

Fiddle Family Reunion Tentative Schedule

Thursday, October 22

6:00 PM *Gospel Jam*

If you'd like to perform for the Gospel Jam, please let me know. This will be much less formal than in years past, but we were remembering some great Gospel Jams at the CSOTFA State Contest and thought it would still be a great idea.

Friday, October 23

9:00 AM Jamming, laughing, swapping lies—doing what fiddlers do

1:00 PM *Waltz Contest*

This is similar to the Waltz Contest that the Western Open has had for several years. It is open to performers of any age who may play any acoustic instrument, and entry fee is \$5. The audience will judge the contest, and the prize money will be distributed as percentages of the total entry fees for the division: 1st place= 50%; 2nd place= 30%; and 3rd place= 20%.

5:30 PM *Anything Goes*

This is modelled on the ragingly successful Anything Goes contest that has been held at the CSOTFA Championships for many years. There is no age limit, no limit to the number of performers or to the instruments that you choose to play. You *are* limited to one tune or medley of tunes. Entry fee is \$10 per group. The audience will judge the contest, and the prize money will be distributed as percentages of the total entry fees for the division: 1st place= 50%; 2nd place= 30%; and 3rd place= 20%.

Saturday, October 24

9:00 AM More jamming, laughing, lie swapping etc.

1:00 PM *Hot Fiddle Contest*

This is similar to the Hot Fiddle Contest that the Western Open has had for the past several years. It is open to performers of any age who may play any acoustic instrument, and entry fee is \$5. The audience will judge the contest, and the prize money will be distributed as percentages of the total entry fees for the division: 1st place= 50%; 2nd place= 30%; and 3rd place= 20%.

5:30 PM *Gambler's Draw*

We will finish off the "formal" events at the Fiddle Family Reunion with a new event. There will be two divisions and contestants will self-identify as beginning or advanced fiddlers. At the beginning of a division, contestants will be placed in random order of play. The first contestant will draw the name of a fiddle tune from a bag, and have one minute to begin playing that tune. The audience will indicate whether or not the contestant played a sufficient, recognizable portion of the tune. The Master of Ceremonies will take the audience's opinion into consideration and render a judgement. Either the contestant will move on to the next round, or will join the audience. The second contestant will draw a tune from the bag when the first contestant begins playing. Contestants who cannot play their tune will be eliminated until two contestants remain. We will then apply the "Spelling Bee Rule which goes like this: When one of the contestants is stumped on a tune, the other contestant has the opportunity to try. If the second contestant successfully plays the tune, he/she must draw a second tune and also play it correctly. Confused? You have until this contest

starts on October 24 to ask me to explain the rules. The Beginner Division will go first, followed by the Advanced Division.

Please share this message as widely as you can in all of the many ways it can be shared. We know that many of our Fiddle Family will be unable to attend, and we totally respect everyone for making their own best decisions. We think that those who *are* able to attend, can look forward to a good time! If you have any questions, please contact me. We are SO-O-O looking forward to seeing you in Red Bluff in three weeks.

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