

Alasdair Fraser's SIERRA FIDDLE CAMP
June 13-21, 2008

Dear Camper,

We're looking forward to an exciting adventure in music and dance, and creating a wonderful camp community. We are delighted that you'll be part of it! This letter provides vital information about the camp and what to bring. Please read it thoroughly, and feel free to contact us if you have additional questions or need clarification. There is a list of useful contacts on the final page.

In order to help things run smoothly and to avoid last minute problems, **please fill out the Return Form and Liability Waiver downloadable at this website (and any forms pertaining to minor children, as appropriate) and return them along with your check for the balance due before May 1st to:**

Alasdair Fraser's SIERRA FIDDLE CAMP, P.O. Box 219, Nevada City CA 95959

Attendees under the age of 18 who are not being accompanied by a parent will find additional forms on this website (Minor Release Form, Guardian Acceptance Form – to be completed by the Guardian – and Health History form) that their parents will need to fill out and return.

A word about the camp "village": Our goal is to develop an immersion experience that is creative, nurturing and comfortable for all the participants. Please don't ask friends or family to visit you at camp during the week. **Drop-in visitors or guests are not permitted – please don't ask us to make exceptions.**

LOCATION Shady Creek Conference Center
18601 Pathfinder Way, Nevada City, CA 95959

GETTING TO CAMP

Transportation coordinator Larry Espinosa can provide information on public transportation, a shuttle from the airport, and carpooling connections with others coming from your area. Larry can be reached by email at espinosa@cwo.com or by phone, (831) 663-2753; info and sign-up form for the shuttle is also on this website.

Nearest airport: Sacramento (80 miles/ 1 ½ hour driving time)

To book a seat on a shuttle from airport to camp, contact transportation coordinator Larry Espinosa.

Driving directions are attached.

Public transportation is available to Nevada City, but not to the camp. If you let us know well in advance when you'll arrive, we can arrange a pick-up at a central place in Nevada City or nearby Grass Valley.

Carpooling is encouraged! There is limited parking at camp. Some cars may need to be parked remotely.

ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE

Registration begins at 4:00 pm on Friday June 13. Dinner, at 7:00, will be followed by an orientation and jam session. We leave camp by 11:00 am, Saturday, June 21, following breakfast.

TELEPHONE / EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER at camp

Cell phone reception is usually available from certain areas of the campus. Emergency contact # at the camp is still TBD, and will be sent out separately.

INTERNET There is no internet service at camp.

CLIMATE / TERRAIN

The camp straddles Shady Creek in an oak/pine woodland. Some campers may find the sloping terrain challenging. Be prepared to walk up and down hillside paths, both paved and unpaved, and allow yourself enough time to get to class and meals. Mid-June weather tends to be sunny and dry, with temperatures ranging from mild to hot during the day, with cool star-lit evenings.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Each room sleeps 4-8 people in bunks and a queen bed. All rooms have electric lights, a fan, and outlets. Shared restroom and shower facilities are located nearby. Rooms will not be locked. Participants must provide their own bedding and towels. (see "What to Bring" below.) For those who plan to bring and sleep in their own tents, there are several level, cleared camping areas. If you have roommate preferences, or plan on bringing a tent, or have other considerations, please indicate on the Return Form.

MEALS

Meals will be served three times a day in the beautiful Dining Room and adjoining outdoor patio. Breakfast and lunch buffets and family-style dinners will feature a wholesome tasty menu designed to please both adults and children. A fresh salad bar will be available for lunches and dinners. Vegetarian meals or special meals will be available for only those who indicate that preference in advance, so please make sure you indicate special needs on the attached Return Form.

BEVERAGES

We encourage you to bring your own water/beverage mugs or bottles (some will be available for purchase at the camp store). In an effort to reduce waste, we will not be providing disposable cups. There will be water jugs available near classes and coffee & tea will be provided at break times. Soft drinks will also be available for purchase at the store.

CAMP SHOP

Our shop store will carry special fiddle camp items, including a choice selection of CDs, music books, fiddle strings, batteries, camp t-shirts and other specialties. Credit cards will be accepted.

Sierra Fiddle Camp participants who have released their own CDs or published tune books may place their wares on consignment at the shop. To arrange consignments contact Sally Ashcraft (see contact list below.) There will be a 15% commission on these sales.

NO PETS Pets are not allowed at camp.

SMOKING is permitted in a few designated areas only. Due to fire hazard, smoking is not permitted in rooms, cabins, the forest, by the creek, on trails, or in any buildings.

PARKING Cars are not permitted to drive through camp or park next to rooms or cabins except while loading or unloading. Utility handcarts are available in the parking lot to transport your gear. Parking is limited at camp, and some vehicles may need to be parked remotely.

HEALTH CARE In the event of accident or illness, the nearest EMT/Fire Station is seven minutes away. The nearest hospital is in Grass Valley, about 25 minutes by car. Limited first aid supplies are available on site.

CLASSES & FACULTY

(See attached Preliminary Schedule):

Fiddle Classes All fiddle classes are taught by ear. There will be four levels of fiddle instruction available: **Basic Beginning**, **Slow**, **Moderate** and **Fast**. Students choose their own level based on experience and ability to learn by ear. You're free to try different classes, but we encourage you to find your class level early in the week.

- **Basic Beginning** lessons are for those who have never played the fiddle. Adult basic beginners and beginning children will be in separate classes. **Slow class** is for people who have some playing experience, but need extra time to learn tunes by ear. Each of these classes will meet twice a day. Instructors include: Deby Benton-Grosjean, Ethan Lewis, Laura Risk, and Liana Campus.

- One **Moderate** and two **Fast** classes (each with three sessions a day) will be taught in rotation by Alasdair Fraser (Scotland), Pascal Gemme (Quebec), and Hanneke Cassel (USA).

Cello (Natalie Haas, Joel Cohen), **Piano** (Cali McKasson) and **Guitar** (Tony McManus, Yann Falquet) classes will focus on techniques for accompanying fiddle tunes. Participants are expected to have had experience playing those instruments.

Percussion (Gary Campus), and **Dance** (Marie-Soleil Pilette) are for all levels, and meet twice a day.

Singing Laura Cortese will be leading twice-daily singing classes; all are welcome to join in.

OTHER DAYTIME ACTIVITIES The swimming pool will be open much of the day. There's a basketball court, volleyball net, boules and archery. And, the creek!

EVENING ACTIVITIES

There will be an after-dinner slow jam session and percussion jam each evening, plus nightly dances and impromptu jam sessions and song-sharing throughout the week. Special events include:

- Instructors' Concert
- Promenade & Dance
- Camp Ceilidh (talent night)
- Moonlight Splash
- Banquet and Costume party with the theme of **"Come as Your Hero"**

Some people plan ahead and bring a costume; others will improvise from what's on hand at camp.

Final Camp Concert

The camp finale is an outdoor public performance on Friday evening, June 20, at the beautiful Nevada County fairgrounds in Grass Valley. The concert is an opportunity to share what we've been doing in the woods all week, and to have a lot of fun onstage together. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Friday morning will be devoted to an all-camp rehearsal. For information on getting tickets for your friends or family, see the camp website: www.sierrafiddlecamp.org. Camp attendees will not need tickets.

After the concert, we will return to camp for a farewell gathering. Because it is our last chance to be together as a group and celebrate our week together, **we ask that you not invite any friends or family to come back to camp after the concert.** For information on fairgrounds location, local hotels, and bed & breakfast accommodations, go online to www.ncgold.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The camaraderie that develops as we all study, play and live together makes fiddle camp very special, and it wouldn't work so well, or be as much fun, without everyone pitching in. There are many ways to get involved, from helping other participants with their luggage on arrival, to staying for the final clean up, making sure we all get out of camp on time with all our belongings. Check the list on the accompanying "Return Form" for these and other things you can do to help make the camp run smoothly. If you have a special service or idea you'd like to add, please let us know that, too. Your involvement is not only appreciated, it's essential!

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Alasdair Fraser's Sierra Fiddle Camp, like its older sister, the Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School, is sponsored by Scottish Fiddlers of California, a California non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation, and is organized by volunteers.

DONATIONS

Alasdair Fraser's Sierra Fiddle Camp uses tax-deductible contributions to enrich the camp experience and provide assistance to musicians who need financial support to attend camp. With the generosity of folks in our community who appreciate and support the vision of Alasdair Fraser's Sierra Fiddle Camp, we can provide scholarships to campers, bring in extraordinary international faculty, build dance floors and much more.

Please consider making a donation to AFSFC by mailing a check (made out to Alasdair Fraser's Sierra Fiddle Camp) to: AFSFC, PO Box 219, Nevada City, CA 95959.

Other opportunities to support this fund will be available during camp; you will find a detailed information sheet in your registration packet upon arrival. AFSFC is a part of Scottish Fiddlers of California, a California non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation.

The spirit of generosity between us is what creates the magic in our musical village. Thank you!

SEE YOU AT FIDDLE CAMP!

The organizing committee:

Alasdair Fraser Sally Ashcraft Jan Bedayn Connie Gaulter Muir Bruce Robinson

CONTACTS

Send forms & balance due to: Alasdair Fraser's Sierra Fiddle Camp, PO Box 219, Nevada City, CA 95959

Questions on accommodations, billing & general info: Connie Muir, email: hcmuir@mindspring.com; ph: 530 478-9004

Transportation information & to book airport shuttle: Larry Espinosa, email: espinosa@cwo.com; ph: 831 663-2753

Camp shop consignments & information: Sally Ashcraft, email: sally@culburnie.com; phone 530 292 4219

Concert information & tickets: www.sierrafiddlecamp.org email: peterwilsonworld.com; 530/477-0708

FOR CAMP UPDATES AND NEWS, SEE OUR WEBSITE: www.sierrafiddlecamp.org

✓✓ TO-DO CHECK-LIST:

- Download Return Form & Liability Waiver
- Send in forms with Balance Due postmarked by May 1st
- Download, complete and send in relevant forms related to minor children (Health History form, Minor Release form and Guardian Agreement form)
- Identify your transportation needs, check website for info and sign-up form, make appropriate contacts

WHAT TO BRING

- clothing for warm days and sometimes cool nights (sweatshirt/sweater)
- musical instruments
- personal articles/toiletries (there's a nearby store if you've forgotten something)
- bedding / sleeping bag & pillow
- towel
- flashlight for each member of the family
- bathing suit
- comfortable shoes for walking and dancing
- shoes for wading in the creek
- recording device for classes
- extra strings, batteries, tapes
- hat, sunglasses (parasol?)
- sunscreen, insect repellent
- extra money for purchasing items in the camp store or refreshments from the cantina
- water bottle / mug (you might find 2 very useful)
- costume for costume party (or wing it once you get to camp)

DRIVING DIRECTIONS to Sierra Fiddle Camp

Address:

Shady Creek Conference Center
18601 Pathfinder Way, Nevada City, CA 95959

From San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento

Get on Interstate 80 heading east toward Reno/Truckee.

At Auburn, exit on Highway 49/Grass Valley. At end of off ramp, turn left.

You'll reach Nevada City after 35 miles, after driving past the town of Grass Valley.

There are two options at Nevada City:

Option 1) Drive Through Town: Exit at Broad St. Turn left at the end of the off ramp. Proceed straight through Nevada City. Broad Street reaches a Y: turn left at the Y and proceed to Highway 49. Turn left on Highway 49.

Option 2) Turn left on Highway 49: About 1/2 mile after Nevada City, turn left on Highway 49/Downieville.

Continue for 11 miles on Highway 49.

(On the way, you will drive over a bridge that crosses the South Yuba River-- a great place to stop to stretch your legs and greet the River!)

Turn right on Tyler Foote Crossing Road. The green highway sign says Malakoff Diggins State Park/Columbia.

Continue for one mile. Turn right on Pathfinder Way. Pathfinder comes quickly, so watch for it on the right. You've arrived!

Approximate Drive Times To Shady Creek: (in normal traffic)

Nevada City	20-25 minutes
Reno	1 hour 40 minutes
Sacramento	1 hour 20 minutes
San Francisco	3 hours 15 minutes
San Jose	3 hours 10 minutes
Santa Rosa	3 hours 15 minutes
Berkeley	2 hours 45 minutes

From Reno, Lake Tahoe Area

Get on Interstate 80 heading west toward Sacramento.

About a mile after Cisco Grove, exit at Highway 20 West toward Nevada City/Grass Valley. At the end of the exit keep right at the fork and continue on Highway 20.

You will reach Nevada City after 26 miles.

There are two options at Nevada City:

Option 1) Drive Through Town: Exit at Broad St. Turn right at the end of the off ramp. Proceed straight through Nevada City. Broad Street reaches a Y: turn left at the Y and proceed to Highway 49. Turn left on Highway 49.

Option 2) Turn right on Highway 49: About 1/2 mile before you reach the town of Nevada City, turn right on Highway 49/Downieville.

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