

Fiddlin' Around

The Utah Old Time Fiddler's Newsletter

January/February 2023

Our heartfelt condolences and sympathy go to Mark Mott and his family at the death of his wife, Diane on February 8, 2023. She was a true supporter of the UOTF, and added her fun personality and love to everyone she knew.

Diane will be missed, especially by those of the Utah Chapter, many of whom became extended family.

Welcome to all from Marilyn Dillard, Association State President of Utah Old Time Fiddlers and Country Music Association (UOTF)

Wow! It's a new year of Utah Old Time Fiddlers. We hope to see you at a jam or performance soon. We have a new website:

<http://utaholdtimefiddlers.org/> Thanks to our new volunteer webmaster, Chris Ward, member of the Pioneer Chapter for his work on this project.

Highlights for 2022: We were able to meet in Murray Park last May for a statewide jam and again this September for a picnic at Hidden Village Neighborhood Park followed by a state sponsored gig at the Utah State Fair on September 18.

We held the UOTF Fiddle contest at Wasatch Mountain Music Festival on July 9. We had a fun morning of fiddle tunes performed by small fry to adults; organized by our own June Crosby. A private individual donated the funds for the contest. We are hoping to continue this tradition next Summer 2023.

Please Come!! Everyone is invited to attend the Utah Statewide Spring Social and Jam to be held Saturday March 11, 2023, from 11-2 pm. Address is 3060 Lester (3100 South Redwood Road) in West Valley City. Bring your instruments for the jam! Park/enter on North side. Please bring a food item to share. Lunch will be at 1 pm, with chicken/drinks/paper goods provided.

We welcome your involvement in our all-volunteer non-profit organization. Your payment of yearly dues (\$20 single or \$25 family) helps to support our website and gatherings. We welcome your ideas for future projects and training ideas.

I have copies of the Fiddlers Workshop companion CD set that teaches the common fiddle tunes found in the "Blue Book" of Utah Old Time Fiddler tunes compiled by Michael Kelly (former UOTF fiddler). Let me know if you would like a set.

We appreciate our Chapter Chairpersons who organize jam and performances as well as social events. Be sure to thank your chairperson for their hard work.

Dixie Chapter News

By Lin Brown and Jack Jeppson

The Dixie Chapter of the Utah Old Time Fiddlers ended 2022 with a Christmas party at the Golden Corral in St. George. After eating, we were allowed to play and sing, and people from the restaurant came to watch and enjoy the music. Good food and good jamming!

The biggest news for us in 2023 is having Jack and Jeanette Jeppson step down as Chairs. They have been overseeing the Dixie Chapter as long as they can remember, and they have done an outstanding job. There is nothing they do not know about music, old time songs, and instruments. Fortunately, they will still attend jams and performances, and will be able to pass on their knowledge to the new Chair, Lin Brown. Thank you, Jack and Jeanette!

Our chapter continues to enjoy the company and music of those who are lifetime members, along with newbies. We will start our performances on February 3 at a rehabilitation center in St. George.

We also have a new meeting place, Shadowbrook Clubhouse, in St. George, where we will continue to meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.



Biography from Jack Jeppson - In Feb.2000, my wife Jeanette and I had been talking to our neighbor, Don Jaspersen. He told us about playing with the Old Time Fiddlers and invited us to come to one of their jams. The people were so nice, and we enjoyed

the jam so much we decided it would be a lot of fun to join with them.

Previously with our music we had been traveling a lot in the winter, going to Southern Texas, and to the Yuma area. Then, we decided it would be nice just to stay at home. So, we really have enjoyed being able to keep playing around our home St. George.

Jeanette and I went to Weizer, Id. 2001 with the Utah Old Time Fiddlers. Utah was the host state for the National Fiddle Contest at Weizer. It was entertaining and fun to watch the Fiddlers compete in the daytime; then do shows for everyone at night. We also entertained at rest homes in the area and were in the Weizer parade.

In past years, the Dixie chapter went with the Fiddlers to perform at Bryce Canyon and played many shows there. We also enjoyed going to Marysville, Panguitch and Canyonville and had a great time performing and camping in many areas.

I was put in as chapter chairman in 2012. I have enjoyed having the privilege of serving in this position up to 2022. The Dixie Chapter now supports Lin Brown, as our new chapter chairman. I feel she will do a very good job!



Pahvant Chapter News

The Pahvant Chapter of the UOTF has been quite active for the last two years, inspite of the interruptions. Some major events included performing at the Millard County Fair, a gig at Callao, the Creche, (with a huge display of nativity scenes), and an annual dinner to honor the seniors in Hinckley, sponsored by the local Lions Club.



In addition, our regular schedule includes the Nephi Senior lunch (first Wednesday), Delta Sands Apartments and Delta Care Center (second Monday), Scipio Senior Center lunch (second Wednesday), Delta Senior lunch (third Wednesday, and the Fillmore Senior Center (fourth Monday). We are so blessed to have such appreciative audiences in each of these places!

We are also blessed to have such dedicated members. Mick and Pat Butterfield, Dale Pratt, and Norm Mincer are the existing original members when the Pahvant Chapter was formed around 1993.



Since that time, we have had many members come and go. Our current members are always there if possible. Work schedules, travel, care of children, and other things can keep some away at times. Ed Alder drives 100 miles or more one way, 50 miles of that on a dirt road, and he rarely misses! Ross Murdock will also drive 100 miles from Enoch!

One night in Fillmore, I introduced the players and a man in the audience asked how many miles round trip in total this group had driven that night to be there. I didn't know offhand, but calculated the miles when I got home. The total was 655 miles!

Playing right here in Delta we travel about 300 miles roundtrip, and if Ed Alder doesn't come, it is around 150 miles. The man then asked if we get reimbursed for our travel and Mick Butterfield responded appropriately. He said we are entitled to reimbursement, but he didn't want it because playing for groups like that, was his willing contribution, and it was also his therapy.

Sound equipment can be a real problem. Hauling all the amplifiers, mics, cables, and speakers is work and equipment can get damaged. Also, there is usually only one or two people familiar with it enough to set it up properly.

Early in 2022, the Six County Association of Governments purchased a basic sound system for each of the Senior Centers where we play. The system has a great amplifier and fabulous line speakers! We are thankful to the Six County AOG! The system is limited on input, so we do take a small four channel mixer and an inexpensive cordless microphone set with four mics.

We are looking forward to an active 2023 and pray the same for all the other chapters.

Pioneer Chapter News

The Pioneer Chapter extends a warm "thank you" to Becky Wright, for her leadership over the past four years. Becky has arranged for gigs in new places, delicious dinners, and fun events!

Even through the unpredictable height of the pandemic, she was a solid leader. Thanks, Becky!

At our last election meeting, Chris Ward was made chapter chair, and Lorin Kartchner treasurer.

Pioneer Chapter members, Deniane Kartchner and Chris Ward have worked hard to bring us a major revision of the Utah Old Time Fiddlers website at: utaholdtimefiddlers.org.

Welcome to our newest members: John Ernst and Renee Wood, both play guitar.

On December 29, 2022, the Pioneer Chapter had the pleasure of playing a show at the Gandy Dancer in South Ogden. The Gandy Dancer is a lovely ice cream shop featuring cozy seating, books and board games and live music. You can view the livestream on their facebook page at: <http://fb.watch/hKXq1GLWOD>.

Thanks, and never stop making music!

Salt Lake Chapter News

This year, 2022, has been one of reawakening. The precautions put in place around the COVID pandemic have slowly eased, and the Salt Lake Chapter has slowly risen back onto its feet. We started our regular jams again – starting with weekly Thursday afternoon sessions from 3 to 5 PM at the Murray Senior Recreation Center, thanks to arrangements made by our loyal player, Clarie Clapp.

Senior centers, independent living, and assisted living facilities started requesting the UOTF to come and play. We had nearly 25 performances during the year. One challenge we surmounted occurred when our conscientious PA manager, Lynn Brighton, went into surgery, producing the need for an alternative system to enable us to perform for several months.



We purchased a small, portable unit that our older players could handle. Our musicians enjoyed playing with those of other chapters at the outdoor, statewide socials that Marilyn Dillard arranged in the spring and fall.

Two memorable performances were at the Wheeler Farm Fest and at the Utah State Fair, where we had our biggest performance turnouts of over 15 players. In September, we moved our jam sessions to the Redwood Recreation Center to enable more of our

members to attend, moving to a bi-monthly schedule of 1:00 to 3 PM on Saturdays.

A joyful Christmas party at the Chuck-O-Rama, where over 35 of our players and guests attended, was a happy celebration of the holidays and a fitting completion to the year.



Some words of appreciation are in order to those who made the Salt Lake Chapter successful. Sarah Smith for scheduling gigs, Clarie Clapp for arranging Murray Rec jams, Lynn Brighton– for handling the PA and arranging the Redwood Recreation jams, Jarl Jacobson as Jam Manager, Alan Brownlee for Finances, and all the Gig Managers: Annette Barfuss, Bill Barton, Grant Bullock, Marilyn Dillard, Lynn Brighton, Jarl Jacobson, and Jill Roberts. Finally, a huge kudo goes to all the players who make our Chapter a success!

We had some new talent join us, improving our sound, broadening our skills, and keeping this wonderful Country Music alive – a bass player, a couple of fiddlers, a banjo player, and a musician of various instruments. We always appreciate the return of many of our regular players.



What does 2023 hold in store? We will continue our monthly jams on the second and fourth Saturdays, and we hope to add some new tunes while we dust off the old ones. Our goal is to hold around 40 performances, and already we have 18 scheduled for the New Year. We plan to reach out to musicians and welcome new players to our ranks. We hope to have some music instruction, concerts, and socials during the year. The chapter also plans to support Statewide efforts along these lines – possibly contributing volunteer time and talent to a fiddle (musical instrument) contest. Foremost, we plan to enjoy the fun relationships developed and the joy of making music together!

Utah County UOTF News

The Utah County Old Time Fiddlers and Country Music Chapter have been making music together at least since 1982 according to available archive records. There have been many members who have come and gone, some of whom have spent a good deal of time serving in leadership capacities as well as providing great

music. We miss the ones who are no longer with us and welcome all who have joined recently.



We lost Carl Boyd, Rose Shephard, Cecil Peterson and Harley Woodward to illness and age in the last few years.



Three talented musicians have joined recently. They are Raynae Redman, Jessica Ecklund and Paul DeWitt. Others who join in playing with the group regularly or occasionally are Mark Mott, Layne and Juliann Shelley, Judy Woodward, Ron Pope, George Yancy, Doug Andrus, Ron Barlow, Ben Driggs, Don Davis, Lee Fugal, Pam Merryweather and Cecil Peterson. Other local musicians keep their names on the rolls even if they can't join in the regularly scheduled events.

This chapter normally meets at least twice monthly under the leadership of Mark Mott, Chapter chairman to jam and keep their enthusiasm, fingers, voices, and instruments tuned up. In addition, they have other ongoing and miscellaneous invitations. We play for community events, local businesses, senior centers, assisted living homes, long term care facilities and private parties etc.

The chapter usually holds at least one or two parties and jams for just the local members a year. A Christmas party was held again in 2022 at The Golden Corral Restaurant in Orem. Meals were paid for members and one guest by the chapter.

UOTF Fiddle Contest at the Wasatch Mountain Music Festival

The festival dates for next year are July 14 – 16 2023.

Contest will be on Saturday, July 15th.

More information to come.

UOTF FIDDLE CONTEST JULY 2022 AT WASATCH MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd
CHAMPIONSHIP	McKenna Jensen	Juliet Bascom	Adrienne Jensen
SMALL FRY	Trevor Jensen	Tommy Pierce	Evelyn Lemmon
JR. JUNIOR	Adrienne Jensen	Kambria Jensen	Chase Hearn
JUNIOR	McKenna Jensen	Nathan Price	Ryley Shupe
YOUNG ADULT	Juliet Bascom		
SENIOR	Tom Smart	Marilyn Dillard	Paul Doubek