



IdaGrass

Volume 12 Issue 6

November-December 2016

UPCOMING BLUEGRASS EVENTS

ISBA TREASURE VALLEY BLUEGRASS CONCERT

December 9, 2016

7-9 PM

Nampa Senior Citizens Center, Nampa, ID
(see message from the Chairman)

BLYTHE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

January 20-22, 2017

Colorado River Fairgrounds, Blythe, CA

www.blythebluegrass.com

SPBGMA 42TH ANNUAL BLUEGRASS MUSIC AWARDS

February 2-5, 2017

Nashville, TN

www.spbgma.com

WINTERGRASS

February 23-26, 2017

Bellevue, WA

www.wintergrass.com

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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

"The time has come," the Walrus said,
 "To talk of many things:
 Of shoes--and ships--and sealing-wax--
 Of cabbages--and kings--
 And why the sea is boiling hot--
 And whether pigs have wings."

(Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There*, 1872)

No, those are definitely NOT lyrics from a long-forgotten bluegrass song. However, it captures my emotions so very well at this point, it seemed only fitting to quote it.

After a number of years...and a number of newsletters...John and I have decided that it's time to pass the baton (or thumbdrive, to be more specific) to a new editor. Aimee Burdette of Weiser has willingly stepped up, and we know she'll do an outstanding job.

So, the time has come, indeed, to talk about what you can do now. Besides talk of instruments, breaks, and jamming etiquette, you can help her, of course, by involving yourselves in this newsletter, much as you have involved yourselves in this association. Write articles, pull together reviews of bands, books, and recordings you enjoy, take pictures at your local jam and send them along. We all enjoy hearing from fellow ISBA members, and we all have so much we can learn from each other.

One thing I've learned----this is a big family, with all the good and messy parts. Embrace it, and it will only get better and stronger. But don't sit on the

sidelines and hope for improvement; it takes action to make that happen. I'll plan to see you at the festivals, where I hope many of us will be volunteering to teach, and stepping in to help where it's needed.

Now...let's go and play some music. Have a wonderful holiday season, everyone!

PT Limehouse
 Co-Editor, IdaGrass

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we embrace Fall and settle in for the upcoming Holiday season, I am thinking of all the music that was enjoyed this last year. I am not, however, putting the instruments away for the winter. There is always a good jam happening somewhere. It is also time to start planning and putting together the next Kamiah Spring Super Jam. The jam doesn't just happen, and it takes a few good people to step up and volunteer to help with it, and we need some people who love Bluegrass music to help out again this year. We need new ideas and perspectives to build on what we've done in the past. So if you are interested in helping out with organizing the event for this coming year, I would like to hear from you. Even if you would like to just comment on what we've done in the past. We do not always know what is liked by the attendees unless we get feedback. The more committee members we have on the committee, the less work has to be done by just one person. This will be the 11th

year for this event, and I am proud to have enjoyed and been a part of it for many of those years. I am planning our first Committee meeting, so if you are interested in joining the committee or just want to come and see what goes on, give me a call at 208-816-1263.

Best Regards
Randy Berg

AND ONE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Chairman's Corner

Hello again, bluegrass music fans. Things have slowed down somewhat with the passing of summer.

There is one bit of news, however, that should be of interest to many ISBA members. Here's the story.

The middle zone board members are planning to start a monthly bluegrass concert program in the Treasure Valley. The first show is tentatively scheduled for 7 to 9 PM Friday, Dec. 9, at the Nampa Senior Citizens Center. The senior center address is 207 Constitution Way. It's across from St. Alphonsus Hospital.

For notification, we will be using the late Bob Greer's mailing list (e-mail) for his "Bluegrass in the Barn" program. Price for the concerts will be 10 dollars per person. We will be presenting local and regional bands. Someday, with luck, we might be able to attract a nationally known band. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, contact Rich

Johnson or one of the other board members. Their contact information can be found on page 9 of this newsletter.

Have you looked at the ISBA Facebook page lately? If not, you're missing some good stuff. Thanks to Jim McCue for his photos and video clips from the Weiser festival. Thanks also to Mike Millward for shooting videos and managing the Facebook page. Great job, guys!

The board members express our sincere appreciation to PT and John Limehouse for their years as editors of IdaGrass. You did a terrific service to the ISBA. Hope to see you soon.

The board welcomes Aimee Burdette as the new IdaGrass editor. We look forward to working with you.

See you next time,
Stan

NEW IDAGRASS EDITOR

Aimee Burdette, from Weiser, will be taking over as the Editor of the ISBA newsletter as of January, 2017. She has worked for the National Oldtime Fiddlers Contest for a number of years, so she has a good understanding of all that goes on, bluegrass-wise, in our part of the world. Please make her welcome, and don't hesitate to contact her with ideas (and especially with good newsletter submissions!).

You can reach her by email at: admin@fiddlecontest.com
Or by posting a note to her at: isbassn@gmail.com

**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

**FIDDLEVIDEO.COM JOINS THE ONLINE
INSTRUCTION FIELD**

Revolutions can sweep away what came before them in swift and surprising ways, and we see that in the manner that music education has changed in the digital and internet age. New companies appear on a regular basis that take advantage of technological innovations that can bring the most qualified instructors right into your home, who will play a difficult piece over and over for you without a complaint.

Fiddlevideo.com is just such an outfit, focusing exclusively on teaching tunes and techniques for players of traditional fiddle music. They embrace the breadth of musical styles that have emerged from the Celtic heritage, including Irish and Scottish fiddling, Canadian, Cape Breton, old time, and bluegrass music. Four instructors have created lessons that cover basic and style-specific techniques, plus more than 100 tunes taught in great detail. They use the membership model whereby all of the content on the site is available for viewing online to subscribers for as little as \$35/month. All videos on the site can be played back at different speeds to make critical study of hand positions

easier, with split screen presentation showing the left and right hands in close up detail.

Instructors include master Irish fiddler Kevin Burke, US National Scottish fiddle champ Hanneke Cassel, US bluegrass/old time fiddler Casey Willis, and Canadian Métis/Québécois fiddler Patti Kusturok.

Even non-subscribers can view the performance videos for each tune, but the beginner and advanced tutorial videos, audio practice tracks, and sheet music are restricted to members. But they do offer a three-day free trial membership without all the bells and whistles to give potential subscribers a chance to test drive the site before committing.

Tunes can be selected by style, by instructor, by difficulty, or by tune form. Fiddlevideo.com also hosts an active discussion forum where members can ask each other questions or simply engage in online fiddle chat.

More details can be found by reading the FAQ at www.fiddlevideo.com

John Lawless, *Bluegrass Express*,
3 August 2016

WAMU'S BLUEGRASS COUNTRY IN TRANSITION

Washington, DC radio station WAMU decided in July to institute a public search for a new group or individual willing and able to take over WAMU's Bluegrass Country operations.

In a recent post on www.bluegrasscountry.org, the station notes: "One group, The Bluegrass Country Foundation, submitted a proposal by the October 17 deadline. A meeting was held on November 7 with the Foundation's Board of Directors to discuss their proposal in detail. We will update you when a final decision has been made.

As of November 2016 the Bluegrass Country signal will no longer be carried on 93.5FM. WAMU's Bluegrass Country will continue to be carried on 105.5FM and 88-5 WAMU HD Channel 2 in Washington, DC and streamed worldwide on bluegrasscountry.org."

A news release from this summer explains that WAMU began when the Washington, DC area was receiving huge immigration from Appalachia, and no commercial stations would play bluegrass music. The program started small, and grew from the late 1960s through the 1980s. Officially going live in July, 1967, WAMU was named Bluegrass Radio Station of the Year by SPBGMA in 1983. With support from the National Endowment for the Arts, WAMU 88.5 launches BluegrassCountry.org, a 24-hour bluegrass Internet radio station, in 2001.

In March, 2009, WAMU launched its first ever iPhone application. One could hear WAMU's Bluegrass Country on your iPhone and support the programming at the same time. A portion of the one-time \$1.99 fee went to Bluegrass Country.

In September of that year, WAMU 88.5 Bluegrass Country earned National Association of Broadcasters honor! The award, which recognizes stations for

their ability to create innovative or groundbreaking programming on their multicast channels, was presented Sept. 25 during the National Association of Broadcasters' luncheon in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

What does the future hold? J. J. Yore, General Manager, posted a message which reads, in part: "Our aim is to help educate listeners to the cultural and musical roots of bluegrass, and its history and place as America's music."

I know all of us are keeping our fingers crossed that Bluegrass Country will survive, and go on to meet those goals.

WINTERGRASS 2017 EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Wintergrass is coming up again in February, and music education is a big deal at Wintergrass. Festival attendees know they come to both listen *and* learn. As part of a festival ticket, one has access to over 60 hour-long festival workshops offered on Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday. We've heard your pleas and are working very hard to get that workshop schedule posted sooner this year!

In addition, Wintergrass presents a large number of programs that require additional registration. With programs designed for 4 year olds to 90 year olds, there just might be something that scratches that itch of yours. Read on!

Intensives 2017

Wintergrass Intensives provide serious study for serious students who wish to dive into the deep end of their subject. We're thrilled to present a packed Intensives schedule this year. Choose from 10 half and full day courses featuring an exceptional staff. With a few exceptions, classes are limited to 15 students, ensuring lots of one-on-one interaction between student and instructor. Larger classes (Singing, Jamming, Intuitive Improv) are still limited in size, however. You won't get lost in the crowd and you'll be able to ask questions and have meaningful exchanges with instructors and fellow students. Please be sure to read the descriptions of each class. Some are designed for advanced players while a number are open to players of all levels.

Wintergrass 2017 Intensives

FULL DAY COURSES 9AM-4PM

Singing Intensive - Molly O'Brien & Rich Moore & Lucy & Brigid Moore

MORNING COURSES 9AM-NOON

Intuitive Musical

Improvisation - Joe Craven

Classical Mandolin - Caternina Lichtenberg

Advanced Banjo - Pete Wernick

AFTERNOON COURSES 1-4PM

Live Performance Intensive – Vicki Ambinder

Mandolin - Mike Marshall

Guitar - Bryan Sutton

Dobro - Rob Ickes

Bluegrass Fiddle & Beyond - Darol Anger

Real Bluegrass Jamming - Pete Wernick

Youth Education

Thanks to the D'Addario Foundation and a growing list of Acoustic Sound patrons, Wintergrass is pleased to present a robust list of programs

designed for young and aspiring musicians ages 4 to 20. That generosity makes scholarships for every single program possible. Our gratitude is unbounded. Here's the short list:

●**Pintgrass**—Designed for very young students, ages 4-6, this multi-day program introduces students to basic concepts of music and movement, providing a vocabulary on which further education can be built.

●**Youth Academy**—For students ages 7-13, this two-day program is designed for beginners and young players who are just getting acquainted with independence and competence with instruments and performance. A

dedicated staff of teachers, led by master educators Beth Fortune, Joe Craven, and Alfreida Moore, provide inspiration and attention to every student.

●**Youth Orchestra**—Comprised of middle-school orchestra students, the 120-piece youth orchestra learns and rehearses one-of-a-kind arrangements provided by headline performers, who work and perform with the students. This program requires a months-long commitment and culminates with the closing performance on the Grand Ballroom stage on Sunday afternoon.

●**Youth Academy Teacher Training (YATT)**—For students 14-20 who are keenly interested in becoming teachers – particularly music teachers – this intense program thrusts students into learning, teaching and performing situations.

●**Rhapsody Songsters**—For students 14-20 who are interested in the wider array of ways to make music a lifetime passion. Students are immersed in mentoring and production, learning everything from stagecraft to photography to cooking and marketing, and just how to make music happen where you live. The program is enthusiastically overseen by master folklorists, community activists and award-winning performers, Ben Hunter and Joe Seamons.

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 Domiguez, Clarkston
bdominguez2001@yahoo.com
- John Lazzarini, Lenore
jlazzarini@sbcglobal.net

Southern Zone

- John Boyer, Twin Falls
boyerj1@mindspring.com

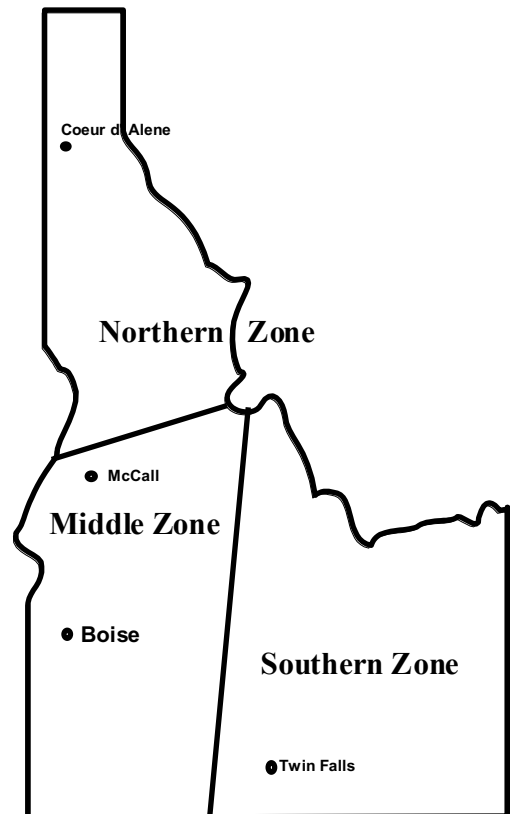
Middle Zone

- Bill Estes, Star
georgeestes@digis.net
- Keith Freedman, Nampa
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