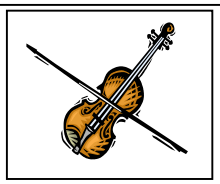
May 2011 Newsletter

A 501 (c) 3 Nonprofit Organization

KEEPING THE FIDDLE SPIRIT ALIVE
YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

A Message from our President, Fred Buckley

Exciting news about State Fiddle Contest and Fiddle Camp....



Dear members of the MSOTFA,

Spring has finally arrived, and we are looking forward to an exciting summer season.

The 16th Annual Montana Fiddle Camp is fast approaching and the numbers of students are slowly increasing. If you are not sure if you can make it to camp or not, send in your deposit. This will give us an idea of how many people we need to prepare for. Don't worry, if you show up at Monarch on the day camp starts, we will get you registered for that week. With the economy the way it is, money may be a problem for a lot of you. I wish we could offer more scholarships to help with the cost of attending camp. Option 3 is a great way to save a chunk of change if you plan on attending this great event. Tent or trailer camping without hookups is a great bargain at $235 for the week. Add $60 and we will provide water and power. All campsites are within walking distance of all the activities.

David Reed, our clawhammer banjo instructor, will be replaced this year by Bill McKay, from Laramie, Wyoming. Bill is an all around musician, as many of you know, and will provide instruction for the novice and advanced players.

The state contest in Choteau is up and running. The contest will be a one day event on July 23, 2011. Kicking off the festivities, will be a street dance on Friday July 22, starting around 6:30. We will have the twin, novelty and dance fiddling contest take place at this time. This last division is a new idea that we came up with. Contestants will be judged on danceability. This is for all the fiddlers that feel more at home playing for the dancers at their local jams. There will be an entry fee for this division and prize money for the top five competitors. You need not be a member to participate in this division. We are really excited about this new addition to our contest. The novelty and twin fiddle contests will be a jackpot as we have done in the past.

The contest on Saturday will be held at the Choteau Pavilion at City Park. All divisions will play their first round in the morning. The afternoon will start with all divisions playing their second round. (Remember, the first and second rounds are an open contest.) Money will be awarded to the top five finalists in each division at the end of the second round. Only the top five Montana resident members, in each division, will move on to the finals on Saturday night. Trophies will be presented to the top five finalists after the third round. First place winners, in each division, will receive certification that they are the Montana State Champions for 2011.

Check out the Choteau Chamber of Commerce website at: www.choteaumontana.com There you will find all the information you need for a wonderful weekend at the Montana State Old Time Fiddlers' Contest. The people of Choteau that have contributed financially are on the fiddle contest webpage. Be absolutely sure you patronize these businesses while you are at the contest. One other thing, there is dry camping at the contest site, which is at the City Park. There are no showers but the bathroom is open 24/7.

We are looking at Three Forks for the convention this fall. We will confirm the dates and location. We are hoping to have the fiddlers' show at the high school auditorium. It is a really nice facility.

Check out the events and camp section of our website (www.montanafiddlers.org.) for other information and for future updates on the fiddle camp, contest, convention and any other events that are coming up this summer.

We hope to see all of you at one or all of these events this year. Take care and keep on fiddling' and pickin'.

Sincerely,

Fred Buckley
406-323-1198 (home) or 406-320-1150 (cell)

More Fiddle Contest Information

These businesses are supporting the 2011 Montana State Fiddle Contest in Choteau:

$500 Sponsors

Gusto Distributing
3 Rivers Communications
Buck's Inc./Buck's Sporting Goods

$250 Sponsors

Main Street Express
John Henry's Restaurant
RPH Irrigation
Burk, Lee & Bieler
The Log Cabin Restaurant

$100 Sponsors

Teton Medical Center
Country Hallmark
Grizzly Marathon
Antler Bar
Dr. Brian McCollom
Teton Banks
CZ Painting

Contest date is July 23, 2011

Dance Fiddling Contest on Friday, July 22nd!

This is a brand new division. It will be held Friday night as part of the street dance. Location will be in downtown Choteau. The number of tunes to be played will be determined by the number of contestants. The judges will be able to view the dance fiddling contestants. One fiddler at a time will be allowed on stage. The judges will be looking for "old-time dance music that represents the old-time Montana dance culture." The contest is open to any fiddler, including non-residents. The time limit will depend on number of contestants. Prize money will be: 1st place $150, 2nd place $125, 3rd place $100, 4th place $75, and 5th place $50.

More Prize Money!

The prize money of the Adult and Senior divisions has been increased to 1st place $150, 2nd place $125, 3rd place $100, 4th place $75, and 5th place $50.

If you want to enter one of the certified divisions of the Montana State Fiddle Contest, you must be a member of the Montana State Oldtime Fiddlers Association 60 days prior to the contest. If you have not done so, mail your dues to your District Secretary. Payments must be postmarked by May 23.

Thanks to those of you who have given me your email addresses. We were able to send out 70 newsletters by email, which saves MSOTFA time and money. If you have not yet given me your email address, please do so, by sending an email to: raynancypadilla@bresnan.net. Thanks, Nancy Padilla, MSOTFA Secretary/Treasurer

MONTANA STATE AND OPEN FIDDLE CONTEST
REGISTRATION FORM

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip Code_____

Phone_____ Email_____

Check one: _____Member MSOTFA, District Number_____

_____Non-member/Non-resident

Age_____ Birth date_____

Name for ONE guest pass_____

Divisions	**Select one**	**Requirements**	**Member fee**	**Non-member Non-resident fee**
Championship	_____	Open to all	$15.00	$20.00
Senior	_____	Age 60 and older	15.00	20.00
Adult	_____	Age 18-59	15.00	20.00
Junior	_____	Age 13-17	15.00	20.00
Junior-Junior	_____	Age 9-12	10.00	15.00
Pee-Wee	_____	Age 8 and under	5.00	5.00
Novice	_____	*Age 18 and older	10.00	10.00
Dance Fiddling	_____	Open to all	15.00	20.00
Accompanist	_____	**Any age	10.00	10.00

*Novice division fiddlers must be beginners over 18 years of age with two years or less fiddling experience, and not have previously contested in the Montana State contest.

**All registered MSOTFA member accompanists are eligible for prize money and trophies.

Send registration form and fees to: Nancy Padilla, Secretary/Treasurer MSOTFA
1010 Mountain Ash Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718

MONTANA STATE OLD TIME FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION
CONTEST RULES

1. Fiddlers, in order to compete for a Montana certified title, must be residents of Montana and be a paid up member of the Montana State Old Time Fiddlers Association at least sixty days prior to the contest.
2. Accompanists must be registered in order to compete for trophies and prize money.
3. Fiddlers must play a hoedown, waltz, and tune of choice other than a hoedown or waltz, in that order, with none repeated in following rounds.
4. No contact microphones or amplified instruments allowed in competition.
5. A fiddler may play alone or with no more than three accompanists; accompanists will not play melody.
6. Judges will score each tune for: danceability, old-time style and tone. Scores will be added and compiled by tabulators.
7. Fiddlers may enter only one division. (Dance fiddling contest does not apply.)
8. Novice division fiddlers must be beginners over 18 years of age with two years or less time since starting to fiddle, and not have previously contested in the Montana State contest.
9. Any protest must be in writing, signed by no less than three fiddlers, and submitted to the president of the MSOTFA.
10. Decisions of the judges and board of directors will be final.
11. Anyone appearing intoxicated (under the influence of liquor or drugs) will not be allowed on stage.
12. It will be the fiddler's responsibility to be ready when called to play in his/her division.
13. When appearing on stage, contestants should be appropriately dressed. Please keep in mind that you are representing the MSOTFA.
14. Anyone having won three consecutive years in their division must enter the next higher division applicable, drop out for a year; or if qualified, be considered as a judge.
15. If a fiddle string breaks, the fiddler will have the option to continue or stop at that point. If the tune is completed, it will be judged as played. If the fiddler stops, he will be allowed to restart with that tune and complete his/her program.
16. Equipment malfunction, or other disruption, beyond the fiddler's control, may constitute sufficient reason to replay the tune in which the incident took place.
17. All recording rights are reserved and will become the property of the MSOTFA.
18. You may enter the contest until the time of the first round of your division begins. If the division in which you are entered has already played its first round, you may not participate in the contest and your entry fee will be refunded. (See Rule 12)