

# The Arizona Fiddler

The official publication of The Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association Inc.

Published every other month at 696 S Maricopa St Chino Valley AZ 86323

Noreen Johnston Editor fiddlerslady@aol.com 928-853-3577

From the editor of The Arizona Fiddler

As you may or may not know, I have had eye problems for a number of years., I have worn glasses since the 5th grade. Went through radial keratotomy, had a cornea transplant in each eye and now they are failing again soooooooooooooas of December 31, 2024 I will be handing in my resignation as the editor of the newsletter. I have enjoyed being the editor for more years than I can remember or count. I will miss this part of my life but life goes on . Accept what God gives you and enjoy it!! If anyone would like to take over the newsletter, feel free to volunteer, let me or Linda know and we can get you all the supplies that I have. I will still do the membership secretary's job and help the new editor with names and mailings. Thank you all so much. Noreen Johnston Editor

I have been in the AOTFA since 1974 and never have I seen it like this. The AOTFA sponsored nearly \$1000 dollars for the J W & Verti Lee Floyd Memorial State Championship Fiddle Contest and not gotten ANY volunteers to help with the "jewels" booth. Linda hauled them to Payson but it is too much of a job for one person. I got no response for the newsletter ad or the individual emails to each of the Rim Country members. Two ladies did respond and say they were out of town. Doesn't anyone care anymore? The AOTFA can not continue to sponsor contests if we can not sell "jewels". We do thank Tom Rude for handling the "jewels" for most of the gatherings when he is here but he has to go back to his home in North

Dakota. Linda Darland, Edith Cone, Ida Mae Franks, myself, and a few others have done it for many years. Now it is time for somebody else to take over. Thank you to the ones that handled them last year. Enough Noreen Johnston

For those who have asked-----I did tell the Payson Contest people that we were a little disappointed that the contest was not referred to as the ARIZONA STATE FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIP. No mention of it. And not on the certificates!

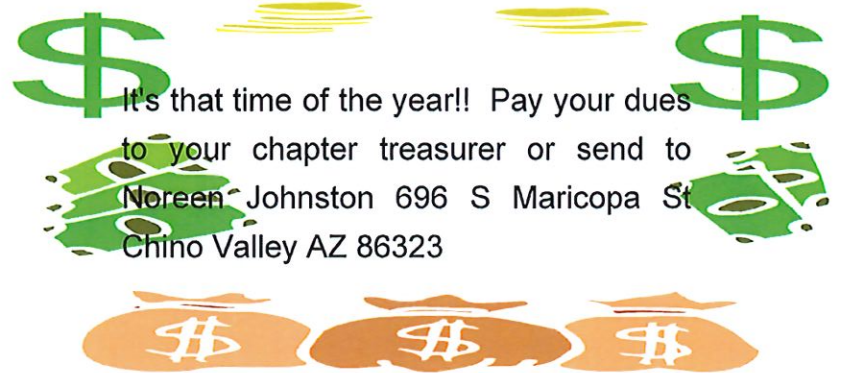
**MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!!!  
PAY NOW OR BY JAN 1 2025**

## November Birthdays

Taylor	Dietrich	11	3
Wilbur	Welsh	11	6
Roy	Ireland	11	7
Mark	Cohen	11	8
Evelyn	Haase	11	10
Wilma	Luttrell	11	13
Beth	Weber	11	14
Larry	Kraus	11	14
Mrs Jim	Allen	11	16
Jess	Mahar	11	18
Ann	Shaw	11	18
Tracey	O'Brien	11	21
Mack	McDonald	11	23
Barbara	Gay	11	26
Andria	Welsh	11	28

One day you'll wake up and there won't be any more time to do the things you've always wanted to do . Do it NOW!!

Paulo Coehlo



It's that time of the year!! Pay your dues to your chapter treasurer or send to Noreen Johnston 696 S Maricopa St Chino Valley AZ 86323

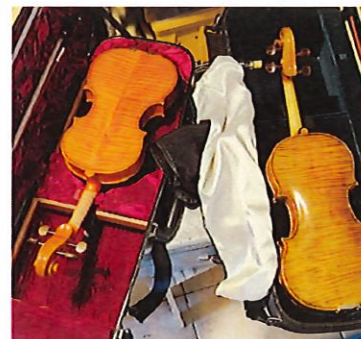
## December Birthdays

Peter	Rolland	12	
Will	MacDonald	12	3
Mary Lee	Huntington	12	4
Francis	Lyons	12	6
Dave	Holt	12	11
Starr	McMullen	12	20
Troy	Luttrell	12	28
Bill	Dupee	12	30
Deborah	Rheaome	12	31

No anniversaries for November

## December Anniversaries

Corrine	Garey	12	05	2009
Linda	Darland	12	18	1974
Raymond	Black	12	20	1980
Charles & Marti	White	12	20	1971



Two very nice Chinese fiddles for sale. Both are well set up and have geared tuners. I can change the setup if you would like something different.

Each fiddle comes in a good quality case. I have bows available also. Asking \$3000 each. Call Archie 760-420-9925. In spite of the phone number, I am in Tucson. I tried playing fiddle for a few years and decided to give up and return my focus to guitar.

*Congratulations to all!!*



# FUN times are coming!!!!

## NOVEMBER

1 - 3 - SALOME, AZ - Fiddlers Jamboree - Salome Lions Club - Fiddle shows and lots of jamming - Dry RV Parking (Donations appreciated) Friday Lunch - Saturday Breakfast and Dinner - For more info call Linda 928-671-0474 or email [ldarland53@gmail.com](mailto:ldarland53@gmail.com)

8 - 10 - WICKENBURG, AZ - 45th Annual Four Corner States Bluegrass Festival - Everett Bowman Rodeo Arena - 3 days of Bluegrass performers - Fiddle Contest - Food Vendors - Dry RV Parking for a fee - Admission Fees - For more info call Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce 928-684-5479

## JANUARY

10 - 12 Yuma AZ Worhtern Fiddle contest Yuma JC's contact Dan Everts 509-983-0079

13 - 14 - BLYTHE, CA - For more visit <https://coloradoriverfair.com/bluegrass-festival>

17 - 19 - SALOME, AZ - Desert Fiesta Fiddle Jamboree - Salome Lions Club - Fiddle shows and lots of jamming - Dry RV Parking (Donations appreciated) Friday Lunch - Saturday Breakfast and Dinner - For more info call Linda 928-671-0474 or email [ldarland53@gmail.com](mailto:ldarland53@gmail.com)

Jan 24 - 25 CASA GRANDE AZ

Grande Fiddle Championships:

Pig roast and band contest will be held Friday, Jan 24,

Fiddle contest held Saturday, Jan 25.

We will have dry camping available again this year. Please call or text 520-709-0150 to reserve a camp spot. Pinal County Cowboy Church 18171 W Hopi Dr, Casa Grande



**Would you like to be an officer or board member of the AOTFA? Call Noreen ASAP and let her know. Elections are at the general meeting Nov 2 at Salome Fiddlefest**







I wanted to share some exciting news about an upcoming production at Mesa Encore Theatre, *Bright Star the Musical*, which features live bluegrass music. Given the rich bluegrass influences woven throughout the musical's score, I thought this might be of particular interest to your community of bluegrass enthusiasts.

The production will run from November 1 to November 17th at Mesa Arts Center, and we are thrilled to be incorporating a live band to authentically capture the essence of the bluegrass sound that defines *Bright Star's* musical storytelling. We would love to invite members of your association to join us in celebrating this wonderful intersection of theater and bluegrass music.

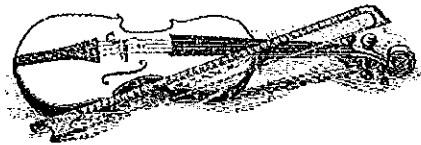
Attached is a flyer with more details about the show. Please feel free to share it with your members or reach out with any questions. We hope to see some of your community there!

Thank you for your time and support, and we look forward to the possibility of welcoming the Arizona Old Time Fiddlers to our production.

Warm regards,  
Lizzie Baggleman  
Mesa Encore Theater Board Member

# Fiddlers Jamboree

**Nov. 1, 2 & 3**



Bluegrass - Country - Fiddling  
Jamming - Stage Performances

**Gospel Sing Sunday 10 AM**

**Meals Friday & Saturday**

**PUBLIC  
INVITED**

## **MENU**

**Friday Noon** ~ Chili - \$3.00 ~ Chili Dogs - \$5.00

## **Saturday**

**Breakfast - 8 AM - Pancakes, Bacon, Eggs, OJ ~ \$6.00**

***Dinner - 5 PM - To be determined***

**It'll be good whatever it is!!**



Lions Club Complex ~ Center & Hall Streets

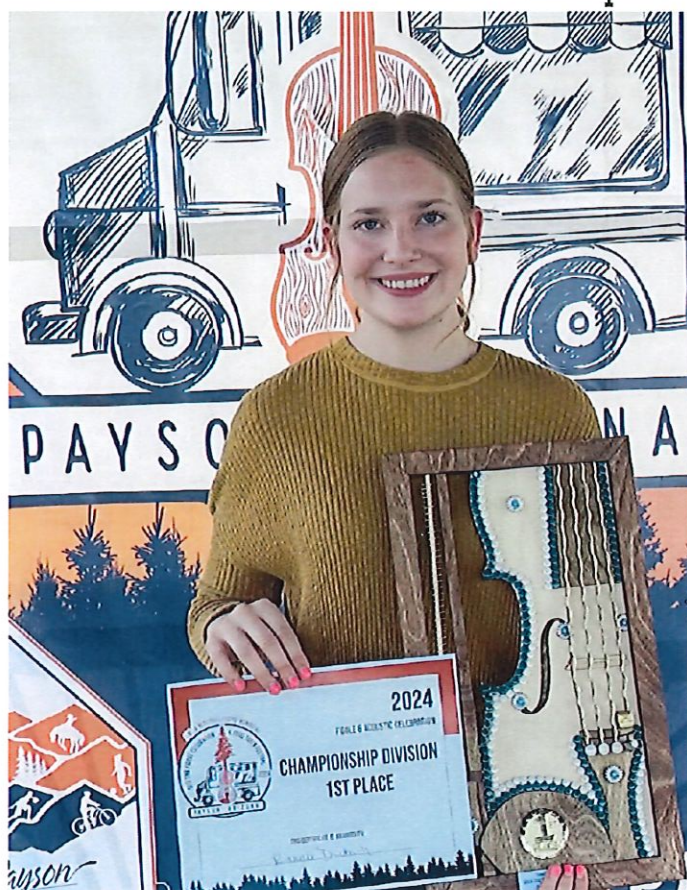
For more info call 928-859-4621

All proceeds go back to the Community





# Ranelle Dietrich 2024 Aruzina State Fiddle Champion



## Adult:

Jess Barry  
Nick Coventry  
Beth Youngblood

## Senior:

Suzette Sommerer  
Laura Barry  
Dave Brinkman

## Small Fry:

Isley Dietrich  
Amelia Hoynicki  
Ivy Barry

## Jr Jr:

Sawyer Dietrich  
Layla Habeeb  
Sylvia Fletcher

## Jr:

Ranelle Dietrich  
Aspen Dietrich  
Brie Dietrich

## Young Adult:

Michael Rolland  
Jordan Brambila  
Clay Barry

## Grand Champ Top 7:

Ranelle Dietrich  
Aspen Dietrich  
Brie Dietrich  
Beth Youngblood  
Michael Rolland  
Jess Barry  
Nick Coventry



**83<sup>rd</sup> Annual**

# **tucson fiddle Contest**

**2025**

*Fiddlers Of All  
Ages From Across  
Arizona And The  
United States*



*Free Admission To  
The Public For Arizona's  
Longest Running  
Fiddle Contest*

**7 AGE DIVISIONS**

**TWIN FIDDLES**

**TRICK & FANCY**

**ARKANSAS TRAVELER**

**February 22, 2025**

**9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

**Southern Arizona Dance Center**

**4801 E. 29<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Tucson, Arizona**

**Website:**    [www.tucsonfiddlecontest.org](http://www.tucsonfiddlecontest.org)

**Sorry..... there is no RV camping at the contest site. There are several RV campsites located within reasonable distance.**



## FEBRUARY

7 - 9 - AJO, AZ - 46th Annual Ajo Old Time Fiddlers Contest - Ajo Country Club - 77 Mead Road - Contest - Dance - Show - Dry RV Parking for a fee - Full Hookups available - Meals - FUN - For more info call 928-671-0474 or 520-387-6750

There have been rumors that Ajo has been cancelled but that is not the case. Carol emailed me a day or two ago, saying that they voted to have it again.

If anyone would like to individually make a donation or sponsor a category please contact Linda Darland 928-671-0474.

Unfortunately, we don't get many kids at Ajo anymore,

14 - 16 - SAFFORD, AZ - Annual Old Time Fiddle Contest - More information as it becomes available

22 - TUCSON, AZ - Old Time Fiddle Contest - More information as it becomes available  
(See Darwin's letter on page5)

## MARCH

14 - 16 - SALOME, AZ - Spring Fiddlefest - Salome Lions Club - Fiddle shows and lots of jamming - Dry RV Parking (Donations appreciated) Friday Lunch - Saturday Breakfast and Dinner - For more info call Linda 928-671-0474 or email [ldarland53@gmail.com](mailto:ldarland53@gmail.com)



## Yuma Happenings

Our minimal crew kept the entertainment at Desert Rose Retirement Home going all summer; Alex Cheeny kept the weekly jam sessions going at his RV park, Blue Sky Ranch; and Alex kept his open mic jam going every other Saturday at the Coffee Bean. His participants consisted of our fiddlers and local musicians showing their talents.

Paul Dickerson is continuing to recover and he is keeping his wife Debbie busy trying to contain his impatience to do more. Good luck Debbie.

Our Snowbird members are slowly drifting back in, anxious to reconnect with friends and get back to playing music.

Our winter schedule of playing at the Foothills Library, VFW on Hwy 95, and meetings followed by a two hour performance for the public at the Old St Paul Event Center will commence November 4th and continue through April, 2025. We will have advertisements in the Winter Visitors guide, Yuma Sun "What's going on around Yuma", and the AOTFA Facebook site. See you in November.

Helene Geer, Editor



Greetings fellow fiddlers,

I would like to give the members of the AOTFA an update. The status of the 2025 Tucson Fiddle Contest is a little uncertain. I will be having surgery in September and consequently my normal fundraising efforts will be restricted this fall. In addition, I have been unable to gain any financial commitment from the local business community. Many of the sponsors we have had in the past are not responding so I must assume they are no longer interested. Some funding we have received in the past from cultural organizations is also questionable this year due to changes in priority.

I have enough funds left over from this year's contest to cover prize money. I will still need to raise a like amount to pay our judges, MC, motels, printing, gift cards for volunteers, venue rent, and incidentals. The SAOTFA chapter has committed some funds again and Dallas Parker will generously provide the ribbons. I have also received a donation of a quilt for auction. I have a commitment for one Division sponsorship but I will need more. I will also need to ask the AOTFA if they will be a sponsor again this year.

The date for next year's contest is February 22, 2025. I will need to confirm and pay for our reservation with the Venue host by mid November. I would like very much to have the funds or firm commitments for the contest before then if possible.

I would like to appeal to our membership for their support. If you can become a sponsor in any way please do. If you can sponsor an Age Division, Specialty Division or contribute any amount small or large it will help us carry on this tradition of 83 years. If you have a musical instrument you no longer play that would be suitable for auction we will gladly accept it. If you know of a business that might be interested in becoming a sponsor please let me know. All checks should be made out to A.O.T.F.A. with Tucson Fiddle Contest on the note line.

I would like to thank all of our volunteers, sponsors, and the fiddlers themselves for having kept this contest alive these many years. With God's help I will do my best to make this next contest the best ever.

Thank you and best wishes,

Darwin Long

Contest Coordinator

Tucson Fiddle Contest

1720 N. Via Frondosa

Green Valley, Az 85614

520.240.3306

Darwinlong47@gmail.com

## CHAPTERS

You should have your new officers list

Membership list & monies

Profit & Loss papers

sent to Noreen Johnston 696 S Maricopa St  
Chino Valley AZ 86323 before January 1 2025

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

Annual Dues \$15 per family Over 80 \$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

☐ 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

Please send state dues to:

Noreen Johnston Membership Secretary  
696 S Maricopa St Chino Valley AZ 86323



AOTFA  
696 S Maricopa St  
Chino Valley AZ 86323

Nov Dec 2024

