

# THE ARIZONA FIDDLER

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

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Webpage: <http://www.arizonaoldtimefiddlers.org/> Facebook: Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association

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March/April 2025

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## Officers of AOTFA

**President** Darwin Long

**Vice President** Nancy Reynolds

**Secretary** Linda Darland

**Treasurer** Noreen Johnston

**Membership** Noreen Johnston

**Newsletter** Dave Brinkman

**Executive Board** Amy Barry, Helene Geer,  
John Kennedy



*Yuma Fiddlers at Salome Fiddlefest 2024*

## Spring and Summer Events

[Desert Bluegrass Festival](#). Marana, AZ. March 7-9.

[Spring Fiddlefest](#) Salome, AZ. March 14-16, 2025. 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.

[Western Idaho Fiddle Contest](#) Meridian, ID. May 3, 2025.

[Nevada State Old Time Fiddlers Contest](#) Eureka, NV. May 16-17, 2025.

[International Peace Garden Fiddle Festival](#). Dunseith, ND. June 5-7, 2025.

[National Oldtime Fiddle Contest](#) Weiser ID. June 17-22 2025.

[Prescott Bluegrass Festival](#). Prescott AZ. June 21-22, 2025.

[AOFTA Eventa List](#) See AOTFA Webpage.

## Thanks!

**Noreen Johnston** edited this newsletter for decades! Thanks Noreen!



**Thanks to the many folks** that made fiddle events happen. We had contests in Payson, Wickenburg, Yuma, Casa Grande, Ajo, Tucson and campouts in Salome. We appreciate all your efforts to support the Arizona fiddle community.



**NEWSLETTER ITEMS DEADLINE is 20th of the Month.**  
**April 20th for the May/June Newsletter.**



**Grand Championship Top Five at the 48th Annual Worthen Memorial Old Time Fiddle Contest in Yuma. *Ranelle Dietrich* was the Grand Champion. Complete results below.**

**Have you paid your 2025 dues? Contact Noreen Johnston at [fiddlerslady@aol.com](mailto:fiddlerslady@aol.com) to make sure you continue to receive this newsletter.**

## Yuma Worthen Memorial Contest January 10-11, 2025

<b>Small Fry</b> 1 Isley Dietrich 2 Clark Huguenin 3 Ivy Barry 4 Chance Vessey  <b>Junior-Junior</b> 1 Sawyer Dietrich 2 Helen Huguenin 3 Jayne Huguenin 4 Ben Adams 5 Destyn Jordan (tie) 5 Conrad Vessey (tie)  <b>Junior</b> 1 Ranelle Dietrich 2 Aspen Dietrich 3 Leah Huguenin  <b>Young Adult</b> 1 Suzanne Cox	<b>Adult</b> 1 Kris Mannino 2 Amy Barry  <b>Senior</b> 1 Janet Shelby 2 Henry the Fiddler 3 Dave Brinkman 4 Laura Barry 5 Debbie Dickerson  <b>Senior-Senior</b> 1 Al Derrien 2 Dan Everts 3 Fred Lohmann 4 Fred Lapcheska  <b>Accompanist</b> 1 Dave Brinkman 2 Paul Dickerson 3 Martin Fewkes	<b>Jr Accompanist</b> 1 Brie Dietrich 2 Sawyer Dietrich  <b>Vocal</b> 1 Marcia Roberts 2 Hayden Crunden 3 Fred Lapcheska  <b>Jr Vocal</b> 1 Isley Dietrich 2 Sawyer Dietrich 3 Helen Huguenin  <b>Twin Fiddle</b> 1 Laura Barry/Dave Brinkman 2 Janet Shelby/Carolyn Huguenin 3 Dan Everts/Helen Huguenin  <b>Trick and Fancy</b> 1 Henry the Fiddler 2 Janet Shelby 3 Helen Huguenin	<b>Grand Champion</b> 1 Ranelle Dietrich 2 Aspen Dietrich 3 Henry the Fiddler 4 Janet Shelby 5 Leah Huguenin  <b>Other Stringed Instruments</b> 1 Dave Brinkman 2 Leah Huguenin 3 Audrey Lopez  <b>Oldest fiddler</b> Fred Lohmann - 94  <b>Youngest fiddler</b> Chance Vessey - 6  <b>Judges</b> Beth Weber Mary Cooper Jess Barry Laura Barry
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**Arleen, Ross and Katie**



**Tami, Laura, Martin and Bob**



## Ajo Contest Results February 8-9, 2025

<b>PeeWee</b> 1 Isley Dietrich 2 Ivy Barry  <b>Junior-Junior</b> 1 Sawyer Dietrich  <b>Junior</b> 1 Ranelle Dietrich 2 Elie Barry 3 Gabriela Naiman  <b>Young Adult</b> 1. Clay Barry	<b>Adult</b> 1 Jess Barry 2 Corrine Garey 3 Janene Ferraris 4 Amy Barry  <b>Senior</b> 1 Henry the Fiddler 2 Beth Weber 3 Laura Barry 4 Dave Brinkman 5 Betty Allen 6 Katie Bonn  <b>Senior-Senior</b> 1 Dan Everett	<b>Twin</b> 1 Elie Barry/Ranelle Dietrich 2 Henry/Beth Weber 3 Katie Bonn/Dave Brinkman  <b>Trick and Fancy</b> 1 Henry the Fiddler 2 Jess Barry 3 Isley Dietrich  <b>Accompanist</b> 1 Dave Brinkman 2 Carla Fewkes 3 Paul Dickerson	<b>Runner Up</b> 1 Dave Brinkman 2 Katie Bonn 3 Betty Allen 4 Amy Barry  <b>Championship</b> 1 Ranelle Dietrich 2 Jess Barry 3 Beth Weber 4 Henry the Fiddler 5 Isley Dietrich  <b>Judges</b> Janet Shelby Darwin Long Starr McMullen
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## Grande Contest Results January 24-25, 2025

<b>Open</b> 1st Tristan Claridge 2nd Tashina Lindley 3rd Ranelle Dietrich 4th Celeste Johnson 5th Orin Lindley  <b>Twin</b> 1st Ranelle Dietrich/ Tristan Claridge 2nd Celeste Johnson/Orin Lindley 3rd Henry The Fiddler/Beth Weber 4th Elie Barry/Dani Carter 5th Lincoln Landon/ Stephanie Landon 6th Laura Barry/Dave Brinkman	<b>Band</b> 1. Local Honey 2. Kibby Circumstance 3. Cactus Flowers 4. One Accord 5. Ranch Choir  <b>Novice</b> 1st Raynae Redman  <b>Small Fry</b> 1st Isley Dietrich 2nd Lincoln Landon  <b>Junior-Junior</b> 1 Sawyer Dietrich	<b>Junior</b> 1st Aspen Dietrich 2nd Elie Barry 3rd Gabriela Naiman  <b>Young Adult</b> 1st Meg Preston 2nd Dani Carter  <b>Adult</b> 1st Janene Ferraris  <b>Senior</b> 1st Starr McMullen 2nd Avery Ellisman 3rd Laura Barry 4th Martin Fewkes	<b>Senior-Senior</b> 1st Henry The Fiddler 2nd Beth Weber 3rd Dave Brinkman 4th Marti White  <b>Accompanist</b> 1st Tristan Claridge 2nd Orin Lindley 3rd Celeste Johnson 4th Carla Fewkes 5th Dave Brinkman 6th Martin Fewkes 7th Sawyer Dietrich 8th Dani Carter  <b>Judges</b> Danielle Betancourt Tashina Lindley Libby Rogers
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YOUR  
HOMETOWN  
NEWSPAPER  
SINCE 1916

# Ajo Copper News

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Ajo, Pima County, Arizona

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

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The 2025 Ajo Piecemakers Quilt Show was a fabric art extravaganza in the Curley School auditorium last Friday & Saturday. Three women took home prizes in four divisions and a fourth won the raffle quilt.

- A. Melinda Vennard was awarded the best in show ribbon.
- B. Sue Walter took home the blue ribbon for wall hangings & small quilts.
- C. Sue Walter scored again with a blue ribbon for regular quilts.
- D. Rebecca Shoop's very first quilt won in the first-time showing category.
- E. Ginny Seay won the quilt raffle for the Ajo Piecemakers Opportunity Quilt.

(Photos by Ajo Copper News & Deb Contreras)

The 46th annual Old Time Fiddlers Contest took place at the Ajo Country Club from Thursday, February 6, to Sunday, February 9, 2025.

- A. Ranelle Detrick was the Grand Champion of this year's contest.
- B. Contenders for Grand Champ were Henry the Fiddler (4th), Jess Barry (2nd), Isley Detrick (5th), Ranelle Detrick (1st), and Ajo's own Beth Weber (3rd).
- C. Oldest and youngest musicians were Arline Peterson (91) and Ivy Barry (7).
- D. The Fiddlers performed in the Park on Thursday.
- E. Accompanists and judges: Dave Brinkman, Janet Shelby (judge), Darwin Long (judge), Carla Fewkes, Star McMullen (judge) and Martin Fewkes.
- F. Isley Detrick was one of the younger contestants.

**Front Page courtesy of Ajo Copper News**





*Linda Darland, Wilma Cousins, and Ross Riggs. Lots of fiddling history!*

## Tucson Contest Results February 22, 2025

<b>Pee Wee</b> 1 Isley Dietrich 2 Ivy Barry 3 Shalom Montiel  <b>Junior-Junior</b> 1 Aspen Dietrich 2 Roslyn McCarver 3 Gabriela Naiman 4 Sawyer Dietrich 5 Eden Montiel  <b>Junior</b> 1 Ranelle Dietrich 2 Elie Barry 3 Hezekiah Montiel 4 Rebekah Kibbey	<b>Young Adult</b> No Entrants  <b>Adult</b> 1 Jess Barry 2 Corrine Garey 3 Amy Barry  <b>Senior</b> 1 Janet Shelby 2 Kevin DeRusha 3 Laura Barry 4 Katie Bonn 5 Meryl Brown	<b>Young at Heart</b> 1 Peter Rolland 2 Beth Weber 3 Dave Brinkman 4 Betty Allen 5 Matt McConeghy  <b>Twin</b> 1 Ranelle Dietrich/Elie Barry 2 Janet Shelby/Beth Weber 3 Katie Bonn/Dave Brinkman  <b>Trick and Fancy</b> 1 Hezekiah Montiel 2 Isley Dietrich 3 Corrine Garey	<b>Accompanist</b> 1 Dave Brinkman 2 Bruce Wurst 3 Carla Fewkes  <b>Arkansas Traveler</b> 1 Ranelle Dietrich 2 Roslyn McCarver  <b>Judges</b> Danielle Betancourt Starr McMullen David Shoup
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**When you see listeners smile, dance, or tap their foot,  
you know the fiddler is doing something right!**

## Territorial Chapter (Yuma) News

Well it certainly has been a busy and fun time. Our Yuma chapter AOTFA contest went really well. We had a lot of young-under this year. A portion of our group played at the Yuma rodeo while others went to the Ajo contest They fell on the same weekend this year (conquer and divide). We are always busy on Tuesdays in the winter months, with the Library and the VFW. Several couples are holding a concert at the old St. Paul's church in Yuma Feb.19th at 6pm. All in all these are busy times for the Old Time Fiddlers here in Yuma, and we wouldn't have it any other way. Jan Dotson



*Don, Debbie, and Kris-Yuma Jam*

## Tracy Armstrong Remembrance

AOTFA lost another member this last year. Tracy Armstrong was 90 when he passed away October 6, 2024. He started to play music when he was 9 years old. He played mandolin, guitar, and sang along with his dad at the local church. A lot of his relatives sang and played music, so when they got together there were a lot of jams going on. While in school, a man hired Tracy to wash dishes. It lasted 2 days and then the man fired him and then next day hired him to play in his band. Tracy said he guessed he must have played better than he washed dishes.

A group from school formed a band called the Rhythm Masters. Tracy played mandolin and guitar and sang. They played local events and even had a radio show on Saturday morning in Oklahoma City.

Tracy served in the Navy and was certified in Automotive Technology. He was the father of 3 girls, grandfather of 2 boys and a girl, and great-grandfather to 4 boys and 1 girl. He married Barbara Jean in 2000. RIP Tracy.

## Rim Country Chapter

The Rim Country Chapter in the Payson area has disbanded.

**“I still play the fiddle every day. I’m afraid if I don’t, it won’t know who I am.” —Johnny Gimble**

**AOTFA**  
**14210 W. Kiowa Trail**  
**Surprise AZ 85374**

March/April 2025

## The Arizona Fiddler

Membership, Renewal or Change of Address

Annual Dues \$15 Family. Over 80 \$10 Includes Partner

### Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

- |                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rim Country  | Payson Area     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SAOTF        | Tucson Area     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Territorial  | Yuma Area       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verde Valley | Cottonwood Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent  | Anywhere        |

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