



# IdaGrass

Volume 11 Issue 1

January-February 2015

## UPCOMING BLUEGRASS EVENTS

### **SPBGMA 41<sup>th</sup> Annual Bluegrass Music Awards**

February 5-8, 2015

Nashville, TN

[www.spbgma.com](http://www.spbgma.com)

### **Wintergrass**

February 26-March 1, 2015

Bellevue, WA

[www.wintergrass.com](http://www.wintergrass.com)

## ONGOING BLUEGRASS JAMS— IDAHO BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

### **Beginners Jam every Wednesday--Boise**

A beginner bluegrass jam is held on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9pm in the Pioneer Building (106 N 6th St), right next to Wise Guys Pizza (Main and 6th)

### **Open Jam at Boise/Meridian KOA RV Park**

Meridian, Idaho

Every Tuesday 7 – 9:30 pm

## ONGOING ISBA SPONSORED BLUEGRASS JAMS

### **Middle Zone Jam:**

The Middle Zone Jam is held on Thursdays at Stan and Trudee Stickland's home, 5714 Centerbrook Drive, Boise. Call for details: 208-377-5326

### **Northern Zone Jams:**

On the third Sunday of the month at the Lenore Store on Highway 12, from 1-4 PM.

The Saturday jam at Jack in the Box is on hiatus until further notice.

### **Southern Zone Jam:**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 7-9 PM, downstairs at Gertie's Pizza in Twin Falls. Call for details: John Boyer at 208-733-4552

## Inside this Issue:

Ongoing Bluegrass Jams	1
From the Editor's Desk	2
Calendar prompt	2
Walker Creek Music Camp	2
Spring Jam News	3
From Our President	3
To Know it is to Love It	3
Membership Application	5
Meet Your Board Members	6



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.

### **From the Editor's Desk**

I know it's only January, but for some reason it seems as if winter has been here forever already this year. Don't get me wrong—it love the snow, and I love living in a place with 4 seasons. But I'm already antsy for camping season to begin again, and with it, festival season.

Maybe I'm more impatient because I get to see all the email promotions for upcoming camps and festivals (see more about that below) but I know I'm ready for spring jams around the campfire, and long summer evenings spent trading songs and learning licks.

So what's a picker to do? Well, local jams abound...for instance, for those of you in our southern zone, there's a brand-new venue to visit in Twin Falls. For some of us in more remote areas, we may not enjoy the benefits of weekly organized jams in the local pizza parlor, but we can initiate our own small gatherings in our homes. Bluegrass music is, by nature, a social activity—so get social! Call your buddies, change your strings, stoke up the woodstove, and play! Oh, and by the way, while you're at it—send us some pictures of your jam. We'd love to share them in upcoming issues.

PT Limehouse  
Editor, IdaGrass

### **Grab Your Calendar!**

And jot down the dates for the 2015 ISBA Spring Jam and Camp in Kamiah. We'll be gathering May 14-17 (the weekend after Mother's Day) at the Lewis and Clark Campground in Kamiah, ID. This is always a great weekend, and the best possible way to kick off your festival season, so plan on it! The planning committee is already hard at work, so watch your inbox for more information.

### **Something to Consider**

If you're dealing with winter doldrums, how about considering a trip to the Bay Area for a music camp this spring? Registration has just opened for the Walker Creek Music Camp, held April 9-12, in a rustic area about an hour north of San Francisco. Focus is on Bluegrass and Oldtime music, and this

year's instructor line-up is stellar: Alan Munde (banjo), Blaine Sprouse (fiddle), Brad Leftwich (oldtime fiddle), Evie Ladin (dance), Ivan Rosenberg (dobro), Jack Tuttle (bluegrass jam class), Jim Nunally (guitar), John Reischman (mandolin), Keith Little (vocal lab), Keith Yoder (beginning bluegrass jam class), Luke Abbott (harmony vocals), Morgan Cochneuer (jug band), Sam Grisman (bass), Scott Nygaard (guitar), Sharon Gilchrist (mandolin), & Tom Sauber (oldtime banjo).

I've not attended this camp (yet...but one can always hope), but I have enjoyed other CBA music camps offered by this group. The ambiance and energy is always great, and the opportunity to jam with folks like this...outstanding!

Plus...it will be warm there. Need I say more?

**Interested? Check out their website at:**  
[www.walkercreekmusiccamp.org](http://www.walkercreekmusiccamp.org)

### **Walker Creek Music Camp**



**Photo by Mike Melnyk**



By Raynae Redman

### **New BOD Member shares Spring Jam News**

My name is Randy Berg and I have been involved in Bluegrass music in Idaho for over 20 years. I have called Orofino my home town for over ten years now, and I lived in McCall before that. My family and I would travel to several festivals every year here in Idaho, Montana, and Washington. I was able to stop in and enjoy a weekend at a festival in Missouri a few years ago while I was traveling through that great state, and even though I knew no one there, I had a great time. The many great friends that I have met through these festivals have made going to them like going to a family reunion.

I normally like to be involved with events by being in the background, such as doing sound for different events or helping out with setup or various things like that. Recently I was asked to be on the Board for the Idaho Sawtooth Bluegrass Association, and I accepted. I also was asked to be on the committee for the Annual Kamiah Spring Camp and Jam for May of 2015, mainly because I work in Kamiah and would be a great asset to do the leg work in the area. Then I was convinced I should be the Chairman of the committee, and not being able to say no fast enough, well here I am.

Truthfully though with the family like atmosphere, the friends that show up each year to these events, and with all the great music and jamming, I am excited to be part of putting on the next Jam.

We have our first Committee meeting scheduled for Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> at noon, at The Lewis and Clark Resort in Kamiah-- the very same place that the Spring Jam will take place in May. The dates for this year's Spring Jam are **May 14<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>**. If you're interested in helping out this year, I encourage you get in touch, and see where we can use you. Also, if you have any ideas on how we can make this event even better, we would like to hear about them too. You can always contact me at [rlberg@live.com](mailto:rlberg@live.com).

### **More from our President**

Jamming is one of the essential tools for learning how to play with others.

For many, jams are the only opportunity for learning these skills.

While jams tend to be social, and fun, players often forget that there are some simple rules to follow that help to keep a jam musical and not a loud confusing musical forum. Appointing a jam leader can be helpful to keep beginner jammers focused and in line. When professionals jam, they usually allow for each player to be heard. The best jams are the ones where jam etiquette is observed.

Steve Gleason, ISBA President

### **To Know It Is To Love It**

Part 6

I'd like to continue talking about barre chords. Now you already know all about the E chord and the A chord, putting your finger over the top, making it a barre chord. You've had several months to play with it, and I'll bet

you've tried them all up and down the neck. I hope you've had fun doing so!

Now I'm going to tell you about yet another type of barre chord. Some call these a box chord or an orchestra chord, but they are really just another form of barre chord. First, make a C chord. Now, slide it up one fret, and lay your index finger across the first (top) three strings, making it moveable. Now you can slide it up to the second fret. Play the top five strings (do not play the bottom E). You are now playing a D chord. At the fourth fret is an E chord. At the fifth fret chord, and so up the neck.

Now, while still holding that chord position, move your little finger to the third string. This now makes it a Seventh chord. Next, move your little finger next to your finger; this is a Sixth chord. Now, make a C chord at the second fret, and barre the first three strings. Leave your middle and little finger where they are. Pick up your ring finger, and you have a major Seventh chord.

Sometimes I like to throw in barre chords when I am playing rhythm behind the lead vocal or the breaks. A cool technique to try when doing this is to play the chord, and then lift your fingers off the strings and put them back down, dampening the chord. This gives a little more "definition" to the sound, and is an especially good technique when there is no bass player.

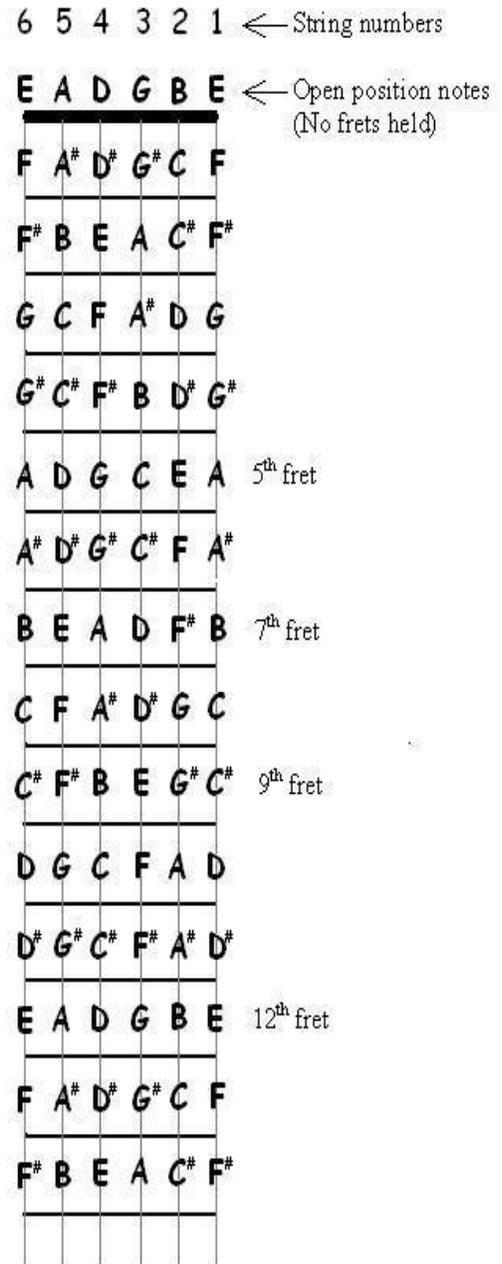
So, until next time, try playing around with these new chords and technique. I'll look for you at the next jam!

Jim Sanders



By Raynae Redman

### Fretboard Notation Chart



Notice the notes on the 12<sup>th</sup> fret are the same as the open position. The 13<sup>th</sup> fret notes are the same as first fret, 14<sup>th</sup> fret same as 2<sup>nd</sup> fret, etc.

**DUES INFORMATION AND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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. We want you to receive the newsletter in whichever format you prefer. To offset production and mailing costs, membership dues for those electing USPS hard copy of the newsletter are \$20.00. For those members choosing email delivery, annual dues are \$15.00 for an individual or family.

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

I am joining as:                                       New Member               Renewal

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Yearly membership runs April-April.

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

**Have ideas, comments, questions, or concerns?  
Want to get involved? Here's your Board of Directors:**

**Northern Zone**

Steve Gleason, Lewiston  
[Sgbanjo1@hotmail.com](mailto:Sgbanjo1@hotmail.com)  
Randy Berg, Orofino  
[rlberg@live.com](mailto:rlberg@live.com)

**Southern Zone**

John Boyer, Twin Falls  
[boyerj1@mindspring.com](mailto:boyerj1@mindspring.com)

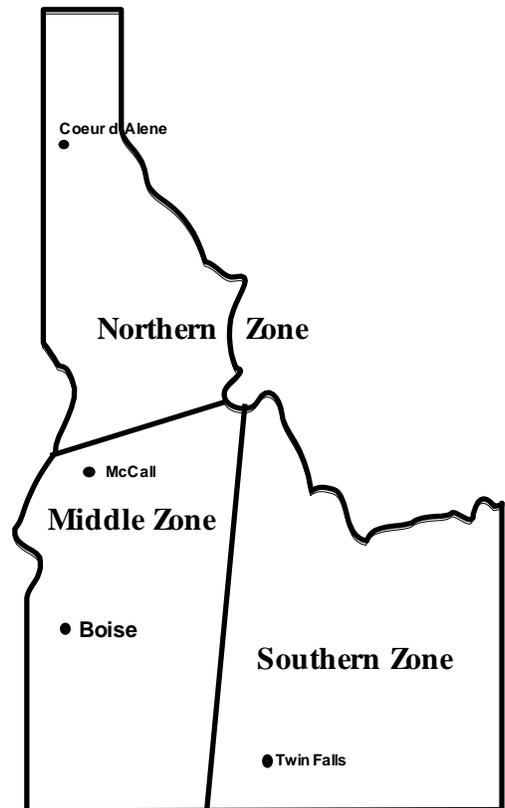
**Middle Zone**

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**Check us out on the web: [www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org](http://www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org)**



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