

# 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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May/June 2026

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Contact Noreen Johnston to pay your dues. [fiddlerslady@aol.com](mailto:fiddlerslady@aol.com) See Form on p. 8

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## Upcoming Events

[Western Idaho Fiddle Contest](#) Meridian, ID. May 1-2, 2026..

[Nevada State Old Time Fiddlers Contest](#) Eureka, NV. May 15-16, 2026.

[International Peace Garden Fiddle Festival](#) Dunseith, ND. June 4-6, 2026.

[National Oldtime Fiddle Contest](#) Weiser ID. June 16-21 2026.

[Prescott Bluegrass Festival](#) Prescott AZ. June 20-21, 2026.

[Peabody Hale Contest](#) Crawford NE. July 25, 2026 City Park. 63rd Annual.

[Willamette Valley Contest](#) Corvallis OR. August 1, 2026

[AOTFA Events List](#) See Arizona Old Time Fiddle Association Webpage

## Newsletter Back Issues

Back issues of the newsletter are available on the AOTFA website.

<http://www.arizonaoldtimefiddlers.org/newsletter.htm>

Newsletter Items due by the 20th of the month—June 20 for the July issue.

## Territorial Chapter News

Carol O'Brien reports that the Territorial Chapter had a busy winter, with performances at the Library, VFW, Rodeo and the Yuma contest. Many winter visitors have left, and the full time residents will continue to get together this summer.

## World Fiddle Day



The 3rd Saturday in May is World Fiddle Day—**May 16, 2026**. This special day was founded by Irish fiddler Caoimhin Mac Aoidh to commemorate the death of Antonio Stradivari, the renowned violin maker.

Various events and celebrations, including jams and concerts, are held worldwide to mark the occasion. By a 2015 act of the Canadian Parliament, Canada celebrates National Fiddling Day on the same date.

## Make Music Day

**June 21** is world [Make Music Day](https://makemusicday.org/). Launched in 1982 in France as the *Fête de la Musique*, Make Music is celebrated on the same day in more than 2,000 cities in dozens of countries around the world. Completely different from a typical music festival, Make Music is open to anyone who wants to take part. Every kind of musician — young and old, amateur and professional, of every musical persuasion — pours onto streets, parks, plazas, and porches to share their music with friends, neighbors, and strangers. All of it is free and open to the public. <https://makemusicday.org/> A perfect excuse to play some fiddle tunes!

## World Accordion Day

World Accordion Day is celebrated yearly on **May 6**. This annual event commemorates the date in 1829 when Cyrill Demian filed the first patent for the accordion in Vienna, Austria. Organized by the *Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes* (CIA) since 2009, the day serves as a global effort to promote the instrument through concerts, festivals, and educational activities

## Tucson Fiddle Contest

Dear Officers and Board of AOTFA. On behalf of the Tucson Fiddle Contest, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your sponsorship of the Youngest Fiddler and Oldest Fiddler awards. The contest was very successful. Hoping to see many of our members again next year, third Saturday in February (**Feb 20, 2027**). Darwin Long, Contest Director.

## Famous Fiddlers—Wilbur Foss



**Wilbur Foss** (1921 – 2015) was a fiddler from South Dakota, but he was best known as a promoter of the South Dakota Old Time Fiddlers and the Yankton, South Dakota Fiddle Contest. He and his wife Elizabeth started the contest in 1973 and it ran until 2018. It attracted fiddlers from the surrounding area—mainly South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Canada. There were contest divisions for age groups, with the South Dakota residents having their own divisions. In the early days there was a Ladies Division. Wilbur had an Invitational Division and he invited 10 high level fiddlers and paid them a stipend to appear. These folks could also enter the age group divisions in the contest, so even a participant from a distance had a chance to take home some prize money.

Wilbur set up recording equipment at the contest, and got most of the participants to record a tune or two. He put out dozens of LPs, cassette tapes, and CDs over the years. (Some CDs are available at AOTFA events)

Wilbur took the South Dakota Old Time Fiddlers around to community events throughout the state, and even had them perform regularly on WNAX Radio 570 AM in Yankton.

Wilbur came to **Arizona** in the winter for several years and participated in Arizona fiddle events. Elizabeth was his accompanist on piano. Wilbur had a damaged his left fingers in a childhood accident, and he finally started playing at age 55, but had to play left-handed. His dad, Jarle Foss, was a big influence on his love of fiddling.

*Editor's Note:* I attended the Yankton SD Fiddle Contest several times in the late 1970-early 1980s. This was wonderfully inspiring, and it helped me get started on fiddle in 1985, It was interesting to hear the variety of styles from Manitoba to Missouri, and Wisconsin Norwegian waltzes to modern contest style.

**Folks such as Wilbur Foss that have the talent to promote and encourage fiddling are gold!**

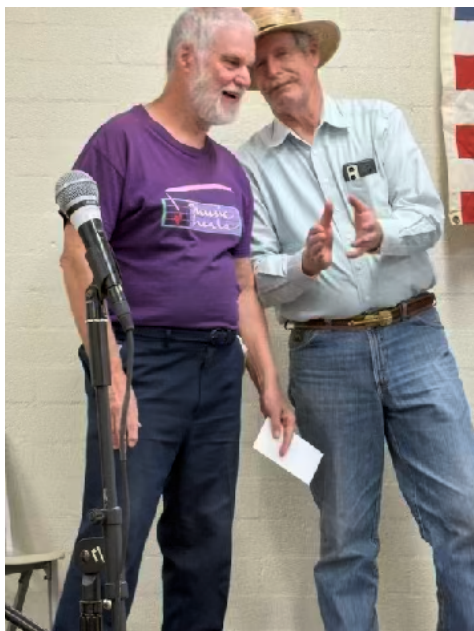
# Ajo Contest Photos



*Ajo Campground Jam*



*Judges Janet, Danielle and Starr*



*Henry and John*



*Paul and Debbie*



*Betty, Avery and Katie*



*Martin and Carla*



*Dan and Linda*



*Amy and Jess*



*Fiddlers at Yuma Plaza*

## **Northwest Regional Contest**

**Debbie Dickerson** 5th in Senior-Senior, **Emily Fewkes** 2nd and **Leah Fewkes** 5th in Junior-Junior, **Aaron Fewkes** 2nd in Adult, and **Carla Fewkes** 3rd in Accompanist. The contest was April 18-19, 2026 in Spokane Valley WA. Congratulations!

# Tucson Contest Pictures



*Betty*



*Meryl and Peter*



*Suzette and Nick*



*Gabriela*



*Ron*



*Elie, Clay and Ben*

# New Brunswick Waltz

Traditional

Chord symbols: G, C, Am, D, G, G, C, Am, D, G, G, Bm, Em, G, Am, D, G, Bm, Em, G, D.

Staff 1: G C Am D

Staff 2: 6 G G

Staff 3: 11 C Am D G

Staff 4: 17 G Bm Em G Am

Staff 5: 23 D G Bm

Staff 6: 27 Em G D

*New Brunswick Waltz* is a beautiful and danceable tune from Eastern Canada. It appears in a few published tune collections, but I have not been able to find out the name of the composer. I first heard this tune played a few years ago, and it "stuck" as a tune to learn!

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
- 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.

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

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

May/June 2026