



Fiddlin' Around

Volume 14, Number 2

www.salinefiddlers.com

Spring 2008



Featured Artist: The Infamous Stringdusters



By Chris Bartley

The Saline Fiddlers Hometown concert was one to remember. Not only did the Saline Fiddlers step up and outdo themselves, but they also brought one of the best bluegrass bands to our great city. The Infamous Stringdusters stopped in Saline during a multi-national tour supporting their award winning album 'A Fork in the Road' (winner of the Best Bluegrass Album 2007). These guys were incredible. If music was food, these guys play tasty. They not only play extremely well, they can all sing, perform and bring a youthful energy to what they do best. This six piece band is centered in Nashville. Keep your eyes (and ears) on these guys, we can expect to get a lot of great music out of them in the future.

The Fiddlers gave their usual high energy performance. While they were fiddlin,' dancin,' singin' and pickin' the audience was clappin,' laughin,' hootin,' and hollerin.' The Fiddlers are unique because they provide musicians with a way to express themselves that is not usually afforded players at this age. The sound crew did an amazing "behind the scenes" job as well.

The Hometown Concerts are quite a bit more than a show. They are more of an experience to those involved in the organization. The Fiddlers are extremely "hands on" in every aspect of the performance, from set-up to tear-down. These shows also require a great deal of effort from the parents of the group members as well. Prior to each Hometown Show the the Fiddlers hold a workshop with the featured artist. This is not just to prepare a song to play together at the concert, it is also an opportunity to expose the students to new styles and playing techniques. It also allows the student musicians to open discussions with successful musicians about how to succeed and for those going on to music careers to begin the networking process. The night

doesn't end after the punch and cookies. When the entertainment and hard work is done, there is a post show party where everyone can take a breath, relax, get to know each other better and, of course, engage in one of the favorite Fiddler pastimes besides performing great music ... eating!
www.salinefiddlers.com.



Meet the new Fiddlers

We're proud to introduce here and at our concerts our talented bunch of new Fiddlers. This is only four of the new group. Four more new Fiddlers were featured in the Fall 2007 edition of *Fiddlin' Around*.



TREVOR

I wanted to become a member of the Saline Fiddlers the first time I met Mr. Bob Phillips in fifth grade music. He made fiddling contagious and I decided to play the viola because of its rich tones. My prior years of piano lessons helped me to read music. Since my older sister was a Saline Fiddler, I was exposed to the exciting summer tours and various concert venues.

School classes I enjoy are anything related to science and math. I have become involved in Saline High School Quiz Bowl, Science Olympiad and Model UN. I compete in paintball battles, archery and sailing. Last summer, I completed my 1st class seaman training and purchased a Laser sailboat that I sail in Lake Huron. I hope to crew in another North American Yingling Championship race this summer and possibly teach youth sailing classes.

The Saline Fiddlers' organization has been a great experience for me. In addition to meeting new friends and traveling around the country, fiddling has helped me to step out of my conservative nature and have fun in a musical environment.



MARCUS



Marcus first saw the Saline Fiddlers when they shared the stage with Mark O'Connor for one of the **Hometown Shows**. He later saw his brother, Michael try out for the (Please see **Marcus**, page #3)



GREG



I heard about the Fiddlers from the many advertisements I noticed as a string player in Saline. How could you not hear about the Saline Fiddlers? The reason I wanted to join was to take playing to the next level, and really have a place where I could feel at home. It is true when they say you make 30 new friends when you get accepted. My hobbies include reading, dabbling in other instruments (guitar, piano), computers, and pretty much anything outdoors related (like skiing).

My favorite T.V show would have to be "Lost," mostly for the suspense of never knowing what's going to happen next. My favorite movie is "Lord of the Rings." I read the books as a kid, and the movies are everything I could have hoped for. I was blown away by how they brought the books to life. As a lover of books, this is no easy task.



My inspiration in music is my brother, Mark, who's majoring in music production and has written dozens of songs. His ability to just grab an instrument and make music is phenomenal and it's one of the many attributes I admire about him.

Fiddlin' Around is the official newsletter of the **Saline Fiddlers.**

We publish four times yearly, or as needed.
Beth Bartley, Editor.

Photos and articles courtesy of Fiddlers and their loving families.

www.salinefiddlers.com

MARCUS - group. Marcus has played violin since he was in 2nd grade, so it makes perfect sense that he would follow in his brother's footsteps.

Being a member of the Saline Fiddlers is a quick way to gain some instant friendships. Since the family has moved several times in his young life, this has been a nice fringe benefit for Marcus and his brother Michael. The boys' father was involved in the Pfizer move from Michigan, but is making sacrifices to ensure they stay with the group that they love.

In sports, Marcus enjoys playing tennis. His other interests include biking, music, camping and traveling (which he also gets numerous opportunities to do with the Fiddlers). His favorite movie is "Air Force One" with Harrison Ford and his favorite T.V. show is "Prison Break."



MARTY

Marty is another first class violin player and a fine addition to the Saline Fiddlers. He first heard about the Saline Fiddlers when he was in seventh grade orchestra. As with many of his fellow group members, Marty began playing violin in fifth grade.

Aside from playing his violin and participating in the Saline Fiddlers he really loves to fish and mountain bike. Marty also enjoys the sport of soccer. He enjoys hanging out with friends and sometimes just being by himself and relaxing.

"(I) hope to be a Biological Scientist," he says of his future ambitions. With regards to his current schooling, his favorite teacher is Mr. Denzin. "He pushes you, but helps you along the way."

At home, Marty has two sisters who are also in High School. His parents are Marge and Jim O'Connell and he has a pet rabbit named Sunny. Marty's favorite T.V. show is the popular comedy "The Office," and his favorite movie is "Happy Feet."



No One Enjoys Dancing to Our Music More



"Burger School for Students with Autism is the largest public school program in the United States that specializes in the education of students with autism." This program was started in 1976 and moved to its current location in 1980. The school itself resides in Garden City, Michigan and is operated by the Wayne County School System. It accommodates approximately 34 school districts. It services around 280 students, ages ranging from 3 to 26 years old. The success of the school is indicated by the fact that 76% of graduates are involved in work programs.

"Our staff specialists are available to assist parents and guardians with various agencies such as the Social Security Administration, respite care

agencies, and guardian planning. Home visits and in-school observations are avenues available to parents to assist in the student's progress and increase cooperation between home and school," as quoted from the Burger school web site at <http://www.resa.net/gardencity/schools/burger/contacts.htm>.

The students are engaged in hands-on activities such as bowling, roller skating, swimming, basketball, Special Olympics programs and field (see **Dancing**, page #4)





Thanks for Everything, Lynda!

By Theresa Brosius



Linda Shea

In the last Fiddlin' Around Newsletter Fiddlers said good-bye to Doug Rhine and welcome to Karen Bedigian and Randy Dakin. With the passage of another few months and we are again experiencing a staffing/volunteer transition. For the past two years, Lynda Shea, mother of senior bass player Dan has graciously taken on the role of Administrative Manager for the group. In this position, Lynda performed the jobs of financial bookkeeping: coordinating payroll, student accounts, and gig accounts, and bookings manager: locating, developing, negotiating and securing gig opportunities, culminating in a contract to entertain, along with sundry other administrative duties.

Lynda, a mother of three teenagers who also maintains a part-time job at

a dental office, spent thousands of hours making sure that gigs were secured, that all the various details were coordinated, and just being there to see that all went well. With her unfailing smile, magnificent memory and tremendous capacity for story-telling, Lynda could always be counted on to make you laugh and just feel good. Lynda devoted herself diligently to seeing that every one of the Fiddler members had a successful and enjoyable experience at gigs, at rehearsals and on summer tours. She worked tirelessly to make the organization better for the future. Her dedication and commitment will be greatly missed. But as always, new Fiddler parents have stepped up to fill her shoes to make sure that the wheels keep turning, and, once again, requires the efforts of two parent volunteers. Our new bookings Manager is Mark Visovatti, father of junior cello player Jacob. Undertaking the task of Bookkeeper is Mark Kurkyndall, father of freshman violin player Brad. We like to affectionately refer to the duo as "Mark and Mark" in the roles of "B" and "B". They are already hard at work securing gigs and managing the financial operations of the Fiddler organization. We will miss the jovial and industrious personality of Lynda Shea, but we welcome the dynamic duo of "Mark and Mark" so the Fiddlers can keep on playin'!



Dan

Dancing contd. - trips all designed to enrich their quality of life and develop necessary motor skills.

Burger School is one of the favorite gigs for both Fiddlers and their parents alike.

The response of the students to the music is priceless. A Fiddler favorite of the Burger kids is the tune "Buffalo Gals" which, year after year has resulted in kids leaping from their seats and dancing with great joy as Fiddler cloggers engage in traditional square dance.

Compliments to the Burger School! You're amazing!





FIDDLER SOUP



By Theresa Brosius

Start with one prepared community having a well-run school music program
Take one good-sized smoked executive director
One well-seasoned artistic director, coordinating with an assistant
A dance choreographer, a voice coach, an intern, all sliced and added together
Stir in:

- a Solid Technical Manager
- A Mature Events Manager
- A Natural Bookings Manager
- A Rare Bookkeeper

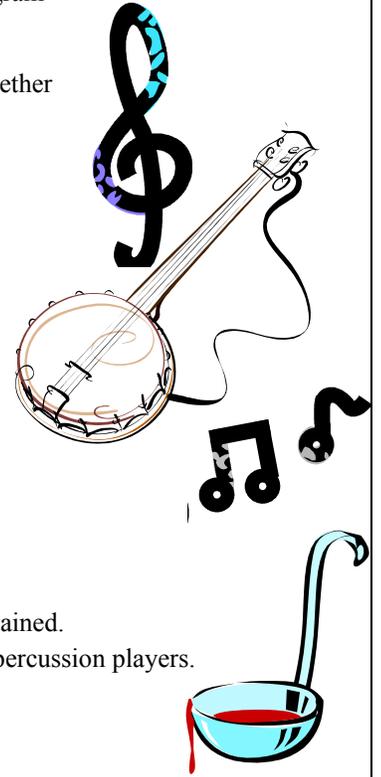
A Sweet Administrative Manager and Ad hoc volunteer coordinator

- Spice with about 50 parents who
 - Like to Drive
 - Advertise
 - Sell tickets
 - Usher
 - Decorate
 - Tour plan
 - Shop

Spend thousands of hours mixing, arranging, entertaining and being entertained.
Combine all these ingredients with 25 to 30 able teenaged high school string and percussion players.

And you will have a group known affectionately as

The Saline Fiddlers



Ladies and Gentlemen....The President of the United States...



Candidate Andrew

If you were at the last Hometown Concert, then you know that our own Saline Fiddler, High School Junior, Andrew announced his candidacy for president of the United States, much to the surprise of the audience and many of the Fiddlers themselves. So how concerned should candidates Nader, Obama, McCain, and Clinton be with such news??? Well, they can relax....for now. Andrew's ambitions to campaign for the presidency



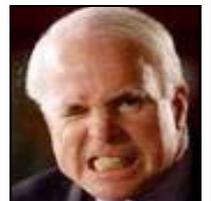
Hillary Clinton



Ralph Nader



Barak Obama



John McCain

are a bit further in the future. He will be running for president, he says, in the year 2028.



Burger School Gig, Garden City



SALINE Fiddlers

Ben Culver, Artistic Director
 Will Warner, Executive Director
 Brad Phillips, Assistant Director
 Karen Bedigian Dakin & Randy Dakin Event Managers
 Mark Visovatti, Administrative Manager
 Ed Brosius, Technical Manager
 Mark Kuykendall, Business Manager
 Sheila Graziano, Choreographer
 Dianne Newberry, Vocal Coach
For bookings call: 1-866-257-5333

Upcoming Public Events

- ♫ April 19, **MCAC Dinner Theater**, Marlette Community Art Center, 351 Moore St., Marlette, MI, details to be announced. Visit: www.marlettecommunityartcenter.org
- ♫ June 12, **Summer Musicales Series**, Ewart, MI, www.ewart.org
- ♫ June 18, **Music in the Park**, Plymouth, Michigan, www.storytellerdesign.com/musicpark.html
- ♫ July 18, **Cadillac Festival of the Arts**, www.cadillac-mi.net
- ♫ July 28, **Yale Bologna Festival**, Yale, MI, www.yalechamber.com
- ♫ Aug. 3, **H&K Braun Farms Centennial Celebration**, Saline Michigan, details to be announced.

Watch for new gigs to be added weekly.

For the latest info visit our website:
www.salinefiddlers.com



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To

