

THE ARIZONA FIDDLER

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

Dave Brinkman, Editor banjodb@gmail.com

Webpage: <http://www.arizonaoldtimefiddlers.org/> Facebook: [Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association](#)

January/February 2026

Contact Noreen Johnston to pay your dues. fiddlerslady@aol.com See Form on p. 8

Best Wishes for a wonderful 2026—Happy New Year!

Upcoming Events

Worthen Memorial Contest. January 9-11, 2026. Yuma, AZ. 2577 E. County 14th St. Contest is Saturday and Sunday. Dances Fri and Sat evening. Dry camping. janet.shelby@gmail.com New Website <https://yumafiddlecontest.org/>

Salome FiddleFest. January 16-18, 2026. Salome, AZ. **Linda Darland 928-671-0474** for info. Salome Lions Club - Fiddle shows and lots of jamming - Dry RV Parking (Donations appreciated) Friday Lunch - Saturday Breakfast and Dinner. Sign up to play on the Friday or Saturday night program.

Grande Fiddle Championship. **NO CONTEST FOR 2026.** Tiffany my7gems@cox.net

Bluegrass Roundup. January 30-February 1, 2026. Rodeo Grounds. Apache Junction, AZ. A traditional bluegrass festival with hired bands and jamming. Presented by Arizona Bluegrass Association. Dry camping. <https://arizonabluegrass.com/>

Ajo Contest. February 6-8, 2026. Ajo, AZ. Ajo Country Club. Fiddlers show at Ajo Plaza Friday afternoon. Dance/Show Friday & Saturday evenings. Age group contests on Saturday. Championship and Consolation Finals Sunday. Dry camping. **Linda Darland 928-671-0474**

Matheson Music Festival. February 12-16, 2026. Graham County Fairgrounds. Safford, AZ. Lots of different music events, workshops and jamming. Fiddle contest TBA. mathesonmusicfoundation@gmail.com

Tucson Contest February 21, 2026. Southern AZ Dance Center 4801 E 29th St. Tucson, AZ. Arizona's oldest contest. It is a one day contest—9:00-4:00. No camping at the contest location. darwinlong47@gmail.com Website <https://tucsonfiddlecontest.org/home>

Glendale Folk Festival February 28-March 1, 2026. Sahuaro Ranch Park in Glendale AZ. Free event with all kinds of vocal and instrumental folk music on at least **six stages!**. Jamming and Workshops. No camping. [Facebook Page](#)

Lake Havasu Bluegrass March 6-8. Lake Havasu City, AZ. Lake Havasu State Park. Traditional bluegrass festival with mostly dry camping on the shore of the lake. Excellent entertainment and jamming.

Desert Bluegrass Festival. March 13-15, 2026 Gladden Farms Comm Park. Marana, AZ <https://desertbluegrass.org/marana-festival-2019/> Dry camping.

Salome FiddleFest March 20-22, 2026. Salome, AZ. **Linda Darland 928-671-0474** for info. Salome Lions Club - Fiddle shows and lots of jamming - Dry RV Parking (Donations appreciated) Friday Lunch - Saturday Breakfast and Dinner. Sign up to play on the Friday or Saturday night program

AOTFA Events List See Arizona Old Time Fiddle Association Webpage

Your 2026 AOTFA DUES are due January 1, 2026.

We want to keep sending you the newsletter!

Mail to Noreen Johnston

Membership Form on page 8

AOTFA Officers 2026

Officers were elected at the
Nov 8, 2025 Annual Meeting

President Nancy Reynolds

Vice President Darwin Long

Secretary Linda Darland

Treasurer Noreen Johnston

Membership Noreen
Johnston

Newsletter Dave Brinkman

Executive Board Monique
Bernauer, Bob Williams,
John Kennedy



Territorial Chapter (Yuma) Fiddlers at Salome Nov. 2025



Ross and Dave accompanied Katie, Wickenburg Contest champion.

Contest Results

Wickenburg Nov 16, 2025

- 1. Katie Bonn**
- 2. Corrine Garey**
- 3. Laura Barry**
- 4. Dave Brinkman**



Corrine at Wickenburg 2025



Nancy, Katie, John, and Don at Salome Nov 2025



Bob & John @ Salome Nov 2025



John, Ronni and Tom socializing



Silver Spur Rodeo presents:

49th Annual Worthen Memorial

Old Time Fiddlers Contest

YUMA, ARIZONA

January 9,10,11, 2026

Held at the
Silver Spur Rodeo Clubhouse
2577 E County 14th St

Dry camping/jamming all weekend!
Fiddler's Workshop – 2pm Friday



Fiddlers Show/Dance

Friday 6:30pm

Fiddlers Show/Dance

Saturday 6:30pm

Fiddle Contest

Saturday and Sunday

starting at 9am

arizonaoldtimefiddlers.org/territorial_chapter

www.yumafiddlecontest.org

more info: janet.shelby@gmail.com

7 Fiddler Age Group divisions

plus top players move to
Grand Champion Division
Fiddlers' Awards to 5 places!

Additional Specialty divisions:

Novice
Trick & Fancy
Twin
Vocal
Accompanist
Other Stringed Instruments
With awards to 3 places
Band Scramble, Games!!

Salome FiddleFest

**Jan 16-18 and
March 20-22, 2026**

- Shows at 7:00 pm Friday and Saturday
- Campground Jams
- Gospel Sunday 10:00 pm

Ajo AZ Fiddle Contest

Feb 6-8, 2026

Shows at 7:00 pm Friday & Saturday
Contest Saturday and Sunday
Food on site
Dry Camping

Ajo Country Club

84th Annual Tucson fiddle Contest 2026

Fiddlers Of All
Ages From Across
Arizona And The
United States



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

7 AGE DIVISIONS

TWIN FIDDLES TRICK & FANCY
ARKANSAS TRAVELER

February 21, 2026

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

**Southern Arizona Dance Center
4801 E. 29th Street
Tucson, Arizona**

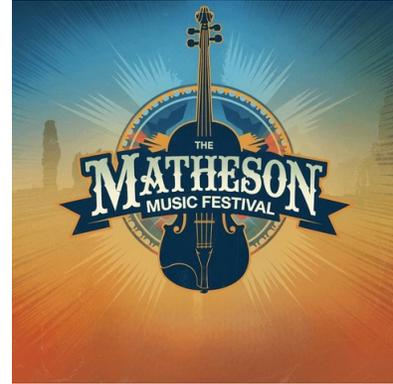
Website: www.tucsonfiddlecontest.org

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

Safford Contest

Keep the Safford Fiddle Contest Alive! The Matheson Music Foundation is recruiting volunteers (registration, judging support, sponsorships, stage crew, setup/breakdown). Help us grow the contest alongside the [Matheson Music Festival](#) and inspire the next generation of pickers. Contact Brianna or Joe at 928-651-1648 or mathesonmusicfoundation@gmail.com.

<https://www.mathesonmusicfestival.com/>



Feb 12-16, Safford, AZ

Territorial Chapter

Most of the winter snowbirds have returned to Yuma, and we're looking forward to a few more returning soon.

We have had two Business meetings, Nov. and Dec. Our performances at the Foothill Library and the VFW are back on schedule. We played to an almost full-house audience at the Library this past week. Tune learning class has been reviewing old tunes and learning "Sugar in the Coffee" from the Nov/Dec Newsletter.

The **49th Annual Worthen Memorial Old Time Fiddlers Contest** is coming up Jan 9, 10, 11 and as a judge, JayDean Ludiker is offering a workshop to all fiddlers whether you are a contestant or not. If interested in attending the workshop and for more details as to the day and time, please email Janet at [<janet.shelby@gmail.com>](mailto:janet.shelby@gmail.com). Dry camping is available at the Silver Spur Rodeo Clubhouse where the contest will be held. <https://yumafiddlecontest.org/>

Throughout the summer, those of us who are Yumans, played at the Holiday Desert Rose Assisted Living Apartments once a month and continue to do so, now with the help of the half-Yumans, which we are grateful for.

The new officers for Territorial Chapter have been elected.

President - Guy Selle

V. Pres - Frank Moore

Treas. and Membership Secretary - Janet Shelby

Secretary and Editor - Carol O'Brien

Representations to the State Board - Frank Moore and Gary Thompson

Submitted by Carol O'Brien, Secretary Territorial Chapter

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS DEADLINE is 20th of the Month.
February 20th for the March Newsletter.**

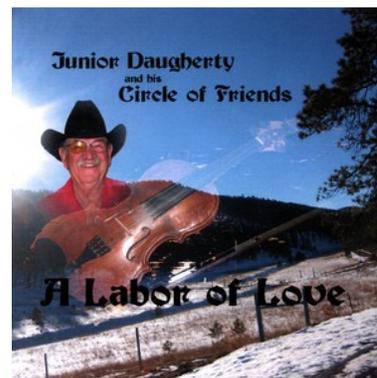
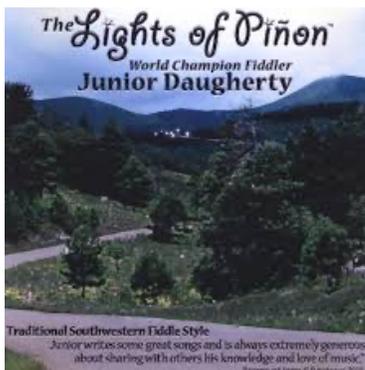
Famous Fiddlers

Junior Daugherty



Forest Alton Daugherty Jr. (1930 – 2023), was better known as Junior. He was a New Mexico native, and started playing fiddle at 16 and soon had a band, the Whippoorwills Western Dance Band. With sister Ruby on the upright bass, and cousin Maynard on the guitar the trio began playing live over the air on the KALG radio station and in dance venues across New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, and Texas. He served in the US Navy as a sonar-man during the Korean War. He moved to Las Cruces to study Electrical Engineering at New Mexico State,

and worked at White Sands Missile Range. Junior became well known as a fiddler and performed at Cowboy Poet gatherings, Carnegie Hall, Ashokan Music Camp and concerts in the US, Southeast Asia, Middle East and North Africa. He won numerous fiddle contests. Junior had an engaging way with fiddle music, and his infectious energy and fun drew the audience and other fiddlers to him. Junior was known for *Death Valley Waltz*, *Too Pretty For Words*, *Junior's Waltz*, *Lights of Piñon* and others. (All of these tunes have been heard at Arizona fiddle events and are on YouTube). Source: [Obituary in Las Cruces Sun-Times](#)



Death Valley Waltz

7

Junior Daugherty
Transcribed by Dave Brinkman

Junior recorded *Death Valley Waltz* on at least three CDs: *Backstage*, [Lights of Piñon](#), and [Fiddling Across the Border](#) (with legendary Canadian fiddler Reg Bouvette). The last two are available on YouTube. The transcription gets the basic melody, but does not document every ornament or extra note that Junior played.

I also recommend a [YouTube Video](#) of the tune by contemporary fiddler [Megan Lynch Chowning](#). She adds a few variations to the basic melody, and her playing is clear and beautiful.

Junior makes the tune sound easy, but it can be a little tricky with the triplet introduction followed by eighth notes. I usually simplify it a little (m. 27). YouTube has [examples](#) of the way others have made the rhythm easier.

The Arizona Fiddler
Membership, Renewal or Change of Address
Annual Dues \$15 Family. Over 80 \$10 Includes Partner

Please Print
Name _____

SummerAddress _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

If Different
Winter Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Optional) Man's Birthday _____ Lady's Birthday _____

Anniversary _____ Year _____

Children Under 18 Living at Home _____

Chapters

- Rim Country Payson Area
- SAOTF Tucson Area
- Territorial Yuma Area
- Verde Valley Cottonwood Area
- IndependentAnywhere

Members may join one Principal chapter and one associate chapter.

Send dues to Noreen Johnston, Membership Secretary
696 S Maricopa Street
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

AOTFA
14210 W. Kiowa Trail
Surprise AZ 85374

January/February 2026