



IdaGrass

Volume 12 Issue 5

September-October 2016

UPCOMING BLUEGRASS EVENTS

ISBA Fall Festival
September 16-18
Weiser, ID

www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org

IBMA World of Bluegrass
September 27-October 1
Raleigh, NC

www.ibma.org/world-of-bluegrass

Hardly Strictly Bluegrass
September 30-October 2

Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
www.hardlystrictlybluegrass.com

SNBMS Logandale Fall Festival
October 21-23

Clark County Fairgrounds
Logandale, Nevada
www.snbms.org

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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

Well, we knew it was coming, and here it is....fall. That time of year when kids return to school, when we race to finish up our summer projects before the weather catches up with us, when we start to think about cleaning up the camper and tucking it away for the winter....or heading to warmer climates!

Just as spring gives us a boost of rebirth in many ways, autumn allows us a sigh of relaxation, as we contemplate the summer's activities and look forward to the rest of the year. Some of those activities involved music, some didn't, but hopefully all were times we'll remember fondly as moments we shared with family and friends.

We have one more chance to build memories in just a couple of weeks at Weiser, and we hope that many of you will join us. Please don't put away the lawn chairs just yet; refill the tank with fuel, and come to the Fall Festival for good music, good jamming, and another chance to add to your good summer memories!

PT Limehouse
Co-Editor, IdaGrass

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello all, I hope your year has been filled with a lot of great music so far. It's hard to believe that the kids are back in school already and we're headed into fall. The Fall Festival at Weiser is just days away so there is time to get more jamming in as well as enjoying more music and great bands. I have been looking forward to it all summer long.

I hope that you have been able to make it to some of the great events that have happened

in and around our great state. I haven't been able to attend as many as I would like, being still a working stiff and all, but I did make it to a few. I did get to go over to the Bitterroot area for a couple of events and also up North for one. While I was visiting these events for the other organizations I was able to glean a little knowledge about how they are able to attract a healthy membership. The most important thing I heard was that musicians need to play. Jams are a necessity to attract musicians. The jams need to be held in public places and advertised in public venues such as the local newspaper. The jams need to be available for all levels of players and ages as well. The problem is, is getting people to set up and run the jams. So if you love to jam and don't have a jam in your area maybe you could get one started. You may think that there aren't any other Bluegrassers out there, but I think you will be surprised at what comes out of the woodwork when you put the word out for a jam. You don't have to be a super picker to get a jam started either.

Years ago I wanted to learn to play an accordion and I came across an ad in the Boise paper from a guy who wanted to start a group get together for accordions. I showed the ad to my father-in-law who was playing around with accordions at the time and so we called the guy and a date was setup to meet at the Eagle Elementary School after hours. About five people showed up and not one of us was an actual player, but it was a start and that club grew to be quite a group over the years with a lot of great players. I don't play accordions anymore and I keep my concentration on my acoustical instruments, but I know it can be done. So if you are interested in a jam in your area and want some ideas on getting one started, I'd like to help give you some ideas on how, where and what resources are available to you. Feel free

to give me a call at 208-816-1263 and if I don't answer leave a message and I will return your call. I still work and don't always have my phone on me. Let's keep the Bluegrass alive and the Jamming happening.

Best Regards
Randy Berg

AND ONE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Greetings ISBA members and friends.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be about a week away from the Fall Festival at Weiser. The board of directors and volunteers have strived to make this festival a high quality event at a very reasonable cost.

This year we will offer coffee mugs for sale to participants who would like to have a memento of the festival. We have investigated buying denim and polo shirts with embroidered ISBA logo to offer for sale. These shirts would have to be priced in the 25 to 30 dollar range. The cost of buying a large number of shirts, plus difficulty in selecting various sizes makes this proposal unrealistic at this time. If you have an interest in this idea, please talk to one of the board members and voice your opinions or suggestions.

To be successful and continue providing a quality event, the ISBA needs more folks in attendance at the bands concert. Please encourage your friends, family members, co-workers, and anyone else you can think of, to come to our events and enjoy great music, jamming and a friendly atmosphere.

We welcome new members whether you play an instrument or whether you don't. Explain to your acquaintances that if they enjoy

bluegrass music, appreciate good family type entertainment and making lots of new friends, then we need them to become ISBA members.

OK, it's time for me to get off of the soap box. See you at Weiser.

Stan Strickland

NEW ISBA FACEBOOK PAGE

Mike Millward has started a new Facebook page. For access, go on Facebook and type in Idaho Sawtooth Bluegrass Association. He has posted lots of pictures from the jam at Hoots, the first ISBA event. A lot of our long time members will enjoy seeing these pics. Hope they will bring back some pleasant memories.

ONGOING BLUEGRASS JAMS— IDAHO BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Beginners' Jam every Thursday

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)

Intermediate Jam every Wednesday

from 6:30 to 9pm in the Pioneer Building

Open Jam at Boise/Meridian KOA RV Park

Meridian, Idaho
Every Tuesday 7 – 9:30 pm

ONGOING ISBA SPONSORED BLUEGRASS JAMS

Middle Zone Jam:

On the first and third Thursday of each month at Stan and Trudee Strickland's home in Boise. 7-9 PM. Call for details: Stan Strickland 208-377-5326.

Northern Zone Jam:

On the third Sunday of the month at the Lenore Store on Highway 12, from 1-4 PM. Call for details: Steve Gleason at 208-553-1597

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

Southern Zone Jam:

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

SMILE...YOU'RE ON CAMERA

Alex Chavarria of Weiser publishes an online newspaper featuring events and local news in the Weiser community. He will promote our event online but may also be walking around during our fall event to take pictures or video for publication or a documentary about the event. Smile and sing pretty if you see him! You may check out his work at - livinginthenews.com.

Keith Freedman

BLUEGRASS GURU ARRIVES FOR IOS

Boyd Timothy is a bluegrass musician from Utah. He's a hard-core fan of the music, and like most of us, is a dedicated jammer. He is also a successful computer programmer with a degree in Computer Science from Brigham Young University and eleven years' experience working at Novell, Inc.

Boyd has spent the past two years merging these two passions by creating and finalizing an app for pickers like himself, which has just been released for Apple iOS devices.

[Bluegrass Guru](#) is designed to serve as a digital fakebook of bluegrass songs. It not only can list the words to dozens of familiar favorites, it also incorporates a powerful search feature to allow you to quickly find and add lyrics to other songs, pull up videos from YouTube, or listen to the songs in iTunes or Spotify. Once the songs are included in your song list, you can add tags to categorize them and create lists which can be shared with band members or printed as a set list. The app is available for iPhone and iPad, and is offered as a free download in Apple's App Store. Some of the best features, however, require a Bluegrass Guru membership subscription, which is offered for \$1.99/month or \$9.99/year. These include the ability to back up all your songs, tags, and lists to iCloud. Ten free song searches are included with a free download, but these are unlimited with a membership.

By syncing automatically to sites like bluegrasslyrics.com and bluegrassnet.com, the Guru can put the words to most popular bluegrass songs at your fingertips in seconds. Another quick tap and you are listening to the song in your phone – or watching it on video. With microphone stand adaptors widely available for iPhones and iPads, this could be an indispensable tool for rabid jammers. If

you're the sort who can never think of a song at the session, or struggles to remember the words, you might be wise to get the free download and give this app a spin. The cost of an annual subscription is a small price to pay for having the words to your favorite songs in your pocket at all times.

Find out more about Bluegrass Guru at www.bluegrassguru.com

John Lawless, Bluegrass Express 29 July 2016

LESS COMMON JAM-FRIENDLY SONGS

As an avid jammer, I like to keep my ears open for jam-friendly bluegrass songs that I don't see come up very often at jams: two and three chord bluegrass songs that have familiar-sounding melodies and common chord progressions, but which are less frequently played at jams than other songs that share many similarities with them. Over the years, I have identified many such songs that I can call at virtually any bluegrass jam without fear of the songs being 'jam-busters', even when the majority of the people playing at the jam may have never played, or even heard of, the songs before.

Here are twenty of the songs I might choose to call at a jam when I wish to play and sing something other than the popular bluegrass standards that most jammers know, but don't want to run the risk of calling a song that could all too easily end up being a 'jam-buster'. If you are looking for more songs to introduce into the bluegrass jams you participate in, I hope that some of the following songs will appeal to you for this purpose.

1. Gonna Settle Down - Flatt & Scruggs; The Bluegrass Album Band. This song bears a strong resemblance to the

more well-known Flatt & Scruggs song 'Cabin In Caroline'.

2. Katy Cline – The Stanley Brothers. This song uses the same chord progression as, and has a similar melody to 'Roll In My Sweet Baby's Arms'
3. Gathering Flowers From The Hillside – Hylo Brown; The Carter Family. This is a two chord song with a very simple melody. It uses the same chord progression as 'Fireball Mail', 'Driving Nails In My Coffin', and the verses of 'Feast Here Tonight'.
4. Thinking About You – Flatt & Scruggs. This song uses the same chord progression as 'I Wonder Where You Are Tonight', but the melody used for its verses has much more in common with the melodies for 'Someday We'll Meet Again Sweetheart' and 'We Can't Be Darlings Anymore'.
5. Montana Cowboy (a.k.a. 'Coyote Song') – Hot Rize; Delia Bell. Same chord progression as for 'How Mountain Girls Can Love'.
6. Toy Heart – Bill Monroe; The Bluegrass Album Band. Similar to 'There's More Pretty Girls Than One'.
7. Wild Mountain Flowers For Mary – Lost & Found. Same chord progression as, and a similar melody to, 'Banks Of The Ohio'.
8. Miner's Prayer – Ralph Stanley & Dwight Yoakam. Same chord progression as Columbus Stockade Blues, and a similar melody.
9. Let Me Be Your Friend – The Stanley Brothers. Same chord progression as 'Riding On That Midnight Train', but the melody has more in common with 'It's Mighty Dark To Travel'.

10. You're Gonna Be Sorry You Let Me Down – IIIrd Tyme Out; The Carter Family. Same chord progression as 'The Crowdad Song' and the verses of 'Why Don't You Tell Me So'.

At many jams, I like to play songs like 'Bury Me Beneath The Willow' 'I'm On My Way Back To The Old Home', and 'Ain't Nobody Gonna Miss Me When I'm Gone' because I have found that people are less likely to hit a wrong chord on songs that have the chord progression that these songs use than on many songs that use a different chord progression. Here are a few less common songs that use this same chord progression:

11. Memory Of You – Jim & Jesse
 12. Why Did You Wander – Bill Monroe; Flatt & Scruggs
 13. I Still Write Your Name In The Sand – Mac Wiseman

Instead of 'I'll Fly Away' or 'Will The Circle Be Unbroken', I might choose for an easy to catch onto gospel song, one of the two following lesser-played songs that use the same chord progression as 'I'll Fly Away' and 'Will The Circle':

14. Crying Holy Unto The Lord (a.k.a. 'On The Rock Where Moses Stood') – J.D. Crowe & The New South; Bill Monroe
 15. When My Time Comes To Go – Larry Sparks

Or, if I want something with a more familiar-sounding melody, I might choose one of these two, which both have the same chord progression as 'This Little Light Of Mine' and 'Do Lord':

16. Paul & Silas – Carl Story; Flatt & Scruggs
 17. Somebody Touched Me – The Dillards

Finally, here are three songs that I have especially had good success with introducing

into jams:

18. Sweetheart You Done Me Wrong – Bill Monroe
 19. (My Home's) Across The Blue Ridge Mountains – Flatt & Scruggs
 20. Beautiful Blue Eyes – Red Allen
 Happy Pickin',
 Jason Homey (banjomaster1@yahoo.com)



That Was A Mighty Good Time



Ready For Another Year

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 Rich Johnson

1544 W Dakota Loop

Nampa, ID 83686

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

Northern Zone

Randy Berg, Orofino
rlberg@live.com
Bodie Dominguez, Clarkston
bdominguez2001@yahoo.com
John Lazzarini, Lenore
jlazzarini@sbcglobal.net

Southern Zone

John Boyer, Twin Falls
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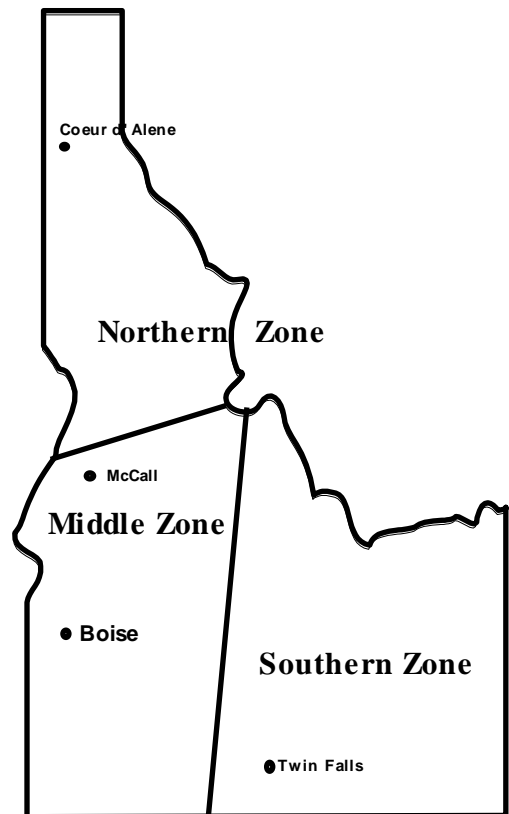
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Check us out on the web: www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org



Ladd Canyon Ramblers



New South Fork



Hickory Bluff

11th Annual ISBA
Fall Festival
Sept 16th - 18th 2016
Snake River Heritage Center
Weiser, ID

Friday - 16th
Bluegrass Open Mic

Saturday - 17th

Instrument Workshops - free

Bluegrass Concert

Ladd Canyon Ramblers

New South Fork

Hickory Bluff

Sunday - 18th
Gospel Open Mic

For Camping -
208.414.0255

For More Info -
208.377.5326
isbassn@gmail.com

www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org*
No handicap access to the concert hall
due to building's historical status

“Come for the weekend - Camp, pick and enjoy some great Bluegrass”



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