

# The Arizona Fiddler

The official publication of The Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association Inc  
Published at Chino Valley AZ

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## Spring Fiddlefest



### MARCH 15 - 17

*Board Meeting 11 am Saturday*

Bluegrass - Country -

Fiddling

Jamming

*Friday 7 pm*

*Saturday 7 pm*

Stage Performances

Gospel Sing

Sunday 10 AM

Friday noon  
Chili \$3.00  
Chili Dog \$5.00

Saturday 8 am Breakfast  
Pancakes-Bacon-Eggs

Dinner 5 pm  
Spaghetti \$10.00



Lions Club Complex ~ Center & Hall Streets

For more info call 928-859-4621

All proceeds go back to the Community

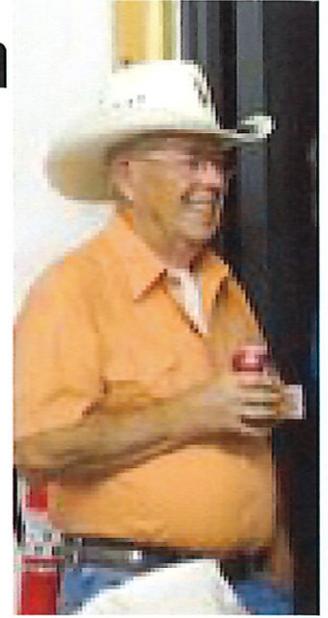




# Celebration of Life

## Jimmie Wayne Dixon

October 24 1938 - August 29 2023



DATE March 9 2024 TIME 11 am LOCATION Pat Rose's place 5801 S Avenue 20 E Wellton AZ main airplane hanger. Bring your instruments and a side dish, salad, or dessert. Bring your pictures and memories to share! Questions or comments call Katie Bonn 208-303-0158.

## Results Safford Fiddle Contest

### Show Your Stuff

Jess Barry  
Henry the Fiddler  
Heather Perrazo

### Trick & Fancy

Jess Barry  
Henry the Fiddler  
Janene Ferius  
Heather Ferrazo

### Little Britches

Emily Fletcher  
Alexa Barnes

### Twin Fiddle

Jess Barry & Heather Perrazo  
Dani Carter & Elle Barry

### Open

Jess Barry  
Henry the Fiddler  
Kevin DeRusha

### Vocals

Cade Lamb  
Elle Barry  
Dani Carter

### Runner up Finals

Lila Mallar

### Accompanist

Ben Barry  
Clay Barry

### Adult

Corrine Garey  
Janene Ferius

### Young Adult

Heather Perrazo

### Junior

Elle Barry  
Dani Carter  
Clay Barry  
Lila Mallar

### Young at Heart

Glenda Anderson  
Darwin Long  
Arline Peterson

### Junior

Emily Fletcher  
Alexa Barnes  
Rylan Hughes

### Half Pint

Leah Johnson

### Grand Master

Dani Carter  
Elle Barry  
Clay Barry

## Yuma Contest Results

### Small Fry

1 Isley Dietrich

### Junior Junior

1 Aspen Dietrich  
2 Sawyer Dietrich  
3 Conrad Vessey

### Junior

1 Ranelle Dietrich  
2 Brie Dietrich

### Young Adult

1 Susanne Cox

### Adult

1 Katie Bonn  
2 Kris Manino  
3 Duane Nightengale  
4 Janene Ferrais

### Senior

1 Henry the Fiddler  
2 Janet Shelby  
3 Beth Weber  
4 Dave Brinkman  
5 Debbie Dickerson

### Senior Senior

1 Dan Everts  
2 Al Derrien  
3 Fred Lohman  
3 Fred Lapcheska

### Novice

1 Mary Stott

### Vocal

1 Marcia Roberts  
2 Paul Dickerson  
3 Debbie Dickerson

### Junior Vocal

1 Sawyer Dietrich

### Accompanist

1 Paul Dickerson  
2 Frank Moore  
3 Terry Schwindt

### Junior Accompanist

1 Brie Dietrich  
2 Sawyer Dietrich

### Other Stringed Instruments

1 Dave Brinkman  
2 Avery Ellisman  
3 Ted Burton

### Trick & Fancy

1 Henry the Fiddler  
2 Fred Lohman  
3 Beth Weber

### Twin

1 Ranelle & Isley Dietrich  
2 Dave Brinkman & Katie Bonn  
3 Duane Nightingale & Janet Shelby

### Grand Champion

**1 Ranelle Dietrich**  
**2 Aspen Dietrich**  
**3 Henry the Fiddler**  
**4 Janet Shelby**  
**5 Sawyer Dietrich**

Looking for pictures  
again!

Send me pictures of  
your fiddlers to be  
included in the AOTFA  
albums. You can send  
them electronically or  
hard copy. Noreen  
Johnston  
696 S Maricopa St Chino  
Valley AZ 86323



# Pay your dues!!

Family \$15 Kids over 18 must get their own membership!  
Over 80 \$10

If not received by March 31 2024, YOU will be removed  
from the database. No more newsletters or announcements!  
Bye Bye !

# Hello from the Territorial (Yuma) Chapter

Happy New Year from the Yuma Territorial Chapter of the AOTFA.

We had great fun at our holiday party on January 8 at the beautiful Yuma St Paul Event Center, complete with lots of food, great jamming and our monthly meeting.

On the weekend of January 12-14 we partnered with the Silver Spur Rodeo and the Yuma Jaycees to put on the 47th Worthen Memorial Fiddle Contest. Friday and Saturday night we had a fiddle show and dance and Saturday and Sunday was our fiddle contest. We had the regular fiddle age divisions plus a Vocal division, Accompanist, Other Strings, Trick and Fancy, Twin, fiddle games and a band scramble. There was something for everyone! It was great fun, with great talent and we played to standing room only crowds. Many thanks to the rodeo committee, the JayCees, and our chapter committee (Janet Shelby, Debbie Dickerson, Helene Geer and Guy Selle) for organizing the many details that go with presenting a successful event. Many thanks to our fiddle judges, Darwin Long, Laura Barry, Maria McArthur, to our vocal judges, Helene Geer, Laura Berry and Dave Brinkman, to Don Geer, our timer, and to Linda Darland, our emcee. Many thanks to our Yuma chapter members who competed in our contest.

Troy Luttrell, one of our members, organized a neighborhood garage sale on January 14-15, with all the proceeds going to our club. Many of us played in shifts during the entire two days of the sale. Thanks, Troy.

Our chapter continues to play on alternate Tuesdays at the Yuma Foothills Library and the VFW. It gives members an opportunity to play show tunes, old time fiddle tunes, and dance tunes in front of a live audience and to prepare for the winter season fiddle contests. Janet Shelby's weekly Monday morning lessons are helping us hone our skills to use at these events. Many thanks to Janet Shelby and Dan Everts for organizing and leading these bi-weekly shows, to Frank Moore who faithfully accompanies all our events and to Guy Selle with Paul Dickerson as his back-up, for handling our sound equipment needs.

On January 18 and 19, various members of our chapter played during the annual Tractor Pull in nearby Wellton. It was another fund raiser for us and yet another opportunity for us to show off and practice our skills. That same weekend, many of our members traveled to Salome for their annual January jam and camp-out; always a great time.

On the first weekend of February 2-5, many of our members traveled to Ajo, AZ to participate in their annual old time fiddle show and contest held at the the Ajo Country Club. It's always a great time with fiddlers from all over the southwest and beyond competing in the contest, the nightly fiddle shows and dances, playing at the local senior center, and the fiddle show at the downtown Ajo Plaza, and, of course, participating in the non-stop jamming. Our very own Janet Shelby walked away as the Grand Champion. Many thanks to Linda Darland and her crew for their efforts in always making this a great weekend.

The weekend of February 9-11 our chapter members have once again been invited to play on stage at the Silver Spur Rodeo welcome gate.

The Gila Valley Fiddle Festival and Contest in Safford, AZ happens on the weekend of February 8-12 at the Mt. Graham Golf Course. Thanks to the efforts of Kevin Derusha, it is always fun time.

(continued on next page)



The weekend of February 16, 17 will see many of our Chapter members heading to the Casa Grande AZ. Fiddle Contest, a contest put on largely by the multi talented Dietrich family and always a good time.

Then to wrap up the Southwest winter fiddle contest season, there is the one day Tucson, AZ. Fiddle Contest on Feb 24 2024 from 9 am to 4 pm. which many of our Yuma AOTFA members attend. Whew!

On a sad note we are sorry to report that this winter our chapter has lost two of our long time members.

One of our chapters founding members, Dennis Russell passed away on January 3, 2024 at the age of 82. Dennis retired in 1980 in Yuma, Arizona after serving his country in the Navy for over 20 years. In retirement, Dennis perfected his woodworking skills and became a highly skilled luthier. He was very active in Yuma's Territorial Chapter of the Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association, regularly playing guitar, mandolin and fiddle and singing in various performances and just jamming with friends. He helped organize the Annual Worthen Old Time Fiddlers Contest, contributing handmade wooden trophies for the winners. He was also editor and a regular contributor to the Association newsletter.

Val Andreasen, a much loved member of our Yuma AOTFA chapter passed away recently at the age of 91. He and his wife Lorraine were active members of our chapter. He faithfully played his stand-up Bass Fiddle for many of our events. He was an accomplished player with a gentle, supportive spirit. They will both be sorely missed.

Debbie Dickerson AOTFA Winter Editor (December - March)

Helene Geer AOTFA Summer Editor (April - November)



## Chapter Meetings



Rim Country Chapter Payson area  
Jam second Sunday @ 1pm & 4th Tuesday  
Rock of Ages Luthern Church  
204 W Airport Rd Payson AZ  
Tom Barthel 928-612-8463

Verde Valley Chapter Cottonwood  
Third Sunday of month 1 pm  
Contact Nancy Reynolds for confirmation  
928-300-2113



Southern AZ Chapter Tucson area  
Each Tuesday 2pm  
Mission View RV Park 31 W Los Reales  
Wilbur 520-743-7086/Dallas 520-268-4257

Territorial Chapter Yuma  
St Pauls Event Center Yuma AZ  
First Monday 1pm  
Helene Geer 541-362-6840



**DENNIS (Denny) KENT RUSSELL**  
1941-2024

Dennis ( Denny) Kent Russell passed away peacefully at his home on January 3, 2024. He was 82. The long time Yuma resident was born in Los Angeles, CA on May 31, 1941 to Wilma (Ray) Russell and Gilbert W. Russell.

Dennis spent his childhood in Long Beach, California where he enjoyed swimming at the beach, fishing, making wood objects and model airplanes and learning to play acoustic guitar. As a teenager, he often played music with friends.

He graduated from Long Beach Polytechnic High School and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1958. Dennis was stationed at various naval air stations around the country. He trained as an aircraft machinist and used his skills well while serving aboard the aircraft carriers U.S.S. Ranger and U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard. He was active prior to and during the Viet Nam War.

Dennis retired in 1980 in Yuma, Arizona as a First Class Petty Officer after serving his country for over twenty years.

In retirement, Dennis perfected his woodworking talents and became a highly skilled luthier. He repaired and built a variety of stringed instruments, including violins, cellos, basses, mandolins and guitars.

He became very active in Yuma's Territorial Chapter of the Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association, regularly playing flat pick guitar, mandolin and fiddle in country and bluegrass performances and just jamming with friends.

He helped organize the Annual Worthen Memorial Old Time Fiddlers Contest, contributing handmade wooden trophies for the winners. He was also a regular contributor to the association newsletter.

In addition to playing musical instruments, Dennis also had a beautiful baritone voice and enjoyed karaoke weekly at Daybreakers and American Legion Post 19.

Mr. Russell is preceded in death by his parents, Wilma Monahan and Gilbert W. Russell. He is survived by sisters Pamela (Russell) Sibley of Tucson, Janet (Russell) Geisler of Cottage Grove, MN and by a brother Gilbert Russell, Jr. of Bloomington, MN. He is also survived by niece Erin Reeder of Antioch, CA and many other nieces, nephews, cousins and their families.

Dennis will be missed by his family and many friends in the Fiddlers Association and at the VFW and American Legion. His name sits proudly aside those of other veterans on a plaque at the Yuma Armed Forces Park.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Sunset Vista Funeral Home and Crematory in Yuma. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the VFW Post 8242, the American Legion Post 19 or to the Yuma Territorial Chapter of the Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association. A military memorial service is planned for May, and exact details and dates will be announced at a later date.



## 45th Ajo Fiddle Contest Results

### Junior Junior

- 1 Gabriella Naiman
- 2 Sylbia Fletcher

### Junior

- 1 Emily Fletcher
- 2 Elle Barry

### Young Adult

- 1 Clay Barry

### Adult

- 1 Jess Barry
- 2 Corrine Garey

### Senior

- 1 Janet Shelby
- 2 Mary Cooper
- 3 Henry the Fiddler
- 4 Katie Bonn
- 5 Debbie Dickerson

### Senior Senior

- 1 Dan Everts
- 2 Arline Peterson
- 3 Glenda Anderson

### Accompanist

- 1 Frank Moore
- 2 Martin Fewkes
- 3 Paul Dickerson
- 4 Clay Barry

### Trick and Fancy

- 1 Henry the Fiddler
- 2 Jess Barry
- 3 Gabriella Naiman

### Twin Fiddler

- 1 Jess Barry & Elle Barry
- 2 Paul Dickerson & Debbie Dickerson
- 3 Dan Everts & Janet Shelby

### Runner Up

- 1 Katie Bonn
- 2 Dave Brinkman
- 3 Debbie Dickerson

### Grand Champion

- 1 Janet Shelby
- 2 Jess Barry
- 3 Emily Fletcher
- 4 Henry the Fiddler
- 5 Elle Barry

## Coming Events

March 15-16

AOTFA Spring Camp Out

Lions Club

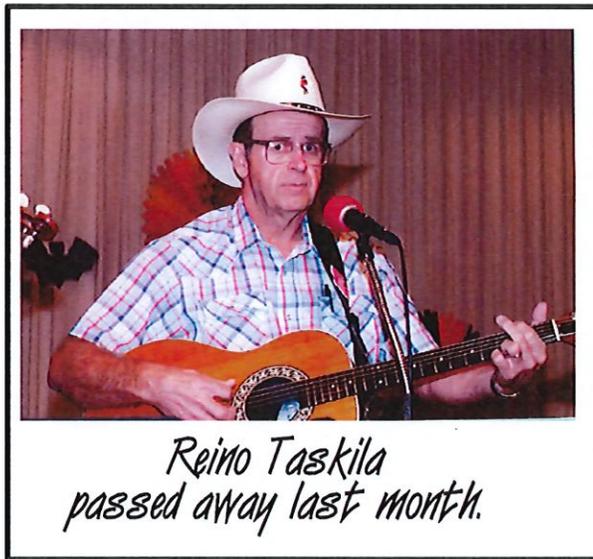
Salome AZ

Linda 928-671-0474

Third week of June 2024

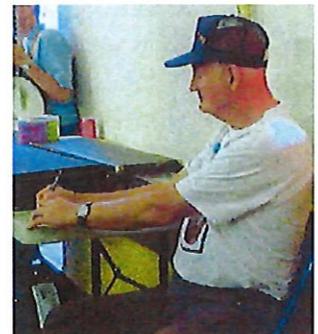
National Fiddle Championships

Weiser ID



### Fiddle Raffle

Buy a ticket and win the fiddle donated by the family of George Franks. Nice fiddle . Plays well. With bow and case. \$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20. See the jewels table for tickets. Drawing to be held at the Salome Fiddlefest November 2024.



# Birthdays

## March

Ross Riggs	3	1
David Wells	3	1
Linda Darland	3	1
Pat McMullen	3	3
Verla Jones	3	4
Bill Nutt	3	5
Dorothy Barstad	3	7
Charles White	3	7
Frank Moore	3	10
Karen Hocking	3	14
Dean Cameron	3	17
Ruth Ireland	3	17
Amy Barry	3	18
Helene Geer	3	19
Kenny Reynolds	3	22
Tamra Johnston	3	22
Mrs Holt	3	23
Dan Hocking	3	26
Brian Grunkemeier	3	26
Gary Johnson	3	26
Fran Judd	3	26
Jacquie Wilcox	3	27
Gary Huntington	3	27

## APRIL

Laura Barry	4	1
Mrs Rustan	4	6
Holly Deam	4	11
Mary Tiezen	4	13
Noreen Johnston	4	13
Arlene Kimball	4	15
Darwin Kimball	4	16
Marti White	4	17
Suzette Sommerer	4	18
Jon Shelby	4	20
Clay Barry	4	21
Barbara Giamalvo	4	21



## Belle of the Ball Ajo 2024



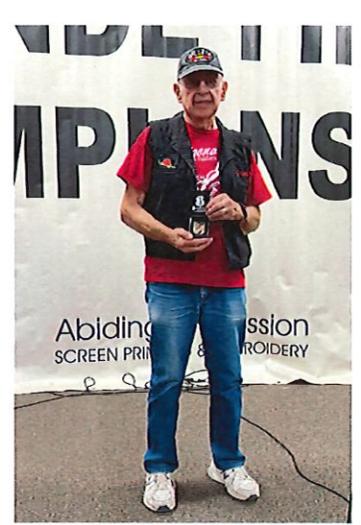
64 wonderful years!

## March & April Anniversaries

Ed & Noreen Johnston	3	06	1960
Heidi Schuster & Adriel Ohmstedt	3	1	
Ann Shaw	3	29	
Ross Riggs	4	02	
Logan Schoolcraft	4	22	2023
Jon & Janet Shelby	4	22	1994
Kathryn Busby	4	22	2023
Tom & Katie Bonn	4	28	1984



# Grande Fiddle Contest Results



Frank Moore being honored for his years of accompanying fiddlers.



Tashina Claridge  
First Place Open Division



David & Sandra Shoun with some of the Wildflowers

## ADULT:

1. Ben LeaBraatin
2. Janene Farraris
3. Lisa Penunuri

## SR: (12 entries)

1. Janet Shelby
2. Avery Ellisman
3. Dave Brinkman
4. Henry The Fiddler
5. Katie Bonn

## SR SR:

1. Beth Weber
2. Gordon Mehling
3. Arline Peterson
4. Glenda Anderson

## JR ACCOMP:

1. Brie Dietrich
2. Sawyer Dietrich

## ACCOMP: (12 entries)

1. Makaela Ruggs
2. Tristan Clarridge
3. Alex Sharps
4. Orin Lindley
5. Maria McArthur

## 17 & UNDER TWIN:

1. Ranelle & Isley Dietrich
2. Elie Barry & Dani Carter
3. Jetta & Roscoe Brooks

## 18 & OVER TWIN: (8 entries)

1. Tristan Clarridge & Alex Sharps
2. Makaela Ruggs & Jetta Brooks
3. Janet Shelby & Beth Weber
4. (TIE 4th) Ben LeaBraatin & Henry The Fiddler
5. (TIE 4th) Dave Brinkman & Katie Bonn

## OPEN:

1. Tashina Clarridge
2. Celeste Johnson
3. Tristan Clarridge
4. Makaela Ruggs
5. Michael Rolland
6. Taylor Tudor
7. Alex Sharps
8. Kevin DeRusha
9. Orin Lindley

## SMALL FRY:

1. Sawyer Dietrich
2. Isley Dietrich
3. Roscoe Brooks
4. Elodie Tudor

## JR JR:

1. Aspen Dietrich
2. Gabriella Naiman
3. Sylvia Fletcher

## JR:

1. Ranelle Dietrich
2. Jetta Brooks
3. Elie Barry
4. Dani Carter
5. Emily Fletcher
6. Lydia Washburn

## YOUNG ADULT:

1. Madi Dietrich
2. Libby Rogers
3. Jordan Brambila
4. Matthew Rolland
5. Norah Brooks
6. Heather Perazzo
7. Clay Barry



Gail Rolland with grandkids

Greetings from Southeast Arizona,

The 82nd Annual Tucson Fiddle contest is now in the books. The competition level was quite good with 31 individual contestants entering in ten Divisions.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our volunteers Amy Barry, Gina Urbina, Wade Kelly, Elka Kelly, Tom Rude, George Malesky, Adriana Naiman, Perry Shirley, Cheryl Shirley, Mike Garey, Corrine Garry, Jess Barry, Elie Barry, Clay Barry & Laura Barry. Please forgive me if there is anyone I have forgotten to mention here.

My special thanks to Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders of the State of Arkansas for the Award letter for the Arkansas Traveler Contest.

A big hand for our host, The Square and Round Dance Center of Southern Arizona, who not only provided our venue but handled the food concession as well.

I would also like to thank our many generous sponsors whose support made this contest possible.

**2024 AGE DIVISION SPONSORS**

**PEE WEE**  
**JUNIOR-JUNIOR**  
**JUNIOR**  
**YOUNG ADULT**  
**ADULT**  
**SENIOR**  
**YOUNG AT HEART**

**AOTFA**  
**AOTFA**  
**AOTFA**  
**SAOTFA**  
**David & Mary Brinkman**  
**Friend of the Fiddlers**  
**Frank Smith Family**

**2024 SPECIALTY DIVISION SPONSORS**

**TWIN FIDDLE**                      **SOTFA**  
**TRICK & FANCY**                **SOTFA**  
**ARKANSAS TRAVELER**        **Marti & Chuck White**

**GENERAL SPONSORS**

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA ARTS & CULTURAL ALLIANCE**  
**ANTHONY SOTELO OF KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY**  
**SOUTHWEST STRINGS**  
**GASLIGHT THEATER AND LITTLE ANTHONY'S DINER**



**Award Medallions/Ribbons Donated by Dallas Parker**  
**Quilt Crafted and Donated by a Friend of the Fiddlers**  
**Old Time Fiddler Jacket Donated by Marti & Chuck White**



**82nd ANNUAL TUCSON FIDDLE CONTEST RESULTS**

**PEE WEE**

1. ISLEY DIETRICH
2. ELODIE TUDOR
3. IVY BARRY

**JUNIOR JUNIOR**

1. ASPEN DIETRICH
2. GABRIELA NAIMAN
3. EMILY FLETCHER
4. SAWYER DIETRICH

**JUNIOR**

1. RANELLE DIETRICH
2. ELLIE BARRY
3. CLAY BARRY

**YOUNG ADULT**

1. MADDI DIETRICH
2. TAYLOR TUDOR
3. HEATHER PERRAZO
4. ALI ARCE

**ADULT**

1. JESS BARRY
2. CORRINE GAREY
3. JANENE FERRARIS

**SENIOR**

1. JANET SHELBY
2. DAVID BRINKMAN
3. DAN LEVENSON
4. KATIE BONN
5. LAURA BARRY

**YOUNG AT HEART**

1. BETH WEBER
2. PETER ROLLAND
3. PEGGY WALLER

**TWIN FIDDLE**

1. BETH WEBER & JANET SHELBY
2. JESS BARRY & ELIE BARRY
3. SUZETTE SOMMERER & KAREN DISMACHELS

**TRICK & FANCY**

1. TAYLOR TUDOR
2. JESS BARRY
3. PETER ROLLAND

**ARKANSAS TRAVELER**

1. JESS BARRY
2. PETER ROLLAND

**ACCOMPANIST**

1. DAVID BRINKMAN
2. BRYSON TUDOR
3. BRIE DIETRICH

**YOUNGEST FIDDLER**

ELODIE TUDOR (6 yrs. 3 mos.)

**OLDEST FIDDLER**

PETER ROLLAND (78 yrs. 2 mos.)

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

Annual Dues \$15 per family Over 80 \$10 includes partner

New Member  Renewal  Change of Address

Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

Summer City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**If Different**

Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Winter City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Man's Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Lady's Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Children under age 18 living at home \_\_\_\_\_

Chapters

Rim Country Payson area

SAOTF Tucson area

Territorial Yuma area

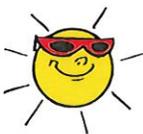
Verde Valley Cottonwood area

Independent Anywhere

Members may join one principal chapter.

and one associate chapter  
Please send state dues to:

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



Have a Great Summer!!