



B.C.

FIDDLE NEWS

"JOURNEYS"

So ... it is Branch #19's turn to write the feature article, but what to choose as a theme? A chance remark by one of our members started a train of thought with me when he said it was his goal to play in every Province of Canada; and he was driving all the way to Newfoundland in September 2013. I started thinking about journeys in general, and all the different meanings the word journey has or could have, for our club as a whole. The first thought is generally that of being on the road, or physically traveling from one place to another, but an individual could also be considered taking a journey when working to improve one's playing or developing the confidence to play solo in front of others, especially one's peers.

For starters we'll look at two of the road trips in which music played an important role in the plans of the

individuals taking this journey. We'll

begin with Ed Matchett, as it was his remark that inspired the idea for the article. Ed is basically a very quiet individual who has decided that he wants to do something about always feeling so nervous playing in front of others. This past year he very faithfully attended competitions all over B.C.; Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna, Quesnel. He was continually challenging himself and with each time the nervousness lessened a little bit. After touring B.C., he traveled to Radway, Alberta and then on to Saskatoon to hear the Grand Masters. Continuing East he headed for Pembroke, Ontario and had a wonderful experience there. In some provinces, he said he just played his

fiddle and banjo in Rest Stops to be able to say he played in every Province. In all he drove 17,000 kms, coast to coast, Port Alberni to St. John's Newfoundland, in 28 days. Wonderful jam sessions along the way were definite highlights and he considered this the best trip ever.

Our other travelling club member, Sylvia Shiell, also headed East in her motorhome, "Betty Beastie", driving as far as London, Ontario, to visit family. Of course, she had her trusty fiddle in the vehicle with her for this extended trip and it provided some interesting musical

experiences for her. Finding an unknown-before cousin, who also plays fiddle in a band, was a highlight of her journey, especially as she was asked to join the band in playing for a couple of their senior's venues. She soon discovered how each area of Canada adds its



PORT ALBERNI BRANCH #19

own flavour to many pieces that we may commonly hold in our repertoires. Minor differences in styles, regional variations or interpretations, these can all be momentarily disconcerting, but often the sheer enjoyment of playing with others can take over. Of course, we can also run into those who know that their way is the only right way, and that often involves choosing to either temporarily accept their interpretation, or just quietly slipping away.

These were two road journeys that had been undertaken, but the club as a whole has also been on a journey, with

Continued on Page 3

Calling ALL FIDDLERS!!

FIDDLE

CONTEST!

39th Annual Fiddle Contest in Mission, BC

May 17, 2014 @ 10:30 am (registration starts 8:30 am)

Let's start the **FUN** off with a **CONCERT & DANCE!**

May 16, 2014 @ 7:00 pm (doors open 6:00 pm)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ TICKETS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	CONCERT/DANCE \$10 Friday	CONTEST GENERAL ADMISSION \$15 Saturday	COMBO SPECIAL! \$20 both days
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- St. Joseph's Parish Hall - 32550 7th Avenue, Mission, BC, V2V 3X3 •

Contest Judges:

- Keith Hill • Mike Sanyshyn • Mark Sullivan • Nicole McGregor (alternate) •

- Ample **FREE** dry RV parking will be available for the event •

- Limited **FREE** billets for registered and paid competitors available on a first come first serve basis. A billet request can be made on the Registration Form

- **ALL** competitors registered by **April 15th** will receive a **\$5 food voucher*!** •
*redeemable at contest only

★ **Register early. Don't miss this gala event.** ★

Details and registration forms on the CFVF website (www.centralfraservalleyfiddlers.com).

Have questions? Contact Erik at erikrosalie@shaw.ca or (604) 852-9131



“JOURNEYS” Continued

a mutual goal for each person to reach his or her potential no matter what that might be; while having fun, of course. For Branch #19, most of our players have come to the fiddle world later in life, and this means we are all trying to cram a lot into a short time frame. With this in mind, our club has been on a unique journey since we started our pseudo-competition practice just prior to the Provincial's in Cumberland, in July 2011. As there were several of us considering participating, one of our fiddlers, Jim Killough, suggested we all practice a waltz, a jig and a reel to become familiar with competition format, total time allowed for the three pieces, playing before a mic, and the general protocol expected. Our President Gordie McConnel was fully supportive of this idea and from then on, any month with five Mondays became competition day, and this continues to the present time. Even though only a few of our members have been able to take part in any further official competitions since the one in Cumberland, the practice has been beneficial to all of us, from new-comer to the more experienced, alike. Each time we do this, the shaking legs, jelly knees, unintentional vibrato, is lessening. We all become aware of the progress each of us has been making and during the last session held, every person made it through their three pieces without any great falling apart. This experience of playing solo fiddle with only one or sometimes two, accompanists has been another bump in the road to get past. For some it has been a major challenge playing with an

accompanist, period. It is so different being the sole melody player rather than having others to help carry you through the tricky spots. Learning to listen to, and work with the accompaniment, also provides another pothole to deal with. As the fiddler in charge, you have to hope that you have set the pace that you personally are comfortable with, as you can't repeat phrases or change the timing once you've got that driver standing beside you, as you might when practicing alone. We've also learned it is okay to stop, and say, I'm going to start again. This whole exercise has been a growing experience for everyone, but learning in such a supportive atmosphere, no matter what our individual stage of playing is, really pulls the club together. The cheering squad is right there for each performer, as they each wait for their turn to perform.

As a club, we are all very proud of what we are, a group of people working together to produce the best possible sound we can, while enjoying the experience. We've been learning to work through our differences and bit by bit we are learning to listen to one another more carefully. This is a long-term project, but this roller-coaster ride is full of fun and laughter, no firm deadline to keep, just travelling along on our “Journey”, living, learning, and sharing.

Submitted by Gail Ross Br. # 19

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LATER THAN MAY 15TH, 2014.**

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.

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**B.C. Old Time Fiddlers'
Association**

<http://www.bcfiddlers.com>

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:

June 2014 – North Island #17

Sept 2014 – Quesnel #3

Dec. 2014 – CFVF #4

March 2015 – Surrey #5

FROM THE PRESIDENT



JOHN TRIBE

I will start off with a bit of an update on the development of the Red Book.

The introductory part to each chapter has been put in the form of the word document and has been sent to all the branches. In this format each of the branches can select their chapter and update and edit what had been done before. Once that has been done the branches will then be working with their membership to get photos of a member and a short write up from the member that they would like to have included in the Red Book. The member information can be in the form of a recorded interview. With today's technology one does not have to be a typist as indeed this article for the newsletter is simply being dictated and a nice convenient program is converting it into text for me. It may not be perfect (grammar) but it surely removes much of the hard work in doing the article.

With the Annual General Meeting coming up towards the end of April in Prince George this will be the last opportunity that I will have to talk about some general issues that I have been seeing around the province this last year. The overall

membership in The British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association has dropped somewhat. It is not at an alarming level, however it does show that we haven't done the best job in terms of recruiting new members. Certainly in the areas that I have been playing the reception to old-time music has never been better. We find that people young and old really enjoy the music, and look forward to our return. I would encourage every branch to make a strong effort to recruit more members as it is through the member support, not necessarily musicians, that keep our branches strong and vibrant.

Branch contests are another area that is always under scrutiny. At least one branch is returning to the contest circuit this year, and that is Central Fraser Valley, while another has dropped out at least for this year and that is Kamloops. Other branches question whether the involvement and participation at contests warrants the time and effort it takes to put a contest on. While contests are indeed a great deal of work, our experience here in Kelowna has been that they certainly are worth the effort for the camaraderie and the fellowship feeling that they generate. Perhaps the most difficult part of any contest is having a sufficient number of volunteers on contest day to do all the small jobs that must be done to have a successful contest. Should your branch decide to host a contest there is lots of help that is available through the provincial executive and other branches that do host contests.

I wish to find a successor for the position of president of the BCOTFA because I have been president in nine different years. This will allow me to spend more time and effort on the production of the "Red Book". I have enjoyed trying to do both jobs but there simply isn't enough time to properly

focus on both. It is my intention to keep involved in the British Columbia Old Time Fiddlers' Association but I also believe it is beneficial for the organization to change leadership from time to time.

*Your president,
John Tribe*

FROM THE EDITOR

FLORENCE TELLIER

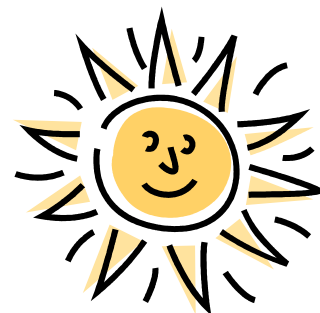


Thank you once again to the newsletter correspondents who are faithfully submitting their articles on time and

also to the "pinch-hitters" who step up to fill in when necessary. Also my thanks to Jenny Bakken for continuing to do the proofreading job on the newsletter.

The busy season has begun and some of the major events have been added to the Calendar of Events. If you are travelling be sure to read everyone's column so that you know what & where dances, jam sessions, etc. are happening. I know that out of town visitors will always be warmly welcomed.

*Cheers,
Florence Tellier*



CLUB NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE



BRANCH #1

Greetings from the North!

As we leave 2013 behind us, the Prince George club is looking forward to an active season with lots of fun and music, though we're starting the new year with the loss of a number of key members. At our Annual General Meeting on Jan. 26, we acknowledged the passing last year of Ted Moffat, Alfie Morris, Dave Bowman, Bob Campbell, and Ardea Wylie. We've also had long time members who recently suffered debilitating health problems, and it's evident that our group, like many others, has an aging membership. The board of directors elected at the AGM was largely a confirmation of last year's board with Brian St. Germain, president, Doug Borden, vice president, Terry Receveur, treasurer, Beth Bressette, secretary, and directors Roland Rouleau, Gord McKenna, Edna Rouleau, and Barry Nakahara, and the welcome addition of Ken Blair as a new director.

With the aging membership in mind, the executive have been focusing on attracting and retaining young fiddlers, and we've seen a lot of success. Every week at our Thursday jam session, there's a learning session 'out in the back' for the younger fiddlers (and the not-so-young... we've had a surprising number of budding adult fiddlers join in!). These mini-classes are typically led by Doug Borden and Barry Nakahara, but other musicians are also taking a turn - the only criteria is that you have a tune that you like and are willing to teach. The group then takes the stage to

show their stuff to the appreciative audience - we typically have 30 - 50 dancers and fiddle aficionados attending our jams. And there's minimal 'bow-ing room' on the stage with a dozen or more fiddlers and accompanists from 6 to 60 and beyond! To further engage our new fiddlers, we've enlisted Mark Sullivan a number of times over the year to put on weekend seminars and classes. Mark is a great musician and a wonderful teacher, and these seminars have gone a long way toward keeping our newer members engaged and enthused. As an added bonus, Mark has led a number of our young fiddlers in performing dance sets at our monthly Old Time Fiddle dances - a great experience for these newer musicians and, of course, the dance crowd!

As always, we maintain a busy schedule of playouts at community events, senior centres, and other venues throughout Prince George. Betty Broderick organizes our fiddlers and accompanists to accommodate up to 150 requests for playouts in a typical year. In addition, we've hosted and/or opened for professional groups such as Fretless, who performed here in February.

We are now preparing for the Provincial Contest to be held here on the weekend of April 25/26/27. This promises to be an exciting fiddle event with contestants being judged by Mark Sullivan, Mike Sanyshyn, and Keith Hill who will also perform for us on Friday night. Hope to see you there !

*Terry Receveur,
Interim Correspondent*

QUESNEL



BRANCH #3

In our last report we were planning

Christmas and New Year's parties, both of which turned out to be a lot of fun. We made a real effort to make the Christmas party family friendly. It paid off with lots of youngsters having a good time participating in the dances, especially "Sasha" because they were away ahead of the adults on that one. We tried a family dance for February with a Valentines theme but we just didn't get the younger crowd out to that in spite of our efforts.

On Feb 8th Deni and Adam Johnson were inducted into the Quesnel Arts Council Gallery of Honor. This event takes place every two years and is meant to recognize citizens that have made significant contributions to the Arts. They join two others that were honored that evening as well as ten others that have been honored in the past. The evening ended with Deni and Adam playing some of their own tunes and then joining our group for a half hour show. Incidentally, their picture will join that of the late Frank Hennessey, who was the first to receive the honor.

The next two months will be a regular feast for fiddle fans in Quesnel. On March 17 our branch will host Gordon Stobbe and JJ Guy at the Legion Hall for a concert, followed by a dance with music by our local fiddlers. Then in April Everything Fitz, the famous fiddling family from Ontario will be at Correlieu Theatre on April 22nd, sponsored by Quesnel Live Arts.

The country Bluegrass Jamboree is coming up on April 17-20. The fiddlers have a couple of sets to

perform there. Hopefully they will get enough practice and confidence to head up to Prince George for their contest the following week.

Jean Gelinaz

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY



BRANCH #4

I'm sure I'm not the only one who can't believe that it's already time to make another newsletter submission. Where does the time go? Not only that, but dragging myself away from the TV long enough to get something written almost seems like an impossibility! As someone who has a cousin competing for Canada in the winter Olympics, I somehow feel it's my duty to watch every...single...sport....sigh.....I'm continually about 3 days behind, and my PVR is on the verge of exploding, it's so full. But, we all have a part to play, and I feel like I'm fulfilling my role :)

CFVF members, Kia and Lia Gronberg – The Old Time Fiddle Kids, have recorded another CD! “Biscuit in the Basket” is now available for sale. Contact oldtimefiddlekids@gmail.com to order and for more info.

CFVF member Gladys Andreas continues to do an amazing job of organizing the bi-weekly seniors' tea dances. We are scheduled in every 4 – 6 weeks, and get to play to a full house every time. The dancers are always very appreciative of our music, which makes it all the more fun to perform for them.

CFVF member Jo Blaak teaches a

fiddle program in the local schools and we welcomed 4 of her young students into our group last week. Amanda, Bretyn, Kevin and Lauren showcased their fiddle skills by playing The Country Waltz for all of us. It is clear that it won't be long before they are playing our tunes at full tempo and joining us in our playouts. Welcome, kids!

Planning for CFVF's 39th Fiddle Contest is well under way. The two day event – concert and dance on May 16 and contest to follow on May 17 – is not to be missed. All competitors registered before April 15th will receive a \$5 food voucher to be redeemed at the contest (FREE lunch!) FREE dry RV parking is available at the venue. And thanks to our members, we are able to offer a limited number of FREE billeted accommodations – distributed on a first come first serve basis – so register early if you are requesting space. Depending on your requirements, we have one room, multiple rooms, and a basement suite available! And, to top it all off, the prize money is nothing to shake a stick at, either! Registration forms and full details are available on our website-

www.centralfraservalleyfiddlers.com

We hope to see you all there!

My comfy chair and the TV Olympic coverage are calling my name, so until next time...

Submitted by:

Joanne Davenport

SURREY



BRANCH #5

We have been having our share of cool weather during the latter part of January and the first week of

February but significantly better than the rest of Canada and United States, so there has been very little complaining from our Surrey Fiddlers concerning the weather.

Our senior dancers continue to come out faithfully to our monthly dances, regardless of what the weather brings and we appreciate their dedication and support and are also very thankful for their comments in regards to how great the music is.

Birthday wishes go out to two of our senior dancers, Jean Levasseur who turned 89 in January and also to Margaret Peterson who turned 90 in January.

Our snowbirds, Dave and Liz Letourneau have been spending the winter months in the U.S., having a great time, jamming daily, with all of their Canadian and American friends they have met over the past years. It will be nice to have them back when they return in the spring.

We are happy to mention that our keyboard player, Sharon Saundry, is on the mend, recuperating from successful surgery and is anxious to get back into playing at our dances and other events.

Our condolences go out to the family of Patricia Marshall who passed away in December, 2013. Patricia has been coming to our dances for the past two years prior to her passing.

Our Surrey Fiddler's dances are held on the first Thursday of the month at Clayton Hall. Location: -Clayton Hall -70th Ave. ½ block North of Fraser Hwy. on 184th Street. Time: - 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm.

Submitted by,

Evan Sanyshyn

KELOWNA



BRANCH #7

Here we go with a brand new year having survived Christmas, New Years, and all winter could throw at us, so far. We have been fortunate with a couple of weeks of cold weather and not much snow in the valley. Our old neighbours on the prairies and up north have endured plenty of real winter.

Our Christmas party and dance was a sell out and was well attended on a cold night. Irene McAvena with her sister Carol Jensen and family helpers served up a great Christmas dinner, with all the trimmings. Wine on the tables was provided by Wayne and Pauline Angman. After dinner entertainment was provided by the Vernon Sadok Ukrainian dancers including our athletic member Tiana Smith. They put on a fantastic show with their great costumes and dancers of all ages. Our fiddlers and back up still had enough energy left to play for the dance afterwards.

January was back to more of the regular "same old" play dates. On January 7th we had the annual Vic Ukrainetz appreciation dinner which was well attended and held at the Perkins Restaurant. Vic is our long time music director, teacher of new tunes and cord finder for the backup. It's quite a challenge for him with our mostly "over the hill gang".

Our Annual General Mtg. was held on January 12th and was well attended on a cool Sunday afternoon. This year's Executive is as follows:

President: Wayne Angman
Vice President: John Tribe
Treasurer: Lynn Tribe
Secretary: Julie Gerrie

One year Directors:
Carol Jensen, Russ Gerrie, Irene LaFrance
Two year Directors:
Irene McAvena, Bill Bryson, Vic Ukrainetz

Thanks to all of the past directors and welcome to the new faces on board.

It was decided that we would have the Contest on the 1st week in June again. John & Lynn Tribe will again head our contest committee, as they have a good handle on the process. It is no small job and is much appreciated by our members who are always willing to help out. Our guest artist will be Champion Fiddler, Patti Lamoureux and she will also be a judge. Patti will be accompanied by her friend, Jeremy Rusu, who will be our house accompanist.

In January, we were also invited to provide a front page article on "Old Time Fiddling" in the local Event paper. Chis Stanford, from the paper spent an evening with us at our Thursday night jam, he took some pictures and gathered info. The article was front and centre on the February 6th edition with a good write up explaining what we are all about. Hopefully the exposure will entice a few new members and dancers. Our Thursday night jam has a few new faces already. The next dance will be on February 21st at the Rutland Seniors hall as usual. Attendance has been about average this year.

We were all sorry to hear of the loss of our long time member, Rose Tanguay, who was 95 years old. Rosie, as we all affectionately called her, was always involved in our dances, practice sessions and some of the many play dates. Other Glenmore residents, Irene Donison and Connie Stamhuis, were always good to pick her up when she

needed a ride. Gordy Cheyne and I went to visit her a month ago but sadly she didn't know us. Funeral arrangements will be announced this week and our fiddlers are invited to play a few tunes. She will be long remembered along with our other past members that we speak of so often.

Our extended fiddler family will all be in shock to hear of Alice Wilson's passing. She and her husband Keith were instrumental in starting and coaching many young fiddlers in the lower mainland. Alice was also a fine piano player at many contests. Our sincere condolences to the above families and their many friends.

The Contest season will be started in April with Prince George, Central Fraser Valley will host one in Mission on May 17th, then ours in June at the Centennial Hall, same as last year. A big thanks to all of the members who travel the province to attend these great get togethers. Especially the parents who make sure their young families have a chance to meet and compete with others of their own age. They are the future to keep these musical memories alive. By what we see and hear at these contests and other events, our future is in good hands. Hope to see you in June.

P.S. Take care of your thoughts when alone and take care of your words when with people.

Russ Gerrie

MERRITT



BRANCH #8

Merritt Old Time Fiddlers have been very busy the past few months. Our

November jam session and baron of beef at the Legion turned out very well with guests from Penticton, Princeton and Kamloops.

We put a float in the Country Christmas night time parade; over 50 floats were lit up. Randy and friends played at the Country Music Hall of Fame afterwards, which was enjoyed by a good crowd.

Our Christmas dinner and dance was very successful with guests from Kamloops, Princeton and Vernon. Donna Chorney and family cooked a delicious dinner. Thanks to the members who worked so hard.

The Minister of Tourism and Small Business, Naomi Yamamoto and the Fraser-Nicola MLA Jackie Tegart were in town to shoot a commercial (named Staycation) at the Country Music Hall of Fame. Randy and friends were invited to play music, complete with a sign saying "Merritt Old Time Fiddlers" - good publicity. This should be on You Tube.

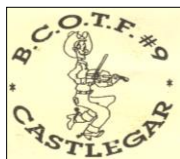
There will be a monthly jam session at the Legion on the following tentative dates: February 14 – (baron), March 14, April 11, May 30 and June 20. Everyone is welcome.

Merritt Old Time Fiddlers camp out at the Elks campsite at Harmon Lake is on May 13 - 19 (Victoria Day weekend). We plan a pot luck on Saturday evening, a live auction on Sunday and all donations are welcome (proceeds going to charity), crib tournament, horseshoes, golf, 50/50. Everyone is welcome for the week or weekend. Bring your musical instruments as we'll have the pot belly stove going if needed. For more information phone Dave @ 250-378-3578 or Del @ 250-378-9849.

Hope to see some of you at our activities.

Submitted by Delphine Lawrence

KOOTENAY



BRANCH #9

Hi Fellow Fiddler Members. Hope everyone is enjoying our mild winter. We're certainly better off than the folks in the Eastern Provinces and States. I look out of my office window and can actually see green grass.

Our annual Christmas party was again successful with approximately 60 folks attending. The traditional turkey supper was delicious, followed by an evening of dancing and fellowship.

Our chapter has had very little activity since our November meeting. Because of the illness of some of our performance group members, we were unable to accept play date invitations for a couple of months. Hopefully we are all on the mend now as we have several play dates on our March calendar.

We are now working towards our annual Fiddle Camp which will be held July 14th through 18th at Selkirk College in Castlegar. The instructors' contracts have been completed and student enrollment forms will be sent out soon. We are again expecting a full complement of students of all ages, eager to learn the finer points of fiddle, piano, and guitar playing. Accommodation is available for student applicants and we suggest that they enroll early. Any questions on the Fiddle Camp can be fielded by the following:

Crista Mannle, Selkirk College
250-365-1208

Sandra Milosevich
250-365-5514

Walter & Yvonne Crockett
250-367-9473

Joan Marks
250-365-2695.

Also, our Web Site, kootenayfiddlers.com will be updated soon, so please take a look at it for additional information.

That seems to be all the news to report this time. Hope everyone is keeping well and happy.

*Sincerely,
Mary Ann Stewart*

WILLIAMS LAKE



BRANCH #10

Hello everyone,

I am hoping that all the cold weather is behind us and we can get on to spring. I am through with snow and cold...bring on the sun!

In November the club donated \$50.00 to the Canadian Cancer Society in honour of one of our members, Vi Neilson. We also made another member, Theda Carpenter, who left us to move to Vanderhoof, a lifetime member.

We had our annual Christmas dinner on December 5th at The Hong Shang Restaurant this year with 22 members and guests attending. It's always a nice night out when the wives don't have to cook.

In December the club decided that starting January 2014 we would move our Thursday practice night from the Williams Lake Seniors Centre to the Williams Lake Branch 139 Royal Canadian Legion. We felt that by moving to the Legion we would have a better chance of attracting more people to our club and old time fiddle music. Part of the arrangement with the Legion is that they have a family Pasta Night every Thursday and the club will start playing at 6:30 p.m. The last

Pasta Night was well attended and adults and children enjoyed dancing to the old time fiddle music. We will continue to meet at the Legion to jam on the other Thursday nights throughout the month from 6:30 to 9:00 pm.

Now on to more serious items;

Our annual election of officers took place in January and the following were elected to office.

President:	Pat Myre
Vice President:	Joe LeCompte
Secretary:	Viva Stewart
Treasurer:	Ed Caissie
Director:	Hal Giles
Director:	Ryder Cheyne
Director:	Ken Emery
Director	Marj Blair

Newsletter: Pat Gunderson

Congratulations to the new officers and directors.

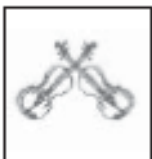
Our regular monthly commitments are in the process of being rescheduled and I will post them in the next newsletter.

Best wishes for Marj Blair for a speedy recovery from a broken wrist. We hope she will be back playing with us soon.

Birthday wishes for March go to Pat Gunderson, Joe LeCompte, Marj Blair. April: Bill Downie, Brian Garland and Hal Giles & May: Ryder Chyne and Theda Carpenter.

Cheers,
Pat Gunderson

COOMBS



BRANCH #11

At the Annual
General Meeting on
December 8, 2013,

the Branch filled its Executive positions for the coming year. The new two-year Directors are Sheral Coutts, Jean Shaw and Darlene Haupstein. Returning as Directors for another year are Bonnie McDougall, Don Howlett and Ken Ross with Nell Bowles as Secretary-Treasurer, Roy Bochek as Vice-President and Bruce Foden as President. That meeting was followed by a Christmas dinner, catered by Quality Foods, and very entertaining performances by some of the members.

Another tradition was honoured once again on November 28 when the Thursday evening dance was preceded by a pot-luck dinner for the dancers who support the Branch so well throughout the year.

When people learn of our group and ask where we play I am reminded of the words of a former faculty colleague, a noted banjo picker who's answer to that question was "weddings, wakes and fancy balls". In looking at our activity in recent months, I see lots of dances, (not fancy balls), lots of wakes, sadly, but nary a wedding. That, I think, really reflects the demographic profile of our community, especially when we consider that two-thirds of our gigs are at seniors' residential facilities. It brings the concept of succession planning into sharp relief.

Never-the-less, a busy schedule for 2014 is shaping up for Branch 11. Our Thursday evening dances are proving to be popular again this year, with a regular crowd of local folks and wintertime visitors from colder climes. As mentioned in the Fall Newsletter, we have begun hosting a dance following our regular meetings on the first Sunday of each month. Judging from the response in both January and February, it looks like a successful venture. We will evaluate the

Sunday project after the June 1st dance and decide on whether or not to continue them in the fall. Keeping the repertoire interesting and lively for the dancers is both challenging and a lot of fun for the band. The players number, typically, 12 to 20 with a good variety of instruments to back up the fiddles. During 2013 the club performed at more than 140 events of various kinds.

All of which is a segue into our announcement that the 2014 Coombs Old Time Fiddle Jamboree will take place on Saturday, September 20, in the hall of the Coombs Rodeo Grounds. This year's edition will feature the customary afternoon of open stage performances followed by an evening of all-comers jamming. There will be dry camping available and the Coombs Country Opera on the Friday evening, September 19, will make this a great weekend for lovers of old time fiddling and country music.

Just as our previous article was being submitted another good friend of Branch 11 passed away. Allen Dertel attended nearly all of our Thursday dances, just to listen. He died just three days short of his 98th birthday and at the request of his family our band played at his memorial. As we were arriving at the church for that service we learned that one of our own Life Members, Ethel Whibley, had passed away suddenly. Ethel didn't play an instrument but had been a very dedicated and active member since the beginning of the Branch. Her memorial was very much a "Celebration of Life" and anything but somber. We assembled a full stage of members to play some tunes in her honour. Early in December a long-time supporter of our club, Margaret Key, passed away and a contingent of the members played at her memorial service. Then, in

January, we lost another Life Member, Kay Ferguson, widow of Don, a highly-regarded fiddler and one of our original members.

As the end of winter seems to be in sight we can look forward to the many festivals and other events that enliven our Vancouver Island summers. So, for now, farewell from Coombs, Branch 11.

Bruce Foden

ebfoden@gmail.com

KAMLOOPS



BRANCH #12

“Happy New Year”
to you all, hope this
is going to be a

good one, even though we are starting off with many new changes; that’s what can keep us all young at heart and alert in the brain!! We’ll soon find out if that’s all true!!

Let’s go back to the Christmas Dinner & Dance which was held @ Desert Gardens Dec. 4, 2013. From the feedback I received everyone there had another wonderful Christmas get together. The food was simply marvelous, the music great, and the company at each and every table sure looked like they were enjoying the evening!

It was a great time for Jackie and Clark to give out more service pins to the following musicians:

Terry Jones-----Wow 30 years!!

Linda Bremner-----10 years

Bud Fuglem-----Wow 30 years

Bob Lalonde-----20 years

Paul Faessler-----10 years

Rebecca Grindon-----5 years

From all of us to all of you, congratulations, we can’t express our gratitude and admiration for all the hours you people (and that’s each and every one of you), put into

your music and singing!

I didn’t attend the tour of the city Christmas Lights last December but heard my friends say they had a good time. Thanks again to the fiddlers, guitars, banjo, if I’ve missed something I apologize and promise to attend this Christmas!!

Linda and Clark went away for the month of January I’m sure they had a wonderful time, but Clark did bring back some southern germs (as if we don’t have enough of our own right here!!) But we are all delighted you both had a wonderful time! Going again next year??!

O.T.F. are proud to host once again Gordon Stobbe & JJ Guy in concert @ Heritage House,
-Time; 7:30 p.m. March 8, 2014.
-Cost: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members.

There is also a Fiddle Workshop that afternoon, same place, Time; 1 pm-4 pm.

Let’s pack the place like we did last year, this year is going to be even better as we’ll have much more room to fill. These fellows really do put on a fabulous concert, the only thing is when it comes the end everyone is saying “oh no is it over already!!” I can assure you, no one leaves disappointed!! So come and bring a friend or two!!

As most of you know times have changed re; the dances and places. We will continue our first dance of the month as usual at Heritage House & time is now 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. We moved over to Northshore Community Centre Feb. 18, 2014 for a half hour dance instruction 1:30-2:00 given by Alma & Lloyd, then dancing continued till 4 p.m.

The afternoon went well & we will do it again on Tuesday March 18 & Tuesday April 15. Cost is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for non-members. Come out and have a

great time!

Elections were held January 26, 2014. There were only a couple of changes, Ed McLean declined to stay on as a director - and we thank you Ed for all your time spent over the years on the board. We wish you all the best throughout 2014!! We have a new director Marj Labelle who has been elected for a two year term. Welcome Marj, we are delighted to have you on board!!

It was decided at the last meeting that sandwiches will no longer be served after the dances, instead we have opted to have goodies (cakes, cookies, squares etc.) served with coffee & tea.

We’ve had a couple of our members that have been feeling poorly these past few weeks and we want you fellows (Terry Jones & Roger Tellier) to know that our thoughts are with you. We hope this new month will find you getting back to good health.

The O.T.F.’s continue to play at the Seniors Homes throughout the Kamloops area. These Seniors from nine or ten different facilities look forward to hearing the music they love the best and the songs they remember from long ago and can sing along too! How wonderful for them!

“Beauty Tips”

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness;

For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people;

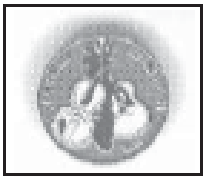
For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry;

For poise, walk with the knowledge you’ll never walk alone.

**It’s nice to be important
But more important to be nice!**

Marie Bursey

NORTH ISLAND



BRANCH #17

It's hard to tell what the weather is going to do, but as of

this writing, with the rest of the country in a deep freeze, we have experienced a very nice mild and relatively dry winter. I see white edges of the snow-drops getting ready to open in the next few days if the mild weather continues, with crocuses not far behind.

It was with great pleasure that we have attended two birthday parties in the past two weeks. First was Lee Pezzot who celebrated her ninety-ninth, and then Wat Stanton who is now starting another century after celebrating his hundredth. Both are Life Members of Branch #17. Wat is still playing fiddle and banjo with at least three different groups here in the Comox Valley, and there is no sign of him giving up the music anytime soon.

There have been a few changes to our executive stemming from our annual AGM in January. Dora Moen has moved from being Secretary, to take over the President's parking spot from Glen Hiebert; Dan Ellis stays on as Vice President, and Ed Medford is the new Secretary. Lorraine Hiebert has vacated the position of Treasurer, after having served us well in that capacity for a number of years. We are still looking for someone to fill that position. Dave Gark, Edie Gark, Alice Fitzpatrick, Glen Hiebert, Lorraine Hiebert, and Jean Engdahl are the Directors.

It seems like we have stumbled into a situation that might require the Provincial Executive to open a dialogue with whoever administers The Societies Act.

We have been doing our banking with the local Credit Union, and when we went to change signing authority for our new executive, we were told that we are not "incorporated" under the Societies Act, and we either incorporate as a branch, or two of our members must "sponsor" Branch #17, and be financially responsible.

Their reasoning is that although the BCOTFA are incorporated as a not-for-profit organization, the branches manage their own finances, and therefore must be incorporated in their own right.

I have spoken with two banks, and they don't see it that way. But who knows which policy is correct and legal? We have not changed over to a bank because we haven't made that decision yet, and there are some benefits to staying with the Credit Union.

The Provincial executive should obtain clarification on whether Branches of the BCOTFA, are in fact authorized to carry on their own financial dealings the way we have historically done, or do we all need to "incorporate"

On a brighter note, our annual Spring Jamboree is approaching but we haven't ironed out the details yet. It will occur before the next Newsletter is published, so keep checking our website and the information will be there as soon as I get it. Just Google, Branch 17 Fiddlers. It will most likely be held around the end of April or early in May.

Our Jamboree is a great excuse to come visit for a spell. Until then, stay healthy and happy.

Ed Medford

COMOX VALLEY



BRANCH #18

And the beat goes on.

It is a beautiful morning after a stormy night of rain, wind, snow and a Valentine's Contra dance at the Big Yellow Merville hall. The wild weather didn't dampen the crowd's enthusiasm, however, and June had the dancers up and laughing their way through many contra moves. The band, Fiddlejam's finest, played a variety of tunes but made sure that the romantic waltzes were featured for those whose hearts were aflutter. Our Country Crooner, Rod MacMillan, smoothly warbled a couple of solo tunes to the delight of the dancers while the young players did a great set of tunes that had the audience mewing for more. There was even a group of youngsters who were celebrating a birthday party with cake, balloons and dancing!

The next Contra will be lighting up the hall on the 15th of March so if you are planning on flying in from the Interior or Northern BC, you'd better book your ticket now as it will be a jolly, action packed St Patrick's Day theme.

Our next event in the Valley is the North Island Festival of the Performing Arts. Every year Branch #18 donates money that goes towards bursaries for the young players that participate in the fiddle section. We have several individuals as well as a few groups involved this year and all are practicing hard to make sure that they will score well with the adjudicator.

Once again, the fiddlers participated in the annual Variety Telethon. It is a great fundraiser and we always enjoy being asked to play. We

never really practice a particular performance set at Fiddlejam as there is such a variety of ages and abilities. We just make up the set on the spot, depending upon who is present. It seems to work.

Trent was back to see his mother, Ann, and to work on a new Fretless CD and plan for the upcoming tour on the Island, the Lower Mainland, the Interior and into Alberta. In between, he did a short tour with John Reischman and the Pine Siskins, a new band that John has formed with Trent and two others.

We hosted a show for John at the Little Red Church in Comox and the crowd literally was stuffed to the edges with the walls lined by people standing all around. Naturally, we like to think that the fiddle fans were there for Fiddlejam, which was the opening act but maybe that is being a little too naïve.

Now, that concert was great, but the February Fretless concert, the first to feature tunes from their new CD, was even a few notches greater. This is a very powerful group and is really pushing the boundaries of old time fiddle music. What an inspiration to young musicians.

One recent celebration was that to salute a wonderful fellow, Wat Stanton, who turned over his 100th year this month. What a guy. He is a fiddler with us and regularly entertains “the old folks” at the local seniors’ homes with his band, The Valley Echos. Our fiddle group played an energetic set (sprinkled with waltzes, of course) for him at the party and Cindy displayed the first fiddle that Wat ever made.

In January, we also had a celebration, of sorts, to remember Ann Freeman, who died just after her 64th birthday. It was a wonderful memorial, full of songs, music, audience participation and

ending with a joyful Sasha Contra dance. We thank everyone for their support and condolences. There is a website,

<http://trent75.wix.com/annmurrayfreeman> that you can check out to see photos and (soon) videos.

Happy fiddling into spring.

Craig Freeman

ALBERNI VALLEY



BRANCH #19

With dark winter nights coming on, bringing with them a feeling of a need to lighten things up with a little celebrating, our club decided to arrange a catered dinner for all our members and spouses. As the Christmas Season was approaching, we chose the full turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The tables were nicely set, the atmosphere festive, and the food was great. After dinner we held a circle jam for a couple of hours. We all decided we deserve a treat like this now and again, and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

We finished playing at the Care Homes on December 18th, taking a much needed break until New Year’s Eve, when we traditionally play at Fir Park for one hour in the afternoon, and then go on to Echo Village for an hour. Unfortunately several of our members were not well at the time so the number of players was on the short side but the effort was appreciated, none-the-less, by all the residents and care-givers.

We were back to our usual program by January 6th, although due to illness and quarantines, several of our play-outs have had to be cancelled. We did have a dance to

play for at Echo Centre for the Sunshine Club, on the 17th. At the moment we are trying to create a dance list that works for most circumstances, although we do realize these lists have to be somewhat flexible, depending on the mood of the dancers at a particular time. Things do go more smoothly if we aren’t having to “hem and haw” about what to play next.

This year we were asked to play at Westhaven, the hospital extended care, for their Robbie Burns celebration. At first, we were having to scramble a bit to create a list of Scottish songs, but, in the end, did manage to come up with a reasonable number of pieces. We probably should keep a few more of these in the up-to-date part of our repertoire. We’ll have to start thinking about St. Patrick’s day coming up next month and fine tune a few Irish songs.

Already we have accepted a fair number of extra bookings from May to September. We generally enjoy these additional gigs as they have the added excitement of the unknown, new people, new venues. This helps to keep us on our toes as, of course, we want to make a good impression. The downside of the summer bookings is that we never know for sure how many members may be available for each play-out., with people traveling, or entertaining visitors, or attending Fiddle Camps. On the other hand, it does give our individual members some incentive to try to be up to speed on as many pieces as possible. Some of the gigs also give the opportunity for some camping moments, which are always fun.

Now that winter has finally arrived in our area, we’ll all soon be ready to think about the sunshine and flowers coming along. Actually that is a really great fiddle piece, “Sunshine and Flowers”, so hold on

to that warming thought as you fiddle through the darker days into the light.

Gail Ross



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Business card size \$ 15.00



Some Musical Notes:

SwingReel Radio

Check this out:

www.swingreelradio.weebly.com

The first episode was launched on World Fiddle Day, May 18, 2013. By the time you receive this newsletter we expect there are a number of episodes available. The program features interviews with prominent Canadian fiddlers and Canadian community members who are promoting traditional music. The hosts of the show are Mark Sullivan and Craig McGregor.

Cross Canada Fiddling

Check this one out too:

www.valleyheritageradio.ca

Fiddler Dennis Harrington hosts the show "Cross Canada Fiddling" on Sundays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am Pacific time. The show is true to its name, as Dennis features the music of fiddlers from coast to coast.

And

Le Festival Du Violon

Norbert Robicheau, Digby, N.S.
norbertfiddle@msn.com

www.cifafm.ca

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 8, 2014
Gordon Stobbe & JJ Guy
Fiddle Workshop 1:00 pm
Concert 7:00 pm
Kamloops
250-376-6209

April 25 & 26, 2014
Mark Sullivan Concert
Old Time Fiddle Contest
Prince George
250-963-7576

May 16 & 17, 2014
Concert & Dance
Old Time Fiddle Contest
Mission
erikrosalie@shaw.ca

July 20-24
July 26-30
Camp Calvin 2014
780-645-7748

June 6 & 7, 2014
Patti Lamoureux Concert
Old Time Fiddle Contest
Kelowna
250-707-8432

July 14-18
Fiddle Camp
Castlegar
250-365-1208

September 20, 2014
Old Time Fiddle Jamboree
Coombs Rodeo Grounds
Ebfoden@gmail.com

MYVIOLINSHOP

With winter almost over, looking forward to seeing some of you at the fiddle camps.

Was able to buy Eastman 315 – 4/4 violins at a very reduced price. This is the violin that has European woods giving even better sound than the 305. Price is only \$975.00, ready to play. Also have an Eastman 305 – ¾ violin priced at \$900.00 and an Eastman 405 priced at \$1,050.00 – has great sound.

CELLOS: New, solid woods I have setup with good strings, bridge & sound post, ¾ size with bow & padded case for \$750.00. New, same as ¾ size except 7/8 size with padded bag & bow for \$800.00. These cellos are normally priced at \$1,300.00. Maestro 4/4 cello with Helicore strings, Dispeau bridge, regular price \$2,400.00 for \$1,750.00. This cello has very good sound.

BOWS: The Cadenza 2 & 3 star hybrid bows are excellent well balanced bows at \$200.00 & \$400.00 for the 3 star. No warping & probably equal to \$800.00 pernambuco bows.

Bow rehair \$40.00 – 2 day turn around; Strings, shoulder rests, chin rests – have good variety.

Questions? Need help? Call me at 604 703-1464 or email at daer1@shaw.ca

ART DAHER



Executive Board - Prince George Branch #1

Gord McKenna, Ken Blair, Edna Rouleau, Barry Nakahara, Brian St. Germain, Beth Bressette, Terry Receveur,
Doug Borden (missing: Roland Rouleau)



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JJ Guy / Daniel Gervais / Gordon Stobbe (Wk 1)
Heidi Tinkham (Wk 1) / Mark Sullivan (Wk 2) ~ Fiddle
Kimberley Holmes ~ Piano
Craig McGregor ~ Guitar
(Additional instructors will be added as required)



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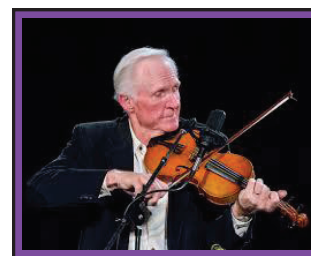


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Dance 8:00 pm

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Byron Berline

Concert 7:30 pm

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Concert 2:00 pm

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Guest Artist
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Photo By: Katharine Cherewyk

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Concert \$15

Friday June 6 - 7:00 PM

"Dance" to follow

Contest \$12

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ALL Day, Dance after finale

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