

# THE ARIZONA FIDDLER

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

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Dave Brinkman, Editor [banjodb@gmail.com](mailto:banjodb@gmail.com) 307-760-4746

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Webpage: <http://www.arizonaoldtimefiddlers.org/> Facebook: Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association

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May/June 2025

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Contact Noreen Johnston to pay your dues. [fiddlerslady@aol.com](mailto:fiddlerslady@aol.com)

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## Upcoming Events

**International Peace Garden Fiddle Festival.** Dunseith, ND June 5-7, 2025

**National Oldtime Fiddle Contest** Weiser ID. June 16-21, 2025

**Prescott Bluegrass Festival.** Prescott AZ. June 21-22, 2025

**State Fiddle Contest.** Payson AZ. September 4-6, 2025 ***Date Change!***

**Picking in the Pines.** Flagstaff AZ. September 12-14, 2025

**Salome FiddleFest.** Salome, AZ. October 31-November 2, 2025. Linda Darland 928-671-0474 for info. Salome Lions Club - Fiddle shows and lots of jamming - Dry RV Parking (Donations appreciated) Friday Lunch - Saturday Breakfast and Dinner.

**Wickenburg Contest and Bluegrass Festival** November 6-9, 2025

**AOFTA Events List** See AOFTA Webpage



*Janet, Paul and Janene at Ajo Plaza*



*Terry and Dave at Salome*

## State Fiddle Contest *Date Change and Format Change*

This year, Payson's 55th Annual J.W. & Vertielee Floyd Memorial Old Time Fiddle Celebration will be combining with the Northern Gila County Fair from **September 4-6, 2025**. The bulk of the contests will be on **Friday September 5** with Championship rounds held on **Saturday September 6**. Evening concerts, animal exhibits, and much more will be available! Dry camping will be permitted on a limited basis. Please call to reserve dry camping asap.

The 2025 Payson Fiddle and Food Festival at the Northern Gila County Fair will be one for the books! Registration will open soon. Check out <https://adventurepayson.com/fiddle> for more information. (This Information is from Payson Parks and Recreation)



*Corrine at Ajo 2025*

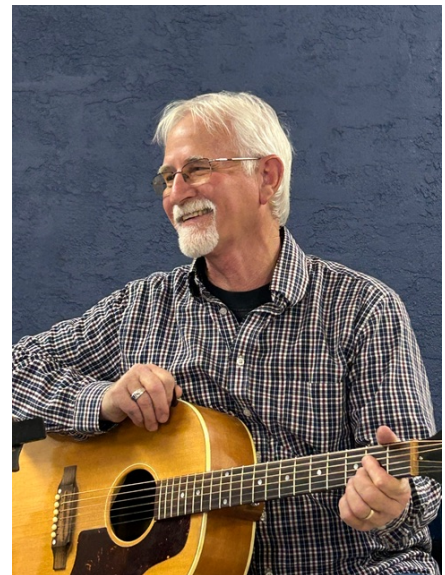


*Fred jamming at Yuma 2025*

## Just A Tradition

With a Fiddle, that's played so smooth and so sweet  
The rhythm and drive moving my feet.  
The melody rings in my ears and my mind  
The thump of the bass in three quarter time  
Gliding across a floor made of wood  
Where generations of dancers before me once stood  
The tunes that are played are from long, long ago  
Passed down by each fiddler to someone they know  
And it makes me feel good in knowing it's true,  
That the music is played especially for you.

By Martin Fewkes  
2004



*Martin always has a smile!*



## Roland Trenary Sketches

You may have seen Roland in the front row of some of the fiddle events. He is a talented artist, writer, and musician, and he sent these portraits from the Tucson Contest (2-22-2025). He does these in the five minutes the person is on stage! Can you recognize these musicians? Roland is in residence in Ajo for a few months during the winter. Thanks Roland!



## Southern Arizona Chapter (Tucson)

The busy winter fiddling season is close to being over for another year. The Southern Arizona Chapter Weekly Jam Session has been very well attended this year and even attracted a few new fiddlers. The annual picnic hosted by Judy Frasier was also well attended. Thanks go out to all who attended and especially to Noe Alvarado for cooking the steaks.

The date for the **2026 Tucson Fiddle Contest is now set for February 21, 2026**. The Southern Arizona Dance Center will again be the location. I will again offer my services as contest coordinator for 2026, but after careful consideration I have decided that I will not be able to continue in that capacity after this coming year.

If any person is willing to offer their services as contest coordinator, please let me know as soon as possible. If no one expresses an interest in doing this by November I will assume that the contest will not be able to continue beyond this year 2026. If that is the case I will limit my fundraising efforts to only cover what is needed for the 2026 contest.

Thank You and have a wonderful summer,

Darwin F. Long

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS DEADLINE is 20th of the Month.**

**June 20th for the July/August Newsletter.**

## Territorial Chapter (Yuma)

Greetings to all AOTFA chapters! We are winding down here in Yuma. Yesterday was our final performance at the St. Paul's event center. We have been meeting there on the first Monday of the month for our business meeting—then afterward having a performance. Yesterday a good sized crowd gathered in for the music; we play from 2 - 4 pm. The rest of the Mondays we have class at Jon and Janet's. It keeps us jumping.

Several of our chapter have left Yuma to return North. It's always sad when our friends leave...my how time flies. It seems as though it was just yesterday when this busy winter started. Personally for Dan and I March was the month we had visiting family, so we were very busy with that along with the fiddlers. We hope you all have had a great winter playing and competing keeping the old time music alive. Our President Fred has scheduled some events for the summer. We hope all of you have a great summer. Until next time...

Jan Dotson/Editor



**Paul, Henry, and Bette at Yuma VFW**





***Championship winners at Ajo 2025.  
Henry, Jess, Isley, Ranelle (champ) & Beth.***



***John and Don***



***The Barry Family at Payson Contest 2024. They all play fiddle!  
Clay, Ben, Jess, Ivy, Elie, Corrine, Laura, and Amy***

## Black Velvet Waltz

Black Velvet Waltz is known as a Canadian tune, and supposedly named after a brand of Canadian whiskey. It is sometimes known as the Whiskey Waltz. The composer is not definitively known, but the tune has been attributed to several people, including Winnipeg radio fiddler Andy DeJarlis, and to Canadian radio CKNX Barn Dance fiddler Ross Mann.

The tune entered Midwest U.S. fiddle repertoire probably from Canadian broadcasts, and older fiddlers from the region (e.g. Les Raber, Charlie Walden) are aware of its Canadian roots. Some fiddlers in Arizona call it the **Cowboy Waltz**. There is also another tune with the name Black Velvet. And there is at least one other Cowboy Waltz. **Source: Traditional Tune Archive** <https://tunearch.org>

### Black Velvet Waltz

"Cowboy Waltz"

The musical score for "Black Velvet Waltz" is written in 3/4 time and consists of four staves of music. The key signature has one sharp (F#), indicating the key of D major. The melody is written in treble clef. Chord markings (C, F, G, C) are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic structure. The score is divided into four measures, each containing a staff of music. The first staff starts with a C chord, the second with an F chord, the third with a G chord, and the fourth with a C chord. The melody is a simple, catchy tune that is easy to play on a fiddle.

Search YouTube for **Black Velvet Waltz Fiddle**. Patti Kusturok, Troy Gates and Megan Lynch Chowning have good versions. Everyone has a slightly different version—that is the fun of fiddling!





***Nancy and Carol***



***Carole and Jim—fiddle fans!***



***Marilyn and Lon at Salome***



***Carla and Shane are always entertaining***



***Tammi and Gary are great help with the AOTFA merchandise table***



***Ivy and Isley***

## The Arizona Fiddler

Membership, Renewal or Change of Address

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

### Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

SummerAddress \_\_\_\_\_

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

<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"/> 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

**AOTFA**  
**14210 W. Kiowa Trail**  
**Surprise AZ 85374**

May/June 2025