

THE ARIZONA FIDDLER

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

Dave Brinkman Editor banjodb@gmail.com 307-760-4746

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

September/October 2025

Contact Noreen Johnston to pay your dues. fiddlerslady@aol.com

Upcoming Events

State Fiddle Contest. Payson, AZ **September 5-6, 2025.** Events Center. **DATE CHANGE!**
<https://adventurepayson.com/fiddle/> **Contest Starts at 10:00 Friday, Sept. 5.**

Picking in the Pines. Flagstaff, AZ. September 12-14, 2025

Salome FiddleFest. **November 7-9, 2025.** 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. **NEW DATES**

Wickenburg Contest and Bluegrass Festival **November 14-16, 2025.** Bowman Arena
PLEASE NOTE THE DATES. Earlier newsletters had a different date.

Laveen Folk Festival. November 22, 2025. 2800 W Dobbins Road. Laveen, AZ

Worthen Memorial Contest. January 9-11, 2026. Yuma, AZ. 2577 E. County 14th

Salome FiddleFest. January 16-18, 2026. Salome, AZ. Linda Darland 928-671-0474 for info.

Grande Fiddle Championship. TBA, 2026. Casa Grande, AZ. Tiffany my7gems@cox.net

Bluegrass Roundup. January 30-February 1, 2026. Rodeo Grounds. Apache Junction, AZ.

Ajo Contest. February 6-8, 2026. Ajo, AZ. Ajo Country Club

Matheson Music Festival. February 12-16, 2026. Graham County Fairgrounds. Safford, AZ

Tucson Contest February 21, 2026. Southern AZ Dance Center 4801 E 29th St. Tucson, AZ.

Lake Havasu Bluegrass March 6-8, 2026. Lake Havasu City, AZ. Lake Havasu State Park.

Desert Bluegrass Festival. March 13-15, 2026 Gladden Farms Comm Park. Marana, AZ

Salome FiddleFest March 20-22, 2026. Salome, AZ. Linda Darland 928-671-0474 for info.

AOTFA Events List See Arizona Old Time Fiddle Association Webpage

State Fiddle Contest *Date Change SEPT 5-6*

Dear Fiddle Participants,

We are thrilled to welcome you back to Payson for the **55th Annual Fiddle Contest**, held on **9/5-9/6/2025** as part of the **Northern Gila County Fair**! Please find attached the **event schedule** and **updated contest rules** for your reference. [CLICK HERE FOR SCHEDULE and RULES.](https://adventurepayson.com/fiddle/) <https://adventurepayson.com/fiddle/>

This year, a few important updates have been made regarding **check-in, parking, and fair entry**:

- **Check-In & Parking Pass:** All fiddlers must check in at the **Parks and Recreation tent (look for the purple tent near the fair ticket booth)** to receive a parking pass valid for the entire weekend. This pass must be displayed on the dashboard of any vehicle transporting a contestant (one pass per vehicle with a contestant).
- **Additional Vehicles:** Any other vehicles may either pay the **\$5 parking fee** or park for free at the **Mazatzal Casino across the highway** and use the provided shuttle service.
- **Fair Entry Wristbands:** Contestants will receive **free entry wristbands** for themselves and **two guests**. These will be issued at check-in and will be valid for the entire weekend.
 - The Fair Entry fee is \$5 for all others who do not apply to the contestant and two guests criteria
- **Registration:** You can register by calling **928-472-5110** or online at www.paysonparks.com In-person registration opens at **8:00 AM on Thursday, September 4th** at the Parks and Recreation tent.
- **Camping:** A few **dry camping spots** are still available. Please register as soon as possible to reserve a space.

The Northern Gila County Fair is celebrating Kids Day on Thursday, September 4th. Kids gain entry for free prior to 3pm. There will also be a special opening ceremony celebrating the brave men and women who served in the military. Fair activities and the schedule for equestrian/livestock/fair events can be found at <https://www.northerngilacountyfair.com/>

We are excited to celebrate this milestone year with you and look forward to a fantastic weekend filled with fiddle music, delicious food, and fun fair activities!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. We'll see you soon!

Best regards,

Phoenix Youngcourt, Senior Admin. Support Specialist I Town of Payson Parks & Recreation
P: 928-472-5117 | pyoungcourt@paysonaz.gov

Contest Results

Minnesota State Contest

- **Ranelle Dietrich** 1st Championship Division
- **Sawyer Dietrich** 1st in Junior Junior
- **Sawyer and Isley Dietrich** 1st in Twin

Willamette Valley Contest

- **Janet Shelby** 5th in Senior

Correction—Fiddlers on the Peak Contest (Washington)

- **Janet Shelby** 2nd in the Open Division.
- **Paul Dickerson** 1st in the Senior Division

From Noreen

- I am still looking for photos for AOFTA archives.
- Thanks to all who attended the Celebration of Life for Ed. We had over 100 people and a wonderful time except for the Chino Valley wind.
- AOFTA Board voted to pay entry fees for the juniors, junior junior, and peewees at Payson this year. Also, the AOTFA will sponsor first place for those 3 divisions.
- Any volunteers to man the AOFTA merchandise table at Payson? Contact Noreen fiddlerslady@aol.com



**Get your merch at an AOTFA
Event!**



Sign at the Ajo Country Club

The Hundred Pipers

The Hundred Pipers is a Scottish song and jig attributed to Scottish songwriter Carolina Naime and published in 1852. It takes as its themes events during and after the Jacobite Rising of 1745. The song commemorates the surrender of the town of Carlisle to Prince Charles Edward Stuart, on 18 November 1745, when he invaded England. He entered Carlisle on a white horse, with a hundred pipers playing before him. **Source: Wikipedia.**

Sara Loughran has a nice YouTube version.

The Hundred Pipers

A musical score for the song 'The Hundred Pipers'. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a time signature of 8/8. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes. Chords are indicated by letters A, D, and E above the staff. The score is divided into four systems, with measures 5, 10, and 14 marked at the beginning of the second, third, and fourth systems respectively. The final system includes first and second endings.

A D A E

5 A D A E A 1. 2.

10 A D A E

14 A D A E A 1. 2.



The Arizona Wildflowers: Aspen, Sawyer, Brie, Isley, and Ranelle Dietrich

The Arizona Wildflowers continue to entertain in Arizona and around the country. In the past few months they performed at Picking in the Pines, Gaslight Music Hall, Silver Dollar City, Lost River Bluegrass Festival, Lake Itasca Festival, Arizona Cowboy Poets, and Woodsongs Radio Show. And they all participate in fiddle contests and rodeo events! Aspen and Brie will be competing in the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas this December. The band will be entertaining at the State Fiddle Contest in Payson at 5:30 on Saturday, September 6 (Northern Gila County Fair).

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@thearizonawildflowers/videos>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thearizonawildflowers>

NEWSLETTER ITEMS DEADLINE is 20th of the Month.

October 20th for the November Newsletter.

Southern Arizona Chapter News

Greetings from sunny Baja Arizona,

Things have slowed down to a crawl here as they do every year this time. The monsoon rains seem to be arriving on schedule and each afternoon is filled with the hope of much needed rain.

The Southern Arizona Chapter Weekly Jam has been very well attended with an average of 12 to 15 musicians each week. The audience, though sparse, is very enthusiastic and appreciative.

As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, the **2026 Tucson Fiddle Contest is scheduled for Saturday Feb 21, 2026**. This will be our 84th annual contest. This contest has been held continuously since at least 1941 except for the interruption caused by the covid epidemic.

Due to my advancing age, health and other issues, 2026 will be the last year I will be able to serve as Contest Coordinator. If this contest is to continue beyond this coming year, someone will need to step up and serve in this capacity.

While it would be preferable for someone from the Tucson area to fill this position, it could be done by someone not living here. Most of the contest business can be conducted by email, phone or snail mail. The only day it would be necessary to be in Tucson is the day of the contest.

At present, we have a very good venue partner in the Southern Arizona Square and Round dance Association. We also have a very loyal and dedicated group of volunteers. Funding is currently being provided by donations from the AOTFA, chapters of the AOTFA, and the personal generosity of the many friends of Fiddling in Arizona.

The Tucson Fiddle Contest is the oldest continuous fiddle contest in Arizona and probably the entire United States. If this contest cannot continue it will represent a major loss to Old Time Fiddling in Arizona. Please let me hear from you if you want to help carry on this tradition.

For information on the 2026 Tucson Fiddle Contest see our website at tucsonfiddlecontest.org or email at darwinlong47@gmail.com. God bless you all and safe travels for the remainder of the year.

Darwin Long

Tucson Fiddle Contest Coordinator

Famous Fiddlers



Kenny Baker (June 26, 1926 – July 8, 2011) played fiddle with Bill Monroe for 25 years, and was one of the most influential bluegrass fiddlers. He started playing professionally with country artist Don Gibson in the 1950s, and later joined the Bluegrass Boys. Baker put out many record albums, and his recordings were learned and adapted by all kinds of fiddlers.

We hear his tunes in nearly every fiddle contest. Some of his best known are *Festival Waltz*, *Jerusalem Ridge*, *Lonesome Moonlight Waltz*, *Road to Columbus*, *Roxanne Waltz* and *Washington County*.



Katrina Nicolayeff is an internationally renowned fiddle player and multi-talented musician and teacher. She plays left handed on a standard fiddle.

Katrina began learning old-time fiddle tunes under the guidance of her mother, Bobbie Pearce, a highly accomplished fiddler, and respected teacher. This prepared Katrina to compete in her first fiddle contest at 2 years old. As a child, Katrina won numerous contests nationwide, including 3 National Champion titles in the Small Fry, Junior Junior, and Junior divisions, at the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest in Weiser, Idaho.

Katrina was "Grand Champion" of the National Old Time Fiddler's Contest (Weiser, ID) six times and the Grand Masters Contest (Nashville) four times. She has taught music and performed all over the USA and Canada and played at the White House and Grand Ole Opry.



Tom on Bass



Noreen and Ed

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.

Questions? Contact Darwin Long, darwinlong47@gmail.com or 520-240-3306

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

September-October 2025