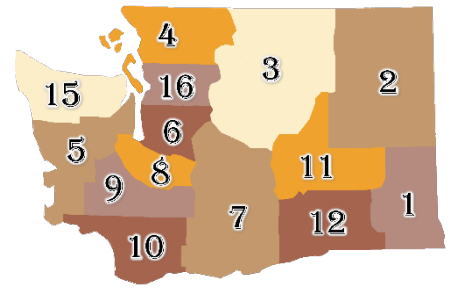




Washington Old Time Fiddlers Association

Preserving an American Tradition



Evergreen Fiddler – March 2024

Midnight on the Water

3/1/2024 – Author: Kitty Steetle, Josh Larios

MIDNIGHT ON THE WATER

Luke Thomasson



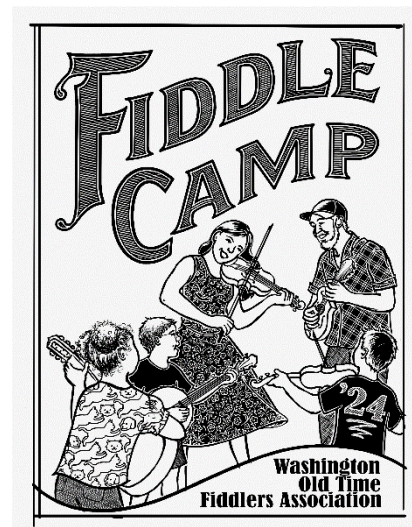
The tune **Midnight on the Water** is attributed to the Texan fiddler Luke¹ “Red Luke” Thomasson, dating back to around 1900.² It gained notable recognition after being recorded by his son, fiddler Benny Thomasson (1909 – 1984), in 1970 for his album ‘Country Fiddling from the Big State,’ subsequently becoming popular within Old Time music circles. There is speculation that certain sections of **Midnight on the Water** bear resemblance to **Old Paint**,³ a tune by Jess Morris, potentially indicating mutual inspiration, given the proximity of the Morris and Thomassons in the Texas panhandle during that time period. Often performed in Deadman’s Tuning (DDAD) alongside the standard GDAE tuning, both are viable options, yet Deadman’s Tuning lends the composition a deep resonance, enriching its serene ebbing character.

1. I also found ‘Lucas’ and ‘Lewis Alexander’: <https://utaholdtimefiddlers.org/author/fiddler/page/2/>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benny_Thomasson
2. https://tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Midnight_on_the_Water
3. I think ‘Old Paint’ refers to a horse, but I can’t find confirmation. [“Paint’s a good pony, and she paces when she can” is a line in the chorus, at least as sung by Bruce Molsky. —Josh]

Fiddle Camp 2024

Welcome to the New Year, everyone! It has indeed been an unusual winter here in Spokane. Fiddle Camp 2024 brings some exciting changes! If you're part of our Facebook Group, you might already know that we have a **NEW LOCATION & DATES!** This year, we're relocating the camp to the **Chelan County Expo Center (Fairgrounds) in Cashmere, WA.** Classes kick off on **July 29th** and run through **August 2nd.** Due to the date shift, we've had to adjust a few instructors' schedules, and while we're working on finalizing the last couple of spots, we aim to have those details posted soon. *Please note that our traditional April registration is now set for Monday, May 6th.*

This year's captivating T-Shirt design was crafted by Hilary from District 4, drawing inspiration from the rich tapestry of diversity among our campers. The artwork beautifully captures the essence of Fiddle Camp, where the intergenerational exchange of musical knowledge and inspiration takes center stage. It's truly heartening to witness the symbiotic learning process, with young players absorbing wisdom from their adult and senior counterparts, while the latter, in turn, find inspiration from the youthful energy and enthusiasm of our talented campers. Fiddle Camp remains a cherished week each summer, devoted to the pure enjoyment of learning, playing, dancing, and having a great time! As in years past, T-Shirts are available in different styles, and ready to ship directly to you at



<https://www.bonfire.com/store/wotfa/>

Here are some key changes we're thrilled about: Camping with Full Hookups is available onsite! No more separation. We'll be introducing a camping fee this year, and details will be posted soon. If you have questions about camping, kindly direct them to the Workshop Chairs. There are nearby hotels you can book, and we're in the process of finalizing a group rate with Best Western Plus (Downtown) in Wenatchee, which is approximately a 15-minute drive from our location. Check our website for the booking link and rates under Lodging (www.fiddlecamp.wotfa.org).

We've also created a new chart for fiddle class levels to help you determine the appropriate level for you or your child, reducing the need for class changes.

Level	Description	Sample Tunes for this Level
Learn to Play	Never played before	None
Level 1	No Low 1s or High 3s; Basic Theory	Boil the Cabbage, Rubber Dolly, Cripple Creek, Tennessee Waltz
Level 2	Learning lows & highs; key signature; accents; putting character into music	Arkansas Traveler, Red Wing, Ashokan Farewell, Swallowtail Jig, Turkey in the Straw
Level 3	Learning 3rd position, hoekum bowing, changing keys & transposing	Dreamer's Waltz, Cincinatti Hornpipe, Fishers Hornpipe, Margrets Waltz, Pig Ankle Rag
Level 4	Learning 2nd & higher positions, chording, & chopping	Clarinet Polka, Ostinelli's Reel, Dew Drop
Level 5	Half positions & contest tunes	Any and all tunes

Tuition will be raised this year, long overdue due to the venue change and increased costs. We're finalizing the numbers and plan to post them by mid-March.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned to the Facebook Group, Website (<https://fiddlecamp.wotfa.org>), or Newsletter for more information.

I'm excited to see you all!

~Corrine Agnew

This year, we have classes for Fiddle, Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo, Bass, and Piano. Current Instructors & Classes Confirmed:

Instructor	AM Class	PM Class
Shawn Hughes	Beginning Guitar	Fiddle Tunes for Frets
Tom Moran	Intermediate Mando	Beginning Mando
Pam Borso	Intermediate Guitar	Swing Guitar
Isaac Calender	Banjo	
Louise Steinway		Back-Up Piano
Jim Adams	Bass	
Carolyn Huguenin	Learn to Play	LVL 1 Fiddle
Emilie Miller	LVL 1 Fiddle	LVL 2 Fiddle
Sheila Wright	LVL 2 Fiddle	LVL 3 Fiddle
Ruthie Dornfeld	LVL 3 Fiddle	LVL 4 Fiddle

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

3/1/2024 – Author: Kyle Peterson

No March Report

District 4, Skagit, Whatcom, Island and San Juan Counties

3/1/2024 – Author: Fred Robbins

As we step into March, the calendar is packed with exciting events and music-filled gatherings. Here's a snapshot of what's in store for our vibrant community:

March 2024 Calendar:

- **March 4th (Monday) – 2:00 PM:** Country Meadow Village, 1501 Collins Rd, Sedro Woolley
- **March 7th (Thursday) – 11:30 AM:** S/W Sr. Ctr., 715 Pacific St, Sedro Woolley
- **March 8th (Friday) – 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM:** Mt. Vernon Sr. Ctr. Meeting/Jam, 1401 Cleveland Ave
- **March 9th (Saturday) – 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM:** Bluegrass Jam @ Rhodes River Ranch Restaurant in Oso, 22016 Entsminger Rd, Arlington
- **March 14th (Thursday) – 2:30 PM:** Life Care, M/V 2120 E. Division
- **March 15th (Friday) – 3:00 PM:** La Conner Retd. Inn, 204 N 1st St, La Conner
- **March 19th (Tuesday) – 2:00 PM:** Mira Vista, 300 South 18th St, Mount Vernon
- **March 21st (Thursday) – 11:30 AM:** S/W Sr. Ctr., 715 Pacific St, Sedro Woolley
- **March 22nd (Friday) – 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM:** Mt. Vernon Sr. Ctr. Jam, 1401 Cleveland Ave.
- **March 26th (Tuesday) – 2:00 PM:** Country Meadow Village, 1501 Collins Rd, S/W
- **March 28th (Thursday) – 3:00 PM:** Mtn. Glen, 1810 E Division, MV. Allow time to park

February Highlights:

A resounding thank you to each Fiddler who contributed to the success of our February play-outs and jams. Despite the brisk weather, twelve of our steadfast Fiddlers, along with supporters Joyce and Judi, transformed Creekside Retirement Home into a haven of music. The audience, numbering 45 strong, reveled in the tunes of Gary, Denise, Dwight, Sandy, Jack, Greg, Rich, Diana, Forrest, Dennis, Cristal, and Steve. As snowflakes gently descended, Sandy's winter song seemed to invoke a whimsical dance of snow on the way home.

In the heart of La Conner, eight musicians graced the L.C. Retirement Inn, playing to an appreciative audience of 58 residents and friends, including two furry companions. The highlight of the day was the impromptu suggestion by Ally, the Activity Coordinator, to start a new tradition – singing "God Bless America." The room united in song, receiving a well-deserved round of applause, followed by a spirited rendition of "Red Wing." Kudos to Dwight, Greg, Forrest, Nancy, Steve, Peggy, Diana, Dennis, and Gary for making this day extraordinary.

We extend our warmest wishes to Jack Koetje for a swift recovery from the flu, Judy for a speedy recovery, and Peggy for a rejuvenating break. Celebrations are in order for Mike Gwost's progress post-neck surgery, as he not only recuperates but actively participates in playing his guitar at a local store play-out.

Despite the challenges, your resilience and musical prowess continue to uplift us all. As we navigate the ebb and flow of life, our hearts are with those facing health setbacks. To each Fiddler, we wish you a beautiful and melodious journey through 2024.

Mister Rogers Quote: "As human beings, our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is."

Contact Information:

Interim Chair: Fred Robbins # 206-786-3369, email: fred@robbinsmetal.com

Treasurer: Sarah Buntin, # 360-679-6595, email: itsrustyoldhalo@frontier.co

Event scheduling: Sarah, # 360-679-6595

Calendar: Fred Robbins # 206-786-3369, email: fred@robbinsmetal.com

Keep the music alive and let's make March a melodious chapter in our Fiddler's journey!



Respectfully submitted,
On behalf of the Fiddlers,
Fred Robbins

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

3/1/2024 – Author: Sandra OKelly

March! Warmer days ahead...just when, I'm not sure. Spring equinox, clocks Spring forward and we can celebrate St. Patty's Day. March 15th is National Everything You Think Is Wrong Day followed by March 16th National Everything You Do Is Right Day, a way to please everyone. My favorite will be on the 20th...International Day of Happiness, so try and spread some happiness around, it multiplies quickly.

We've been playing at local senior living facilities and average about 3-4 playouts a month. We're gearing up for Farmers' Markets and some other local venues for the summer. Several of us visited with our Port Townsend area friends at their Chimacum jam in late February and really enjoyed ourselves. Getting together to share tunes and stories is always a good thing.

Speaking of getting together. We're already thinking about Fiddle Camp this summer, new dates (July 29th-August 2nd) and place (Cashmere, WA) and a week of playing music and more music and learning some new tunes. You don't want to miss it! Our March monthly meeting on the 16th will be dedicated to giving out scholarships so youth can attend. We really like to hear from the young folks and encourage them along.

We're **Jamming** every Tuesday, come join us. **First and Third Tuesdays** of each month next door to Dick's Sporting Goods in the **Silverdale Mall** from 1-4pm. Through the end of April, we are meeting on **all other Tuesdays 1-4 pm at Subway** in Silverdale at 2238 NW Bucklin Hill. Plenty of parking and the community room there suits our needs until we

head back to the Barn in Belfair for the summer Tuesdays that we are not at the mall. We have a good turnout, have fun and welcome all comers. Join us!

Playouts scheduled:

- March 1 Canterbury
- March 11 Retsil VA
- March 15 Stafford Suites
- April 24 Crista Shores

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

For March, we'll be playing some Celtic tunes like Cooley's Reel, MacArthur Road, Paddy on the Handcar and sing Black Velvet Band. Sharon plays Danny Boy on her harp and the residents always like this familiar tune played so sweetly.

If we don't run into you at Wintergrass this year, I'll look forward to seeing you at Fiddle Camp in July. Make plans to attend our Campout Labor Day Weekend. Stay tuned.

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

Respectfully submitted: Reporter, Sandi O'Kelly s_okelly@msn.com

District 6 Report (King County)

3/1/2024 - Author: Jenny Swanson

Happy March everyone! Here's hoping that along with the longer daylight hours, we'll have less rain and warmer temperatures this month. I don't know about you, but my garden, driveway, and roof are growing lots of moss. It's nice and green, but REALLY! How about some other colors?

We had a great time at our January jam on the 27th. The eleven people who attended picked some fun songs for the kids to sing and also played adult songs that were enjoyable as well. It is great to have a mix of ages and experience. Bella, a high school fiddler, has been attending workshops in Seattle this winter. She played a couple of her new tunes for us and we all had to work hard to try to play backup. It's always great when a young person stretches us older folks! The couple of pictures below are of the Emma, Cici, and Michael trio and of Bella playing a song on her fiddle.



The February 3rd meeting and jam went off without a hitch. I was told that everyone had a nice time as I had to miss this one. Here are three pictures provided by Shawna Smith to show some of the happenings.



Our fourth Saturday of February jam was cancelled due to the city of Des Moines doing maintenance on their water system. Too bad they picked Sat. the 24th to turn the water off in that part of the city. We tried to notify everyone, so please forgive us if you didn't hear about it.

Here's a list of our March and April events in 2024. All of these are posted on the website with more information and are held at the Des Moines Masonic Lodge.

- Sat, March 2: Meeting and Jam from 11 am until 4 pm
- Sat, March 23: Jam only from 1 pm until 4 pm
- Sat, April 6: Meeting and Jam from 11 am until 4 pm

(There is no Jam on the fourth saturday of April)

Recently we had a request from Jan Barber from the Federal Way Arts Commission. I have printed it below so anyone who wants to pursue this could do so.

As a member of the Federal Way Arts Commission, we are looking for live music for 40 minutes or so during the daytime on Saturday, June 1, at the Performing Arts and Events Center in Federal Way, as part of our annual Arts Explosion.

The group would be playing inside, but not on stage; they would be background music while people look at displayed, juried artwork on walls. While the Saturday event opens at 10 am and closes around 6:30 pm, the hours for performers are being established by Karen Brugato, who is chairing the event. There is a stipend involved; again, please contact Karen (karenbrugato@gmail.com), and "cc" me.

Thanks, Jan Barber (janinebarber8@gmail.com)

Here's hoping that March will be a good month for playing music with friends. Any questions or comments, email me at timbuktoe@yahoo.com

Thanks,

Jenny Swanson

District 8 Report (Pierce County)

3/1/2024 – Author: Barbara Peterson

Marvelous March!

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

Hey! Please consider renewing your membership! Click on Membership, then Pay My Dues, or let me know if you'd rather have a paper form. <https://wotfa.org/Membership>

Ongoing Jams

- 3rd Sundays 2PM District 8 Meeting and Jam. See you March 17 . We will 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 Open jam at Puyallup Senior Center – 210 Pioneer Ave. **Oh oh, this has changed!** Due to water damage, they will have major repairs ongoing throughout March. No jams there then. We are working on an alternative plan. (Again, it was easy to find, easy to park. Note: this Senior Center is closed on Federal holidays.)
- Mondays 5:30-8PM 1st and 3rd Mondays Dance Band 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-6:00 Gig Harbor Circle Jam. For current location, contact Matt 202.631.34147
- "Live Music Friday!" **NOTE: This one is on hold!** If you are interested in a slower jam setting let Barbara know. At the Golden Rose Mobile Park community center in Puyallup, 6220 107th Ave E, Puyallup, WA 98372.

Mark your calendars for these Playouts!!

- 3rd Thursdays 11:00 Luncheon at Mid County Community Center above. Contact Barbara
- 2nd Thursday, 1:30PM Franke Tobey Jones see below: March, June, September, December
- Mar. 12 1:30PM Brookdale Allenmore Assisted Living on the (L) Contact Carol ccgav@msn.com
- Mar. 14 1:30PM Franke Tobey Jones Retirement Comm. Contact Ron ronduncan596@gmail.com
- Mar. 21 2PM Brookdale Allenmore Independent Living on the (R) Contact Carol above.
- Mar 9 Fred Oldfield at Puyallup Fair Grounds celebrating Fred O's art. Contact Barbara bmacleanp@comcast.net

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 15th Olympia Oly Old Time Music Festival <http://olyoldtime.weebly.com/>
- Feb. 22-25 28th Wintergrass Music Festival at Hyatt Regency Bellevue <https://wintergrass.com/>
- Mar. 1-3 SuperFolk Music Festival in Tacoma <https://nwfolklife.org/obn/superfolk/superfolk-festival-2024.html>
- April 20-21 54th Northwest Regional Fiddle Contest in Spokane Valley <https://www.northwestregionals.com/>
- May 24-27 53rd Folklife Festival in Seattle <https://nwfolklife.org/festival/home.html>
- May TBA Fiddlers on the Peak Fiddle Contest in Chewelah (2012) <https://fiddlersonthepeak.org/>
- May 31-Jun 2 14th Tenor Guitar Foundation Gathering in Astoria <https://www.tenorguitar.org/>
- July 1- 8 Fiddle Tunes Workshop in Port Townsend since 1977 <https://centrum.org/program/fiddle-tunes/>
- July 29-2 WOTFA Summer Camp in Cashmere since 1988 <https://www.facebook.com/wotfa.org/>
- Aug 10-15 21st Centralia Campout <https://www.centraliacampout.com/>
- Oct 11-13 2nd Seattle Oldgrowth Old Time Music Festival <https://oldgrowtholdtime.org/>

FREE: 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.

Interested in a nice stand up 3/4 bass fiddle with soft case? Contact Dennis D 253 209 7181c or 253 904 8881.

Throwback to 1990! Do you recognize any of these faces? Do you have any old pictures to share? We'd love to see and help you share!



District 9 Report (Lewis & Thurston Counties)

3/1/2024 – Author: Christie Easter

Hi Everyone:

For the month of March we have lots of fun things going on, and some changes to things that will be happening later on. Here's the list for March-

1. Friday, March 1, 2024: Regular 1st Friday meeting & acoustic jam, 10am-Noon at Faith Baptist Church, 536 Coal Creek Rd in Chehalis, off I-5 exit 79. There will be coffee & tea & some snacks but it won't be a potluck.
2. Monday, March 11, 2024: 7:30pm-8:00pm Pacific NW Chamber Orchestra Spring Concert Intermission playdate. At Centralia College Washington Hall (Corbet Theater). We'll be doing 3 or 4 of our favorite tunes during the intermission of the PNWCO concert. Use the entrance at Pear & Washington Streets and park across the street if able to find a spot. The backstage & green room entrance will be the second door on the left just before the restrooms. Here's the playlist:
 1. Soldiers Joy-D
 2. Cripple Creek-A
 3. Redwing-G
 4. Turkey In The Straw-G
3. Wednesday, March 13th, 2024, 4:00pm-5:00pm Colonial Stillwater Estates Playdate, 2700 Colonial Drive, Centralia, just past Providence Centralia Hospital off Cooks Hill Rd. Playdate is below.

4. Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 6:00pm-7:00pm Lewis County Historical Society Annual Dinner Playdate. 99 NW Front Way, Chehalis (downtown Chehalis). Fun and laid-back one-time-only playdate at the museum's main hall. Dinner is included for everyone from our group (not just the musicians). Same playlist as Colonial Stillwater playdate.

5. Saturday, March 30th, 2024 1:00pm-2:00pm Village Concepts of Chehalis Playdate (one-time-only). 2100 SW Woodland Circle, Chehalis.

****Don't forget that FiddleCamp 2024 has changed locations and dates**** Please let me know if you have anyone for the youth tuition scholarship for this years FiddleCamp, registration will be on April 1st this year.

MARCH PLAYLIST FOR ALL PLAYDATES EXCEPT PNWCO INTERMISSION PLAYDATE:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Soldiers Joy-D | 8. Centralia Waltz-G | 15. Liberty-D |
| 2. Happyland Schottische-G | 9. St Annes Reel-D | 16. Midnight On The Water-D |
| 3. Cripple Creek-A | 10. Southwind Waltz-G | 17. Turkey In The Straw-G |
| 4. Westphalia Waltz-G | 11. Garry Owen-G | 18. Mansion Over The Hilltop-G |
| 5. Manitoba's Golden Boy-D | 12. Tennessee Waltz-G | 19. Ashokan Farewell-D |
| 6. Shall We Gather At The River-D | 13. Red Haired Boy-A | 20. Red Wing-G |
| 7. Irish Washerwoman-G | 14. Swallowtail Jig-Em | |

Let me (Christie) know if you have any questions. Be well and happy spring!

Check out the YouTube Link to see some members of District 9 performing during intermission at the Pacific Northwest Chamber Orchestra Spring Concert: https://youtu.be/Ef7HFai_rOE?si=gKbHwQ5fAglzaeA

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)

3/1/2024 – No March Report

District 11 Report (Grant & Adams Counties)

3/1/2024 – No March Report

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

3/1/2024 – No March Report

District 15 Report (Jefferson & Clallam Counties)

3/1/2024 – No March Report

District 16 Report (Snohomish County)

3/1/2024 – 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.

We have a playout scheduled for **March 22 – 10:30 am** at the Stilly Valley Center,
18308 Smokey Point Blvd.

We will also be playing there on May 3-10:30 am.

Our next **WOTFA Midway Jam** will be **Sunday, March 24, 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. 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.

The following Districts are No longer active. Members of these counties are welcome to continue to participate in any and all WOTFA events and activities. If you have a jam, playout or even in any of these districts - feel free to simply coordinate with the State Officers

District 1 (Asotin, Columbia, Garfield & Whitman Counties)

District 3 (Chelan, Douglas & Okanogan Counties)

District 7 (Kittitas, Yakima, & Klickitat Counties)