



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

Wally Arneson and Stella Mulawka are long time, popular members of our Branch No. 9. They have both lived very exciting lives travelling all over Canada and the USA. As a hobby, they had four Ford T-Birds, and belonged to the Ford T-Bird club for many years. With the Club, they travelled to conventions all over the Northern USA and B.C. On their own, they travelled in their T-Bird to such places as Whitehorse, Skagway, and Nashville. After they purchased their first motorhome, they became snowbirds for 20 years, travelling to Yuma, Arizona, where Wally played his guitar with other BC musicians at different venues in the area.

Wally was born in Wadena Saskatchewan March 9th, 1928. He resided with his parents and siblings on the family farm. Wally's Dad had been a professional musician in Winnipeg, playing many instruments and obviously passing his musical gift on to his son. Wally has an incredibly keen ear and began his music career on the guitar, but also played the button accordion. At age 14, he was approached by one of his school teachers who had heard him play and she invited him to try out with the school band. Wally fit in nicely and started playing regularly with them. He also played with another group consisting of accordion, trumpet, and guitar, so he was kept busy musically playing steady with two groups.

However, in 1944, Wally left school and his home, to work in Northern Manitoba, taking out white spruce to make mosquito bombers for the war effort. It was so cold at that job that the employees were searched for thermometers every day to make sure they wouldn't find out just how cold it was, and maybe quit their jobs. He spent many years at different jobs across Canada, but one day he was

invited by a friend to come to Kelowna. Wally fell in love with the Okanagan and spent many years there.

But, bigger money beckoned, and Wally went to work in thriving Prince Rupert where he established the first driving school in the Pacific North West, the first Hertz Rent-a-Car, and the first certified welding shop. He formed a band called the Rhythm Ramblers and they performed

mostly at the local Legion. Wally had the privilege of playing with Fred Lang, a Canadian fiddle champion. But, in spite of having three thriving businesses to look after, and a great music group, Wally found that he couldn't tolerate the rain and wind of Prince Rupert any longer. So, after 10 years he left and ended up in Castlegar where he still resides today. In 1978, Wally invented an arc/air cutting torch. He was granted a Canadian and a USA patent, and manufactured 1,000 torches in his own basement, and marketed them all over Canada.



- STELLA & WALLY - BR. #9 -

A few years ago, Wally thought he would like to explore his heritage in Iceland. He and

daughter Diane travelled there and attended an event held in their honor. There were about 500 people at the event, and when Wally asked which folks were his relatives, the reply was "all of them". That must have been quite a shocker.

Stella was born in Smokey Lake, Alberta in 1932, the oldest of eleven children. The family lived in Fort McMurray first, and then Amburst Portage in the Woods. As you can imagine, Stella and her siblings led a very busy life. With Stella being the oldest, she was like a second mother to the younger children. Because the family lived virtually in a wilderness, the kids were all successfully home-schooled by a neighbor. In the late

1940's, Stella worked at a Salt Plant in Fort McMurray, and in Kitimat she cleaned houses and Hertz U-drives. And, even today, Stella is busy as a member of our Castlegar Hospital Auxiliary. She has been a member for seven years and volunteers three times per week. As far as music is concerned, Stella had no stimulus other than her Mom playing the piano accordion occasionally, so there was no obvious musical influence in her life until she met Wally.

Wally and Stella met first in Prince Rupert, but did not get serious until they met again in Castlegar 32 years ago. They decided that they wanted to be together, and built their first home in 1982 in Castlegar, where they still reside today. They joined the Old Time Fiddlers No. 9 in 1982 and have been hard-working members ever since. For 30 years, Wally and Stella have hosted at their home an annual Castlegar Sun Fest Fiddler party for our members and guests. While Wally and other musicians are entertaining guests with lively music, Stella is busy in their kitchen preparing a wonderful spaghetti and meatball feast, complete with all the accouterments. We look forward to this event as a special annual occasion.

Wally is a long time member of our performance group with his wonderful rhythm guitar backing up the fiddlers.

On occasion, he can be persuaded to play some great lead guitar numbers. Wally is almost always one of the first members to arrive at our play dates, and is someone who is extremely reliable.

Stella is not a musician but nevertheless is one of the most important persons in our organization. She is a great asset as the "lady in charge" of the kitchen at all our functions. She takes her duties very seriously and contributes greatly to the success of our occasions. Stella also takes an active part in other Fiddler functions, helping with such things as event ticket sales, hanging posters, arranging for merchant donations for our annual Fiddle Camp, organizing the food for our annual picnic, and a whole host of other responsibilities. She is one of our organizations' busiest workers and we appreciate all she does to make our functions so successful.

We are very proud that Wally and Stella are such active members of our Old Time Fiddlers No. 9 organization. Together, they bring a wealth of enthusiasm and knowledge to our Club.

Submitted by Mary Ann Stewart

B.C. FIDDLE NEWS is provided free-of-charge to members of the B.C. Old Time Fiddlers' Association through individual branch/club representatives. Members who wish a copy should contact their branch executive or newsletter correspondent.

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The British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association publishes the B.C. Fiddle News quarterly.

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It is our policy to edit your submissions for spelling, grammar & brevity – but only where necessary. It is not our intent to change the meaning of your correspondence in any way.

B.C. FIDDLE NEWS

c/o Florence Tellier,
416 Collingwood Drive,
Kamloops, BC V2B 6B3
Phone & Fax: (250) 376-2330
E-mail: tell2330@telus.net

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Looking ahead we would like to continue with a feature write-up & picture in each issue of the B.C. Fiddle News and would appreciate receiving submissions in line with the following schedule:

**December 2012 – Williams
Lake #10**

March 2013 - Coombs #11

June 2013 – Kamloops #12

September 2013 – North Island
#17

FROM THE PRESIDENT



JOHN TRIBE

The first thing I want to do is thank last year's executive, especially

President, Craig Freeman. The position of president is often a difficult balancing act of many factors and Craig has done a great job. I would characterize last year as one focused on clarification and investigation with several committees working in a number of areas. Although there are still a number of outstanding issues that need to be attended to, they should be more routine in nature. If any member has an issue that they feel should be addressed please feel free to contact me at any time. My email address is john@jtribe.org. I can't promise any miracles, only that I will do my best. The executive will meet on an as necessary basis via Skype and handle the issues that come up from time to time. It is my intention that our first meeting will be in September after the intensity of summer camps and performances has finished.

Summer is pretty special for the fiddling community with lots of opportunities to share our music with friends, relatives, and the public. A special attraction of summer for me is the ability to go to contests and fiddle camps. Fiddle camp for me is much more like a friendly reunion than anything else. Sure, there is the challenge of learning more tunes in less time than you would ever have believed possible, but there is also the unique opportunities to talk at leisure with the host organization, the teaching staff who always have a broader perspective than our own often focused viewpoint, and finally and perhaps best of all is the chance to meet or reunite with fiddle friends from near and far. Every camp or

jamboree is unique in some way but they are also all the same - really nice people who want nothing more than to share their music and their friendship.

I know that summer is only at the half way point but it certainly seems to be rushing by. I hope to see many more fiddling friends before the fall-winter routine settles in, however I know I won't see everyone I would like, so I want to wish everyone a really great fiddling summer.

*Your president,
John Tribe*

FROM THE EDITOR



FLORENCE TELLIER

In an effort to add something to the B.C. Fiddle News that would be of interest to many of the readers, I am looking for contributions of good articles on fiddle care, fiddle playing, sound systems, back-up, etc. You, the reader, might give me some suggestions as to what would be of interest to you. Or, perhaps you are aware of someone who would be willing to write something other musicians would enjoy reading about.

Ottawa fiddler Peter Dawson has contributed an article for this issue. I hope you enjoy his write-up on installation & care of strings.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. Hope everyone gets together again in Quesnel for their contest on the 1st weekend of October.

Florence Tellier

INSTALLATION AND CARE OF STRINGS

Peter sez, care in mounting strings will extend life and maximize performance. The principal hazards are binding and buzzing, both of which can be eliminated by careful attention to the grooves in the top nut.

Grooves should fit the string diameters at the bottom and be well lubricated with soft pencil lead. The edge toward the fingerboard should be square and definite to provide positive termination for the open strings. Excessive width at this point may cause buzzing or intonation difficulties.

The edge toward the pegbox must be rounded downward, especially toward the closest peg, to prevent binding that might cause the string to break when being brought to pitch. In fact nowhere in the path of the string should there be any sharp bends; all edges and corners at the tailpiece, bridge, top nut, and pegs should be chamfered (rounded) where they come in contact with strings.

To prevent friction that might also overstress the string, the upper ends of the strings should lead directly from the nut to the pegs without crossovers or rubbing on the sides of the pegbox. The last turn of the string should lie directly on the peg and not be crossed over another, for the same reason. It is not necessary to tie modern strings onto pegs; the silking will prevent slipping if the first turn is crossed on itself. The following turns should lie neatly side by side.

Full-size strings should not be used on small-size instruments; the silked ends are made especially flexible because sharp bends in the playing

length can cause breakage, especially in the thicker strings.

On steel-core strings, bridge protector sleeves should be used when provided unless the bridge notch is already covered with parchment. The material used in bridge protectors serves to keep the string from binding in the soft wood of the bridge but does not degrade the tone or power.

Rosin buildup in the boxed area must be prevented to maintain good tone and intonation. Daily wiping with a clean dry cloth will suffice. If buildup does occur, rubbing alcohol will clean it off, but great care must be taken that no liquid touches the instrument's varnish.

Thank you to Peter Dawson, a well known Ottawa fiddler, composer and recording artist, who has contributed the above article.

CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



BRANCH #1

This has been a beautiful summer filled with plenty of sunshine. Our musicians have been active with attendance at a number of community events, playouts & fiddle camps during the summer months.

The summer events began May 12th with our club's 2nd prize entry in the Elk's May Day parade. This was the last time our giant fiddles "went for a ride" on the float. Our giant fiddles have made their final

appearance prior to being 'shrink wrapped' and put in storage. Fiddlers on the float: Robbyn Unruh, Brittany & Lauren Iwanciwski, Chloe Nakahara, Hailey Kitchen, with back-up by Roland & Edna Rouleau, Doug Borden, Ardea Wylie, Beth Bressette & Ryan Iwanciwski.

On June 14th our members John Broderick, Cy Fortin, Jim & Marguerite MacKenzie and Laurel McKirdy traveled to the town of MacKenzie to take part in a community event there. A group of MacKenzie seniors and a class of grade 4/5 students from Morfee Elementary were invited to a picnic lunch with games & activities that both age groups could participate in. One of the stations was dancing. Laurel taught such dances as the Virginia Reel and the Schottische. Each group had a great time especially the students who took part with enthusiasm.

Our yearly social/jam/supper for volunteers was hosted July 21st by Polly and Brian St. Germain at their home. Members had a great time with music, delicious food, and fellowship all afternoon and into the evening.

Rotary Club of Prince George Nechako President's Ball was on Saturday June 23rd. Our club was invited to play for the President's Ball at the Pineview Hall. Our musicians, Jim Mackenzie, Brian St.Germain, Marguerite Mackenzie, and Ron Kushniruk entertained the crowd with songs and dance tunes. In appreciation the Nechako branch has donated \$1,000.00 to our club to support fiddle lessons for our young fiddlers. We appreciate such support from our community.

On July 25th it was time for a picnic at Fort George park for 80 of our Prince George seniors. Musicians, Jim MacKenzie, Cy Fortin &

Marguerite MacKenzie entertained residents from Alward Place, Laurier Manor, Parkside Place, Jubilee Lodge, & Gateway Complex Care residence. Everyone enjoyed delicious food, old time music, fellowship and a beautiful sunny day.

The Gavin Lake fiddle camp took place from July 28 to August 3rd. The weather co-operated and lessons proceeded with fun and frolics. We understand that the 'Canoe Race' was an enjoyable, competitive event. Members attending: Fiddle lessons: Doug & Jonah Borden, Barry & Chloe Nakahara and Ardea Wylie. Fiddle instructors included: Dan Lapp, JJ Guy, Alex Randle and Colin Butchart. Mandolin lessons: Judy Feyer and Alice Friend from Matt S. and Jim Borden respectively. Guitar lessons: Bailey Borden. Rosemary Lach instructed 'Dance Steps' daily. Judy Feyer reports that a good time was had by all attendees.

Three of our members have celebrated "Milestone" events. Charlotte & Clarence Lapp celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary July 27th. The party was held at the Senior's Activity Center and the hall was filled with family and friends. Everyone enjoyed a time of food, fellowship, a memorable slide show narrated by their daughter Helen and many musical performances. Armand Denicola celebrated his 90th birthday with family and friends. Congratulations to a life time member.

We are now getting ready for another season of monthly dances, regular playouts and weekly jam sessions. Our first dance will be held September 15th at which time we will be returning to the Pineview Hall. Our jam sessions will resume September 6th & continue every Thursday at the Elder Citizens'

Recreation Center 1692 10th Ave. from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Visitors are more than welcome to join us for a fun filled evening.

Until next time, happy fiddling!

*Marguerite MacKenzie,
Club correspondent*

QUESNEL



BRANCH #3

Spring has come and gone. We saw some of summer but I'm not sure what the weather around it was. Sometimes cold enough the wife wished to have the furnace on and other times so hot you could fry eggs on the rocks outside. Can't wait to see what happens in the fall.

The practice sessions have been moved out to the Legion Beach for the Summer as they do every year. If you're passing thru just check with Hans, our President, as he is the current summer caretaker at the Legion Beach on Quesnel Hydraulic Rd. That is also where our Fiddle Picnic will be on the 2nd of September.

Adult fiddle lessons with Anita Mamela are still Tuesday's at 3:00 pm, currently being held at Anita's place on the West Fraser Road, just out of town on the West Side.

As for the Fiddle Camp, July 28th to August 3rd, I attended as a guitar student this year and learned something I was not expecting at a Fiddle Camp. That would be flat-picking a Guitar. I believe this camp turned out to be a cross-over between Fiddle and Bluegrass. I'm positive that everyone learned something but ... not necessarily Fiddle or Fiddle back-up. Thank-

you to all the students, teachers and cooks, for the wonderful camp. Only two days of clouds and rain; had a small problem with no sun to charge the solar panel but we survived.

For those who don't know we are losing another one of our members due to in-operable cancer in the brain; he does not have long and all we can wish for him and his family is comfort. *Editors note: We have just heard the sad news that Roy Throssell passed away on August 20th. Our sincere condolences to the family.*

Our local brothers Deni Stone and Adam Johnson are practicing up a storm getting ready for the trip to Ottawa again this year. Deni is competing in the Grand Masters and Adam has accepted the challenge of the Junior Showcase - we wish them both well.

This is all the news I have, so again on behalf of the Quesnel Branch of the Old Time Fiddlers, I'm Ab.

Thanks for keeping Old Time Music alive.

Ab McQuillin

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



BRANCH #4

A cool, wet, miserable spring has morphed into a hot, sticky, miserable summer! What is it with that? Where is the happy medium? To my way of thinking, the only time it needs to be this hot is when I am on a tropical beach reclining on my beach chair with a book in one hand, a pina colada in the other, and perfecting

my beached whale imitation. But, I digress....

So far, we have enjoyed a very busy spring/early summer as a group, with play outs nearly every week to keep us busy and out of mischief. We have been playing, as usual, at many local seniors' residences, but could also be seen performing at many community events throughout the Valley – Abbotsford's Berry Beat Festival and Clayburn Village Days, and Mission Fest to name just a few! For the second consecutive year, we have moved our weekly Wednesday night practices to Mission's Cedarbrooke Chateau for the summer. Many of the residents take advantage of the free entertainment and join us for the evening, and the group members love to be able to play for such an appreciative, toe-tapping audience.

Two of our members were lucky to be able to attend two different fiddle concerts in the last couple of months...a house concert in Fort Langley featuring Fretless and Irish fiddler Niamh Ni Charra at Harrison Hot Springs. Two fantastic evenings of fabulous fiddling!

We were happy to receive 3 new members since the last newsletter – welcome Sid, Frieda and Sandie!

We would also like to wish Central Fraser Valley Fiddler member Alex Randall good luck as he prepares for this year's Canadian Grand Masters competition. Shine bright, Alex!!

Until next time, Happy Fiddling!

*Submitted by
Joanne Davenport*

SURREY



BRANCH #5

The long awaited summer weather has finally arrived during this first week of August and hopefully it will stay that way for a little while longer. We have not had any play outs booked for this summer, so our fiddlers have been enjoying the time off, vacationing with friends and relatives etc.

Our August 5th potluck picnic and fiddle Jam, at Clayton Park, was well attended, with approximately 80 people turning out for this annual event. Two large trees outside of the hall provided adequate shade for the audience to sit under, so the sun and heat did not discourage anyone from enjoying the music. Our fiddle band, including a couple of guest players, did a wonderful job playing a variety of toe-tapping fiddle tunes and our M.C., Robert Kielhorn, filled in the break periods with a few of his favorite stories and jokes. The variety of potluck food that everyone brought was amazing, very flavorful and a lot of choices. We were also able to set up tables and chairs in our air conditioned hall, chat with friends and enjoy the food. Thank you to every one for making this picnic and fiddle jam a very successful event.

Our club would like to congratulate the following Branch 5 members for doing so well at the following fiddle contests:

Lia Gronberg - First place in the youth class held at the Provincial contest in Kelowna on June 1st

-First place in the Junior category at the Grand North American Fiddle Contest in Radway, Alberta July 20-22nd.

Kai Gronberg – Second place in the open class held at the Provincial contest in Kelowna on June 1st.

-Second place in the intermediate class at the Grand North American Fiddle Contest in Radway, Alberta, July 20-22nd.

Wishing all of our B.C. competitors a wonderful time at the upcoming fiddle contests, the Grand Masters in Ottawa, Pembroke and Quesnel.

Our Surrey Fiddlers host a dance every first Thursday of the month except July & August, at Clayton Hall – ½ block north of Fraser Hwy. on 184th St. and 70th Ave. Time – 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm.

Practice Sessions – Same Location - Every 4th Wednesday – 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm except for June, July and August.

Until the next edition: - “Enjoy the rest of the Summer.”

*Submitted by,
Evan Sanyshyn*

KELOWNA



BRANCH #7

Oh, the dog days of summer we have had in the last month or so. A slow start but it came with a vengeance, with temperatures hovering between 32 & 38 C. Reminds me of throwing hay bales up on a 2 ton truck back in Saskatchewan....drank lots of water to keep the heat stroke away.

The last 2 months have been relatively quiet once our June contest became history. A surprise this year was the big entry in the twin fiddle class. They were all good & a pleasure to listen to. A good number of entries from out of town were certainly appreciated. The robbery at the gas pumps

continues but not as bad as New Zealand where a visitor told us it was over \$10.00 a gallon in Canadian dollars. They must ride a lot of bikes down there.

Contest results as follows:

BC Championship

- 1st - Sarah Tradewell
- 2nd - Adam Johnson
- 3rd - Deni Stone
- 4th - Aimee Fauteux

Open

- 1st - Chloe Davidson
- 2nd - Kai Gronberg
- 3rd - Rowan Osborne
- 4th - Hailey Davenport
- 5th - Craig Freeman

Intermediate

- 1st - Linda Read
- 2nd - Doreen Rail
- 3rd - Lynn Tribe
- 4th - Dale McGregor

Seniors

- 1st - Garry Hill
- 2nd - Dan Ferguson
- 3rd - Harley Jansen
- 4th - Ken Emery
- 5th - Pauline Curtis

Youth

- 1st - Lia Gronberg
- 2nd - Michael Burnyeat
- 3rd - Kathleen McMahon

Junior

- 1st - Kyle Davidson
- 2nd - Sage Kirk
- 3rd - Eamon Osborne
- 4th - Luca Ware
- 5th - Lenco Kleemaier

Junior (under 9)

- 1st - Paris Kirk
- 2nd - Joel Hrasko

Golden Age (Over 75 years)

- 1st - Les Munson
- 2nd - Bob Russell

Out of Province

- 1st - Leeland Bachelet – Two Hills
AB
2nd - Sterling Cuthbert – Redwater
AB
3rd - Dianne Kelly Riley – Potlatch,
Idaho USA

Twin Fiddling

- 1st - Deni Stone & Sarah Tradewell
2nd - Aiden & Rowan Osborne
3rd - Chloe & Kyle Davidson

Novice

- 1st - Emily Soucy
2nd - Judy Gugliemin
3rd - Jackson Obst

People's Choice

Leeland Bachelet

The contest was a success with 43 contestants entered. We had a full house for the Friday night show.

Congratulations to all the winners and encouragement to all to keep up the practices. You will appreciate it more in later years; just ask your parents and grandparents.

John and Lynn Tribe did a fine job of organizing the whole show, a big challenge for 2 busy people. Anyone who won a trophy will have one of a kind. They were all designed and made by John. A big thank you from all of us. We can't forget our MC Vic Ukrainetz, who also supplied the sound system and always does a fine job for us. An outstanding performance by Danny Lapp with his mother on piano and Keith Hill on guitar, was enjoyed by all. Last but not least, thanks to all our members who are always there when needed.

A note of interest, our Vic Ukrainetz had a CD release party on June 23rd at the Knights of Columbus Hall. It was well attended by 120 music lovers. The local fiddlers were guest performers, along with Vic's dance band and "A Day Late & a Dollar

Short". I haven't heard it yet but it should be a good one. Various musician friends are on board and our Ron Hillcroft did the recording and mixing.

Longtime members Bill and Ann Gydash have moved to Airdrie, AB to be close to family. Bill has been one of our best fiddlers and will be missed by us all. He has had a bum shoulder for a couple of years, so that has slowed him down some. They kept busy with a big garden and a gorgeous yard. At 89, Bill was still gathering wood to keep the home fires burning. Another long time member Chris Shannon, has spent some time in the Vernon hospital and is on the mend. Chris was always in demand for her fine piano & guitar back up.

We regret to inform you of the loss of several valuable members lately. Walda Rezitnky, the wife of Alec who predeceased her. She was always a willing & able helper when needed. Our oldest local member. John Rewakowsky, who was 99 on March 10th was a retired school teacher from Kamsack, Saskatchewan and lived for his music & played fiddle to the end. Urban Lucas came to us from Ontario and brought a lot of great fiddle music with him. He has been one our most active players for some years now. Gordon Stendel, was 100 last December 21 and was a long time Kelowna member but then moved with his wife Gloria, to Alberta about 3 years ago. They came from Estevan, Sask. where he and former member Bill Langevin played for many dances. Our condolences go to the families and many friends of the above.

On a more positive note, our perpetual motion energizer bunny Conny Stamhuis just completed a swim across Okanagan Lake to celebrate her 80th birthday. There were 70 + swimmers and she beat

them all, although they were all much younger. Congratulations Conny on your many awards over your years of competitive swimming. She has a son in Australia who is also a National champion. She always has energy left to contribute many hours to Branch # 7.

That's all for this ramble, so keep the sun glasses and big hats handy until we get into Indian summer, my favorite season of the year.

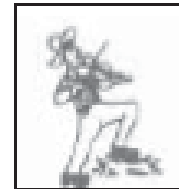
P.S.

These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter...I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm here after.

Russ Gerrie

MERRITT

BRANCH #8



Greetings from Merritt.

We may be few in numbers (15), but some of us still have spunk and spirit to continue on and do our best to try and recruit new members, "those who enjoy Old Time Fiddling & the Old Time music." When some of us first joined the BCOTFA (1979) it was about enjoying old time music. Everyone from 8 to 108 were encouraged to participate, whether it was fiddling, playing the guitar, juice harp, harmonica, spoons, accordion (our first President Elmer Froese, played one) singing, and our young ones learning the Old Time dances. I guess being part of any club includes the socialization. We were/are a social club and the friendships that have been made over these last 30 plus years are immeasurable and I wouldn't

change it. We still encourage those from 8 to 108 to participate, as Old Time music appeals to all ages. Please join us whether you are 8 or 108!

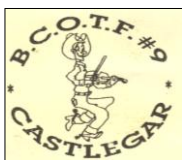
Merritt Old Time Fiddlers
Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance
Sat. Dec 1, 2012
Happy hour 5 PM
Seniors Hall - Merritt
Tickets \$20 per person
Call Diane 250-378-4186 or Del
250-378-9849

Our May Campout was well attended with 51 people. Thanks Denise and Al for the music. Our July one is always smaller (24). Thanks to Gene/Earl and Bob for the music and tunes. I would also like to thank all the out of town folks who join us for these weekends. A great time was had by all



Respectfully submitted,
Diane Shalanski-Garcia
ggfly@telus.net

KOOTENAY



BRANCH #9

It is now mid-August and I have heard folks complaining about how hot it is. It

was not long ago that folks were complaining about the terrible amount of rain we were having, and when were we going to have some sunny days. Us humans are just never satisfied, are we?

Our 11th annual Fiddle Camp was held July 16th through 20th, at Selkirk College in Castlegar. From all positive reports from students and instructors, it was again a resounding success. We had a record number of students in attendance. Classes were divided up into 57 fiddle students, 10 guitar, and 8 keyboard, so a total of 75 students. We are so fortunate to have such a high caliber of instructors (headed by Gordon Stobbe) and also the wonderful facilities at Selkirk College. Having the College allows us to offer private classroom instruction, room for total student assembly and concerts, and reasonably priced accommodations for instructors and students.

The week of instruction was climaxed by a public concert held in the Castlegar Complex. At this concert, the students perform the tunes that they have learned during the week. It is really amazing to hear the students who have had zero experience with their instruments and what they have accomplished in four short days. The instructors played some wonderful tunes for the crowd, and then the evening concluded with a dance.

Unfortunately, a bad storm forced the cancellation of the popular Instructors-in-the-Park Concert held annually in Trail BC. This was certainly a disappointment to many people.

Our annual steak fry was held August 8th, 9th, and 10th at Pass Creek Park near Castlegar. As usual, it was well attended, and music filled the air joined by the

aroma of steaks as John Milosevich and Gary Shannon barbecued. Many thanks to Stella Mulawka and her crew for organizing the event.

Our performance group has been rather low-key for the summer months, but we have played for Columbia View and Poplar Ridge a few times. The seniors and shut-ins really enjoyed our music and we feel a real pleasure in being able to perform for them.

Well, that's about all the news for Branch No. 9, Kootenay.

Enjoy the rest of the summer everyone.

Mary Ann Stewart

WILLIAMS LAKE



BRANCH #10

I guess everyone has been enjoying the warm weather. I have too...up to a certain point. When it got to be 36 C in the shade on my back porch I wished I had air conditioning!

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 139 really goes out of their way to entertain people that come to the Williams Lake Stampede, which started this year on June 28th until July 1st. They put on pancake breakfasts, luncheons, and Steak night. And of course, music. Our club participated by playing for several hours in the afternoon of Saturday, June 30th.

Our branch takes its annual summer break at the end of June so the club has not been active. Once we start back up in September we will resume our regular schedule of playing for Retirement Concepts,

Royal Canadian Legion Seniors' Luncheon and Deni House.

We will be having our first meeting on September 6th, at 7:30 p.m. and our weekly practices every Thursday at the Williams Lake Seniors Activity Center from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

I hope everyone had a great summer.

*Cheers,
Pat Gunderson*

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

Summertime, and the livin' is easy? Really? Branch 11 has certainly been

active!

It seems that there is a continuing appetite for good old time fiddle music and the Coombs Fiddlers are always willing to oblige. Even though our weekly dances are suspended until September, we have performed at a number of community events since mid-May. The list includes the 100th anniversary reunion of the French Creek School, special days at the Qualicum Beach and Parksville Museums, Bowen Park Seniors' Centre, the official kickoff of the 34th annual Coombs Bluegrass Festival and both days of the Coombs Fair.

At the Parksville Museum event we played under the cover of what was once a fire hall to an audience of a few souls willing to stand outside in a heavy downpour. Legend has it that similar, or worse weather accompanied our band the last time it was slated to play there. Are we a jinx? Don't think so; all our other gigs were played in sunny, sometimes distressingly hot conditions.

Our regular monthly play dates at local care facilities were suspended for July but they have now resumed. As August has five Thursdays this year we will be playing again at Bowen Park on the 30th. Then it will be September (where has the time gone?) and the weekly Thursday dances at Rotary House will resume on the 13th.

The advertising has been out for a while and preparations are well-advanced for our annual Old Time Fiddle Jamboree. Everyone is invited to the Coombs Community Hall at the Rodeo Grounds on September 22nd for an afternoon and evening of great music. Come to play or just listen – the format includes an open jam for all musicians.

At our meeting on July 8th, Ray Cann, an accomplished fiddler from Ladysmith, became a member of our Branch. Welcome Ray; we hope to see you often at the dances and other events. Sadly, though, we recently lost guitarist Hank Rempel; a memorial service is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on August 25 at the Bradley Centre. As with most organizations, succession planning is a major concern and it's encouraging that a number of new members have come aboard in recent months. As Branch 11 marks its 30th anniversary a few of the founding members continue to grace the stage when we play.

As reported in a previous newsletter, our Branch contributed financially to help the Springwood Middle School Band in its quest to represent B.C. at the Musicfest Nationals in Ottawa in May. We are happy to report that they earned silver medal standing for their performance, plus an individual award to Jonathan Dorsay for percussion. We congratulate them all.

Bruce Foden

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

Although our numbers were down, everyone that attended our June Campout/Jamboree appeared to be there for a good time. And we did enjoy ourselves. A good "Bongo" tournament took place on Friday with Del Lawrence (Merritt) and Clark Hiles winning the A event and Nadia Olafson and Marilyn Dressler winning the B event. It turns out the Del is an all round athlete as she also came in second in the crib tournament which was won by Keith Adams. Third place was won by Jack Bailey and Marv Dressler had the secret score. The music jams, which took place Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening, were well attended and were much appreciated by all. In addition to a good group from Merritt, Nyla and John from Armstrong attended and provided a couple of sets of accordion music, and Ivan and Liz came down from Horsefly. One of the highlights of the evening came when the owners of the Grandview Acres site acknowledged the fact that the Old Time Fiddlers have had the campout there for over twenty years. Rick and Ada Mogge presented the club with a beautiful custom made carved crib board that has the Old Time Fiddlers' logo in the centre. Aside from it being a great crib board it is also a nice piece of art. Sunday morning a good crew of attendees helped to clean up, - thanks to everyone who pitched in.

Generally speaking, our musicians have been having a well deserved rest over the summer. They will soon be playing again though, for the Ashcroft Fall Fair, on September 9th.

The regular fall season will start up with a Pot Luck supper, Corn Boil & general meeting on September 23rd at Heritage House & then a dance on October 20th, 7:30 pm at the same location. The dance will be a "Harvest Dance" with special treats, the main treat being the music of guests Nyla & John Hirsch. The other treats will be of the edible kind.

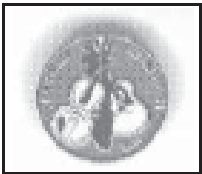
We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Jake Derksen & family on the loss of Shirley. A celebration of life was held for Shirley August 11th at the Hamlets in Westsyde.

We have not heard of too many people being ill this summer, which is a really good thing, but we wish Linda Bremner better days ahead, as well as anyone else who has not been feeling well.

Our regular correspondent Marie is busy enjoying the summer, but she will be back reporting for the next issue. Thanks Marie!

Clark & Florence

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

Not much sense in me writing about what is going on at

Branch #17 at this time. As I write this, it's the middle of August, and we are in the "low" season. Besides, I'm five thousand kilometres away, so I'm not sure about what is going down on the North Island.

Yes, it's happened before, a few times in fact. My job took me to Ontario on business, a lot, when I was working, and the Newsletter articles still had to be written. This time is different, I'm retired and a

niece of mine was getting married in New Brunswick. So this is how it went. "What an opportune time to dust off the motorhome and head out on a one month trip."

"Well, maybe we'll stop and visit friends and relatives as we go, and make it a two month trip instead."

"Hey, that puts us into August! The Grand Masters Fiddling Championships are in Ottawa near the end of August. If we stay at our eldest son's place for two weeks, we'll be able to see some of that. As a matter of fact, Pembroke happens right after the Grand Masters. Three thousand people, about one third of them being musicians, camping out, with twenty, or thirty different jam sessions throughout the grounds every afternoon and evening, for a whole week, finishing up with a fiddle contest. Whoo-hoo! We can get there if we make it a three month trip."

And so it goes. I'm in Ottawa, visiting with my son, and waiting for the next part of the adventure. Well, just waiting around, isn't quite true. "Hmm, maybe I can find a jam session or two. Who do I know in Ottawa?" Keith and Alice Wilson, of course. I gave them a call this morning, and received some tips. I'll be seeing them next week at one of the local jam sessions.

The Ottawa Valley is a happening place in the fiddle world. But, this trip took me to other happening places as well.

In mid-July I played with the group at Station 1802 in Stockdale Ontario. This is the place where the owner of a small farm bought the Frankford railway station and had it moved onto his farm. Every Thursday evening and Friday morning fiddlers and back-up musicians, from beginners to accomplished players, gather there to share their art. It is also the talent pool that spawned "Fiddlers on the

Trent", where musicians would gather once a year and play their music in a flotilla of boats and canoes, while floating down the Trent River.

The first week in July saw me in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia where I found a music jam in a small hamlet called North Alton. There was only one fiddler there besides myself, but the music was sweet, with a lot of good singing and guitar playing. One guy had a beautiful "stand-up-bass", that he made himself, using half of an apple barrel for the body.

I must say that the musical highlight of my trip, so far, was meeting and playing with Ivan and Vivian Hicks in New Brunswick. They invited us to their home, just west of Moncton, and offered their driveway to park our rig for the night. There was another fiddler who was visiting from Quebec, and the four of us played some music in Ivan and Vivian's music room to pass the afternoon. Hearing Gram Lee's Waltz being played by the composer was a special treat, and playing back-up guitar as Ivan played that sweet piece of music, was over the top. We all went out for supper together, and finished off at a big, very well organized, jam session at St. Antoine. The next morning, we were invited into their home again, where we had a nice chat and were given some souvenirs. They are a very pleasant couple and gracious hosts. We'll probably run into them again at Pembroke.

I wish everyone in the Old Time Fiddling world could have the opportunity to travel across Canada and discover the musical joys that abound. This is truly a wonderful country. I only caught the tip of the iceberg, so far, but the journey continues.

Ed Medford

COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

Alright, we seem to be experiencing an endless summer here in the Valley as the sun has been shining nonstop for weeks, it seems. It has certainly been a step up from our decidedly soggy spring.

We are hearing reports from those who have been attending music camps and all are saying that their experiences have been really rewarding. Fiddle camps are so much fun with excellent instructors, fabulous new friends and lots of music. Again, a good number of our young players received bursaries from our branch to help pay for lessons and camps. We hear that Cindy, Christopher, Alexi, Emile, Taz, Ella, Leah and other Valley fiddlers all enjoyed their sessions and, hopefully, learned some tantalizing tunes to teach their tatterdemalion compatriots at Fiddlejam. We hear that Trent taught at the Sabir Sisters' camp in Mission which was then incorporated into the Mission Folk Festival on the following weekend. Congratulations to all those organizers who put in so much time to make fiddle camps so successful.

We had a few play outs over the summer. Canada Day was fun down at the Sid Williams Theatre and our players got the audience excited with their hard driving fiddle tunes. At the end of July, we took the main stage at Simms Park and played for the assembled crowds until the sun set over the estuary. It was a beautiful evening and the music was really solid.

As we move into the fall, we will be starting our first Contra Dance in October at the Merville Hall. That should be extra exciting as we will be able to marvel at the newly renovated wheelchair accessible

washrooms that are just nearing completion as I type. The renos have been a demanding job as the washroom space was expanded considerably but now the hall will really be one of the biggest, and best, Old Time venues in the Comox Valley. Our first fiddle play date at the hall in September will be for the L'Arche Society fundraiser. After the massive pig roast, cake and pie auction, we'll hit the stage and provide the dance music. Should be lots of fun. After that event, we'll be playing at the annual Black Creek Country Fair.

Our weekly Fiddlejam sessions will be beginning in September and we look forward to a fall of music and friendship. We will hope to field a few candidates for the Quesnel contest and we send out congratulations to all those who participated in BC fiddle contests throughout the summer. Max informs us that he placed second in his category at the Grand North American Fiddle Championships in Alberta. Wow! An Interprovincial competitor!!

Enjoy the rest of the summer, folks.

Craig Freeman

ALBERNI VALLEY



BRANCH #19

As I am writing this we are experiencing a Heat Wave. It is much too hot for anyone to be comfortable these days. It is nice to take this moment to look back at some things we had done earlier in the season, when it was cooler.

We had a couple of main performances in the second half of May, starting with the Echo Dance on the May long week-end. We

were pleased to see a good number of dancers, since that week-end is considered the start of the camping season by many families and many are otherwise occupied.

At the end of May we volunteered to play for the Wish Foundation Charity Ride being held at Twin Creeks Farm, just outside of Duncan. One of our members has a horse and it was through her that we made this connection. It meant a couple of hours drive for several of our members, but a few of us decided to camp there for a couple of nights and we had a wonderful relaxing time, with music around the campfire at night, and a relaxing walk down a section of the Trans-Canada Trail, which is adjacent to the farm. Our hosts were very gracious and offered B&B accommodation for some of our members if they wanted to take advantage of it.

Our June dance venue for the Sand Dollar Square Dance Club went very well again and this year was held a little closer to home, at the Bradley Center near Coombs. We had 18 members come out to play that night. The stage was so full we had to put a few of our back-up people on the floor in front. This worked quite well as everyone could definitely hear the piano and bass from that position. As we become more experienced with the requirements for this type of gig it becomes easier to hold the required tempo for quite a long time. I have heard some dancers talk about the difficulty sometimes of live music for Square Dancing, as it is not good for the caller or dancers, if the speed changes during the dance.

We had a welcome visitor to one of our July practices, Ben Gaudreal, a young fellow from Sherwood Park, Alberta. This is a repeat visit for Ben as he stopped in last year when in town visiting relatives, after

travelling to the Island to attend the competition in Cumberland. Always nice to see him, hear his nice clean playing, and also hear how his playing has progressed with another year's experience.

We have a few engagements at McLean's Mill this summer and for some of them we will be working with a smaller group of our members. Nice to know we can hold our own without having all of the more experienced players on site every time. I guess the rest of us are making some progress with our performing abilities.

In July we were asked to provide music for a birthday party for Betty, the wife of our Banjo player, Leo Hamel. We played in the afternoon for a while, and then enjoyed a wonderful buffet dinner provided for musicians, family and friends. In the evening we provided the music for an enthusiastic bunch of dancers at the Legion. Everyone had a super time, musicians and dancers alike. Schottische's and Polka's seemed to be often requested for a very energetic crowd. Of course, we had to throw in a Chicken Dance for a moment of light-hearted, comic relief.

Over the August long week-end the town of Port Alberni had planned some events all over the city to celebrate its Centennial Year. We were asked to play at the Bob Dailey Stadium on the Saturday afternoon and ohhh! was it ever hot. Luckily we did have some shade in which to stand and for a while a breeze came up. In spite of the heat, many people came to sit in the covered area and enjoy the music.

This summer, very informally, some of our club members have been going down to the Harbour Quay on Thursday evenings to play outdoors for an hour or two. People set up their folding chairs around the Square, sit back, relax and enjoy the

music for a while. There are also quite a few tourists wandering by who seem to enjoy stopping and listening for a while before moving on to other things. The live music has been very popular and we feel that it brings an awareness of fiddle music to the attention of some people that may not otherwise hear it. We'll continue with this until sometime in September, depending on weather conditions and time available.

Hope the rest of you have also been able to sit back, relax and enjoy either playing or listening to some great music this summer.

Gail Ross

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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September 22, 2012

Fiddle Jamboree
Coombs Rodeo Grounds
250-752-3636

--

October 6, 2012

Old Time Fiddle Contest
(last one of the year in BC!)

Quesnel, BC
250-992-5081

B.C. Fiddle News

Advertising Costs

Full Page - \$ 60

Half Page - \$ 30

Quarter Page - \$ 20

Business card size - \$ 15

Please note that B.C.O.T.F.A. Branches can publicize their events at no cost, with space allocation being at the discretion of the Editor.

Music Notes

Le Festival du Violin

With Norbert Robicheau
21st year on Radio CIFA 104.1 FM
Providing "fiddle music"
On the internet every Saturday
At 3:00 p.m. (Atlantic time)
www.cifafm.ca

Valley Heritage Radio

"Cross-Canada Fiddling"
With Dennis Harrington
Sunday mornings
10:00 to 11:00 BC time
www.valleyheritageradio.ca

A fiddle player walks into his rehearsal room to find his drummer and guitar player fighting. He breaks the fight up and asks the guitar player why they were fighting. The guitar player tells him that the drummer had de-tuned one of his strings. The fiddle player says "That's no reason to fight". The guitar player says "Yes, it is, he won't tell me which string it was."



Art Daher, Violins

Have just been at the Castlegar and Gavin Lake fiddle workshops. Was very impressed at how well these camps are organized and run. The first class instructors do such excellent work with the students in teaching them all about Fiddle Music. It never ceases to amaze me how well everyone gets along – beginners, teens, adults all the way up to grandma's & grandpa's. **KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL ORGANIZERS, TEACHERS & WORKERS.**

Very popular items were the Baroque bows. The Cadenza ** hybrid (carbon fibre/pernumbuco exterior) at \$200.00 is also an excellent bow at this price. Plays exceptionally well for a bow at this price (even instructor bought one).

I have violins, cases, bows, shoulder rests, chinrests (various styles) along with all the other accessories needed for playing. I carry those items particularly needed for not only regular playing, but also classical & fiddle music.

AS MOST OF YOU HAVE NO EASY ACCESS TO A LUTHIER OR STORE, CALL ME FOR HELP WHETHER INSTRUMENTS, ACCESSORIES OR FOR REPAIRING YOUR VIOLIN OR BOW. MANY REPAIRS ARE VERY EASY TO DO YOURSELF – CALL OR EMAIL AND I WILL TELL YOU HOW – NO CHARGE.

myviolinshop .com

email: info@myviolinshop.com; daer1@shaw.ca

604 792-2940 or 604 703-1464

PS: In a hurry? I ship within a day of order receipt. Bow repair 2 days –only \$40.00

Letter to the Editor: (from Ting-ting Gronberg)

I wanted to give you an update on my children, Kai (14) and Lia (13) Gronberg, now better known as “Fiddlin’ Frenzy”. Lia placed first in the Youth Category at the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers’ Association Provincial contest held in Kelowna & 1st in the Junior category at the Grand North American held in Radway, AB. Next year she plans to challenge Open or Championship category. Most recently, at the John Arcand Fiddle Fest, Lia won first in 17 and under categories of both John Arcand class & Old Tyme class.



LIA & KAI PERFORMING IN CHASE, BC

Kai placed 2nd in the Open Category at the BC Provincial Contest and 2nd in the Intermediate category at the Grand North American. The two of them also won 2nd in Intermediate twin category right behind two Grand Master players. At the John Arcand Fiddle Fest Kai won 2nd place in Championship category.

They are getting a radio interview from an American show, touring the Okanagan in August

and in October they expect to be doing a speech in Telus World of Science to inspire other kids

Their latest project is CALF (Children Are Loving Fiddle). CALF is a charitable organization founded by Kai and Lia Gronberg this year. The organization was established as an initiative by young people, for young people and is operated in accordance with this theme.

CALF believes that a fiddle music education should not be a privilege limited to those who can afford it. Music is an integral part of a child’s early development, with long-lasting benefits. We have thus set out to provide all children, regardless of financial, social or physical circumstances, equal opportunities for growth and development. And traditional fiddle music especially is a cherished way to keep part of our heritage culture alive.

Our mission is set out below:

1. To provide fiddle at no cost or low cost to needy and low-income families with children who otherwise would not have access to fiddles;
2. To provide subsidized group and individual musical instruction to children from needy and low-income families who otherwise would not have access to fiddle instruction;
3. To provide an opportunity for fiddle teachers who wish to provide musical instruction to deserving students who cannot otherwise afford to take lessons or continue taking lesson due to economic hardship or financial restraint;
4. To seek and accept financial donations and gifts in kind from individual and corporate donors who wish to see under-privileged children have access to musical instruments and music instruction.

To Register or to donate, please go to the Fiddlin’ Frenzy website www.fiddlinfrenzy.com & then go to the Booking and Contact page.

