

IdaGrass

Volume 3 Issue 5

September - October 2007

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Neighboring Bluegrass Associations:

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association –
www.mtbluegrass.com/

Inland Northwest Bluegrass Association –
www.mtbluegrass.com/

Washington Bluegrass Association –
www.washingtonbluegrassassociation.org

Arizona Bluegrass Association –
www.azbluegrass.org

Oregon Bluegrass Association –
www.oregonbluegrass.org

California Bluegrass Association –
www.cbaontheweb.org

Bluegrass Events Calendar

Our monthly jams are starting up after the summer break. Please check with the local people listed below for accurate time and locations.

Southern Zone Monthly Jam -

John Boyer, 208-733-4552 boyerj1@mindspring.com

Middle Zone Monthly Jam –

Bill Elmer 208-466-1349 mandobil@mail2Musician.com

Al Jackson at Bmbbluegrass@aol.com

Bob Greer at 208-466-1719

Northern Zone Monthly Jam

Steve Gleason (208) 798-8280

Pete Northcutt (208) 983- 2277

Bluegrass in the Barn – No regular Bluegrass in the Barn for the month of October. Come enjoy the ISBA Bluegrass Festival October 5-7 at Payette. For more information, see page 5 for a festival flyer.

Will Williams & Gravel Road and Buckhorn Mountain Boys will be playing at the Kooskia Opera House – SAT, November 3rd @ 7:30pm in Kooskia, Idaho. For tickets: (208)926-0094

Cherryholmes will be playing at Nampa Civic Center – THURS, October 25th. For tickets: (208)468-5553

ISBA Website:

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 want to extend a heartfelt invitation for all to come and enjoy the ISBA Fall Bluegrass Festival in Payette, ID October 5th – 7th. Come enjoy the workshops, the bands, the campin' and, of course, the pickin'.



Y' all come out now, ya hear.

Jim McCue's pick of the month for "Budding Future Bluegrass'er"

Rose Elmer is the daughter of Erick & Jessica Elmer from Nampa, ID. She is sitting with her mother, Jessica, while she watches her dad, Erick play bass.



(Photo courtesy of Jim McCue)

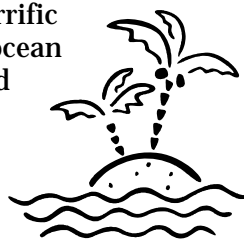
Does a tropical paradise and bluegrass seem to be a perfect match?

Then you may be interested in the Rhonda Vincent Bluegrass Cruise, February 11th - 19th, 2008.

Rhonda, Kenny, Hunter, Josh and Mickey will be there along with some other terrific bands. Come enjoy the gentle ocean breezes, workshops, shows, and plenty of pickin'.

For more information visit the website:

www.bluegrasscruise.com



ISBA FALL BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

October 7th, FRIDAY

Friday Evening Program

- 6:30 CHICKEN DINNER ROAD
- 7:15 THE JEFFRIES
- 8:00 WILL WILLIAMS & GRAVEL ROAD
- 8:45 INTERMISSION
- 9:00 BUCKHORN MOUNTAIN BOYS
- 9:45 TRADITION

October 6th, SATURDAY

Saturday Afternoon Program

- 1:00 HIGH DESERT
- 1:45 SUGARFOOT EXPRESS
- 2:30 CHICKEN DINNER ROAD
- 3:15 INTERMISSION
- 3:30 THE JEFFRIES
- 4:15 MIDNIGHT FLYER

5:00-6:30 DINNER BREAK

Saturday Evening Program

- 6:30 SUMMIT RIDGE
- 7:15 WILL WILLIAMS & GRAVEL ROAD
- 8:00 BUCKHORN MOUNTAIN BOYS
- 8:45 INTERMISSION
- 9:00 TRADITION
- 9:45 COUNCIL BLUEGRASS BAND

October 7th, SUNDAY

10:00 Bluegrass Gospel Jam 10am – Free

Sunday Afternoon Program

- 12:00 HIGH DESERT
- 12:45 COUNCIL BLUEGRASS BAND
- 1:30 MIDNIGHT FLYER
- 2:15 INTERMISSION
- 2:30 SUGARFOOT EXPRESS
- 3:15 SUMMIT RIDGE
- 4:00 EARLS OF LESTER

Schedule subject to change without notice.

IdaGrass

Rudy's Mercantile and Sundries

By Rudy Corbett

Hello, again, and welcome back! Pull up a chair and sit a spell. I guess we have pretty well covered the basic foundational roots of bluegrass so, let's move on to see how it has evolved over the last 60 years. There have been many influences in molding and shaping this music since its beginning. This issue, I would like to begin a series on some of the other bluegrass greats. The first group I would like to introduce to you is Jim and Jesse McReynolds. While doing my research I came across their web-site and really liked their biography. What follows is exactly the way it is on their web-site. I'm sure they would appreciate you folks stopping by and visiting at: www.jimandjesse.com



Deep in the mountains of southwest Virginia still stands the white aging farmhouse Jim & Jesse first called home. Raised in the small community of Carfax, located near Coeburn, VA, the boys grew up in a family steeped in traditional mountain music. This background made it natural for them to follow in the footsteps of their grandfather, Charlie McReynolds, who was one of the first to record for RCA in Bristol, VA in 1927. Their harmony was exceptional, a rarity some say only brothers can produce. Jim's enhanced high tenor combined with Jesse's deep lead and unique mandolin style set this duo apart in the world of traditional music, now termed Bluegrass. Very early in their career, Jesse developed a "McReynolds style" technique on the mandolin, combining his invention of "cross-picking and split-string playing", which distinguished his picking from others. Many have imitated, but few have successfully mastered his unique style of fast execution of intricate melodic patterns.

In 1952, Jim & Jesse debuted on their first major label, Capitol Records. Since that time, they have recorded for various labels including: Columbia, Epic, again for Capitol, Opryland, CMH, Rounder, and their own, Old Dominion. In

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1960, their first single for Columbia, *The Flame of Love*, backed by *Gosh I Miss You All the Time*, spent weeks climbing the top 100 national charts. *Cotton Mill Man*, *Diesel on My Tail*, *Are You Missing Me*, and *Paradise*, are a few songs regarded as Jim & Jesse classics.

They were backed by their band, The Virginia Boys, always top-notch musicians featuring various traditional acoustic instruments: guitar (Jim), mandolin (Jesse), five-string banjo, fiddle and bass. During their career they had toured all 50 states, with the exception of Alaska, and have traveled worldwide including: Canada, Mexico, Japan, Europe, The British Isles, and Africa in 1985, for the U.S. State Department.

In the late '50's and early '60's, most of their live weekly radio and television shows throughout the southeast, were sponsored by Martha White Mills. They also sponsored a portion of The Grand Ole Opry, and invited Jim & Jesse as guest hosts. This led to their membership on March 2, 1964 and their move to Gallatin, TN, near Nashville, in 1964.

Their numerous honors include induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame's "Walkway of Stars," the Virginia Country Music Hall of Fame, IBMA's Hall of Honor, and Bill Monroe's Bluegrass Hall of Fame. Individually and collectively, they garnered many Grammy nominations. They also received the National Heritage Fellowship Award from the National Endowment for the Arts, presented by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Jane Alexander at the The White House, September 23, 1997. This is our nation's most prestigious honor in folk and traditional arts.

The year 2002 was a difficult one for Jim and Jesse. Both brothers were diagnosed with different types of cancer. Jesse's battle was successful; Jim's was not. He passed away on December 31, 2002, ending the longest active professional brother duet in country music history-55 years.

Jesse has carried on the Jim & Jesse tradition and has since gone on to play throughout the world with the Virginia Boys. And the beautiful music that originated from the brothers in the mountains of southwest Virginia back in 1947 is as timeless as ever.

Until next time, pick 'em good! Y'all come back now, ya hear!

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.

Local bands are the backbone of bluegrass, so it's great to have three CDs from folks within our region to review.

Will Williams: My Tennessee Roots

This is an instrumental CD that contains the tunes every banjo picker should know: *Hamilton County*, *Dixie Breakdown*, *Gold Rush*, and *Foggy Mountain Breakdown*, *Dear Old Dixie*, and *Turkey Knob*. Will has been playing a long time, and it shows in the variety of styles and his approach. While deeply rooted in Scruggs, he incorporates a lot of Reno (*Dixie Breakdown*) and Melodic style (*Gold Rush*) into his playing. Will always takes his own unique approach and style to a tune. For example, he plays the Scruggs standard *Home Sweet Home*, but his take on the A part is definitely his own melodic interpretation. He really shines on the one slow tune, *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. Some of the hottest licks on this CD are played by the guitar player, Steve Ralston. And Mike Conroy's mandolin playing is very tasteful. So banjo, guitar and mandolin players will probably be most interested in this CD. There is fine accompaniment and mandolin playing by Mike and Tari Conroy.

If you want a good solid CD of instrumentals, get this one. For CD info Williams Custom banjos PO Box 123 White Bird ID 9833554

Fred and Emily Frank:

The Montana Sessions

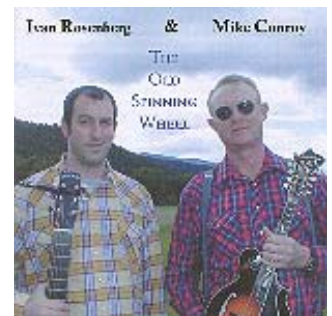
This CD has a nice variety of songs and tunes. All the songs are performed in a traditional bluegrass style, but there is a nice variety in the selection. There are several original tunes penned by Emily Frank. I thought one original, *Misery*, probably came from Lester Flatt or Jimmie Martin when I first heard it. Fred and Emily both sing well, and I really enjoyed the

two-part singing on *Just Someone I Used to Know*. They chose some instrumentals you don't hear very often, such as *Farewell to Long Hollow*, and *Pike County Breakdown*.

Instrumentally, Fred does it all - banjo (check out his second break on *Cherokee Shuffle*), mandolin, and guitar (check out *Farewell to Long Hollow*). For the stuff he couldn't play, he got some excellent accompaniment from Ivan Rosenberg on Dobro, Jeff Forbes on fiddle, Tari Conroy on rhythm guitar and vocals, and Mike Conroy on Bass. Over all, it is a very "listenable" CD. For CD info, Fred and Emily Frank, 3761 Heartland Circle, Idaho Falls, ID 83406.

Ivan Rosenberg and Mike Conroy: The Old Spinning Wheel

This is another instrumental CD that features one of the best Dobro players I've heard in a long time. What strikes me is Ivan's great tone and taste. It seems there



aren't a lot of really good Dobro players because it's so tough to get clean, crisp notes without a lot of extra noise. Ivan manages to do that. Jerry Douglas identified Ivan as one of the young Dobro players to watch, and I can see why. There is an interesting range of tunes such as the original *Shook Mountain Hop* (by Mike Conroy), *Sugarloaf Mountain* (a Bill Monroe tune), *Maiden's Prayer* (from Bob Wills, Eddie Adcock's *Turkey Knob*, *Midnight on the Water* (from Benny Thomason). Mike Conroy plays some fine mandolin, and Tari Conroy accompanies on guitar. A good CD that is just nice to listen to, in addition to showing off the talents of these two fine musicians. For CD info, contact ivanrosenberg.com or tariconroy@webtv.net. Go out and support these folks. You won't be disappointed and it will help pay for their gas to the next festival.

Idaho Sawtooth Bluegrass Association
Presents
2nd Annual ISBA Fall Bluegrass Festival

October 5 - 7, 2007
Payette High School Auditorium
Payette, Idaho



*Dry Camping at
 Kiwanis Park
 \$10 per unit*

Will Williams and Gravel Road
The Buckhorn Mountain Boys
Chicken Dinner Road
Sugar Foot Express
High Desert
Tradition
The Jeffries
Summit Ridge
Midnight Flyer
Council Bluegrass Band
"The Earls Of Lester"

*No Alcohol or Drugs
 Allowed
 (Strictly Enforced)*



Performances

Friday evening 6:30 / 10:30
Saturday afternoon 1:00 / 5:00
Saturday evening 6:30 / 10:30
Sunday afternoon 12:00 / 4:45

Enter Drawing To Win a
Gibson Replica Recording King Banjo
 A re-issue of a 1930's
 Gibson Banjo

For more information, call:
 Jim McCue (208)-642-3454
 Bob Greer (208)-466-1719
 Dennis Stokes (208)-941-5611
 Al Jackson (208)-442-1771

FREE
WORKSHOPS
 10:00 am / 12:pm
 Saturday

Festival Admission

Friday \$10.00
Saturday \$15.00
Sunday \$10.00
Full Weekend
Members \$25.00
Non-members \$30.00
Children under 12 Free
if accompanied by an adult



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Although I was not able to attend, I have heard that there was some great bluegrass at the Bannock Co Bluegrass Festival in Pocatello. Here are a few pix, courtesy of Jim McCue.



Workin' hard at the ISBA Booth



Great Bands



A little Instrument Repair



Indoor Jamming



Outdoor Jamming



And.....more Jamming

Shady places to pick, vendors, workshops, spectators, old friends, new friends, great bands and lots of jamming—all the ingredients for a great weekend of bluegrass.

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

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208-466-1719

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