



# The Squeaky Bow

The Official Newsletter of the Nevada Old-Time Fiddlers Association

November 2023



Welcome to the first edition of the "Squeaky Bow" since 2015.... This club is celebrating 20 years of making music. We will briefly review the start of the organization which is overshadowed by the passing of organizer Herb Gilkey.

## IN HONOR OF HERB GILKEY

- *'It was at that time that JD asked us if we had heard of the National Old Time Fiddlers Association. We were extremely interested. He contacted them to see what it would take to form our own branch here. They told us what to do. All of us did a lot of research looking up other fiddle organizations and there was a lot of discussion. We looked at all of their newsletters and stuff. Herb looked up the legal stuff we had to do. We had to write by-laws and all kinds of things. It took a little while.*
- *Herb was added when we found out we needed one more person. He was the Director and this was before he knew what a bass was! This was 2003".*
- The above was written by Jeanne Rozzi and is included in the Nevada Old-time Fiddlers website under the "About Us" heading.
- As Jeanne said, Herb was there from the beginning. He took mastering the bass seriously and became good enough that the Fiddlers in the Death Valley Fiddle Contest would call on Herb to provide bass if they did not have their own. One of the announcers had heard his name wrong and started calling him "Hero". *"Hey, we need a bass player here... Where's Hero".*
- Herb loved NOFA so much that his e-mail was "[nofaherb@cox.net](mailto:nofaherb@cox.net)"

"Rest in Peace "Hero"

## IN THE BEGINNING

The original organizers were meeting at the Cora Coleman Center on a weekly basis. J.D. Jones is credited with planting the seeds of an "Old-time Fiddlers" organization. The job of putting the club together was intense and fortunately for the rest of us was accomplished and filed with the state in 2003. The first five Board members were (President) Mike Farrow, (Vice President) Darla Sorensen, (Treasurer) Jeanne Rozzi, (Secretary) Rita Jones, and (Member at Large) Herb Gilkey.

The club then tried to stabilize a set jam location but bounced around from Cora Coleman, Green Valley Library, Multigenerational Center, Gibson Library, and a few parks. Our schedule wove around whatever events were overshadowing ours. Finally found a stable location called the "Water Street Library". Our home base was secure until the City of Henderson decided to remodel. It was a short move to the next base, and that was the Gibson Library which lasted until Covid shut down everything. After Covid there was a short reign at the Henderson Adult Center before moving to the current location of Bass Pro Shop every second and fourth Thursday evening.

Nevada Old-time Fiddlers in the past have performed in many cities around Nevada including Spring Valley, Amargosa, Gold Field, Tonopah, Pioche, etc.

These same Fiddler's were also major contributors to the Death Valley Fiddle contest, until the 49ers decided they no longer wanted a fiddle contest

## MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

This column will recognize members doing major contributions.... In this issue, NOFA salutes Dave Carrol for his major contribution of filming our performances and putting them on Youtube. He takes the entire performance and separates into individual songs, which he then titles and dates....check facebook "Nevada Old-time Fiddlers Old Mormon Fort" or "Nevada Old Time Fiddlers Spring Mountain Ranch...Thank you so much Dave!



.HERB GILKEY: A TRUE UPSTANDING FOUNDER

### FIDDLERS PLAYING AROUND

- BASS PRO SHOP: The Shop is now in full Christmas mode and we are playing among the giant Christmas tree and mountain of wrapped presents.....The tip jar is up to \$80....The jar for Dec 14th will be donated to the Salvation Army ringing the bell at the entrance door.
- CHRISTMAS PARTY: Thornhill Residence Dec 9th
- CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR JOYCE: The Fiddlers were pleased to be included in the Celebration of Life for Joyce Kupsh. The guest were very pleased listening to the 30 minute program featuring a wide range of songs we perform.....The event was well planned and our club resulted in some new friendships....Well done Paul...
- MIRA LOMA: “Doc Quam” from Virginia City was a special guest at the Nov 9th jam. He left behind how to do a mule sound on the fiddle....Doc and Jeanne Howerton had a joyous discussion on old day bands featuring featuring fiddle music...You are welcome any time Doc....
- CITY OF LAS VEGAS BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL: Mid July NOFA will be the opening act...Stay tune for details.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR JOYCE



"DOC QUAM" FROM VIRGINIA CITY WAS A SPECIAL GUEST AT THE NOV 9TH JAM

## CONCLUSION

The logo of this issue is taken from a "Squeaky Bow" the first time it was used by the Club. The photo shows the interest generated in just the first few years.

This issue of this newsletter shows our club is still doing activities of interest.

Team work on any level is needed to assist in getting our club back on level ground.....

- Work on advertising
- Finding places for performances
- Helping making FaceBook active
- Ideas on improving our music for our audiences
- Articles of interest for publication
- Taking photos of events
- Setting up or Packing up at events

How can YOU assist? I have a list for anyone wanting to help and not knowing what to do..... All suggestions for improvement will be considered..... Thank You

*Bill Thornhill*