The Newsletter of the Saline Fiddlers

Fiddlin' Around

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Saline Fiddlers 2007 Summer Tour

Fiddlers take the show West



By Will Warner,
Executive Director,
Saline Fiddlers

What begins in Vegas, ends in Vegas, or something like that. Anyhow, this summer's tour for the Saline Fiddlers begins and ends there.



Our equipment truck will roll out of Saline on the evening of June 23 with Executive Director Will Warner and Fiddlers' regular bus driver Jim Oliver in the cab. Two and a half days later they will pull into Las Vegas, there to rejoin the rest of the group—the musicians, technicians, staff and chaperones—who will have made the same journey in four hours by air.

Under one of those crimson desert sunsets, the group will cruise "the strip," then hit the pool at the motel.

Tuesday morning we will meet our bus driver for this tour, pack his 55-passenger coach and settle in to what will be our rolling home for the next 11 days. Following portions of the old Route 66, we will make our way to San Diego to appear as the featured artists in an episode of San Diego Bluegrass Society Kids Night.



Next day we'll meander up the coast to LA, possibly stopping in Laguna Beach or Venice Beach for a swim. That evening the Fiddlers perform on Santa Monica Pier as part of the Pier Jams concert series.

Thursday will be a day of sightseeing and activities in and around LA.

Friday, the group moves up the coast to Oxnard, CA to take part in that city's summer concert series.



Then it's on to Monterey and San Francisco for sightseeing and gig on Pier 39 of Fisherman's Wharf at noon on July 2nd.

On Tuesday we leave the coast and head into the mountains, through Donner Pass, and down into Nevada. That afternoon the group will conduct a workshop for young string players in the Reno area. On July 4th, the Saline Fiddlers will participate



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* Senior Edition *

We dedicate every spring newsletter to our graduating Fiddlers and their parents. Look inside for features on each graduate.

Parlez-vous?

Fiddling for the French



By Beth Bartley

The Saline Fiddlers were ambassadors of international relations between Creteil, France and Saline Michigan in April. The group put on a performance for the eighth grade French Foreign exchange program during their Farewell Party.

French students and their teachers had been in the United States for two weeks and were being housed by Saline students and their families. They were here to experience as much of United States culture as possible in that short time through field trips and vacations with their host families as well as day-to-day activities such as attending school and sports practices with their host.

The theme of the Farewell Party was an old fashioned United States barbecue complete with hamburgers, hot dogs, and cole slaw among other traditional foods, but it was the hometown music that really had these kids hopping! A group of French students became so enthusiastic during the show that they formed a dance line. Some Fiddler gals placed their cowgirl hats on the girls from France. All had fun and several purchased CDs to send home with the visiting students. Yeee-haaaa and Vive La France!



Whoo-hoo!



The Creteil Fiddlers? It could happen!

Fiddlin' Around is the official newsletter of the **Saline Fiddlers.**
We publish four times yearly, or as needed.
Jen Lahnala and Beth Bartley, Editors.
Photos courtesy of loving Fiddler families and California websites.
Will Warner, Executive Director

Fiddlers to go west

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in the Pops-In-The-Park program in Genoa, NV, on the bill with the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra.

Then it's south along the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevadas with a stop for some mountain hiking near Yosemite and another in Death Valley. Finally, the redeye home from Vegas.

Twelve days. Desert, seashore, cities, mountains, desert. Hope the truck holds up.

Schedule of performance stops on page 6!

Presenting the Class of 2007

After summer tour, we will be saying goodbye to a very promising group of nine graduating seniors. We wish them a wonderful future.



Casey

For the past three years Casey has played five string banjo for the Saline Fiddlers. He started out playing violin in the fifth grade, but decided to switch in the eighth because he wanted to try something new. "I have also started playing the guitar in February," he said, "so that is a new adventure."

Casey's extracurricular activities included Saline Quiz Bowl, J.V/Varsity Crew Leader and Sunday School Teacher. In his spare time he likes to practice his instrument or read a good Science Fiction book.

Casey's Favorites
Food – chicken and mashed potatoes
Restaurant – Olive Garden
TV Show – Star Trek: The Next Generation
Teacher – Mr. McKelvey
Song – "Workin' for the Weekend" by Loverboy
Movie – Zoolander

"This summer I plan on enjoying my last summer at home and working to pay for college," he said. At Western Michigan University he will get a degree in Economics, Finance or Math. He has chosen to live in the dorm on campus.

"My favorite Fiddler memory is the river boat tour the Fiddlers took in Tennessee. I enjoyed the band on the boat and I liked the river tour followed by fire works with Charlie Daniels music," he said.

Casey's advice for new Fiddlers; "Play every day and don't always play fiddle music. Instead I play music I enjoy on banjo which helps me improve. No matter what you must always enjoy what you play on your instrument."



Jordan

Jordan has played cello for the Saline Fiddlers for four years. She started playing bass in the fifth grade and decided to switch to cello in the seventh grade. Her first private teacher was Mr. Ben Culver's brother, the amazing cellist Mr. Barney Culver.

Jordan first decided she wanted to become a Fiddler when she saw them at a Christmas Parade. "They all looked so happy and I loved the hats," she said, "I knew I wanted to be a part of that."

Jordan's favorite Fiddler tunes are "Olympic Reel" and the newest piece, "Volcanic Jig." Of her favorite travels with the group, she most enjoyed New York City and Boston. "I really bonded with everyone on that trip," she said, "and Central Park was awesome!"

This fall, Jordan plans to attend military boot-camp for the reserves. She is still deciding between the Air Force and the Army. She plans to live in the barracks.

Jordan's Favorites
Food – Pad Thai
Restaurant – Cracker Barrel
TV Show – Star Trek: The Next Generation
Teacher – Mrs. Robinson
Music group – The Strokes
Movie – Just Like Heaven

Her career plans are to study biology in college with a minor in religious studies. She will go to graduate school for physical therapy or med. school while continuing to be active in the military.

Jordan's advice to new Fiddlers: "Value your time in this group because it goes by too quickly. Fiddlers is a one-of-a-kind experience and I am so lucky to have been involved in it for these four years!"

Our Graduates...

Kelsey selected viola to play in fifth grade orchestra because, "I wanted to be in Fiddlers, but cellos were too big, the school didn't teach guitar, and my sister [already] played violin." In eighth grade, Kelsey began taking lessons outside of school. She had already been playing piano since age five and added guitar sometime early on, trumpet in ninth grade, and dobro in twelfth grade. Kelsey took an interest in Fiddlers after seeing their demonstration in fifth grade, which, she says, was "cooler than the band" demonstration, and the Fiddlers were *kinda* like "Barrage" (a group of young Canadian performers who played at the Hometown Shows).

Kelsey has sung solo on "Grass Is Blue" and "Blue Moon of Kentucky" and has had other vocal parts. She has clogged to "all" of the songs where the Fiddlers had cloggers.



Kelsey

About her favorite Fiddler tune, Kelsey had to say that she is 'partial' to "Catharsis." The 2004 New England Tour was Kelsey's favorite, where she fell in love with the East Coast and the Boston area. A favorite memory, though is a little harder to identify. "How could I pick? Fireworks every year… going places with my new best friends… playing in a 'castle'... getting to know waaay too many people too well, the tour when we all got "Lost"… yeah, ask me later."

School activities include marching band, National Honor Society, German Club, Quiz Bowl, Hornet Light & Sound, cross-country and track. Kelsey also served on the audio and visual team at her church. Other interests are "proper grammar, being

(Continued on page 6)

Jacob remembers watching the Fiddlers perform when he was much younger and wanted to be a Fiddler at once. So he began taking violin lessons in fifth grade and followed up with private lessons the next year. He also plays the mandolin and piano.



Jacob

A four-year veteran, Jacob has soloed in many tunes and is the feature singer in "The Devil Went Down to Georgia." He clogged his sophomore year to "Justin Otter's Steamboat," but his favorite tune to play is "Draggin' the Bow." He also teaches lessons.

Looking back at his Fiddler years, Jacob says, "Every Fiddler memory is a good one for me, so I can't pick one." His favorite trip was the 2004 New England Tour, because "there were so many fun things to do."

Jacob's Favorites
Food – bacon, cheese fries
Dessert - cheesecake
Restaurant – Outback Steakhouse
TV Show – House
Teacher – Mr. Bush
Movie – Boondock Saints

Jacob has played soccer for 11 years and has been in Boy Scouts for eight. He recently passed his Board of Review for Eagle. He loves to hang out with friends and go to movies.

This fall Jacob plans to attend East Tennessee State University to major in digital media and minor in bluegrass. He would love to get a bluegrass band together and travel around the world. It looks like the Fiddlers have a guest artist for upcoming Hometown Shows!

Jacob's advice for new Fiddlers is, "Just have fun. And don't date Fiddler girls!"

The Class of 2007

Andrew's family thought he was going to play drums when he first showed interest in music. He had already been playing piano since the first grade. Then, in the fifth grade he saw Jeremy Kittle playing with the Saline Fiddlers. "I wanted to be just like him," he said, looking back. To his family's surprise, he chose to play the violin. Later, in the ninth grade he expanded his musical horizons by learning the mandolin.



Andrew

Andrew has played with the Saline Fiddlers for four years. His favorite tour was the one for Katrina Relief. "Everyone bonded together and had lots of fun," he said. While he enjoys singing, he has never done any solos with the group.

Aside from his talents with the Fiddlers, Andrew has been involved in numerous school activities including National Honor Society, Model U.N., student council, cross-country, math club and Chordsmen. He is an excellent example of the high standards to which the Saline Fiddlers holds its members.

Andrew's Favorites
Food – Sushi
Dessert – fried ice cream
Movie – Caddyshack
Teacher – Dr. Hassberger
Song – "Any Way You Want It" by Journey

This summer, Andrew will go on his last tour with the group out west. After graduation, he will attend the University of Michigan to become either a computer or electrical engineer or a musician. His advice to new Fiddlers, "Learn the difference between a time to work and a time to have fun."

Fiddler and mandolinist extraordinaire David saw Bob Phillips and daughters playing fiddle music at his fifth grade open house. Then and there he knew he wanted to play violin. He began taking violin lessons in fifth grade, guitar in sixth, mandolin in seventh, and added the trumpet (for marching band) in the tenth.

David's Favorites
Pet – Shetland Sheepdog named Holly
Dessert – anything composed of or covered in chocolate
TV Show – Firefly
Teacher – Mr. Smith (AP US History)
Country to live, after US – Germany?

When the Fiddlers played at "Top of the Park" in Ann Arbor, David wanted to be a Fiddler too. "I had a lot of fun watching the concert and thought it would be even more fun playing." Since then, David has been involved in many aspects of the show, from solo-singing "I'm an Old Cowhand" and vocal parts in "Leaving Liverpool" and "Callin' Baton Rouge" to clogging to "Big John MacNeil," "Octoped" and "Vladimir's Replacement" to joining in on mandolin and guitar (no trumpet parts, yet).



David

David's most memorable trip with the Fiddlers was the 2006 Hurricane Katrina Relief Tour. "Playing for the volunteers and helping out in the relief effort was a powerful experience, and the people we met were wonderful and receptive."

Another favorite Fiddler memory was the trip to

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Our Graduates...

Mary wanted to play violin since she was five years old. "Although, at the time, I thought the guitar was a violin," she said. "I saw [the Fiddlers] perform at the first ever Celtic Festival when I was six and decided at that moment I had to be a Fiddler some day." She started lessons with a REAL violin in the sixth grade.



Mary

Mary has been with the group for four years since she was a freshman. She is one of the multi-talented voices performing solos for songs "When You Say Nothing At All" and "Born to Fly." She has clogged with the group from tenth to twelfth grade on the tunes "Big John MacNeil," "Vladimir's Steamboat," "Octoped" and others. Her favorite Fiddler tunes are "Farewell Set" and "Volcanic Jig." Mary's favorite Fiddler memory: "Sitting by the Boston Harbor on a beautiful summer's night, July 4th, 2004, and seeing amazing fireworks with my friends."

Mary's extracurricular activities include track and field, National Honor Society, marching band, varsity cheerleading and LIFE youth group and leadership team. Her interests include art, drawing, painting and her Catholic faith, a very important influence in her life.

Mary's Favorites
Food – steak, seafood
TV Show – Smallville
Movie – Lord of the Rings trilogy
Music group – Rascall Flatts
Teacher – Mr. Pike

When she graduates from Saline High School, Mary's plan is to go to the University of Michigan and live in the all-girl Martha Cook Residence Hall. She intends to apply to the business school and may become a Certified Public Accountant.

Mary's advice to new Fiddlers: "Don't take it for granted. Yes, sometimes you'll be so busy you'll want to tear your hair out, but trust me, the experience and what you'll learn is worth it. Try not to get frustrated and caught up in the little things because, before you know it'll be over and you don't want to miss out on any of it!"

Kelsey

(Continued from page 4)

pretentious about music (to an extent) and pretending to be smarter than I am."

Kelsey's Favorites
Food – granola
Restaurant – Za's
TV Show – The Office
Teacher – Mr. Pike
Music group – Rilo Kiley

Kelsey's employment has included working in the pizza and tax businesses. This summer she will relax, before packing up and heading off to the University of Michigan, where she will study business or medicine.

Kelsey advises new Fiddlers to enjoy the experience while they can, and to "work hard enough to make it fun, but not to the point where it's all work and no fun."

2007 Westward Ho! Tour Performance Stops

June 26, 8:00 PM
San Diego Bluegrass Society Kids Night
First Baptist Church of the Pacific
4747 Soledad Mountain Rd, San Diego, CA
June 27, 2:00 PM
Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, CA
June 29, 6:00 PM
Heritage Square, 715 South A Street, Oxnard, CA
July 2, Noon
Pier 39, Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco, CA
July 4, 2:00 PM
Pops-in-the-Park, Mormon Sta. St. Park, Genoa, NV

The Class of 2007

At a Saline gig a fan of the Fiddlers was once quoted as saying, "I came to see the tall, lovely one!" And so Marie has come to be known. Due to her height, stature and talent she has become a fan favorite.



Marie

Marie has been a staple in the Saline Fiddlers for four years. She decided she wanted to join the group in the 5th grade after seeing the "Phillips twins" perform. "I was inspired!" she said. "I wanted to play something more than stuffy orchestra music, I wanted to travel and I wanted to dance!"

Marie's favorite Fiddler memory is when the group played in Boston in a square surrounded by hundreds in the audience. "There were just so many smiles, laughs and even hugs," she said.

Aside from working with the group, Marie really enjoys art, painting, drawing, writing and teaching little kids.

This summer, Marie will maintain her goals of saving money, babysitting, spending time with friends and, of course, her activities with the Saline Fiddlers.

Marie's Favorites
Food – Maraschino cherries, sushi
Dessert – crème brulée
Teacher – Mrs. Robinson
Song – "Iris" by the Goo Goo Dolls
Movie – The Lion King

After graduating from Saline High School, Marie plans to attend Michigan State University. She will study advertising and live in a dorm. She will major in either commercial design or elementary education.

Marie's advice for new Fiddlers, "Keep your true priorities in order" she says "and do what makes you truly happy!"

Sarah's favorites
Pet – turtle named Corpy
Food – ice cream, vegetables
Restaurant – Mongolian Barbecue, Za's
TV Show – Grey's Anatomy
Teacher – Mr. Culver

Sarah likes playing with any instrument "just for the fun of it.' She began taking fiddle lessons at age 10 from Sarah Phillips, daughter of Fiddlers founder Bob Phillips, and played piano even before that.

Sarah wanted to become a Fiddler from watching the shows as a kid. "The music and atmosphere appealed to me," she said. Sarah's favorite memory is seeing her name on "the list" - among those who passed auditions and were invited to join.

Sarah is a four-year Fiddler and clogger. She can't name a favorite tune. "I like all of them… except for a very select few, and I can't even think of any of those right now."

It is equally hard to pick a favorite tour. "I have liked all of them... even when we have to be out of town for New Year's I have had fun. One of my favorite tour experiences was going to New York City my freshman year. I have a feeling this summer in California will also produce some favorite Fiddler memories."

Sarah has been home-schooled until the twelfth grade. She likes running, math and science and values her church and family. She teaches violin and fiddle.



Sarah

Next year will find Sarah at the University of Michigan. She will study biomedical engineering with hopes of becoming a physician.

Sarah advises new Fiddlers to "Practice more than you think you need to. ...Just in general in life work harder than you think you need to. It can't hurt anything."

Senior Fiddler crossword

Learn about our graduating Fiddlers as you have fun. Some of the answers can be found in the Fiddlers' stories, and some just… fit in! For solution, see Summer 2007 Fiddlin' Around.

8 Across:

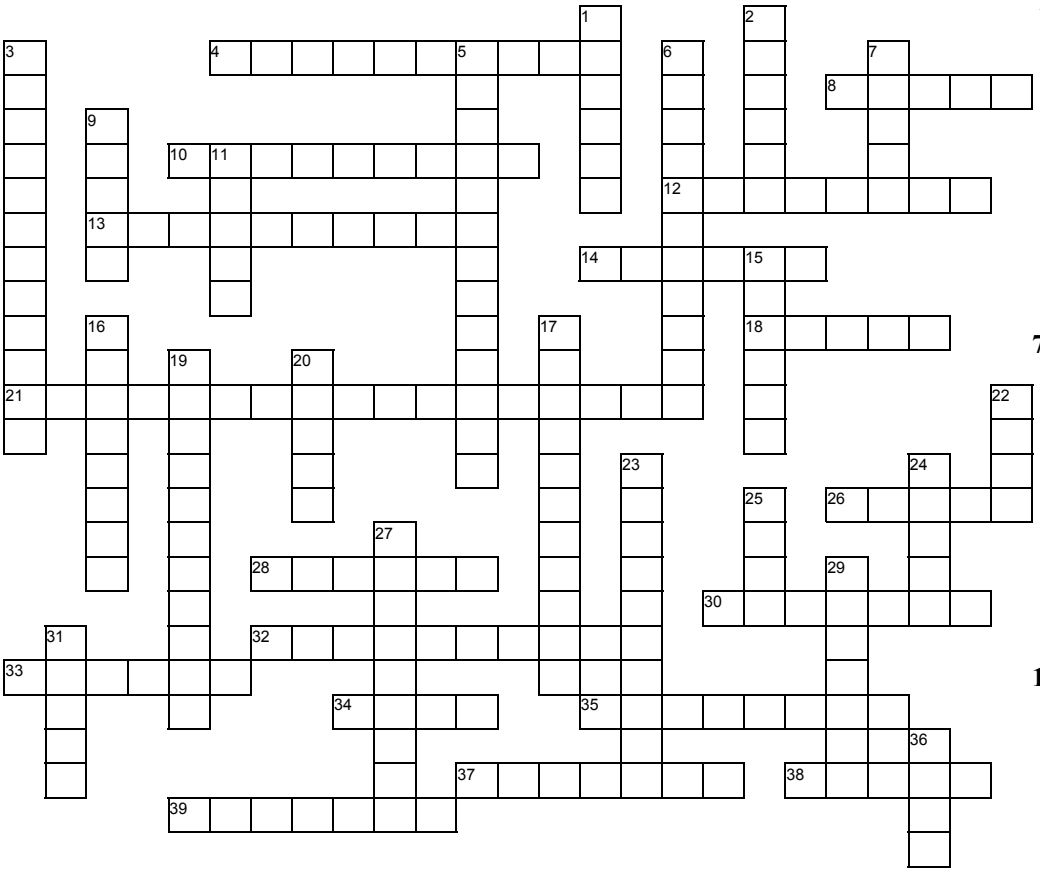


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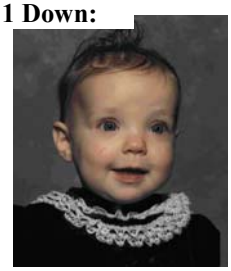


18 Across:





1 Down:



7 Down:



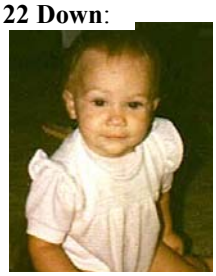
15 Down:



38 Across:



22 Down:



20 Down:



ACROSS

4 Casey and Jacob's favorite dessert
10 Kelsey and Marie's favorite TV show
12 Sarah's favorite frozen food
13 Mary's favorite 'super' TV show
21 Mary and Sarah like this Asian grilling restaurant
26 Jordan, Kelsey and Marie would like to live in this peninsular country
28 Sarah's new Fiddler sister
30 Favorite room in the house for 2/3 of Fiddlers
32 Casey and David's favorite music group, "Bela Fleck and the ___"
33 Sarah's family pet is pretty *slow*
34 Favorite color of all the guys and Sarah
35 Jacob has two of these retrievers
37 Casey likes this bird with mashed potatoes
39 Andrew's favorite band is a trip

DOWN

2 Jordan's *stroopwafels* and Kelsey's chocolate chip
3 Jordan and Sarah's favorite TV show takes place in a hospital
5 Jordan's favorite down-home restaurant
6 Sarah's favorite movie has a French title
9 Andrew and Jacob's favorite 'domestic' TV show
11 Christmas plant and name of David's dog
16 Jacob, David and Andrew's second instrument
17 Marie's favorite movie made a roar on broadway
19 Marie likes this 'babyish' band
23 Andrew's favorite movie, a golf comedy
24 Casey's instrument
25 Fish and Kelsey and Mary's favorite teacher
27 David's favorite dessert has to be made of this
29 Kelsey's favorite breakfast food
31 Andrew and Marie's favorite Japanese food
36 Mary's fav. movie trilogy

Let's hear it for the senior Fiddler parents!!

It's always tough to let go of the graduating parents. Aside from their tremendous help to the organization, we've become very good friends. Your generosity can never be repaid. Thanks to all of you.

Peggy Rzepka has been the groups A+ costume designer. She has also volunteered her time as driver, chaperone and new family welcome speaker.

Paul Rzepka is the last of " The Five Dads" who guided the group into its privately funded organization.

Irv and Darlene Knickerbocker have driven the Fiddlers to countless gigs, helped out with Hometown Concert decorations, merchandise management, and advertising sign placement.

Jen Lahnala has been the Editor and Chief of the newsletter "Fidddlin' Around." She also found time to be a driver and chaperone.

Tom Lahnala made the sandwich board signs for advertising and acted as an usher for many concerts.

Marny Koziel functioned as the original accountant and secured the groups 501(C) 3 status. She also took on chaperone duties.

Matt Koziel has helped with driving, tour arrangements and fund raising.

Janice Beck managed student accounts.

Mike Beck took care of promotions through articles and press releases. He was also in charge of videotaping concerts and producing and editing CDs.

Bob and **Lauren Carnahan** helped out with chaperoning, merchandise management and manning sales tables.

Larry and **Debbie Menchak** were in charge of ticket sales and the selection of guest artists.

Susan and **Michael Long** have functioned as overall food managers for gigs and retreats.

Doug Rhine was an amazing Event Manager, with an uncanny ability to anticipate the needs of the individual group members and staff.

Kathleen Rhine and Doug have been generous financial donors to the group.

Of course their greatest contribution is the very talented children they have raised. Cowboy hats off to the senior parents of the Saline Fiddlers 2007!

Welcome new Fiddlers

Audition time has come and gone. Eighth, ninth and tenth graders played their best and interviewed with Mr. Culver and the individual Fiddler members. After careful consideration at a top-secret meeting, eleven new members were invited to join the group. Let's have a great big howdy for:

Rachel - violin
Markus - violin
Kate - violin
Brad - violin
Dan - cello
Rachel - violin
Gregory - viola
Marty - violin
Trevor - viola
Richard - mandolin
Devin - banjo

Congratulations new Fiddlers! See you on stage!



David

(Continued from page 5)

Lexington, Kentucky. "We played a concert for an auditorium packed with young musicians. They were the wildest, most energetic audience I've ever played for."

David has been in cross country, track and field, marching band, jazz band, Chordsmen, Boy Scouts, Bible Quizzing, and National Honor Society. Most of his favorite activities involve playing music or singing with friends, and he likes to spend time outdoors running, backpacking, or camping.

David has worked three summers in medical records and teaches private violin and mandolin lessons. He will attend the University of Michigan and plans to study psychology or medicine.

David's advice? "Work hard, try all kinds of things, meet lots of people, and do what you love. Anything that's <u>really</u> worth doing is worth doing well."

*** Senior Edition ***



Fiddling for the French
(See page 2)



SALINE Fiddlers

Will Warner, Executive Director
Ben Culver, Artistic Director
Doug Rhine, Event Manager
Lynda Shea, Administrative Manager
Ed Brosius, Technical Director

For bookings call: 1-866-257-5333

www.salinefiddlers.com

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Upcoming Public Performances

- June 13, **Soo Locks**, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
- June 14, **Marquette**, MI
- June 23, 3:30 PM, **Livonia Spree**, Ford Field in Livonia, MI
- **June 24 to July 6: Summer Tour of California and Nevada, page 6**
- July 12, 7:00 PM, **Pigeon Summer Concert Series,** Pigeon, MI
- July 18, 8:00 PM, **Nardin Park United Methodist Church "Wednesdays at Eight" Concert Series**, 29887 W Eleven Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI
- July 19, 7:00 PM, **Mayville Sunflower Festival**, Mayville, MI
- July 21, 4:00 PM, **St. Joseph Catholic Church**, 3430 Dover St, Dexter, MI
- August 9, 7:30 PM, **Owosso Area Amphitheater Association**, MI
- August 10, 7:00 PM, **Fountain Park Music Series**, Van Wert, OH
- August 11, 5:00 PM, **Saline Summerfest**, Michigan & Ann Arbor Rds, Saline, MI
- August 12, 2:00 and 3:30 PM, **Milford Memories**, Milford, MI
- August 17, 7:00 PM, **Armada Fair**, Armada, MI
- August 20, 2:00 PM, **Canadian Lakes Club**, Stanwood, MI
- August 23, 7:30 PM, **Stars in the Park Concert Series**, Heritage Park, Farmington Hills, MI
- August 25, 8:15 PM, **Hoover Auditorium**, Third St, Lakeside, OH
- September 1, **Michigan State Fair**

See the latest details and web links to most of these events on our website, salinefiddlers.com

*** Senior Edition ***

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The Saline Fiddlers
PO Box 315
Saline, MI 48176

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To:



NEW FIDDLERS rehearse! **See page 9.**