



# IdaGrass

Volume 4 Issue 6

November - December 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)

## 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**, December 31st, 7pm - Bob has invited all who would like to come to New Year's Eve Bluegrass Jam, whether you pick or whether you listen, come ring in the New Year enjoying the best music of all. You are welcome to bring a treat to share.

**Cadillac Sky**, Friday, January 9, 2009 7pm, at the Nampa Civic Center. There will not be an opening act so you will get 2 hours of amazing music. Tickets available by contacting: [ictickets.com](http://ictickets.com) or (208)468-5555; Adults - \$15. Children - \$10. Check out their myspace page at [www.myspace.com/cadillacsky](http://www.myspace.com/cadillacsky).

## **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

I have recently taken time to reflect over the past two years. My, how the time flies when you are having fun doing the things you enjoy doing! The ISBA has developed considerably these past two years. I understand we are making good progress with the IRS concerning our tax-exempt status. That is very good. We certainly have learned a lot about laying the foundation for starting our very own Bluegrass Festival. We have made progress, but we have not arrived at our final form just yet.



There is still plenty of work to be done at this stage of our progress. The one thing that stands out as a large challenge is, "How do we find enough volunteers that will really want to get involved and help carry the load, so that it isn't always left for the same people time after time?"

I have been privileged to work along side these few, and I have some observations I would like to share with you. Most of these volunteers are musicians, performers, and some are band members. They all love bluegrass music, but their love of the music goes beyond just performing as a bluegrass artist. They are willing to sacrifice of their resources and time to provide for the needs of others.

You may be a very gifted bluegrass artist and love to perform, but if that is all you do, you are missing the gratification that comes from humbling yourself to the role of helping others. If you really love Bluegrass let's all join together and help the ISBA develop into an organization we can all be proud to be a part of. I do not know any one person that can do it all, but I also do not know anyone who cannot help in some way. I think we all fit in there somewhere, unless we are only interested in self.

In closing, I would like to say 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

*I know that it's a ways out . . .  
but I thought you might like  
to get it on your calendar . . .*

# ISBA

## Spring Super Jam

May 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>

(Mother's Day Weekend)

Kamiah, ID

Lewis Clark RV Resort

Here are a few pictures from the last couple of months of Young Bluegrassers



**Hannah Williams singing "Rocky Top" Bluegrass in the Barn in November**



**Brian Haken & son at the Round Valley Bluegrass Festival**



**Hannah Williams pickin' and singin' (Pictures by Jim McCue & Raynae Redman)**

## **ASSOCIATION BUSINESS**

### **Call for Presidential Candidates and Election Time**

It has been two years since the membership of the ISBA elected Bob Greer as Association President. In accordance with the by-laws, it is time to revisit that election process. This is the official call for candidates. If anyone would like to nominate someone to serve as ISBA President, they need to first contact that individual to see if they would be both willing and able to serve the two-year term. If the possible candidate agrees, the person can then submit the candidate's name to the ISBA Chairman of the Board, Will Williams, via US Postal or email:

PO Box 123, White Bird ID 83554  
will@williamscustombanjos.com  
Please type "ISBA Presidential Nomination" in the subject box.

Submission of candidates must be completed by December 21<sup>st</sup>. Announcement of candidates and the election of a new President will take place in January.

### **Change in Membership Join Dates**

To simplify record keeping for the ISBA, membership join dates will run from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>, rather than from the date one joined for 12 months. All membership will be converted to the new system, effective January 1 2009. Members whose memberships have expired since April of 2008 will fall into a grace period and automatically be renewed until April of 2009. Members, who joined after April 2008, will be contacted individually to resolve this issue. We know this revision will be helpful to those who track membership. We hope it will be a positive change for our members and that you will remember to renew your membership in April as we kick off the bluegrass festival season with Spring Super Jam in Kamiah, May 8-10.

Thank You for your support!

## 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.

### Authentic Rare Bluegrass

Independent Label Sides 1951-1954 [jsprerecords.com](http://jsprerecords.com)



This is a 4 CD set that collects some of the best tunes from smaller labels and less well known bands of the early 50s. Some names will be familiar, like the Osborne Brothers, Red Allen, Jim and Jesse, but most may not be familiar. This is an excellent source for finding some new "standards" everyone can play at the next jam session. And it's a gold mine of unknown instrumentals. I was most impressed with the strong fiddling and banjo playing. I really enjoyed hearing Allen Shelton's banjo playing; he had some of the most innovative stuff so long ago. If you can't stand anything that preceded Alison Krause, then skip this one. If you're a fan of Monroe style, straight-forward, in-your-face, Rudy Lyle banjo pickin' bluegrass, then this one's for you.

**The Gregg's Rich & Carol** - This is a collection of songs from Association members Rich and Carol Gregg. Rich does most of the singing and Carol plays bass. They are accompanied by Mike Conroy on banjo. Rich and Mike play all the breaks. Mike plays some good back up. This is just good, straight-

forward heart-felt singing and picking. The best tunes for me were Rich's original Road to Durhamville, The Dying Soldier and Three Little Crosses. "The Angels are Singing in Heaven Tonight" is also a good old tune that I have always liked. If you want to support a fellow ISBA member, you can reach them at: [cgregg65@hotmail.com](mailto:cgregg65@hotmail.com)

### Flatt and Scruggs at Carnegie Hall The Complete Concert

Koch records, [www.kochint.com](http://www.kochint.com).

This has been out awhile but I just got it. It contains the whole 1962 show and has a slew of tunes that didn't make it to the original vinyl (or was that wax). There are several great instrumentals, such as Durham's Reel and Flint Hill Special ("where Earl does a little bit of tunin' and a whole lotta pickin"). The banjo/fiddle duet on Leather Britches made the original LP, but the CD also includes a banjo/fiddle duet on Stony Point. Even cooler are two duets between banjo and bass (featuring some awesome slap bass). A couple of vocals I don't associate with Lester and Earl—He Will Set Your Fields on Fire, Let the Church Roll On. There's lots of great dobro, most notably an outstanding version of Foggy Mountain Rock. I could have done without Jake Tulloch's rendition of Old MacDonald (although I did like some of the other attempts at humor). It gives you real insight into a 1962 Flatt and Scruggs show (still a good example to follow). These guys were so tight and so hot—listen to the way Earl and Josh Graves back each other up on their breaks on Dig a Hole in the Meadow. You just don't get that from their studio albums. This CD is highly recommended for all "traditional Scruggs fans."



## An Interview with Carrie Hassler

By Carolyn Johnson

Carrie Hassler and Hard Rain sponsored by "DBR Productions" came to Boise this fall and staged an energetic performance of Bluegrass music. The group performed some old favorites along with new material written by band members who are all talented musicians. As I interviewed her, I found her humble, sincere, and dedicated to her art.

Carrie Hassler, like many musicians credits her success in the musical world to growing up with music. She came from a musical family and grew up singing southern gospel. She says that she loves all kinds of music, but that she fell in love with Bluegrass. She said that she learned by listening, a thoughtful statement that has applications beyond learning Bluegrass music.

Hassler and her band are all members of a new, young Bluegrass generation, and I was interested in her thoughts about the evolution of Bluegrass styles. Her band plays from a "Newgrass" orientation and newer bluegrass is clearly different than the traditional Bluegrass of Scruggs, Monroe, and Stanley, for example.

What is the catalyst for the change? Why the change? What is the change? Her answer was both simple and clear. She said that "Newgrass" has evolved because it had traditional Bluegrass to build on. Stanley, Monroe, and Scruggs had to develop their licks and styles from an earlier, simpler music forms and they spent as much time and energy as they had creating traditional Bluegrass. A young musician has these old licks and styles packaged already, probably even in a book or video to learn from, an advantage the old masters never had. This leaves a contemporary artist the time and energy to build upon what has gone before. Consequently we see the emergence of new licks and styles that we call "Newgrass."

A second question related to the first, has to do with the continuation of bluegrass music. The average age of a typical Bluegrass audience runs somewhere above 50 or even 60. How are we going to pass the tradition on to young people? Hassler is troubled by this trend and talked about the need for Bluegrass bands and other organizations to make education a part of their focus. As American culture fragments into smaller and smaller segments of interest in the musical world, it is unlikely that a youngster will hear or see Bluegrass music performed without an extraordinary effort by some adult. She says that she and her band make a point of giving free concerts at schools where they not only play Bluegrass music, but also explain and demonstrate Bluegrass instruments and encourage children to get involved in music.



To read more about Carrie Hassler and her group, to listen to some of their music, or to order CDs go to:

<http://www.carriehasslerandhardrain.com/>

**October's Bluegrass in the Barn was a special treat. Fred and Emily Frank from Idaho Falls, and the Greer's from Missouri, and Tradition provided bluegrass at its finest.**



**Gathering of Musicians**



**A Packed House**



Can you find a musician having more fun?  
Can't you just hear the harmony?



DBR Productions, LLC and  
Western Stockmen's, Inc

PRESENT

# CADILLAC SKY



**Nampa Civic Center**  
**January 9, 2008**  
**7:00 pm**

Tickets available at:

[www.ictickets.com](http://www.ictickets.com) or  
(208)469-5555

Adults	\$15
Children (12 and Under)	\$10

# 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 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

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

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

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