

**Dick Barrett  
(1918-2012)**



I regret to inform the membership, who perhaps may not have heard, that a truly great fiddle player, and one of TOTFA's creators, has passed away at the age of 93. Mr. Barrett was without question one of the greatest fiddlers of all time, winning many titles at the State, National, and World Championship levels. However, it was a legacy that almost never happened. In my researching more about Mr. Barrett, I found a story about one of his very first fiddle teachers, the legendary Major Franklin. Mr. Barrett was already playing the fiddle, being influenced by his father and grandfather's fiddling at a young age, but his real passion at the age of 10 was baseball. That is, until one evening his brother, J.J. who played the guitar, brought Major to their home. That was his introduction to real Texas style breakdown fiddling. His father, Sam, asked Major if he could give Dick a few lessons. Well, after the second lesson, Major told Sam, "Save your money, that boy will never learn anything." Needless to say, that encounter in 1927 lit a fire in Mr. Barrett for a love of fiddle music that burned bright until his passing in February 2012. I encourage you younger musicians to learn more about him and listen to his recordings. There is plenty of information about him on the

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internet and there are many people who knew him well, who will have a Dick Barrett story for you. On behalf of the Texas Old-Time Fiddler's Association, I'd like to extend our sincere condolences to his family, his lovely wife Lisa, and to the countless students and friends he leaves behind. Here's to one of the most influential fiddlers ever, Dick Barrett.

I'm proud to announce the dates for our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual TOTFA Fiddle Camp. It will be held August 5-10, and will once again be held on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. More information regarding the teachers and registration will be made available soon. I think it's safe to say that we will include some of Mr. Barrett's more signature tunes this year in tribute to him. This camp is really growing into one of the very best in the country and we appreciate all who have supported it from day one. We look forward to making this year's camp better than ever. So clear your schedule for that first full week in August, and make plans to attend the TOTFA Annual Fiddle Camp!

**Happy Fiddlin'**  
**Bryan**

## 2011-2013 TOTFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Texas Fiddler is the official publication of the Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association (TOTFA), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. The Texas Fiddler is published monthly and mailed to all members of the association. TOTFA is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Texas.

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## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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- \$30 Fiddler (A contest fiddler that resides in Texas.)  
 \$30 Accompanist (A contest accompanist that resides in Texas.)  
 \$30 Out-of-State Fiddler (A contest fiddler that resides outside of Texas.)  
 \$20 Associate (Any non-contest fiddler or accompanist or friends and fans of Texas fiddling.)
- New Member       Renewal       Change of Address

### COST-EFFECTIVE ASSOCIATION OPTIONS

- We are a multi-membership TOTFA family and agree to receive only (1) issue of "The Texas Fiddler" each month.  
 Please save paper and postage by sending me "The Texas Fiddler" via full color instant email, rather than in Black and white via the USPS.

### MAIL APPLICATION AND CHECK TO:

Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association  
3209 S. Fredonia, Nacogdoches, TX 75964

## 2012 CONTEST SEASON

These are the contests that have been tentatively confirmed for the 2012 contest season. This IS NOT an official schedule but is more of a heads up for the year. We do have 3-4 contests that we are trying to schedule in addition to the contests listed below.

- 03/31 – Nacogdoches, TX Benefit
- 04/06 – Llano, TX
- 05/12 – Groesbeck, TX
- 05/26 – Early, TX
- 06/09 – Crockett, TX
- 07/04 – Belton, TX
- 08/05-10 – TOTFA Fiddle Camp
- 09/28-30 – RV Ranch Benefit (Burluson)
- 10/06 – Bowie, TX
- 10/13 – Seguin, TX
- 10/20 – Lake Somerville, TX
- 10/27 – Gilmer, TX
- 11/10 – Glen Rose, TX
- 12/08 – Hillsboro, TX (TOTFA Convention)

### Non-TOTFA

- 04/26-29 – Hallettsville, TX
- 05/25 – Athens, TX
- 08/25-26 – Branson, MO

The RV Ranch Benefit, scheduled for September 28-30 in Burluson, Texas, is something we would like to hear from the membership about. Several of the members have attended the Oklahoma Fiddle Convention held in February, in Wagoner, Oklahoma. At this event, fiddlers get together for a weekend and play music without having a contest. If the membership would be interested in attending this sort of event, that would be great, otherwise, this event will be held on Saturday September 29, ONLY. RV Ranch has many trailer spots and cabins, and the area also has 4-5 moderately priced hotels.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Denise Frazier	March 4
Pauline Guinn	March 5
Devon McCauley	March 12
Jack Nash	March 14
Braden Tate	March 15
Heidi Labensart	March 16
Harrison Schumann	March 17
Michael Spears	March 22
David Sawyer	March 23
Hayden Norton & William Siros	March 26
Royce Franklin & Jachin Nugent	March 28
Jimmy Bramlett	March 30
Andy Shelton	March 31



## TOTFA MUSIC TEACHERS

For our new and existing members interested in breakdown and swing fiddling, we have compiled a list of teacher's that belong to the Texas Old-Time Fiddler's Association. These instructors teach a variety of instruments throughout the state of Texas. They offer one-on-one lessons, group lessons, Skype lessons, phone lessons, music transcription, instructional books, and all other ways to learn how to become a breakdown or swing fiddle player!

- Jason Andrew – Houston/Dallas/Sherman, TX Fiddle/Guitar/Mandolin
  - (972) 835-3471 – jasonandrew903@gmail.com
- Clayton Bankston – Burleson, TX – Fiddle/Guitar
  - (817) 995-9509
- Bubba Hopkins – Fort Worth, TX – Fiddle/Guitar
  - Music Transcription
  - Instructional Books & Videos
  - (918) 261-7598 – zirl.hopkins@gmail.com
- Michelle Kuhlman – Fiddle/Violin
  - (817) 713-5325 – 123muzik@msn.com
- Heidi Labensart – Austin, TX – Fiddle
  - (512) 698-2621 – fiddlegirl316@yahoo.com
- Dennis Ludiker – Austin, TX – Fiddle/Mandolin/Guitar
  - (512) 574-1002 dennisludiker@yahoo.com
- Julie Morris – Fort Worth, TX – Guitar/Bass
  - (817) 683-4317 – texasmusicandfood@yahoo.com
- Wade Stockton – Mission Valley, TX – Fiddle/Guitar/Mandolin
  - (361) 676-2027 – texasfiddler@hughes.net
- Lydia Stuart – Burleson, TX – Fiddle/Mandolin
  - (817) 707-7548 – lydfidd@att.net
- Ricky Turpin – New Braunfels, TX – Fiddle/Guitar
  - (830) 481-6084

If you would like to be on this list, please let us know! We will publish any additions in the April newsletter. The info will be published again in September of 2012. The only requirement is that you are an active TOTFA member.

## DUSTY MILLER “SEZ”

Let's get the TOTFA rolling again! In the 1980s-90s TOTFA had 50-100 contests per year. Looking at the 2012 schedule, we are losing a lot of fiddle contests. I know this issue has to do with the economy and less interest from the general public as compared to the 70s-90s, but every little bit helps. If any member feels that his/her city or county would be interested in a fiddle contest, please contact a board members so that we may contact them and make it happen!



## NACOGDOCHES BENEFIT MARCH 31

*Millard's Crossing Nacogdoches, TX ~ 1:00 P.M.*

This is going to be an outdoor event, so be sure to bring your lawn chairs. Millard's Crossing is a charming, reconstructed, historic village and tourist attraction in Nacogdoches, Texas. There will be plenty of room for multiple jams and we will also be selling BBQ lunches. This is a BYOB event. Millard's Crossing is located on the North side of Nacogdoches at 6020 North Street (Business 59) and the telephone number is (936) 564-6631. Visit their website at: [www.milardscrossing.org/index.html](http://www.milardscrossing.org/index.html). This will be our first event on the calendar for 2012, so be sure to come out for a day of great food, fiddling, and fellowship!

