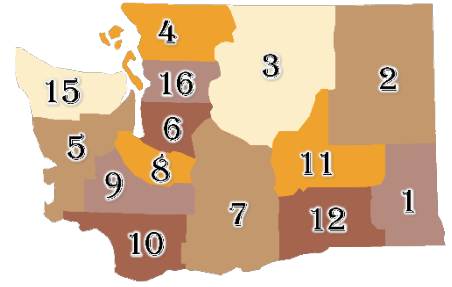




Washington Old Time Fiddlers Association

Preserving an American Tradition



Evergreen Fiddler – November 2022

Tune of the Month: The Girl I Left Behind Me

11/01/2022 – Author: Kitty Steetle

THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME



Both England and Ireland claim to have originated The Girl I Left Behind Me. The tune appears as The Spailpin Fanach (The Rambling Laborer) in Dublin in 1791 although some claim it was around much earlier. In England, the tune was a marching air from around the beginning of the 19th century. Edward Bunting included in a letter in 1840, "It is a pretty tune, and has been played for the last fifty years, to my knowledge, by the fifes and drums, and bands of different regiments, on their leaving the towns for new quarters."^[1]

John Bell, a Northumbrian (North East England) musician, poet, and writer, includes the below lyric for Blyth Camps (or The Girl I Left Behind Me) in his collection, **Rhymes of the Northern Bards** (Newcastle upon Tyne, 1812):^[2]

*I'm lonesome since I left Blyth Camps,
And o'er the moor that's sedgy;
With heavy thoughts my mind is fill'd
Since I parted with my Betsy,
Whene'er I turn to view the place
The tears fall down and blind me
When I think on the charming grace
Of her I left behind me.—*

In America, legend has it that it was overheard being sung by a British prisoner of war during the War of 1812 and caught on among the American infantries. It was played by both the Union and Confederacy armies during the American Civil War and was a favorite tune of General George Custer.^[3]

Eloise Hubbard Linscott includes a The Girl I Left Behind Me contradance in her collection, **Folk Songs of Old New England** (Hamden [CT], 1939):^[4]

The Girl I Left Behind Me – square formation, 4 couples in a set

Circle eight hands around 8 bars

First couple lead to the right halfway round 4 bars

Pass right through between the two 4 bars

Swing the girl behind you 8 bars

Ladies grand chain 8 bars

All promenade with the dear little maid, that girl you left behind you 8 bars

References

1. [https://tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Girl_I_Left_Behind_Me_\(1\)_The](https://tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Girl_I_Left_Behind_Me_(1)_The)
2. *Loc. Cit.*
3. Linscott. Folk Songs of Old New England, 1939, p 79.

District 2 Report (Ferry, Lincoln, Pend O'Reille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties)

11/01/2022 – Author: Kyle Peterson

Our political scene is in full swing, with charges, countercharges and a seasonal amount of mud-slinging. Good thing it has been a very dry fall. Anyway, it will soon be settled and we'll get back to normal, whatever that means. I am very pleased that there are some public performances in District 2 – music performances have resumed under the careful tutelage of JayDean Ludiker at Broadway, and I understand that monthly jams have been reinstated by the Piney Ridge Pickers at another of the local retirement homes. Thank you, everyone, we admire your dedication and persistence. I largely have remained inactive, but I hope to check out a local jam and will report on any new information next month.

District 2 Chair: Kyle Peterson wotfa.kyle@gmail.com 509-280-5603

District 4 Report (Skagit, Whatcom, Island and San Juan Counties)

11/01/2022 – Author: Barry Cole

For November, district 4 has a meeting, a playout, and two jams:

1st. Thursday, November 3 = Play out at Sedro Woolley Senior Center at 11:30 am - 12:30 p.m. 715 Pacific St, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

2nd and 4th. Fridays, **November 11**: Meeting and Jam, and **November 25**: Jam.

both are at Mt. Vernon Senior Center from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm.

1401 Cleveland Ave, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Election of new officers took place at the October 28 Meeting. Barry will need to give up the position of chair at the end of the year. No one has run for the office, so it is not clear who the chair will be next year. Sarah Buntin was re-elected to serve as treasurer.

Chair / Reporter - Barry Cole sounds.trad@gmail.com

Secretary - David Andersson anderssoncrossborder@gmail.com

Kevin Watson <kevin.watson1861@gmail.com>

Treasurer - Sarah Buntin, Cell 360-320-1696, Sarah's Event scheduling Phone is # 360-679-6595 email: itsrustyoldhalo@frontier.com

Calendar Fred Robbins email: fred@robbinsmetal.com

District 5 Report (Kitsap, Mason, Grays Harbor & Pacific Counties)

11/01/2022 – Author: Sandra OKelly

Change. The one certain thing about life. As the seasonal chill sets in, we will leave the Salmon Center Barn for the climate control of the Silverdale Mall, once again, after more than 2 years! The days of the week are changing too.

Regular Jams are now the First and Third TUESDAY of each month

1-4 pm at Silverdale Mall next to Dick's Sporting Goods

November 1st will be our first jam back at the familiar place where we frequently have an audience and have even picked up a few new musicians!

A Celtic Jam will be held at the same location on the same first and third Tuesday From 5-7pm

Contact for the Celtic Jam is Sally Camp... ameasureatime@gmail.com Or 360-271-7105

Let's Play Together. Bring a friend!

Our regular 3rd Saturday monthly District 5 meeting for November is Cancelled due to remodeling at the Kitsap Square Dance Hall. There will be a Holiday potluck and jam at our December 17th meeting, noon to 3 pm at the Dance Hall at 6800 W Belfair Hwy, Bremerton. No business meeting, just a good time for eatin' and jammin'. Come join us.

Playouts:

Liberty Shores, Poulsbo Tuesday November 8

Bay Point, Bremerton Tuesday November 22

Contact Kay McCarthy for details: 360-895-0628

District 6 Report (King County)

11/01/2022 - Author: Jenny Swanson

Welcome to November all you Washington Old Time Fiddlers in District 6! It is now time to renew your membership or to join again since you let your membership lag. Join now before the holidays are upon us and you miss the deadline of Dec. 31st (you can join after this, you just don't get your full year). Your membership dues are really important to this organization of ours and it's so inexpensive to join. Dues are \$25.00 for the first person and \$5.00 for each additional person in the same household. To join online, go to WOTFA.org and click on join. To join by sending a check in the mail, send it to the following address: WOTFA, 16410 84th St. NE, Ste. D, PMB 550, Lake Stevens, WA 98258. Write your name, address, city, state, County (as in King), zip code, phone, cell phone, email, and names of additional household members on a piece of paper. Enclose a check made out to WOTFA, add an envelope and stamp and you'll be done! Whew! Thanks to Noel for doing this membership job for our state.

Our October meeting/jam was a really fun one. We had about 15 people and many fiddlers once the kids arrived. Pictures below (click on them to enlarge).



Roy Calvert was again elected as chair and Bernie Turner and Jack Hadfield continue in their roles as treasurer and secretary. Thanks to all of them for continuing to do these jobs in District 6.

We are slowly acquiring more playdates at retirement facilities. Several are scheduled monthly with others happening a few times a year. Thanks to all who have been playing at them. Both the audience and musicians are enjoying themselves. If you are interested in coming to play with us, contact Bernie Turner at bernus.turner@comcast.net. Following this is a picture at our playdate at Stafford on Oct 26th.



Our only event in November is on the 12th from noon to 4 pm at the Mason's Hall in DesMoines as usual. It will start with a circle jam, break for a short meeting and lunch, then resume jamming until we clear the building at 4 pm. No jam later in November as it conflicts with thanksgiving.

We are looking forward to our Christmas party on December 10th. Put it on your calendar now and save the date. It's lots of fun! It's time now to get out those Christmas songs and start practicing. We meet at the DesMoines Masonic Hall like we always do for every event. All are invited and we have a finger food potluck for lunch. Bring something to share or just eat with us. More details will follow in the Dec/Jan newsletter.

Music is such a gift. Keep a playin.

District 6 Chair: Roy Calvert roycalvert35@gmail.com 425-228-5846

Reporter: Jenny Swanson timbuktoe@yahoo.com

District 8 Report (Pierce County)

11/01/2022 – Author: Barbara Peterson

Many opportunities to play music with us in Pierce County!

Here are some of our ongoing activities:

Heads UP! Our meetings/Jams have started again!

3rd Sundays 2PM District 8 Meeting and Jam. We will meet November 20 at the Mid County Community Center (MCCC) 10205 44th Ave E, Tacoma, WA 98446. It's easy to find just off of 512 and Canyon Road, behind the school on 104th. There's plenty of parking! We'll have a short meeting followed by a long circle jam. Join us! Bring a friend! Meet some nice people! Finger foods welcome.

Mondays 1:30PM-3:30PM Circle jam at Puyallup Senior Center – 210 W. Pioneer Ave. Again, easy to find and park. Formerly the "6ft Tree Jam" outdoors, it's now the "Indoor Tree Jam". Come on and try it!

Wednesdays 5-8PM a slower jam session at the Golden Rose Mobile Park in Puyallup. This will be a good place to start at an easier pace. BUT please contact me to confirm. Contact: Barbara Peterson bmacleanp@comcast.net

1st Friday 3:30-7:30PM Circle Jam at Wilco Farm Store in Gig Harbor. 3408 Hunt St NW in the back. Contact Matt 202.631.3417

Fridays 1PM-4PM. Jam at Golden Rose Mobile Park Community. (No jam on the 1st Friday, 'cause that's Gig Harbor jam above.)

Playouts! **Mark you calendars!**

November 25 3:30 Brookdale Allenmore.

3rd Thursdays 11AM. We have also resumed our monthly playouts at the Mid County Comm. Center luncheon. This is where our meetings etc. are held. Each month has been covered by a group, except December which is still open. Contact: Barbara.

2nd Thursday 1:30PM. We have resumed our quarterly playouts at Franke Toby Jones Retirement Community Center in December and March. Contact: Ron Duncan 253-549-2553.

Heads Up! Some discussion has begun about re-convening our popular dance band. We used to meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays 5:30PM at the MCCC. Make a note to get involved when we get going again.

We would like to see/hear more musicians at our circle jams and meetings. So why not drop in? Bring a friend and an instrument, of course! If you have questions, give us a call! Barbara (253) 926-8457

Welcome new members: Jacqui, Paul, Dave.

District 8 Chair: Barbara Peterson bmacleanp@comcast.net 253-926-8457

District 9 Report (Lewis & Thurston Counties)

11/01/2022 – Author: Christie Easter

Hi Everyone: for the month of November we will be having our regular monthly meeting and jam on Friday, November 4th from 10am-Noon at Faith Baptist Church in Chehalis.

To find the Church take I-5 to exit 79, then head EAST off the interstate (back over the freeway).

Take a LEFT on N. National Ave and go 1/3 mile, then take a RIGHT on Coal Creek Rd.

Go 1.1 miles on Coal Creek, then turn right at the Church driveway.

The jam is open to all ages and abilities and you do not have to be a member of WOTFA to attend the jam.

There will be coffee and tea and some snacks but it won't be a potluck. Everyone is welcome at the jam.

We don't have any playdates in November, but it's never too early to start working on those Christmas tunes. December 25th will be here before you know it!

If you have questions or need more information please call or text me (Christie) at 360-791-5185.

Happy Autumn and hope to see everyone very soon!

District 9 Chair: Christie Easter 360-791-5185. mrwillys@aol.com

Monthly meeting & jam: 1st Friday 10 am at Faith Baptist Church 436 Coal Creek Rd Chehalis

District 12 Report (Benton, Franklin, & Walla Walla Counties)

11/01/2022 – Author: Shawn Hughes

District 12: Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties: Chair: Joe Gunter 509-948-1772

Monthly Meeting: 2nd Sunday at Trios Adult Day Services Building, 10 N. Washington St.

Kennewick. (Enter at back) Doors open at 2:00PM for jamming; Finger potluck at 3:00, followed by short business meeting and more jamming.

DISTRICT 12 MONTHLY PLAYDATES

1st Wed.	6:00 PM	Hawthorne Court, 524 N Ely, Kennewick
2nd Wed.	6:15 PM	Guardian Angel, 245 Van Giesen, Richland
3rd Wed.	2:00 PM	Parkview 7820 W 6th, Kennewick
4th Wed.	3:00 PM	Bonaventure-1800 Bellerive Dr., Richland

Extras:

2nd Thursday 7PM. Knight of Columbus Hall 2500 Chester Rd, Richland, WA

Starting October

November 18th 7PM. Round Table Pizza 3201 W Court St. Pasco WA

Again! KC Hall is back. Second Thursday of every month at 7 PM. This month it is November 10th from 7-9. For the time being we will keep the KC hall jam to a circle jam format, as attendance and musicians grow we will look into going back to the show type style. Last month was great, we ended up having lots of musicians and two different circles going.

Secondly, The pizza jam last month was a great success. We are going to have another this month as well. The jam is at the Round Table Pizza in Pasco this month. We have the large room reserved so invite your friends and family. Please come and enjoy some pizza and fiddle tunes.

District 12 Chair: Joe Gunter gunterboys43@gmail.com 509-948-1772

District 16 Report (Snohomish County)

11/01/2022 – Author: Dianne Gooch

Our jam sessions continue and the group of jammers changes each time. We always have a fairly full room. Thanks to Dave and Noel for the faithful commitment to District 16. Mark your calendars for the 2nd & 4th Friday nights, 5:30 – 10:00 pm (or a bit later) at the Sisco Heights Community Club, 13527-99th Ave NE, Arlington, WA 98223.

At our October 28 meeting, we held voting for our District Chairman. Noel Lareau was unanimously voted in again and she has done a great job for District 16. Other positions are appointed by the Chairman. One position we could really use is someone who is computer savvy and willing to handle our district publicity. Just talk to Noel if you are interested.

Several of our district musicians will be playing for 3 different Harvest Party events for 3 days in a row around Halloween. Musicians want to play, play play.

Our next WOTFA Midway Jam will be Sunday, November 13, 1:30-4:00 pm, at the Lynnwood Library (19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood) on Sunday. We had a record number of 20 musicians.

We have a great time playing fiddle tunes, bluegrass tunes, some swing tunes and being challenged with new tunes. Feel free to ask other musician friends to join us. We are thankful to the Lynnwood Library for freely welcoming us to use this great room. Other districts might want to check in with their local libraries to see if a room is available without cost.

District 16 Chair: Noel Lareau - 360-691-5907 e-mail: Noelula@aol.com

Reporter: Dianne Gooch DLGooch2305@gmail.com

Sunshine Chair: Mayves Anderson mande93221@yahoo.com

Playout coordinator: Gary Nordby gtnordby@frontier.com