



IdaGrass

Volume 6 Issue 2

March – April 2009

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ISBA Monthly Jams

Southern Zone Monthly Jam – 7pm @ Gerties'

Brick Oven Cookery in Twin Falls.

Hot Jam, 1st Monday of the month

Slow Jam, 3rd Monday of the month

John Boyer 208-733-4552

boyerj1@mindspring.com

Middle Zone Jam – 7pm @ 5714 Centerbrook Drive, Boise.

Intermediate Jam, 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month. Call Stan Strickland at (208) 377-5326 for more information. For a song list, contact Carolyn Johnson:

cthorse@gmail.com

Northern Zone Jam - Noon to 5pm.

1st Saturday @ Orchards United Methodist Church, 1213 Burrell Ave, Lewiston

3rd Saturday @ Highlander Community Room, 616 Warner, Lewiston

Steve Gleason 208-798-8280

Pete Northcutt 208-983-2277

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.

Letter From The President

Although it is April in Idaho, right now it is hard to get the feeling (I am looking out my window at a foot and a half of snow) that it is spring and we are on the edge of another wonderful season of Bluegrass with outdoor festivals, concerts, and jams. But we are! I am more excited than I ever have been about Bluegrass in Idaho. Because of the efforts of many people we have a wonderful summer and fall season of ISBA Bluegrass to look forward to.



April 10: New South Fork at "Bluegrass in the Barn";
May 14, 15, 16: Kamiah Spring Superjam
May 28: Mike Compton, award winning mandolinist at 7 pm at Bluegrass in the Barn;
May 29: Mike Compton -- two hour mandolin workshop
May 29: Mike Compton -- performance outside the Blue Moose Cafe
June 15: The Chapman's at 7 p.m. at Bluegrass in the Barn;
June 22: IIIrd Tyme Out with Chicken Dinner road --Brandt Auditorium, Nampa Civic Center;
July 4: Bluegrass camp out and jam at the Kling Ranch in Round Valley (near Cascade)
July 4: Bluegrass camp out and jam sponsored in White Bird
July ??: Bluegrass camp out and jam at Fraser Park chaired by Steve Gleason
August 27, 28, 29: Bannock County Bluegrass Festival
September 3, 4, and 5: ISBA Fall Festival

I don't see a month where there aren't at least two events, and/or a major festival/jam. I remember the bluegrass opportunities in Idaho five or six years ago and I see that we have come a very long way. For a few years, trying to create traditional bluegrass opportunities seemed more like rolling a rock uphill than fun. What amazes me the most in looking at the very long list of activities above is

that it has been put together and will be implemented by volunteers – no one is making money. They do it all for the love of the music. That thought brings me to a small request.

When you go to one of these events and you see a way to improve it, find out who the event coordinator is, go to that person, and tell them that you will volunteer to do that job, or any other job, the next time the event occurs. If things aren't going as smoothly as you think they should, it could be that some volunteer has just too many jobs to do. Just ask if you can help, then volunteer for the next event.

If you would like more details about each of these events you will find them further on in the newsletter and also on the website on the calendar page at <http://www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org>.

Carolyn

CONGRATULATIONS



JD Webb and the Downstate Ramblers on the release of their new CD, *Moon Over Austin*. The CD features all original works by singer/songwriter J.D. Webb. The album is a mix of traditional, gospel, and modern Bluegrass/Americana music. Some that will make you laugh, and some that will make you cry, but all with the drive and soulful sound synonymous with the band. The CD is available through Lost Armadillo, live appearances, and online at CDBaby.com.

www.downstateramblers.homestead.com

New Website

Check out **Chicken Dinner Road's** new website: www.chickendinnerroad.com or maybe go and hear them at Blue Moose Café

Thirty-six Years and Counting

Interview with Allen Mills of Lost and Found Bluegrass Band

By Helen Smith

Thirty-six and a half years show a special commitment to a single undertaking, but this is how long Allen Mills has been making bluegrass music. In Virginia, in 1973, four musicians joined together and the bluegrass band we now know as Lost and Found had its beginning. Allen Mills, Dempsey Young, Gene Parker and Roger Handy combined their talents and abilities to create a signature sound within the bluegrass genre. Allen and I visited about the sound that is Lost and Found and he said, "early on we set the tone for this band and as people (musicians) come into the band they have molded into what has already been set. It's like the house was built, you just moved in and accepted it like it was." I guess if you've been successfully doing it for over 30 years, don't try to fix what ain't broke. Allen and the band have tried to follow the advice he'd heard Sonny Osborne once give, "play your strengths and stay away from your weaknesses." Allen elaborated on how this applied to the way Lost and Found works and chooses their material to be successful. "What we done is found song, or wrote the songs, found songs and did the arrangements on that would fit what we could do. Don't try to do what you can't. If you can't do it well, don't do it." As you listen to their dozen or so cultivated what they do well.

The longevity of Lost and Found is a direct result of the commitment of Allen Mills and Dempsey Young. For thirty three years the two of the face of Mills and Young were a constant. In December of 2006, this changed with the unexpected passing of mandolinist, Dempsey Young. The current Lost and Found lineup is Allen Mills on the bass, Scottie Sparks on guitar, Ronald Smith on banjo, and Scott Napier on mandolin. Alan was very complimentary of his band members, both individually and as a whole. Alan said, "All these guys travel good" which is a very important attribute, since at the time of my interview, they had been traveling full-time,

together, across the country in a bus for six weeks.

Beyond being good travelers, Allen said of the band, "All three of these guys have a passion." This point is evident as you listen to them play. Elaborating a little about each member, of Ronald Smith he said, "This boy here, loves Scruggs music, can executes it well and can play what the other banjo players have played... and is a fine, outstanding banjo player." Smith has played with Lost and Found for the past nine years, but completed his first recording with a band on the mandolin, at age 12. Scottie Sparks, guitarist, for the band has been playing professionally since he was 15 years old. He joined Lost and Found in 2001 and sings lead and tenor. Of Sparks Allen said, "Scottie is a great guitar player and a good singer; I love to sing with him."



Ronald Smith, Scottie Sparks & Allen Mills
(photo by Raynae Redman)

Mandolinist, Scot Napier, is the newest member to the Lost and Found line-up. He's had big shoes to fill after the passing of Dempsey Young. But Dempsey had been a mentor to Scott throughout the years and Scott acknowledges Dempsey as a major influence in his own development. Scott was invited to play the first couple of shows after Young's passing and later was both honored and humbled as the call came from Mills, to join Lost and Found, saying, "If you want a job, you've got one here." Lost and Found
(continued on page 9)



Photo by
John Cohen

Shook Mountain Productions, LLC (Mike & Tari Conroy) Present:

2ND ANNUAL HARTIMES BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

July 23-24-25, 2010

Featuring:

New South Fork- Idaho Falls, ID
 Will Williams & Gravel Road- Grangeville, ID
 Pinegrass- Missoula, MT
 Darby Sireens- Darby, MT
 Blue 'To The Bone- Hamilton, MT
 Gravely Mtn.- Alberton, MT
 Kids In Bluegrass
 JD Webb & The Downstate Ramblers- Baker, OR
 Rudy Corbett Band- Mountain Home, ID
 Spring Thaw- Missoula, MT
 Mike & Tari Conroy & Friends- Conner, MT

**FOOD
&
VENDORS
ON
SITE**

Special Featured Bluegrass Pioneers from the Northwest

Forrest Clark- Clinton, MT

Ed Dobson- Pollock, ID

Henry Counts- Livingston, MT

Fiddlin' Jimmy Widner, Darby, MT

Firp Redman, Hamilton, MT

BRING	ALL	BLUEGRASS
YOUR	DOGS	GOSPEL
LAWN	ON	SUNDAY
CHAIRS	LEASH	MORNING

Location: 10 miles South of Hamilton, Mt. Highway 93-mile marker 37 163 Forest Hill Road.

Festival site is on the Heiland & Thomas Ranches

Admission: Adults-\$10.00 for weekend, children under 12- \$5.00 for weekend

Dry camping only- \$10.00 for weekend

For more information: hardtimesbluegrass.com or call 1-406-821-3777

Y'ALL COME!

Upcoming Bluegrass Events

Bluegrass in the Barn

Saturday, March 13th

7:00 – 9:00 pm

1822 W Orchard, Nampa ID

Guest Band: New South Fork

House Band: Tradition

Acoustic Bluegrass Jam at 9:00 pm

More info: bobgreer@msn.com

Valley Bluegrass Stage

Saturday, April 17th 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Clarkston High School Auditorium

Cost: \$5.00, under 10—free

Featuring: Yankee Blue, Wanigans, Clearwater and Higher Ground

More info: ismusic@clearwire.net

Spring Super Jam

May 14th – 16th

Lewis Clark Resort, Kamiah ID

More info: page

www.idahosawthoothbluegrass.org

Mike Compton at the Bluegrass Barn

Friday, May 28th

7:00 pm

1822 W Orchard, Nampa ID

Suggested \$10 donation

For info: 208-941-5611

The Chapman's at the Bluegrass Barn

Tuesday, June 15th

7:00 – 9:00 pm

1822 W Orchard, Nampa ID

More info: bobgreer@msn.com

Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out

Tuesday, June 22nd

7:00 pm

Nampa Civic Center

Tickets online - www.nampaciviccenter.com

or (208)468-5555

Kootenai River Bluegrass & Beyond Festival

July 16th – 18th

Roosevelt Park

Troy MT

www.krbgf.org

Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival

July 23rd – 25th

Hamilton MT

www.hardtimesbluegrass.com

Fraser Park Jam

July 29th – August 1st

Fraser Park Pavillon

5 miles west of Weippe ID

Steve Gleason @ 208-553-1597

Bannock County Bluegrass Festival

August 27th – 29th

Bannock Co Fairgrounds

Pocatello ID

www.bannockcountybluegrassfestival.com

ISBA Fall Festival

September 3rd – 5th

Cambridge ID

www.idahosawthoothbluegrass.org

Valley Bluegrass Stage:

4 Bluegrass Bands in Lewiston

Sometimes bluegrassers north of the Boise valley might feel like they don't get their fair share of bluegrass concerts, but that will change this month. On SAT, April 17th, four bluegrass bands will take the stage at 7 pm at Clarkston HS at an event called the Valley Bluegrass Stage. Patterned after the Saturday Night Music Showcase hosted by our sister association, Inland Northwest Bluegrass Association, organizer Scott Lombard decided to see if this kind of event would draw support in the Lewiston and surrounding areas. This first show is just to test the waters and see if there is an audience base to support a monthly evening of bluegrass. Each band will play a 30 minute set, so listeners will get a full 2 hours of bluegrass. This kind of event is a benefit to both bluegrass listeners and bands, as it provides a venue for bluegrass music beyond the summer festival season. Based on the evening's success, organizers plan to start in the fall with a monthly offering of bluegrass throughout the school year. Higher Ground, Clearwater, Yankee Blue and Wanigan are the bands featured in April. There is a \$5.00 admission charge which will be used to cover the cost of the facility. If you have questions or need more information, you can contact Scott Lombard at: 509-780-3730

Kootenai River Bluegrass and Beyond Festival

July 16-18

Roosevelt Park, Troy MT

Featuring

FRANK SOLIVAN AND DIRTY KITCHEN

JACKSTRAW

FOG HORN STRINGBAND

BROKEN VALLEY ROAD SHOW

PINEGRASS

RAMBLIN ROSE

BRIDGER CREEK BOYS

ANDRE VACHON FAMILY BAND

DERAILED

Music starts at 5:00 pm on Friday

Free Camping on the Kootenai River

Good Food Vendors
Kid Friendly Park
Instrument/Vocal Workshops
Open Mic Sets
Bluegrass in the Wilds
Family Weekend Pass \$45.00



www.krbgf.org

406-295-3016

Sponsored by the Montana Office of Tourism

Lost and Found Bluegrass Band appear at Bob's Bluegrass Barn

By Raynae Redman

Tuesday night, March 9th, I got a phone call from Helen Smith inviting me to hitch a ride with her over to Nampa to go to the Lost and Found Bluegrass Band's concert at Bob and June Greer's Bluegrass Barn. I was thrilled beyond anything and immediately began packing because we were headed out the following morning.

Wednesday, Helen picked me up at the bottom of our mountain and we were off; bluegrass on the Sirius Radio and two ladies singing along between all the yakking, as down the road we headed. A quick stop in Council to pick up some good popcorn and then we were back on the road.

Finally we arrived in Nampa and took our exit off the interstate. We came to the first light and of course it was red. As we pulled up to stop, there out my window in the lane next to us was the Lost and Found bus. Helen spotted it first, as I was still yakking. The license plate said LANDF and we knew it was them. Wow, the excitement was mounting as we headed towards the barn. Once there Helen and I watched as Bob guided them in to park, then we were greeted by a lot of our friends already there to help Bob set up. Wow what a fun night this was going to be!

Soon the band was setting up and doing their sound check. ISBA member Rudy Corbett was running their sound and had recently bought some new equipment so was very excited to get to try it out. Helen and I got a delicious meal of ham with all the trimmings cooked up by June and then we had fun listening to them warming up and getting everything just right for the show. Shortly after 6 people started coming in for the show and it was filling up fast. They knew that in order to get a good seat an early arrival was necessary. Soon more and more people were arriving and the barn was filled to capacity.

The concert began to a sold out crowd, and oh what a band. They put on a great show and the crowd went wild cheering them on as they played one tune after another.

Half way thru the show they took a break and sold CD's and a very fun cookbook that Helen and this writer just had to buy. Have you heard of the **Lost and Found Interview Continued...**

Crooked Road in Virginia? Well, this cookbook is filled with historical interviews and stories from the people who live along the Crooked Road along with their recipes. I love bluegrass history and stories so I knew that this was the book for me.

Allen Mills and Bob Greer



(photo by Raynae Redman)

When the band began their second set they invited fiddler, Doug Jenkins, and dobro player, Pat Massie to play through the entire second set. It was so much fun seeing our friends up there playing with the band.



Doug Jenkins and Pat Massie
(photo by Raynae Redman)

One song after another until finally the night had to end. I was so wound up after such a wonderful show that I had to lie in bed reading my new cook/history book. Finally, at midnight lights went out as I kept the memory in my dreams. Ah, another great bluegrass night.

was in the middle of recording an album at that time. Scott helped the band finish the project. Explaining the consistency and help Scott gave to the completion of that album, Allen said, "Dempsey played on half album, Scott on the other tunes. A lot of people say they have a hard time tellin' who's doing what, so that's a great compliment on his part.



Scot Napier, Lost and Found
(photo by Raynae Redman)

Allen and I also visited about the change he has seen in the music and recording business in the past 50 years, about the changes in the way a listener has access to music; 78s, to 45s, to albums, the changes in radio and now the Internet. He said, "I think the way you (a musician) present the music never changes – it stays the same. The way you hear the music and the way you get it has changed drastically."

I had read that Allen does all the booking for the band and all the mechanic work on the bus. I teased him a little. Our conversation went as follows:

"You do all the booking, and have for 36½ years; you are also the bus mechanic, I understand."

"You want to know why?"

"Yes, why is that?"

"It's about \$75 an hour, every time you workin' out there, you makin' \$75 an hour."

"Yeah, but does it show up in your pay check?"

He grinned and said, "If you don't do it, it will show up in your paycheck. All that is part of Application for Membership

what you gotta do to make it work. It's like preparing a meal... if you don't have a stove, how you gonna cook biscuits? It's that relative, it's the whole ingredient to what you gotta do – if you don't, you get eat up by it, or you only play in this little circle, you don't ever get out of it. You either learn to do it, or you pay someone and it will put you in the poorhouse immediately."

In the tradition of those early bluegrass musicians who piled into a car and drove from town to town, Allen Mills, in company with the other Lost and Found band members, have been traveling across the country for going on forty years. As their bluegrass fathers before, they work hard at booking their own shows, drivin' and fixin' the bus and pickin' some pretty fine bluegrass in a distinctive style that is all their own.

Mike Compton In Boise

On May 28th, the Grammy Award-winning mandolinist will be back at Bob Greer's Bluegrass in the Barn in Nampa starting at 7pm. We suggest at least a \$10 donation at the door.

On May 29th, Mike will be giving a 2-hour mandolin workshop from 11am-1pm at the Blue Moose Cafe in Eagle ID. The address is 79 E. Aikens Rd. Reservations can be made through me for \$60. I only have 25 spots available, call 208-941-5611.

Later that evening, Mike will perform outside the Blue Moose Café starting at 6pm. Dinner will be included with the ticket for the price of \$20. Chicken Dinner Road will open. It will be a fun evening.

RUSSELL MOORE and IIIRD TYME OUT

will be in concert at the Nampa Civic Center on June 22, 2010. The concert will be at 7pm with CHICKEN DINNER ROAD opening. You can get your tickets online at www.nampaciviccenter.com or call 468-5555 for tickets.

Fraser Park Jam, July 29-August 1. Fraser Park Pavilion, 5 miles west of Weippe ID, off of Highway 12 at Greer. No admission, free dry camping, Acoustic strings only. Friday night potluck, 5pm; Saturday night Open Mike 7 to 9 pm; Cookshack open on Saturday. All dogs on leash. Contact Steve Gleason at 208-743-5715 or cell at 208-553-1597.

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 (for an individual or family)

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

If you have **IDEAS**, *Comments*, **QUESTIONS**, or *Concerns*

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(208)798-8280

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pnorthcutt@mtida.net

Southern Zone

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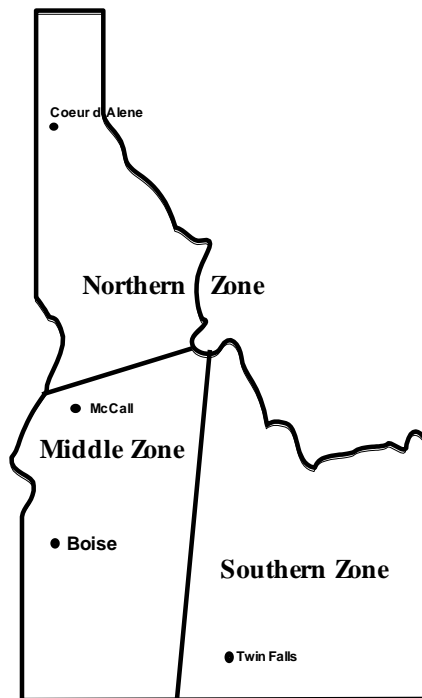
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Check us out on the web: www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org