



IdaGrass

Volume 5 Issue 6

November - December 2009

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*Looking for gift ideas for the
bluegrasser in your life?*

*What about concert tickets,
an instrument workshop
or a new CD?*

ISBA Monthly Jams

Southern Zone Monthly Jam – 7pm @ Gerties' Brick Oven Cookery in Twin Falls.

Hot Jam, 1st Monday of the month

Slow Jam, 3rd Monday of the month

John Boyer 208-733-4552

boyerj1@mindspring.com

Middle Zone Jam – 7pm @ 5714 Centerbrook Drive, Boise.

Intermediate Jam, 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month.

Call Stan Strickland at (208)

377-5326 for more information. For a

song list, contact Carolyn Johnson:

cthorse@gmail.com

Northern Zone Jam - Noon to 5pm

1st Saturday @ Orchards United Methodist

Church, 1213 Burrell Ave, Lewiston

3rd Saturday @ Highlander Community Rm.

616 Warner, Lewiston

Steve Gleason 208-798-8280

Pete Northcutt 208-983-2277

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

Planning is under way for the Spring Super Jam in Kamiah on May 14, 15, and 16, and for the Fall Festival on Labor Day Weekend. Will



Williams, Chairman of the Kamiah Super Jam Committee, is recruiting bands now and putting the event together. The Spring Jam is focused on jamming, and will provide an opportunity for jammers of all levels to find each other and make music. Over the last year two new kinds jams have emerged—the Intermediate Jam led by Steve Gleason and the Beginning Jam led by John Boyer. At the Fall Festival we discovered we needed separate jams for beginners and intermediates. This year for the Spring Super Jam and the Fall Festival we will have announced locations and leaders for each jam as well as a song list for the Beginner Jam.

On another topic, on Labor Day the Fall Festival Committee will be introducing a new venue we are calling the "Tween Stage." This stage will be for performances by new and developing musicians and will operate between performances on the main stage while bands are setting up. I mention this new venue early because you and the people you jam with might want to consider putting a couple of songs together and perform on this stage. This will be a great opportunity for you to play in front of an audience. J.D. Webb is leading this effort and more information will be available as we get closer to the festival.

Carolyn

Bluegrass Happenings

Wintergrass 2010

February 25-28

Hyatt Regency, Bellevue, WA

It's been a long, hot summer and it's been busy in Wintergrass world. After agonizing deliberation we've decided to move Wintergrass to Bellevue...and we know you're going to love it.

More info: www.acousticsound.org

Steve Kaufman returns to Lewiston ID

Mar 11-13, 2010

Flat-picking and mandolin workshops.

Saturday night concert.

More info: ismusic@clearwire.net or page 5

Learn More about Bluegrass

During the upcoming winter months, one might enjoy learning more about bluegrass—here are a couple of suggestions:

- Consider subscribing to a national bluegrass publication:
 - *Bluegrass Unlimited*
 - *Bluegrass Now* – available online: www.bluegrassnow.com
- Read a book about bluegrass history or a pioneer of bluegrass
 - [Bluegrass: America's Music: A History of Bluegrassmusic in the Words of Its Pioneers](#), by Barry Willis.
 - [Home-grown Music: Discovering Bluegrass](#), by Stephanie Ledgin
 - [Can't You Hear Me Callin': The Life of Bill Monroe, Father of Bluegrass](#), by Richard D. Smith
 - [Man of Constant Sorrow, My Life and Times](#), by Ralph Stanley
- Really listen to some original early recordings of the founders of bluegrass

**Conroy Digital Sound
Studio**

Mike & Tari Conroy
P.O. Box 144
Conner, Mt 59827
406-821-3777 tariconroy@webtv.net



At our small recording studio in Conner, Mt we specialize in making recordings of INDIVIDUALS that sing and or play acoustic music. We often think of these recordings as “Legacy Recordings” as they are a wonderful permanent keepsake for your family and friends that show your music at it’s best. These Legacy Recordings may start out as just a recording for family and friends but usually end up as a great CD for resale that people want to buy.

Tari & I offer our playing rhythm guitar, banjo, mandolin, fiddle, stand up bass or adding harmony singing to your music at no additional cost...just the normal studio time.

We are proud of every recording we have made here at Conroy Digital Sound Studio. Our job is to capture you at your best, and we work hard to see that gets done. Give us a call to receive our studio information brochure and set up your date to record.

Our motto is “Let’s get-r-done - you ain’t gittin’ any younger!”

Mike & Tari

Chatting with the Conroy's

By Helen Smith

The playing of music on an individual level is very much about the giving of self. It comes from deep within one's soul and is often a reflection of the heart. Legacy Recordings allows for the capture of that very personal offering, so that it might be preserved and shared beyond the time of initial giving.

Mike and Tari Conroy, of Conner Montana, have been recording music for many years. The purchase of sound equipment and recording initially began in a desire to record themselves. It has grown from there. After some time of recording their own music, friends and other musicians started calling and asking if the Conroy's would be willing to do outside recordings. In the past nearly 15 years, they have done about 150 recording projects. Although Mike and Tari are known in the Intermountain West as fine bluegrass musicians, their recording experiences have spanned across musical genres, everything from bluegrass to classical harp, piano, Celtic, rock, and gospel. Music selections can be well-known old-time favorites or original compositions. Some recording projects are instrumental in nature, while others include vocal talents. Mike tells about a family band for which they did a project that included mostly music written by the family members. Mike said, "When they opened their mouths to sing, it was this giant wall of harmony."

I asked Mike about the physical process of making a Legacy recording and he explained some of the options available. A person can travel to their home in Montana and do the recording in Conroy's studio space, or he and Tari can bring their equipment to the person's house and do the recording there. The project can have a very professional feel, using a track on track recording system and then mixed or it can be recorded "live" and have a casual *sittin on the backporch* feel. Mike said, "On some (casual) recordings we leave talkin' in, because it makes it more personal for family and friends. We can do

whatever a person wants; it really boils down to control." If you do it "live" with two mics, you don't have much control over mixing. If you choose "track-on-track," the fixing possibilities are much greater.

One invaluable benefit of making a Legacy recording with Mike and Tari is their willingness and ability to contribute musically. They can provide whatever support a person needs. A musician may love to play and sing, but they might not play with a band with which they can produce a recording. If a person would like additional accompaniment, such as bass, rhythm guitar, mandolin, banjo, fiddle and/or harmony vocals, Tari and Mike can provide that in-house musical support. While doing this interview we laughed as the Conroy's recounted about one first project they did when he and Tari played the Congo drums, because that is what the person needed. Tari said, "I had never even touched a Congo drum before." And Mike chimed in, "Yeah, but she's got pretty good rhythm...so she did fine."



Mike Conroy

When I asked Mike and Tari about some of the interesting projects in which they have been involved, they fondly tell about the 88 year old bachelor, who began playing the guitar when he was 80 years old. There were some unique challenges in doing this recording. Mike said, "He lives way back in the mountains with no electricity, so we took our little battery-powered (*continued on page 6*)

STEVE KAUFMAN WORKSHOPS & CONCERT

Steve Kaufman will be back in Lewiston Idaho, March 11-13, for a second time, to conduct his award winning, all level, eight-hour flat-picking workshop. Additionally, he will be presenting his award winning mandolin workshop.

MANDOLIN WORKSHOP

MARCH 11th (Thurs)

LEVEL: Beginning/Intermediate

TIME: 7:00-9:30 PM

COST: \$45.00

FLAT-PICKING WORKSHOP

MARCH 12 & 13th (Fri & Sat)

LEVEL: ALL

TIME: FRI/7:00-9:00 PM

SAT/9:30-3:30PM

COST: \$90.00

Saturday, March 13, 2010

STEVE KAUFMAN IN CONCERT

TIME: 7:00 PM

TICKETS: \$10.00

Orchard's Baptist Church, Lewiston ID

To sign up for a workshop, buy tickets to the concert, or for more information, contact Lombards Music:

- Call: 208-746-7127
- Email: ismusic@clearwire.net
- Or just stop by: 1401 21st Street, Lewiston, ID

recorder and went over there... they've got this big forest fire goin' across the canyon from where he lived, so we had to contend with the noise of the fire fighting airplanes.... we had to battle the rattlesnake to get in the front door so that we could record and he plays so super soft that we had to put the recorder right up to his guitar while we had to be back a ways. That was an adventure." Mike continued, "It's been a bit since we did the recording, but he calls every so often and orders another 20 CDs." Tari added, "Yeah, and he's already practicing up his next 10 tunes for another recording." Mike and Tari expressed how these projects are such an amazing experience—to the Conroy's, to the musicians who make the recording, and oft times, to the families of the musicians. Tari tells how more than once they attend a funeral of a person who has created a Legacy recording and that is often what they hear playing at the service. It is very rewarding on many levels.

Regardless of the vision one has for their Legacy recording, it is an amazing process. It can be lots of fun, but is also an investment of effort. Mike said, "There is an interesting thing that happens when creating a recording. When you press that 'RECORD' button, everyone is on the same side, they all

want the same thing; the best sound, best pitch, best rhythm." Mike and Tari chuckled when hearing the remark of their friend, Bob, who had made a Legacy recording. In reflecting on his experience of working hard to resolve some timing issues and giving his personal best, Bob said, "Every day I went there I thought, this will be the day they'll (the Conroy's) send me home." But of course, that was not the case, they worked together to get the best possible sound and all parties were pleased with the finished project.

When discussing who might be interested in making a Legacy recording, Mike said, "We don't want to give the impression that it's necessarily just for older people about ready to kick the bucket... a lot of times it's for younger people. It's like the ultimate Christmas present for family and friends... I mean, what would you rather get... a \$20 present from a relative, or a CD of their music with them singing?" Everyone wants to play music that has meaning for them; recording and preserving that music is what Legacy recordings are all about.

For more information about Legacy recording, contact Mike and Tari Conroy at: tariconroy@webtv.net or 406-821-3777.



James Dodd, Tari Conroy, and Mike Conroy take time for a photo

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 the format with which you are comfortable.

I would like to receive the newsletter: Email US Postal Service

I am joining as: New Member Renewal

Date: _____

Yearly membership/April to April: \$15.00 (for an individual or family)

Please mail to: Idaho Sawtooth Bluegrass Association
 c/o Trudy Strickland
 5714 Centerbrook Dr.
 Boise, ID 83705

If you have *IDEAS, Comments, QUESTIONS, or Concerns*

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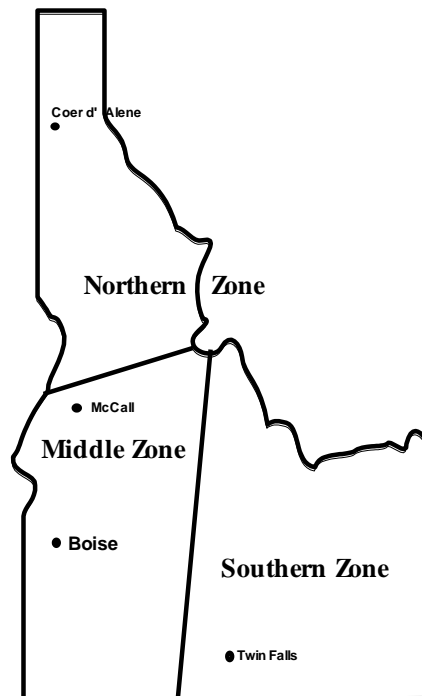
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