

Washington Old Time Fiddlers Association Preserving an American Tradition



Evergreen Fiddler – December 2023-January 2024

Shady Grove

12/1/2023 – Author: Kitty Steetle and Josh Larios

SHADY GROVE



The tune Shady Grove is associated with the Upper South area in the Appalachian Mountains having been revitalized by Jean Ritchie in the 1950s and Doc Watson in the 1960s (among others). Sources claim the tune dates back to 1600s British Isles with its first American version published in the early 20th century.1 Shady Grove is in the same tune family as Boyne Water, Barbara Allen, and Matty Groves each being so old that it is unclear which tune came first.2 The tune's simple strophic form and dark Dorian mode have inspired at least 300 stanzas easily allowing the performer to change the song from an innocent lovesick ballad to a dark cautionary tale.³⁴ – Kitty Steetle

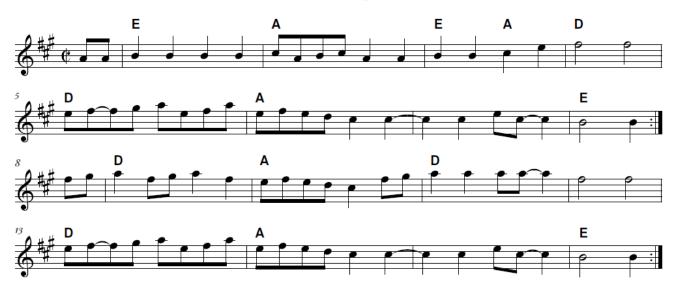
Chorus: Shady grove, my true love, Shady grove, I know, Shady grove, my true love, I'm bound for the shady grove. Verse: Peaches in the summertime, Apples in the fall, If I can't get the girl I love, Won't have none at all.

When I wus a little boy, I wanted a whittlin' knife; Now I am a great big boy An' I want a little wife... Wish I had a banjo string, Made of golden twine, And every tune I'd pick on it – Is "I wish that girl were mine."5

Rainbow Quest: Jean Ritchie - Shady Grove <u>https://youtu.be/pDUNdRm5Toc</u> Doc Watson: Shady Grove <u>https://youtu.be/I0f-dCMSVKQ</u> The Kingston Trio: <u>https://youtu.be/5xxfY5emk8Q</u>

- 1. <u>https://alexbledsoe.com/2010/02/08/shady-grove-and-the-tradition-of-living-songs/</u>; <u>https://www.loc.gov/item/afcreed000106/[</u>
- 2. ibid.[
- 3. Ritchie, Fiona and Doug Orr. Wayfaring Strangers: The Musical Heritage from Scotland and Ulster to Appalachia, 2014, p xv.[
- 4. I always thought that "Shady Grove" was a symbol of the afterlife, much like "going home" and "trains" are symbols of dying. I did not find this mentioned while doing research but I cannot be the only one who came up with that, right?
- 5. Lomax, Alan. Folk Songs of North America, New York, 1960, p 234.

SHADY GROVE (MAJOR VERSION)



There's another "Shady Grove" that I like, similar to the above but in a more major mode. It apparently can be traced back to autoharp player Kilby Snow, but I think I first heard it from the Chicken Chokers. Fun fact: you can sing verses from "June Apple", "Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss", "The Blackest Crow", and many other songs to this melody (and vice versa), and people do. —Josh Larios

Kilby Snow: <u>https://youtu.be/jI7IdIDIhdo</u> The Chicken Chokers: <u>https://youtu.be/UVhh8BxUvqQ</u>

From The Secretary

1/1/2024 – Author: Katie Gotshall Greetings Fiddlers and Friends,

As the final notes of 2023 resonated through the strings of our beloved fiddles and the new year rolls into our lives, I want to wish a very happy New Year to each of you. It's been a remarkable journey, and I'm delighted to share some of the highlights that have made 2023 truly special.

Fiddle Camp, the heartbeat of our community, experienced a renaissance. Our student enrollment increased, reclaiming the vibrancy we missed in 2022. The enthusiasm and passion for the timeless art of old time music is palpable, creating an environment where both seasoned players and budding talents thrive.

Playouts, the joyful sounds of our collective melodies, are bouncing back with newfound energy. Monthly, we receive fresh requests for old time music that echo across the state, a testament to the enduring charm of our craft.

Our monthly meetings and jams have evolved into lively hubs of musical exchange, with districts sprouting additional events and jams. The calendar is a testament to this movement – nearly bursting with opportunities for anyone living in or visiting Washington State to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of fiddle music.

Amidst this crescendo of activity, we've been touched by incredible generosity. A special note of gratitude goes to John Loder, whose \$5,000 donation resonates like a perfectly tuned chord. John's support allows us to extend the magic of Fiddle Camp to more youngsters, opening doors that might have otherwise remained closed.

In the spirit of harmony, Precision Electric has joined our symphony of support. Their donation will birth an instrument lending library, ensuring that the joy of fiddling is accessible to all. Look for more details in the coming year, as we launch this momentous addition to our organization.

Also in the plans for 2024 will be a new section of our website featuring a comprehensive contact list, connecting teachers, luthiers, and other fiddle resources, making it easier for enthusiasts to find local support.

As we draw the curtain on 2023 and look forward to 2024, I am filled with gratitude for the resilience and passion of our community. Your dedication is the melody that binds us together, and I look forward to the harmonies yet to be written in the pages of the coming year.

Wishing you all a wonderful New Year, filled with music, joy, and the timeless magic of our music.

What's Happening in January and February 2024

Visit <u>https://wotfa.org/events/</u> for the latest! Each event should have an address and event details.

Want to see your event posted here? Check out "Meetings and Events > Post my Event" on the website <u>https://wotfa.org/events/community/add</u>

January 2024								
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
1 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM ☐ District 8 - Circle Jam at Puyallup Senior Center 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM ☐ District 8 Dance Band Practice	2 6:45 PM - 8:45 PM 급 Couth Buzzard Weekly Old Time Jam	3	4 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ☐ Weekly Thursday Afternoon Phinney Jam 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM ☐ Weekly Lake City Contra Dance	5 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM ☐ District 9 Monthly Meeting and Jam 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ☐ Columbia City Weekly Friday Jam 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM ☐ Weekly Emerald City Contra Dance	6 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM 同 District 6 meeting and jam	7		
8	9 6:45 PM - 8:45 PM ∄ Couth Buzzard Weekly Old Time Jam	10 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Colonial Stillwater Estates Playdate	11 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ☐ Weekly Thursday Afternoon Phinney Jam 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM ☐ Weekly Lake City Contra Dance	12 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ☐ Columbia City Weekly riday Jam 3:00 PM - 10:00 PM ☐ District 16 2nd Friday Afternoon Jam 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM ☐ District 4 Meeting and Jam	13	14 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM ☐ District 12 Monthly Meeting and Jam		
15 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM 급 District 8 Dance Band Practice	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM 급 District 5 Jam 6:45 PM - 8:45 PM 급 Couth Buzzard Weekly Old Time Jam	17 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM ☐ Friends of Vivian Williams – South Seattle Monthly Jam	18 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ☐ Weekly Thursday Afternoon Phinney Jam 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM ☐ Weekly Lake City Contra Dance	19 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM 급 District 3 Meeting and Jam 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM 급 Columbia City Weekly Friday Jam 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM 급 Weekly Emerald City Contra Dance	20 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM District 5 Monthly Meeting and Jam	21 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM District 11 Monthly Meeting and Jam 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM District 8 Meeting and Jam		
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District 4 Report (Skagit, Whatcom, Island and San Juan Counties)

12/1/2023 – Author: Fred Robbins

December Calendar:

- Friday Dec 1st La Conner Retirement Inn. play 3:00 204 NORTH First st.
- Saturday Dec 2nd Mount Vernon City Library play at 1:30, 315 Snoqualmie St. Just a 4 blocks North of the Sr, Ctr. towards downtown M/V, park in lot south of Library. One way driving east to west in the st. in front of the Library for parking there too
- Thursday Dec. 7th SW Sr. Ctr. Play at 1130 am 715 Pacific St. Sedro Wooley.
- Friday Dec 8th M/V Sr. Ctr. 3 9 pm Jam / Christmas Party Pot luck, 1401 Cleveland St.
- Saturday Dec 9th, Bluegrass Jam @ Rhodes River Ranch , Oso, 12 -3 pm 22016 Entsminger Rd, in OSO
- Friday Dec 15th Mira Vista play at 2pm 300 So, 18th St. M/V
- Monday Dec 18th Mtn. Glen play at 1PM 1810 E Division, MV
- Friday Dec 22nd MV Sr. ctr. 6:30 9 pm 1401 Cleveland
- Friday Dec 29th Creekside play at 2 pm 400 Gilkey Rd. Burlington.
- Sunday Dec 31st, Bluegrass Jam at Rhodes River Ranch 12 3 pm 22016 Entsminger Rd, in OSO

November Highlights:

- 1. Thank you Dear Fiddlers for your good spirits and music sharing; all went well at our Nov. Play-outs and Jams; our music was well-received, and so very much appreciated!
- 2. Mira Visa, and Mtn. Glen; delightful is my chosen word to describe the last two days; the folks were so pleased at both places; they want us back real soon!
- 3. Nine musicians Monday Nov.13th. aboard at Creek side brought tunes to about 50 residents on a delightful sunny day!
- 4. Windshield wipers are so important; they made possible our vision to journey to the S/W Sr. Ctr.! Thank you all for braving the rain to bring pleasurable music; everyone was so appreciative, and several commented to me how nice it was to have more musicians today! And special thanks to David for his efforts to make us sound as good as we can; he was always listening, and adjusting our sound; really helps us and the audience! Good lunch, and good fellowship / conversation too! :)









Calendar and interim chair – Fred Robbins # 206-786-3369 email: <u>fred@robbinsmetal.com</u> **Treasurer and Event Scheduler** – Sarah Buntin, # 360-679-6595 email: <u>itsrustyoldhalo@frontier.com</u>

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

12/1/2023 – Author: Sandra OKelly

Greetings friends! Hope this finds you enjoying the warmth of friendship, family and some good food. With Gratitude, we can recognize the gifts of each day and look forward to the return of the light after winter solstice. May your days be Merry and Bright!

At our past 3 monthly meetings, we've risked playing without any written music for the first hour and all agree it's a good exercise and we can actually do pretty well while learning to trust our listening skills and listening to each other. For December we will skip our business meeting and have a Christmas potluck, please join us from 12 to 4 pm in Gorst at the Square Dance Hall. Jamming will follow our shared meal until 3pm. Our meeting in January will resume at 11 with an hour of old time style playin' *without* any written music. A quick business meeting with finger food potluck and then back to jamming until 3 pm, *with* written music if you prefer!

We are trying out 2nd and 4th Tuesday jams in the Silverdale Mall at The Rock Wood Fired Pizza from 1-4pm. We're getting good feedback from the customers and staff. *First and Third Tuesday Jams* continue in the Community Room of the Silverdale Mall next to Dick's Sporting Good from 1-4. We regularly have shoppers stop by to listen and love to watch the little kids dancing. Come join us. The Celtic Jam that followed the 1-4 jam is being discontinued at this time due to lack of participation. Thanks to Sally and Kent for holding the space open for some fine tunes and singing. Keep up with our activities on our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/WOTFA5/

One playout in December-the 16th. Retsil Veterans Home has requested some Christmas music so we're dusting off the usual tunes and also introducing them to Breaking Up Christmas. It's always fun to brush up on Christmas tunes and share them with others. Fond memories there. No playouts scheduled yet for January.

Several members will be going to the Oly Old-Time Festival February 15-18th. See you there!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us to each of you. May our music continue to bring people together and share some stories along the way. Blessings.

District 5 Chair: Kent McCabe <u>dkmccabe0723@gmail.com</u> 360-830-0317 Respectfully submitted: Reporter, Sandi O'Kelly <u>s_okelly@msn.com</u>

District 6 Report (King County)

12/1/2023 - Author: Jenny Swanson

Happy December to you all. District 6 had a great jam at the end of October that I have some pictures for. They were

provided by Shawna Smith who's been very nice to take pictures that give a good flavor of the enjoyable times we have at our events. As you can see in the pictures below, we had many people attending on the 28th. We were so happy to welcome people from Olympia and Puyallup along with the regulars and irregulars filling up the rest of the total of 18.



The first meeting in November was smaller, but still fun. This was Tyler's first official meeting as Chair of District 6 and he did well. We are all very grateful to him for taking us on along with his other duties as State President. Here's a picture of Bernie (treasurer), Tyler (president), and Ena (secretary). We thank them all for their service.



During the meeting we discussed our Christmas party, scheduled for Dec 2nd from 11 am to 4 pm at the DesMoines Masonic Center. We are all looking forward to the yummy ham that Tyler will cook and the food everyone brings to



share. The party will run the same as described in the Nov. newsletter and on the calendar of WOTFA.org with the meal taking place first and jamming after that. Christmas songs will be played as well as any other song you pick. We hope you can come!

January will have 2 events in it. The first one is our mtg/jam on the 6th from 11 am to 4 pm. The second is our jam on Jan 27th from 1 pm to 4 pm. Each event will be posted on the calendar of the WOTFA site with a brief description and picture of the fabulous people who attend. Please come and join us when you can. No reservations are necessary! The only thing required is a bit of patience with each other and a sense of having fun.

I recently learned about a beginning violin class being held in carnation at the Sno-Valley Senior Center (4610 Stephens Ave, Carnation, Wa 98014. This class is free and will start on Wed, Jan. 17th at 2:30 pm and go until 3:30 pm and will continue for 10 weeks. It is taught by Maya Stchur, an accomplished violinist for over 50 years. If you have questions, please email carrieh@soundgenerations.org

We continue to play at various retirement homes each month. A very sincere thanks goes out to Bernie for coordinating them and making sure all the dates have plenty of musicians at them. Also, thanks again to the people who take the time to do these gigs and make the lives of the residents more enjoyable. A shout out to Kathy, Roy, Earl, Jan, Penny, Clayton, Bernie, Joanne & Roy H., Brad, Bella, and Shawna (when they can). Hopefully I didn't miss anyone!

Remember to renew your membership soon if you haven't already. The November newsletter has directions for renewing online or by mail. Support this very worthy organization.

Questions or comments can be sent to me at timbuktoe@yahoo.com

Have a good December and January. See you in February!

Jenny Swanson

District 8 Report (Pierce County)

12/1/2023 – Author: Barbara Peterson Happy December and January!

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

Membership in 2024 will be a significant loss so far, down 51%. Please consider renewing your membership. Click on Membership, then Pay My Dues, or let me know if you'd rather have a paper form. wotfa.org

Ongoing Jams

- **3rd Sundays 2PM** District 8 Meeting and Jam. We meet at the Mid County Community Center (MCCC). We'll have a short meeting followed by longer circle jam at 10205 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.
- Mondays! 1:30PM-3:30 Circle jam at Puyallup Senior Center 210 Pioneer Ave. Again easy to find, easy to park.
- Mondays 5:30-8PM 1st and 3rd Mondays at MCCC above. We are getting this popular dance band activity going again! Plans are to play at Folklife Festival in 2024. Check it out.! contact
 Barbara bmacleanp@comcast.net
- 1st Fridays 3:30PM-7:30 Gig Harbor Circle Jam. For current location, contact Matt 202.631.34147

 Other Fridays 1PM "Live Music Friday" at the Golden Rose Mobile Park community center. NOTE: This is on hold. 6220 107th Ave E, Puyallup, WA 98372. Contact Barbara 253.926.8457

Mark your calendars for these Playouts!!

- 3rd Thursdays, 11:00 Mid County Community Center above. Contact Barbara
- 2nd Thursday, 1:30PM Franke Tobey Jones see below: December, March, June, September
- Dec. 14 1:30PM Franke Tobey Jones Retirement Comm. Contact Ron ronduncan596@gmail.com
- Dec 19 Tuesday 12-1P The Oaks at Lakewood Contact Barbara

Upcoming Events Click on the hyperlinks!

- Contra Dance every 3rd Sun. 3:00-6PM now at Fircrest Community Center, 555 Contra Costa Drive, Fircrest.
 3PM a workshop for new dancers. You really should try this! Check their calendar. https://tacomacontradance.org/
- Feb 16-18 Olympia 15th Oly Old Time Music Festival
- Feb. 22-25 28th Wintergrass Music Festival at Hyatt Regency Bellevue
- April TBA Northwest Regional Fiddle Contest in Spokane Valley
- May 24-27 53rd Folklife Festival in Seattle
- May TBA Fiddlers on the Peak Fiddle Contest in Chewelah
- May 31-Jun 2 Tenor Guitar Foundation Gathering in Astoria
- July 1-8 Fiddle Tunes Workshop in Port Townsend since 1977 tunes/
- July 15-19 WOTFA Summer Camp since 1988
- Aug 10-15 21st Centralia Campout
- Oct TBA 2nd Seattle Oldgrowth Old Time Music Festival

FREE: Is anyone interested in a Yamaha EMX 5000 mixer board with 12 channel capacity? Sticker says it once was ~\$999, but I don't know how old it is.

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

District 9 Report (Lewis & Thurston Counties)

11/1/2023 – Author: Christie Easter Hi Everyone: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

For the month of December we will be having our regular first Friday open acoustic jam on Friday, December 1st 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 onto N. National Ave and go 1/3 mile, then turn RIGHT onto Coal Creek Rd and go 1.1 mikes, then turn RIGHT into the Church driveway. We will be in the middle building.

There will be coffee and tea and some snacks but it won't be a potluck.

I'll have sheet music fir the Christmas Carols we'll be playing at our Colonial Stillwater Estates playdate later in the month if you would like them ahead of time.

Also in December we will be playing our regular 2nd Wednesday playdate on Wednesday, December 13th from 4:00-5:00pm at Colonial Stillwater Estates, located at 2700 Colonial Drive in Centralia. We'll be playing some of our regular old time tunes as well as some Christmas Carols so grab your Santa hat and come have some holiday fun with District 9!

In January our 1st Friday open acoustic jam will be on Friday, January 5th from 10am-Noon at our usual location, Faith Baptist Church, 436 Coal Creek Rd.

And our regular 2nd Wednesday playdate will be on Wednesday, January 10th from 4:00pm-5:00pm at Colonial

evue <u>https://wintergrass.com/</u> <u>https://www.northwestregionals.com/</u> <u>https://nwfolklife.org/festival/home.html</u> <u>https://fiddlersonthepeak.org/</u> https://www.tenorguitar.org/

http://olyoldtime.weebly.com/

https://centrum.org/program/fiddle-

https://www.facebook.com/wotfa.org/

https://www.centraliacampout.com/ https://oldgrowtholdtime.org/ Stillwater Estates in Centralia.

I will email the January Colonial playlist out later this month.

If you have questions or need more information on the jam or playdate (or anything else) give me (Christie) a call, text or email.

Happy Holidays and be well!

CHAIRPERSON: Christie Easter 360-791-5185. <u>mrwillys@aol.com</u> JAM INFO: First Friday of every month 10am-Noon at Faith Baptist Church, 436 Coal Creek Rd, Chehalis

District 11 Report (Grant & Adam Counties)

11/1/2023 – Author: Charlie Root

District 11 held their November meeting and jam on November 19th. We had several members missing, but we had a good jam. The covid is in the area again, and two of our playouts were cancelled for November. It sounds like things are ok at those facilities now, so we are planning to have our full schedule again. We received our first serious snow on December 1st, but we are hoping to make all of our playouts during the holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from District 11.

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. 1:00 PM Othello Care, 495 N 13th Ave, Othello
- 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 Lakeses Lake

District 16 Report (Snohomish County)

10/1/2023 – Author: Dianne Gooch

We continue to meet for the 2nd & 4th Friday night jams at Sisco Heights Community Club. We begin at 3:00 pm and the jams continue until about 9:00-10:00 pm.

Sisco Heights Community Club is at 13527-99th Ave NE, Arlington, WA 98223. We also have coffee and welcome finger treats to enjoy.

At our November 24th business meeting, we once again unanimously voted in our faithful leader, **Noel Lareau**. Much thanks to go Noel and Dave for all their work and set up for the jams. Thanks to Alison Grim who has agreed to take over as our treasurer.

Our next **WOTFA Midway Jam** will be **Sunday, December 17, 1:30-4:00 pm**, at the Lynnwood Library (19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood). We have 15-20 musicians at these jams. We welcome new musicians as folks share these jam dates. 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. I hope to be able to reserve the Library room for January 28, 2024.

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