



# IdaGrass

Volume 4 Issue 5

September – October 2008

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## Neighboring Bluegrass Associations

Arizona Bluegrass Association –  
[www.azbluegrass.org](http://www.azbluegrass.org)

California Bluegrass Association –  
[www.cbaontheweb.org](http://www.cbaontheweb.org)

Idaho Bluegrass Association –  
[www.smithfowler.org/bluegrass/IdahoBGindex.htm](http://www.smithfowler.org/bluegrass/IdahoBGindex.htm)

Inland Northwest Bluegrass Association –  
[www.mtbluegrass.com](http://www.mtbluegrass.com)

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association –  
[www.mtbluegrass.com](http://www.mtbluegrass.com)

Oregon Bluegrass Association –  
[www.oregonbluegrass.org](http://www.oregonbluegrass.org)

## Bluegrass Events Calendar

**Southern Zone Monthly Jam** - 7pm at Gerties' Brick Oven Cookery in Twin Falls.

Hot Jam, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

Slow Jam, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

John Boyer 208-733-4552 [boyerj1@mindspring.com](mailto:boyerj1@mindspring.com)

**Middle Zone Monthly Jam** –

Bill Elmer 208-466-1349 [mandobil@mail2Musician.com](mailto:mandobil@mail2Musician.com)

Bob Greer 208-466-1719

**Northern Zone Monthly Jam**, The Northern Zone is pleased to announce they are having two jams a month:

1st SAT at Orchards United Methodist Church, 1213 Burrell Ave., Lewiston Orchards, Noon - 5pm

3<sup>rd</sup> SAT at Highlander Community Room,

616 Warner, Lewiston Orchards. Noon - 5pm

Steve Gleason (208) 798-8280

Pete Northcutt (208) 983-2277

**Bluegrass in the Barn**, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Bob's nieces from Missouri, The Greens, will be joining Tradition for a wonderful evening of bluegrass. For more info, contact Bob Greer, 208-466-1819.

**Valerie Smith & Liberty Pike**, October 10, 7 pm @ Friends Community Center, Star ID, with special guest, Chicken Dinner Road.

[www.dbrproductions.net](http://www.dbrproductions.net)

## ISBA Website:

[www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org](http://www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org)

## The purpose of the Idaho Sawtooth Bluegrass Association:

- To preserve and perpetuate Bluegrass music as a heritage of our country;
- To promote the education and enjoyment of Bluegrass music;
- To promote fellowship among all musicians and supporters who have a love for Bluegrass music, regardless of race, creed, color, ethnicity, or ability to play music.

## Message from the President

The first ISBA Round Valley Bluegrass Festival is now a part of history. What a memorable year this



past year has been. It seems such a short time ago that we said goodbye to Payette and started the search for a better place to hold a festival. I believe the ISBA was truly blessed to find the answer to our need in the persons of Jim & Carolyn Kling. Their ranch at Round Valley has proved to be an ideal location for the ISBA Bluegrass Festival.

Finding the perfect location was just the first step in reaching our goal. The ISBA Board met on location and decided to proceed with plans for the Round Valley Festival. The successful festival we have just experienced would never have happened without the generosity of so many volunteers giving not only their time, but also giving of their personal resources.

There are so many to thank that I cannot mention them all, but I would like to make note of a few of whom I have personal knowledge. Carolyn Johnson and Gail Williams deserve our deepest gratitude. They were the ones that took on the responsibility of making the project work. A large part of the responsibility of preparing the site to accommodate our

needs was delegated to Will Williams, via Gail. "Will, you went way beyond what most would have done and I know first hand the sacrifices you made." It was a relief to know we could count on you to make the festival happen. Carolyn Johnson worked more than what normally could be expected to promote the festival and be our contact detail person on the ground in Cascade.

The work detail that spent their weekends working on the fence and etc. are also to be thanked. Thank you, Will & Gail Williams, Stan Strickland, Mike Millward, Mac & Loretta McMinn, Bob & June Greer, Doug Jenkins, Jim McCue and Bill Elmer

The committee members that helped in so many different areas are also deserving of our thanks. Without each and every one of them the festival would not have come together.

I hope that all ISBA members will remember what the afore mentioned people have done for us and if the opportunity ever presents itself, let these folks know how much we appreciate what they have done for the effort to create the Round Valley Bluegrass Festival. As President of the ISBA I thank every one of you for giving your efforts in the service of others. We need more like you.

We are quickly approaching the end of 2008. That will mark two years since my election to the office of President of the ISBA. The by-laws of the ISBA provide for the election of a President to serve a two-year term. I have decided not to seek reelection. My desire is to remain on the Board of Directors and be available to help

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whoever replaces me as president in any way that I can. It has been an honor to serve the ISBA for these two years. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Keeping the tradition,  
Bob Greer, President ISBA

Handwritten musical notation for guitar, including various dynamics like D.S., 8va, mf, and f.

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As editor of this newsletter, I, too, am looking for ways to promote the education of bluegrass. I believe that learning about the pioneers in bluegrass is a good way to meet this purpose. Understanding the roots of bluegrass allows us to better understand where we are today.

Consistent with this belief, I am looking for association members who would be interested and willing to write a short article or share a humorous story about the people who are pioneers of bluegrass, such as, Father of bluegrass, Bill Monroe, Doc Watson, Mac Wiseman, Jim & Jesse, Flatt & Scruggs, Reno & Smiley, The Osborne Brothers, and Josh Graves. Ladies, what about the women in bluegrass? Don't think that it has to be a huge research project; rather it can be a short biography, one page or so. Help us learn where they were born, family situations, how they got started and the bands with whom they played. It would just be sharing about one of your favorite pickers and in what way they may have influenced you in your bluegrass journey.

One of the things I most enjoy about bluegrass is connection to others. One person (me) can't do it alone. If you think you would enjoy contributing in this way, please drop me a note. We can make a plan, and set a date for your article to be published in the newsletter. Come 'on, don't be shy. It can be a great way to connect with others.

Helen ☺



## A Note from the Editor's Desk...

One of the three primary purposes of the Idaho Sawtooth Bluegrass Association is "to promote the education and enjoyment of Bluegrass music." In striving to fulfill the education part of that purpose the association offers workshops and classes at festivals. The association also sponsors monthly jams, to encourage oral transfer of bluegrass tunes and songs.

**Round Valley Bluegrass Festival**  
**If you want to have a really great festival, begin with a beautiful location and start planning early.**



Thanks, sound guy!



Add a stage, sound, an audience, jamming and a band. You're off to a real good start!



A little jammin'



Round Valley Bluegrass Festival Stage



An afternoon jam



Terrific weather and a great audience



Sugar Foot Express

**Add some work, bands, classes and more jamming - even better**



Faithful volunteer



Guitar Workshop



High Desert



Tradition



Dobro workshop w/ Hank Little



Bill Evan's Banjo Class

**Stir in a few more fans, great weather, practice and nationally acclaimed**



Relaxing and enjoying the music



Mandolin Class, Mike Compton & David Long



Pan Handle Polecats



Banjo Workshop w/ JD Webb



Practicing Up



Bass workshop w/ Jenny Little

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**Top it off with Kids in Bluegrass, and a mandolin winner!**



**Will Williams & Gravel Road**



**Kids in Bluegrass with Raynae Redman**



**John & Raynae Redman & Mandolin winner**

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**I don't know that it gets any better than that!**



**Mike Compton and David Long**



**Chicken Dinner Road**

**"Thanks" to all those who help make the Round Valley Bluegrass Festival a success - the fans, instructors, bands, and especially the planning committee and volunteers. Hope to see ya'll next year!**

**All photos by Jim McCue  
- Thank You Jim!**

DBR Productions &  
Western Stockmen's,  
Inc.  
*Present*

October 10, 2008  
7:00 pm

Valerie  
Smith  
& Liberty Pike  
Featuring Becky  
Buller

Friends Community Center,  
Star, ID

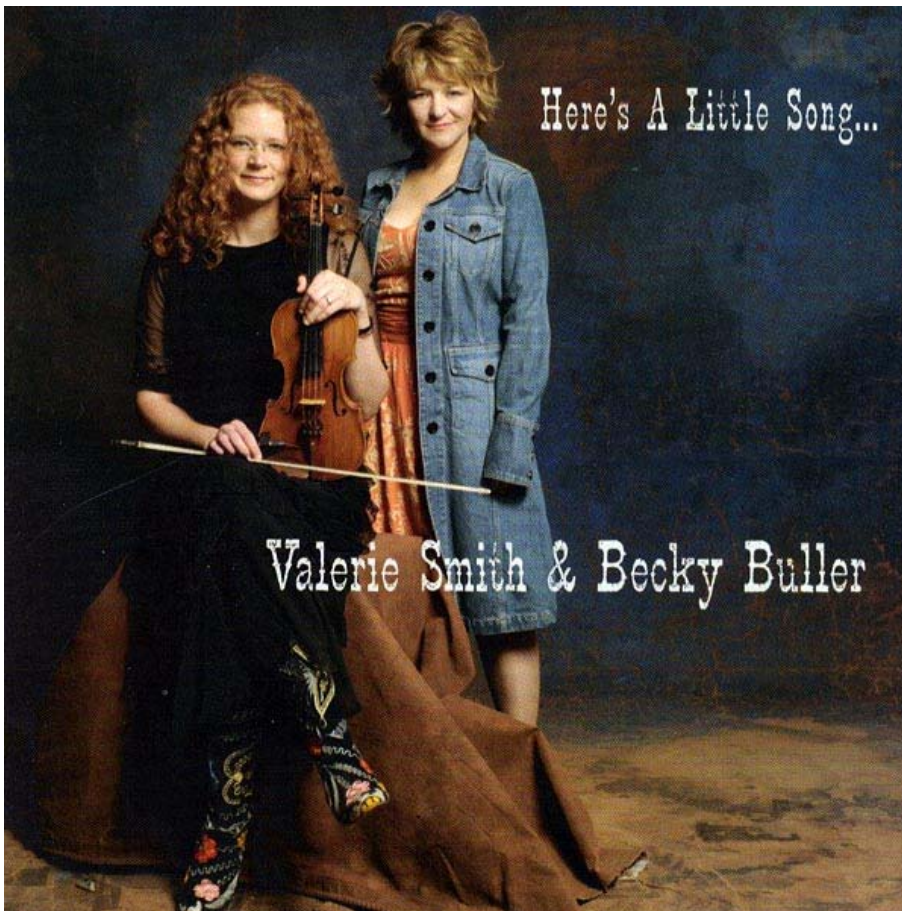
(On the corner of 3rd and Star, .3 Miles  
North of the Light)

**Adult Tickets**

Advanced - \$10

At the Door - \$15

Children Ages 3-12 - \$5



**For Tickets contact  
Dennis Stokes**

**208.941.5611**

**dennisstokes2**

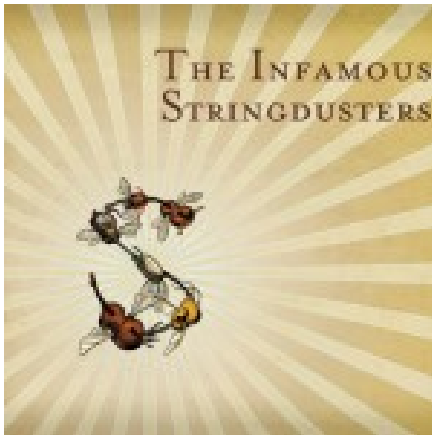
**@mac.com**

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## Disc Space by Mike McCarthy

ISBA Member, Mike McCarthy lives in Twin Falls and thinks, "you can never have too much banjo." Mike has agreed to share and review newly released, and other CDs, with our readers

### **The Infamous Stringdusters, Self-titled** Second CD on Sugar Hill Records



The Stringdusters can go from complex, intricate new grass style instrumentals like "Glass Elevator" (by banjoist Chris Pandolfi) and "Golden Ticket" (by mandolinist Jesse Cobb) to very traditional sounding songs like "Won't Be Coming Back" or "Bound for Tennessee" (both of which were written by bass player and lead singer Travis Book). They are all accomplished instrumentalists, three strong lead singers, and at least five songwriters on nine original songs. Idaho's Jeremy Garrett shines in all three categories. Although all six are hot pickers in their own right, they clearly emphasize the sound of the band. These guys may be the best band out there right now. Regardless of what kind of bluegrass you prefer, you should like this one. P.S. Check out their version of EMD with the big Dawg David Grisman on their web site - [myspace.com/stringdusters.com](http://myspace.com/stringdusters.com)

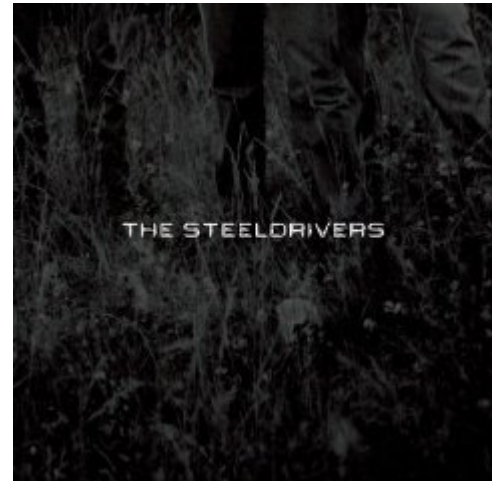
### **Mike and Tari Conroy, Sourwood Mountain** [tariconroy@hotmail.com](mailto:tariconroy@hotmail.com)

Mike and Tari Conroy are Montana's answer to Norman and Nancy Blake. You know Mike can play the mandolin, but who knew he's been secretly honing his banjo chops and finally brings them out

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for this CD. This CD is nothing too fancy, just some good clean, straight forward picking, and their usual tight harmony singing. Some obscure tunes done in the Conroys' original fashion, including "Little Willie," "Little Bennie," "How I Long To See the Old Folks," the provocatively titled "Bare Naked Breakdown," a couple of funny kid's songs "Let's Go to the Fair" and "Finger Poppin' Time," a Grandpa Jones' tune. There is also one they learned through the ancient folk tradition of watching television - you'll have to buy the CD to find out which one, but it's not the one you probably think it is. This is music that you listen to while kicking back on the front porch.

### **The SteelDrivers, Self-titled** Rounder Records



The most impressive thing about this band is their groove. This is no-frills, take-no-prisoners, in-your-face bluegrass with a strong dose of the blues/country/americana/roots. Chris Stapleton plays guitar and wrote most of the songs with mandolinist Mike Henderson. I can't think of anyone in bluegrass who sings like Chris Stapleton. If Dan Tyminiski is Chivas Regal scotch, this guy is Early Times whiskey. Tammy Grimes adds some nice harmonies and fiddling. Richard Bailey plays fine Scruggs style banjo, and Mike Henderson plays some fine mandolin breaks, and maybe more importantly, great chops. In terms of the vocal arrangements, and the manner in which these folks play their instruments, it's very typical, high level bluegrass in a traditional vein. What makes them unique is Chris Stapleton's lead singing, their original songs, and their emphasis on the blues.

# Application for ISBA Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

IdaGrass, the ISBA newsletter is offered either in email or printed letter format. Using email saves the Association the cost of postage and printing. HOWEVER, because we want you to enjoy and look forward to the newsletter, we want you to receive the newsletter in a format with which you are comfortable.

### I would like to receive the newsletter

Email       US Postal Service

New Member       Renewal

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly membership:     \$10/individual       \$15/family

Please mail to:    Idaho Sawtooth  
Bluegrass Association  
PO Box 123 White  
Bird, ID 83554

### If you have *Ideas, Comments, QUESTIONS, or Concerns*

ISBA President - Bob Greer  
bobggreer@msn.com  
(208)466-1719

Northern Zone  
Steve Gleason, Lewiston  
(208)798-8280  
Pete Northcutt, Grangeville  
pnorthcutt@mtida.net

### Southern Zone

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### Middle Zone

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