

Washington Old Time Fiddlers Association

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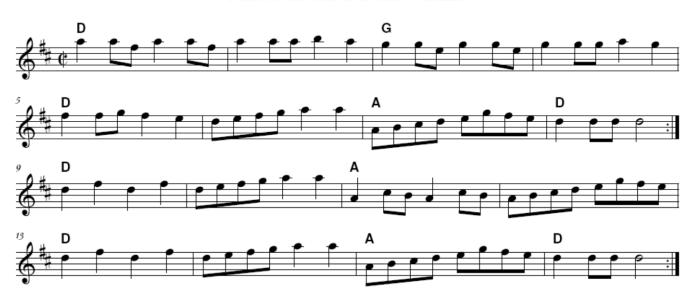
Preserving an American Tradition

Evergreen Fiddler – May 2023

Mississippi Sawyer

5/1/2023 – Author: Kitty Steetle

MISSISSIPPI SAWYER



The popular Old Time tune, Mississippi Sawyer, is thought to have evolved from the British Isles tune, The Downfall of Paris, and is still known by that name in some parts of America, mainly Tennessee and the Ozark region. The tune apparently goes back further in that it can be traced back to the French Revolution (c. 1780) as *Ça Ira* or *les aristocrats a la lanterne* (translated as `aristocrats to the lamp-post' roughly `let's lynch the aristocrats'). In America, it appears in print in Knauff's tune collection, **Virginia Reels** Vol 4, No 4 (Baltimore, 1839) as Love from the Heart, but notably Knauff's tune Mississippi Sawyer in Vol 1, No 7, is a different tune all together.

A 'Mississippi Sawyer' is the term for submerged tree stumps that were uprooted by flooding along the Mississippi River. These stumps then catch on passing riverboats making a difficult journey that much more hazardous. American writer and humorist, Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens, 1835 – 1910), named his famous fictional character, Tom Sawyer, after this river menace.⁴

- 1. https://tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Downfall_of_Paris_(The) []
- 2. It is not often that tunes are popular among both the Irish and English, but when explained through the lens of 'violent revolutionary' it starts to make sense. You may find it interesting to listen to The Dubliner's version of The Downfall of Paris and think to yourself, 'This sweet loping tune was a bloody revolution song?! That's crazy talk!'[]

- 3. Unfortunately, I could not find a facsimile of the complete Knauff's Virginia Reels available online. But all four volumes are available in the appendix of Goertzen's George P. Knauff's Virginia Reels and the History of American Fiddling (Jackson, MS, 2017).[]
- 4. https://tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Mississippi Sawyer (1) []

Fiddle Camp 2023

5/1/2023 – Author: Corrine Agnew

Registration is looking great! We are almost to 100 students and it's only been a month. Our total student count last year was 104. Yay!

As of 4/29 there are only 4 more spots available in the piano class and Ruthie's AM class is full so don't delay getting registered.

This year's camp shirts are in memory of Vivian & Phil and others that were instrumental in the foundation of this organization and the workshop. Purchase your shirts now so you will have them before camp. https://www.bonfire.com/store/wotfa/

See you soon, Corrine Agnew

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

5/1/2023 – Author: Kyle Peterson

Once again we are sponsoring an outstanding collection of young musicians to Moses Lake Fiddle Camp: Allegra, Jancy, Karis, Charity, and Daniel Adams; Clark, Jayne, Helen and Leah Huguenin; Will, Robby and Caleb Mansfield; Tyler Goodwin and Olivia Elmore. If it seems like several of the attendees have the same last name, it's just a coincidence. The Adams, Huguenins, Mansfields and Goodwin are now tasked to seek out Olivia Elmore, invite her to play and make sure that she has a good time.

We are anticipating the Northwest Regional Fiddle Contest, starting April 28 through the weekend. Then Fiddlers On The Peak will be rocking the house on May 13. It is a very exciting time, with familiar faces and new musicians coming out to try out their proficiency. It is so great to be able to listen to so many talented musicians who have been working a long time to develop their distinct style. I think everyone always has a lot of fun, despite a few moments of nervous anticipation and general queasiness. Oh, to aspire to a stage presence greater than a puddle of sweat!

After a couple of delays due to the reappearance of COVID at the local Veterans' Home, we are hoping to reinstitute monthly performances towards the end of May. If you are interested in playing for the Spokane vets, contact Kyle Peterson at wotfa.kyle@gmail.com.

Got to go practice!

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

5/1/2023 - Author: Fred Robbins

For May 2023, District 4 has a meeting, a play-out, and two jams:

- 1st. Thursday, May 4 th. 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, May 12th.: Meeting and Jam.
- May 26th. Jamboth are at Mt. Vernon Senior Center from 6:30 pm 9:00 pm. (1401 Cleveland Ave, Mount Vernon, WA 98273)

Dist 4 – Summary notes for April's gatherings:

Thursday April 6th. = Easter Luncheon at the Sedro Woolley Sr. ctr. consisted of Baked Ham, Scalloped potatoes, salad, and a specialty cake; all of those delights for our taste buds awaited to be severed to us; as we gathered one by one to bring music to the peaceful S/W Sr. ctr.; Murphy's law was present as the sound system had all been unplugged for a good cause; lively action commenced as we eyed the clock; trying to start on time was delayed a wee bit; grace time at the close redeemed us; smiles, clapping, and the Easter spirit prevailed with our great audience as well with our 15 faithful musicians; with voice and instrument they made the room alive in sound waves to delight us! Thank you all for your great songs; and tribute songs today; Diana, Sarah, Danny, Steve, Gary, Dwight, Jack, Fred, Duayne, Debbie, Denise, Sarah Stixrud, Rhoxann, and Sharon and Irene from the Ctr. joined in the singing; with a grand finale in the united voices singing Just a Closer Walk With Thee; and it sounded very good! Special thanks to Irene in helping Dwight, Forest, and Fred in solving sound system plug in issues; without Irene's help we would not have had the sound we needed! Thank you all for a very memorable Easter Play-out! See you all soon at Mount Vernon Sr. ctr. "Music is the mediator between the spiritual and the sensual life." — Beethoven Thank You Sr. Ctr, servers, and helpers; we appreciate you all!

"Several research studies have revealed that music is an excellent way to unite people and create a sense of social connectedness."

This will get you fiddling! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DlQAykSmf8s 2022 National Old Time Fiddlers Contest and Festival Weiser Idaho.

https://wotfa.org/event/fiddle-camp-2023/ Check out Fiddle Camp! https://www.facebook.com/groups/1496921590526611/

A spectacular turn out of 19 willing music participants at our April 14th. Friday Jam / Meeting in sunny Mount Vernon; and icing on the cake with 18 in the audience; in the words of Jackie Gleason, "how sweet it is"! And sweet it was at the 8 p.m. break with 2 Coconut Cream pies from our Blue Ribbon Pie maker, Diana Morgan, and Sarah's Pumpkin dump Cake; and others that contributed various cookies; thank you all! And our musicians present, Carol, Steve, Gary, Jack, Fred, Danny, Diana, Roxhann, Rich, Sarah, Dwight, Sirkku, Suzie, Denise, TJ, Forest, Barry, Sue, and Steve Dechenne. Barry and Hilary, and friend Sue joined us following their playing with Dist.16; happily reporting that it was a great turn out there of 24 or so musicians and some audience; that they started earlier about 3 pm till 10 pm, folks come and go; thank you folks for the update! We too will be discussing in the fall starting earlier. We too are grateful for our better turnout; some of our group mentioned it was like it use to be to be! Were very thankful; and for our dedicated Audience folks too; thank you!

6:35 – 6:50 p.m. We had our meeting, discussing:

- 1. Play -out update; Sarah contacted the Sedro Wooley Sr.ctr about having a 2nd payout there; their "Advisory Board decided that staying with the 1st Thursday of the month performance was the way that they wish to continue." Sarah will be calling some of the other facilities to see if they want us to come again. Our goal has been, and still is to do play -outs to raise funds to have students take lessons.
- 2. We discussed having our teacher Diana be paid to teach Roxhann for a while; her brother has a hurt arm and cannot take lessons currently; we discussed and voted and approved to pay Diana to give Roxhann lessons.
- 3. Circle discussion; some time back several in our group wanted to form a circle and play music; it was decided to give it a try; we opened up the discussion again to see how everyone felt after the trial circle run; folks voiced their opinions; along with how the audience felt; we then used the democratic way and voted; the majority wanted to return to the previous form; so next time we will set up in a horseshoe / semi circle given the room area; to give everyone room; and to make it good for the audience too! Thank you all for your good thoughts and participation!

"May your heart always be joyful. May your song always be sung." Bob Dylan

Respectfully submitted, On behalf of the Fiddlers,

Fred Robbins

Music is life! Take a moment to visit the W.O.T.F.A. Home Website https://wotfa.org/ See The Tune of the Month! AND lots of other information!!!

Chair / Reporter- Chair needed.

Secretary – David Andersson anderssoncrossborder@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)

5/1/2023 – Author: Sandra OKelly

May is here! Sunshine will certainly follow! Lots of Observances. Besides May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day, Mother's day and many health related observances some music related days are May 22nd- National Buy a Musical Instrument Day and the 25th-National Sing Out Day. May is also International Respect for Chickens Month with their special day on May 4th. To show your respect think about playing Cluck Old Hen, The Chicken Reel, Cacklin' Hen and check out this You Tube by The Dubliners of The Hen's March to the Midden~ The Dubliners – The Hen's March To The Midden (live 2008) Lots of clucking sounds for the fiddles.

District 5 had 2 playouts in April. We have a fun time and try to have one or 2 sing alongs that the residents really like. Looking forward to attending Fiddle Camp at Moses Lake this summer. Don't forget that registration is now open. https://wotfa.org/event/fiddle-camp-2023/ See you there. Bring some friends. Don't miss out on a good time and you're guaranteed to learn a thing or two while you're there. The instructors are top notch.

Regular Jams continue the First and Third TUESDAY of each month

1-4 pm at Silverdale Mall next to Dick's Sporting Goods Come join us and bring a friend!

A Celtic Jam will follow at the same location on the same first and third Tuesday
4:30-6:30 pm Written music is provided
Contact for the Celtic Jam is Sally Camp... ameasureatatime@gmail.com Or 360-271-7105

Let's Play Together

Our usual MAY business meeting on the 3rd Saturday is CHANGED due to an event scheduled at the Square Dance Hall. Our LAST business meeting until September will be before the Tuesday, May 16th Jam at Silverdale Mall at 12:30. Usual Jam to follow.

Playouts for May:

- May 17-Willows @ 3pm
- May 20-Port Orchard Farmer's Market 10-1pm
- May 26- Canterbury 2pm

Contacts for playouts: Sharon Habener habs_@msn.com or Kay McCarthy kaycmccarthy@gmail.com

District 5 Chair: Kent McCabe dkmccabe0723@gmail.com 360-830-0317

Respectfully submitted, Sandi O'Kelly s okelly@msn.com

District 6 Report (King County)

5/1/2023 - Author: Jenny Swanson

Welcome to May 2023! We've had a good year so far in District 6 with good meetings and jams and several enjoyable playouts. Also, if you hadn't heard, we've scheduled two extra jams this year. Who says old dogs can't learn new tricks?

The May jam will have already happened by the time you read this, but if you missed it, there's still the June one. This will take place on June 3rd from 1 pm to 4 pm at our regular venue (the DesMoines Masonic Hall). All information is on the calendar on the WOTFA website.

Our playdates have been going well and we sure appreciate the folks who are volunteering their time to regularly play in them. I especially want to mention Joanne and Roy Harvey who are playing practically every time they are in town. They are a great couple who enjoy sharing the music they love with the folks we play for!

In last month's newsletter, I promised a couple of pictures of our April 1st meeting and jam, so here they are. Just for your information the picture with Clayton and the singer Emma is neat because they are exactly 90 years apart! Not many places you can go and have that wide a range of ages!





Also, remember to sign up for fiddle camp if you are interested. You have to be a current member to even see the details and to sign up. However, the cost is reasonable at \$175.00 for adults and \$75.00 for kids for the week. Also, many districts are giving scholarships to the kids who want to go. There are a variety of lessons for fiddles as well as other instruments. Check it out. It should be loads of fun.

Here's hoping we will soon have warmer, sunnier weather! Regardless, keep playing your music and get with your friends to play as well. It really is a necessity!

Any questions or comments contact Jenny Swanson at timbutkoe@yahoo.com

Thanks for reading this. It helps to know people care when I write this every month.

Jenny Swanson, timbuktoe@yahoo.com

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

Reporter: Jenny Swanson timbuktoe@yahoo.com

District 8 Report (Pierce County)

5/1/2023 – Author: Barbara Peterson

There are many opportunities to play music with us in Pierce County, Come and See!

Ongoing Jams

- 3rd Sundays 2PM District 8 Meeting and Jam. We will meet May 21 at the Mid County Community Center (MCCC). We'll have a short meeting followed by longer circle jam at 1025 44th Ave E, Tacoma 98446. Behind the school, there's plenty of parking. Bring a friend and an instrument. Meet some nice people! Finger foods welcome. Note: we will not meet June, July, August.
- Wednesdays! 1:30PM-3:30 Circle jam at Puyallup Senior Center 210 Pioneer Ave. Again easy to find, easy to park. This is a change!! We are going to meet on Wednesdays, not Mondays, through the month of May to see if this will work for us. Let me know if you can't do this, OK?
- 1st Fridays 3:30PM-7:30 Gig Harbor Circle Jam. Contact Matt 202.631.34147
- Other Fridays 1PM "Live Music Friday" at the Golden Rose Mobile Park community center. Contact Barbara 253.926.8457

Mark your calendars for these Playouts!!

- 3rd Thursdays, 11:00 Mid County Community Center above. Not June, July, Aug. Contact Barbara
- 2nd Thursday, 1:30PM Franke Tobey Jones June 8, Sept 14 and Dec 21. Contact Ron
- May 17, 2:30PM Brookdale Allenmore Assistive Living Contact Ron ronduncan596@gmail.com
- June 8, 1:30PM Franke Tobey Jones Retirement Comm. Contact Ron
 July 7, 3:30PM Brookdale Allenmore Independent Living Contact Ron

Upcoming Events Click on the hyperlinks!

- Contra Dance every 3rd Sat. 7:30-9PM at Wells Hall https://tacomacontradance.org/
- Annual WOTFA Music Camp in Moses Lake July 10-14 https://fiddlecamp.wotfa.org/
- Classes are posted https://fiddlecamp.wotfa.org/2023-class-descriptions/
- Registration is Open https://wotfa.org/fiddle-camp-2023-registration/
- Fiddler's on the Peak Contest May 13 in Chewelah https://fiddlersonthepeak.org/
- Centralia Campout August 18024 Always a hoot! https://www.centraliacampout.com/

Some folks weren't able to listen to the recording of Bob Perry's tune last month, so I've added it again here. You have to click on the hyperlink. https://wotfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/01-Thats-The-Way-Love-Goes.m4a

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

District 9 Report (Lewis & Thurston Counties)

5/1/2023 – Author: Christie Easter

For the month of May we will be having our regular 1st Friday open jam on Friday, May 5th from 10am-Noon at Faith Baptist Church, located at 436 Coal Creek Rd in Chehalis. To find the Church take I-5 to exit 79, then head EAST. Take a LEFT at N. National Ave, then go 1/3 mile. Take a RIGHT on Coal Creek Rd and go 1.1 mile, then turn RIGHT into the Church driveway.

The jam is free and open to the public and all ages and abilities are encouraged to attend, including beginners and people who just want to listen to Old Time and Bluegrass tunes. There will be coffee and tea and snacks but it won't be a potluck.

Also, Colonial Stillwater Estates in Centralia is asking if we can resume our playdate there. Before the pandemic we used to play every 2nd Wednesday from 4:00pm-5:00pm and it sounds like that time slot is available currently. We usually play around 20 tunes for the hour that we are there, and work from a playlist, and there will be music and chords for all the tunes on the playlist. I believe they give us \$65 for the play date, and that really helps the District 9 youth scholarship fund have enough money in it from year to year. So if you can help with the play date please let me know.

Also, if it's acceptable to everyone, I'd like to have a summer break from the jam in July and August, then resume in September. Let me know what you think!

If you have questions or need more information call or text me (Christie) at 360-791-5185, otherwise we'll see you on May 5th at 10am.CHAIRPERSON: Christie Easter 360-791-5185. mrwillys@aol.com
JAM INFO: First Friday of every month 10am-Noon at Faith Baptist Church, 436 Coal Creek Rd, Chehalis

District 10 Report (Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wakiukum Counties)

5/1/2023 – Author: Stephana Johnson

District 10 News and Events:

May 7th Covington House Performance

Sunday, May 7th open to the public. Join local fiddlers for performances at the historic Covington House.

Fiddle Camp

District 10 Chairperson Denice Carter will be teaching intermediate/ advanced fiddling at the Fiddle Summer Camp, July 10-14

Garage Sale Fundraiser for the WA State Fiddle Championships will be held in East Vancouver Washington Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 8-3 pm. Students will be fiddling and performing at the sale venue.

Donations for the sale, as well as direct donations for the WA State Fiddle Championships, are welcome.

2023 Washington State Fiddle Championships

August 5th and 6th at the Clark County Fair

CHAIR- Denice Carter Fidlmom1@gmail.com



TREASURER- Janet Gunter <u>Leejanetrubyowen@gmail.com</u>
SECRETARY – Jennifer Rodriguez <u>Belljennifer@hotmail.com</u>
Co SECRETARY-Newsletter & PR Stephana Johnson <u>Stephana.johnson@gmail.com</u>
OUT REACH – In charge of OLD TIME JAMS AND ACTIVITIES.Tim Smith
BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE: Ricky Selman – fidlson@aol.com

District 11 Report (Grant & Adam Counties)

5/1/2023 – Author: Charlie Root

District 11 held their April meeting and jam on April 16th. We were missing a few members, but we had a good audience, with a number of people attending for the first time. The jam went well, and we received a number of positive comments from the audience.

We have added a new monthly playout. We are playing at the Cambridge in Quincy again. We played there before the covid, and we returned again in March. We play there on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 10:30. We are almost back to our pre-covid schedule again.

Monthly meeting: 3rd Sunday at 1:30 PM – Jam 2:00-4:00. Moses Lake Senior Center, 608 E. 3rd Ave. Moses Lake

Playouts

- 2nd Tues. 2:30 PM Coventry House Assisted Living, 430 N. 2nd Ave. Othello
- 2nd Wed. 10:00 AM Pioneer Village, 816 Sharon Ave. Moses Lake
- 2nd Wed. 1:30 PM Avamere, 8425 Aspi Blvd. NE, Moses Lake
- 3rd Tues. 10:00 AM McKay Healthcare & Rehab Center, Soap Lake
- 3rd Thurs. 10:00 AM Brookdale Hearthstone, 905 S. Pioneer Way, Moses Lake
- 4th Tues 10:30 AM The Cambridge 301 H Street SW, Quincy
- 4th Thurs. 10:00 AM Summer Wood, 830 NW Sunburst Ct., Moses Lake

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

5/1/2023 – Author: Shawn Hughes

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.

No Meeting in May (Mother's Day)

Monthly Playouts

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

Extra Fun!

- May 8th & May 22 10:30 AM Adult Day Services 10 N. Washington St, Kennewick
- 2nd Thursday May 11 7PM Knight of Columbus Hall 2500 Chester Rd, Richland
- May 19th. 6:30PM Round Table Pizza 3201 W Court St, Pasco
- June 10th Meeting at the Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival

May has come so quick but the nice weather couldn't come quick enough! We would like the thank and celebrate the many wonderful Moms and "Music Moms" in our district. Mothers day falls on our meeting date this month so because of that we will be cancelling the meeting. Take the weekend to celebrate all these wonderful people that we call Moms. Many of them are the ones who helped and encourage the music that we all love to share.

I would also like to bring the June meeting to attention, we are planning to have our meeting out at the Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival which is located out at Sacajawea park. We would be having a district bbq/potluck and jam.

Chair: Joe Gunter 509-948-1772

District 15 Report (Jefferson & Clallam Counties)

5/1/2023 – Author: Rita Hubbard

Mark your calendars! District 15 will have their campout on June 16, 17 and 18 at the Quilcene Community Center — Hwy 101 in Quilcene. There are limited campsights and no reservations. But if you let me know for sure you'll be there we may be able to work something out. This will be the last regular jam session until September. Hope you can make it!

We will be at St. Luke's Church in Sequim for our 2nd Saturday jam starting at 10:00 am and at the Tri Area Community Center in Chimacum the 4th Saturday starting at 11:00 – all are welcome!

District 16 Report (Snohomish County)

5/1/2023 - Author: Dianne Gooch

We now start the jams on the 2nd & 4th Friday nights, 3:00 – 10:00 pm (or a bit later) at the Sisco Heights Community Club, 13527-99th Ave NE, Arlington, WA 98223. This change seems to be working out well with musicians coming and going to fit their schedule. There are several die-hards who stay for all the hours. Coffee will be available. Thanks to Dave & Noel for hosting all these hours.

Our next **WOTFA Midway Jam** will be **Sunday, May 28, 1:30-4:00 pm**, at the Lynnwood Library (19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood). We have 15-25 musicians at these jams. We have a great time playing fiddle tunes, bluegrass tunes, some swing tunes and being challenged with new tunes. We are thankful to the Lynnwood Library for freely welcoming us to use this great room.

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