writings of Paul Rolland: An annotated bibliography and a biographical sketch](#) (PDF).

“Paul Rolland” in Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., Last Modification March 26, 2026, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Rolland. Accessed March 31, 2026.

Paul Rolland String Pedagogy Society. <https://www.paulrollandsociety.org/history>

Happy 250th Birthday USA

On July 4, 1776, the United States officially declared its independence from the British Empire when the Second Continental Congress adopted the [Declaration of Independence](#).

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” (Opening sentences of the Declaration Of Independence)

Territorial Chapter

The Territorial Chapter ended it's season with a Yard Sale, which was very productive in raising monies and cleaning out unwanted items. We even sold a slot machine! What interesting things people have stored away. Our baked goods went well, too. Then Suzanne Cox presented us with a Workshop that helped us hone our skills.

We're sorry and sad that our last performance at the Foothills Library was our last performance there. We have outgrown the conference room, and are looking for a new venue to play at on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. We will continue playing at the VFW come fall.

For the summer, there are a few of us jamming on Tuesday afternoons at a new venue that opened up for us. We are playing in the Children's Room at Calvary Chapel Foothills. And it is a nice play to play, comfortable chairs, air conditioning, parking. We are so thankful!

Six of us went to Desert Rose Senior Living Apts. in May and June. There will be fewer of us in July here in Yuma, but we will bring hand clapping, foot stomping music to the residents, and hopefully there will be more players in August.

A sad note, Guy Selle, our President, lost his wife Darlene on June 7th. After several mini strokes, she was put on Hospice. A memorial service was held for her on June 25. We all miss you Darlene, RIP.

Submitted by Carol O'Brien, Secretary

Salome March 2026

The *Salome Desert Fiesta Fiddlefest* for March 2026 was unusual—it **was HOT!** We had high temperatures were around 100 degrees, which was 20+ degrees above normal. The Lions Club building was cool, so we spent most of the day inside, and had some great jams. Thanks to the Salome Lions Club for hosting, providing meals, and helping us have a great time playing music and visiting with friends. This was the last event of “fiddle season,” and we will miss the music gatherings until fall. **Happy fiddling to all!**



John and Arline



Lisa, (California), Laura (Arizona), and Gail (Canada)



Nancy, Janet and Katie



Lisa and Janet



Ross, Katie, Don, and Tom



Laura and Nancy

Famous Fiddlers—Andy DeJarlis (1914 – 1975)

Andy Dejarlis was a famous Canadian Métis Fiddler from Manitoba. He was credited with more than 200 musical compositions and recorded 38 record albums. He is said to have sold over 500,000 records. He played on Winnipeg radio accompanied by the musical group the Red River Mates. He moved to Vancouver and later to Montreal where he appeared on the television program Don Messer's Jubilee as Andy DeJarlis and His Early Settlers.

Andy DeJarlis tunes are engaging and danceable, and commonly played at Arizona fiddle events. I have not found a definitive list of his compositions, but a few tunes that he wrote or performed include *Manitoba Golden Boy*, *Interlake Waltz*, *Andy's Schottische*, *Buckskin Reel*, *Poor Girl Waltz*, *Sleeping Giant Two Step*, *Lucky Trapper's Reel*, *Louis Riel Reel*, *Andy's Old Time Waltz* and *Caribou Reel*. Much of his repertoire is available on YouTube.



Interlake Waltz

Also known as
La Valse de l'Amitié (Friendship Waltz)

Andy DeJarlis
1914-1975

Chords: G C D G

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Chords: G C G D G

Chords: G C G D G

Transcribed from the playing of Andy DeJarlis, Laura Barry, Troy Gates, and Patti Kusturok

The Interlake area is between Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba in the Canadian Province of Manitoba.
The composer, Andy DeJarlis, was from Manitoba, and was a well-known Canadian fiddler.

Pictures for Noreen

I am working on putting ALL of the fiddlers on flash drives so everyone can see them. If you would like yours to be included, please get a copy (or original) to me. Email or mail. However you would like to send them. I can get them back to you if you want. I would like to have it all done by November meeting so gather them and send.

Noreen

Contest Results

Starr McMullen 2nd in Senior Division Texas State Fiddle Championship. April 24-26. Hallettsville, TX

Martin Fewkes 2nd in Senior Division, **Emily Fewkes** 2nd in Junior-Junior, **Aaron Fewkes** 4th in Open, **Carla Fewkes** 4th in Accompanist. Western Idaho Contest. May 1-2 Boise, ID

Katie Bonn, 4th and **Laura Barry** 5th in Championship Division. **Martin Fewkes**, 2nd in Senior. **Katie, Laura, Martin** and **Carla**, 1st in Band. **Martin** and **Carla** "greatest distance traveled." International Music Camp Contest. June 6, 2026. Peace Garden on North Dakota/Manitoba border.

Isley Dietrich 2nd in Jr-Jr, **Aaron Fewkes** 3rd in Adult, **Ranelle Dietrich/Jesse Quintana** 3rd in Twin, **Starr McMullen** 3rd in Sr-Sr, **Ranelle Dietrich** 2nd in Junior. National Old Time Fiddle Contest. June 21-27. Weiser, ID.



Kris, Fred, Janet, Nancy and Frank played recently for residents at Desert Rose in Yuma

AOTFA
14210 W. Kiowa Trail
Surprise AZ 85374

July/August 2026

The Arizona Fiddler

Membership, Renewal or Change of Address

Annual Dues \$15 Family. Over 80 \$10 Includes Partner

Please Print
Name _____

Summer Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

Email _____

If Different
Winter Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

(Optional) Man's Birthday _____ **Lady's Birthday** _____

Anniversary _____ **Year** _____

Children Under 18 Living at Home _____

Chapters

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Rim Country | ☐ Payson Area |
| ☐ SAOTF | ☐ Tucson Area |
| ☐ Territorial | ☐ Yuma Area |
| ☐ Verde Valley | ☐ Cottonwood Area |
| ☐ Independent | ☐ Anywhere |

Members may join one Principal chapter and one associate chapter.

Send dues to **Noreen Johnston, Membership Secretary**
696 S Maricopa Street
Chino Valley, AZ 86323