



The Texas Fiddler



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2015 Contest Season Comes to Close in Glen Rose, Texas

The Dale McPherson Memorial / Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association Contest & Convention brought the 2015 contest season to an end on November 14-15, 2015.

The contest took place in the Somervell County Exposition Center in Glen Rose, Texas. Jeff McPherson served as announcer. Judging the contest were Ed Carnes, Marty Elmore, and Bubba Hopkins. This was the 3rd year that these 2 contests were combined.

In total, 31 fiddlers and 5 accompanists competed throughout the entire weekend. The contest started at 10 am Saturday with the 0-10 age division, and progressed in order through the 11-17, 18-35, 36-59, and 60+ divisions. After the TOTFA convention on Sunday, the contest started at 12:30 pm with the accompanist division and finished with the open division. See the “Done Gone” section for a listing of the contest results.

TOTFA thanks the McPherson family for allowing the convention & contest to be combined with the Dale McPherson Memorial, and to Marty and Karen in particular for opening up their home for food, fellowship, and an excellent jam Saturday night!

TOTFA Convention: 2015 Elections Result in 3 New Directors

Congratulations to our newest directors Cliff McCall, Elijah Stone, and Charlie Walker! The entire membership owes these individuals thanks for volunteering their time and energy to keep the TOTFA organization running and growing. They will serve alongside continuing president Bart Baker, and directors Jason Andrew and Jordan Bankston. At press time, Elijah Stone is set to fill the secretary role and Jordan Bankston will continue serving as treasurer.

Thanks also to former directors Ed Carnes, John Crawford, and Julie Morris for their services during their 2014-2015 terms, to Bubba Hopkins who has edited The Texas Fiddler newsletter for the past several years (John Crawford is assuming that duty), and to the young lady who

maintains our TOTFA website, Lisa Hopkins. You can see her handiwork on the internet by browsing to <http://www.totfa.org>.

Congratulations to 2015 TOTFA Convention Award Winners!

At each convention the membership casts votes to bestow three awards. The 2015 recipients are: **Karissa Nugent** – Favorite Fiddler, **Kathy McVicker** – Favorite Accompanist, and **Lynda Lee** – Favorite Associate.

The president and directors also decide among themselves to give the “Most Improved Fiddler” award to the member they believe has most noticeably improved in skill and execution. The 2015 recipient is **Karissa Nugent**.

They also granted the Board of Directors “Appreciation” award to **John Caballero** for his work in starting and maintaining the Llano Fiddle Contest. The Llano contest has grown and become a favorite for those who attend and has one of the most appreciative audiences.

The 2015 Board of Directors award was given to **Marty Elmore**. Marty and his team bring Bowie’s Chicken and Bread Days Fiddle Contest to us every year, always the 1st Saturday of October, with a fund-raising event in July that is just as fun to attend.

Bart Baker was pleased to hand the 2015 Presidents award to **Keenan Fletcher**. Keenan organized the Llano Swing Clinic in what must have been a record-breaking amount of time with all proceeds benefitting TOTFA. Scholarships were awarded for several students, and the instructors donated their time. The results were tremendous.

TOTFA’s Newest Contest: 1st Annual 508 Park Fiddle Contest a Success!

The 1st Annual 508 Park Fiddle Contest was held Saturday, November 7 at the 508 Park Amphitheater in downtown Dallas, Texas. This event was sponsored in partnership with the Museum of Street Culture, a project of the Stewpot of First Presbyterian Church of Dallas. This was the first fiddle contest held in Dallas in nearly 50 years.

Alan Govonar, local filmmaker and author who produced and co-directed the documentary “Texas Style” in 1985, led the effort in organizing and funding the contest. Judges were Jim (Texas Shorty) Chancellor, Valerie Ryals, and Wes Westmoreland – 3 fiddlers who were

featured in “Texas Style”. Alan Tompkins, host of the Bluegrass Heritage Radio Show and successful musician in his own right, provided his services as announcer.

32 fiddlers and 7 accompanists competed starting at 10 am, with the 0-8 division, followed by 9-12, 13-17, 18-39, 40-64, and 65+ age divisions. A “Roots of Western Swing” division also provided entertainment as individuals or groups of fiddlers competed by performing western swing tunes in the spirit of those popularized by Bob Wills.

The competition took place in the shadow of the warehouse of the Brunswick Record Corporation’s regional offices, now undergoing restoration, in which the recordings of Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, as well as blues legend Robert Johnson, were made.

The weather was cold, gray, and damp the morning of the contest which kept the attendance down; however, by noon the sun was shining, and a small crowd enjoyed the tunes and an impromptu interview and fiddling session from the judges. The event was covered by several Dallas media outlets. For reference, the links of two stories are provided below, along with a link to “*Texas Style*”. See the “Done Gone” section for a listing of the contest results.

Dallas Morning News:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/metro/20151107-508-park-fiddle-contest-picks-up-long-tradition.ece>

Dallas Observer:

<http://www.dallasobserver.com/music/alan-govenar-to-bring-dallas-its-first-fiddle-contest-in-almost-50-years-7706784>

“*Texas Style*”, copyright 1985 by Alan Govenar

<http://www.folkstreams.net/film,163>

Done Gone

1st Annual 508 Park Fiddle Contest Encore Park Amphitheater ~ 508 Park Ave. Dallas, TX November 7th ~ Dallas, TX

0-8

1st – Brayden Baird

9-12

1st – Christiana Nugent
2nd – Ashley Jordan
3rd – London McCartney
4th – Roland Foster
5th – Ashlyn Corbin

13-17

1st – Jessica Sell
2nd – Noelle Nugent
3rd – Leah Sawyer
4th – Daisy Walker

18-39

1st – Jason Andrew
2nd – Katie Crawford
3rd – Karissa Nugent
4th – Faith Nugent
5th – Jordan Bankston
6th – Jordan Greer

40-64

1st – Marty Elmore
2nd – Ed Carnes
3rd – Anthony Wilson
4th – Kevin Freeman
5th – Jim Varnon
6th – Cliff McCall

65+

1st – Jesse Mears
2nd – Larry Boddie
3rd – Robert Frost

Roots of Western Swing

1st – Leah Sawyer
2nd – Jason Andrew
3rd – Fiddlin' Fools (Katie Crawford
& Jessica Sell)
4th – Texas Lace (Faith, Karissa, &
Noelle Nugent)
5th – Anthony Wilson
6th – Jim Varnon
7th – Larry Boddie

Accompanist

1st – Simon Stipp
2nd – Hyatt Hopkins
3rd – Ted Williams
4th – Nick Gillentine
5th – Kathy McVicker
6th – Bart Baker
7th – John Crawford

**42nd Annual TOTFA Championship &
Dale McPherson Memorial Contest
November 14-15th ~ Glen Rose, TX**

0-10

- 1st – Ashlyn Corbin
- 2nd – Cooper Roberts
- 3rd – Roland Foster
- 4th – Cameron Roberts

18-35

- 1st – Faith Nugent
- 2nd – Ben McPherson
- 3rd – Elijah Stone
- 4th – Jordan Bankston

60+

- 1st – Jesse Mears
- 2nd – David Holcomb
- 3rd – Tom Fonville
- 4th – Cliff McCall
- 5th – Jim Varnon
- 6th – Robert Frost

11-17

- 1st – Elliott Dean
- 2nd – Noelle Nugent
- 3rd – Emmy Curtis
- 4th – Christiana Nugent
- 5th – Nate Jacobson
- 6th – Carter Roberts
- 7th – Daisy Walker

36-59

- 1st – Keenan Fletcher
- 2nd – Lydia Stuart
- 3rd – John Crawford

Accompanist

- 1st – Hyatt Hopkins
- 2nd – Jacob Johnson
- 3rd – Nick Gillentine
- 4th – Kathy McVicker
- 5th – Jody Elmore

TOTFA State Championship

- 1st – Jason Andrew
- 2nd – River Lee
- 3rd – Karissa Nugent
- 4th – Katie Crawford
- 5th – Anthony Wilson
- 6th – Jessica Sell
- 7th – Julie Amundson

2016 Calendar

Here is a listing of contest dates in 2016. It's early, and not all the dates are yet known, but put these on your calendar, and stay tuned! We'll keep the list updated with any changes or additions as the year wears on. TOTFA contests are listed in **bold**.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 2	Llano, TX
April 23-24	Hallettsville, TX
May 14	Groesbeck, TX
May 28	Athens, TX
Oct 1	Bowie, TX
Oct 8	Seguin, TX
Oct 15	Gilmer, TX
Nov 12	Glen Rose, TX

TOTFA PayPal Address Change

If you use PayPal to renew your TOTFA membership, or make TOTFA donations or purchases, you'll want to know that the TOTFA PayPal address has changed and is now **TOTFAPayPal@totfa.org**. It can be all upper-case, lower-case, or mixed-case... doesn't matter.

TOTFA Newsletter Email Address

If you have any interesting articles, notes, or announcements that you would like to see in future publications of *The Texas Fiddler* newsletter you may email them to **TOTFANewsletter@totfa.org**. You may also mail content through the postal service by sending to:

TOTFA Newsletter
c/o John Crawford
277 Diamond Ln N
Burlison, TX 76028-6729

Birthdays

December 2015	
Name	Date
David Walker	2
Jacquelyn Norris	4
Bob Davis	12
Benjamin McGuire	16
Emmy Curtis	17
Chris Sell	20
Jim Varnon	21
Susannah Erler	24
Carter Roberts	24
Anthony Wilson	27
Kathleen King	28
Jesse Roy Hart	30
Betty Solomon	31

January 2016	
Name	Date
William Hittton	1
Vicki Raines	2
Chris Marshall	14
Abby Morris	15
Karissa Nugent	18
Jesse Mears	19
David Looper	21
Jill Baker	22
Richard Harrison	26
Sheryl Sultenfuss	27

2016-2017 TOTFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The
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