



IdaGrass

Volume 6 Issue 3

May – June 2010

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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 – The Middle Zone Intermediate Jam is taking a vacation for the summer months of June, July, August & September.

It will resume in October - 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month. Call Stan Strickland at (208) 377-5326 for more information.

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.

President's Message

Summer is finally here and it is packed with Bluegrass events in Idaho. We opened the season with the ISBA Spring Super Jam in Kamiah. It was probably our best attended Spring Jam since we started the event. The campground in Kamiah was full of music with jammers of all ages making music Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We saw many new faces along with the faces of old friends. The event was well-organized and activities were easy to find and always on time. The open mics were genuinely entertaining with new groups and performers as well as old timers giving some fine performances. Saturday afternoon six bands played donating their time to the Association. We all would like to thank these talented musicians for their generosity. Among the bands was a new band, Higher Ground. It is always great to welcome a new band into the organization and we hope we will see much more of them in the future. Another band, new to the organization, led by Steve Gleason performed at open mike. We hope to see these fine musicians up on the main stage in coming years.

Will and Gail Williams, Pete and Pam Northcutt, and John and Raynae Redman worked very hard to make the event a success and deserve our thanks. Additionally there were many hard working volunteers who spent time at the tee shirt/sweatshirt/ball cap booth. We couldn't have done it without them. Since the Spring Jam is a free event the organization cannot make money any other



way than selling items at this booth. Every penny that you spend here after we cover the cost of the merchandise goes to activities like printing and mailing the newsletter for those who prefer to receive it that way, tee shirts for Kids in Bluegrass, costs incurred for running the organization, and the larger costs that we incur for the Fall Festival. We want to thank you for supporting the organization's activities by



buying items at the tee shirt booth.

Gail Williams setting up t-shirts

(Photo by Raynae Redman)

Another big thanks goes to Stan and Trudee Strickand who bought a canopy for the membership booth and who ran the booth during the festival. Trudee put in some very long hours at the desk, and it paid off with many new memberships. Just a reminder, we collect memberships yearly in April and if you haven't paid your \$15 for this year you can find a mail-in application either on the web site or in the newsletter.

A final thank you goes to those who volunteered to teach workshops. Education is an important part of the mission of our organization and we value those who are willing to pass on what they know to others. That is the only way that Bluegrass will survive from one generation to the next. That is, we need to thank both those who are willing to teach and those who are

IdaGrass

willing to learn in both formal and informal settings.

The beginner's jam was the largest we have ever had and John Boyer deserves a special thank you for leading this group Friday and Saturday night. This was not an easy job. It took tact, patience, and good will on his part and on the part of the beginners as well. The beginners and John both deserve a standing ovation for what they accomplished the two nights they met.

Finally I have just a heart-warming story, one that tells me that our organization is neither so big nor so self-important that it can't care about the individuals that make it possible. We have a long-time member of the organization, Dale "Mac" McMinn who recently had heart surgery and should probably should have been home in bed instead of at the event. But he is also our photographer and felt compelled to be at Kamiah to do his job. And then we have Gail Williams, one of the volunteers who worked so hard to put the event together. On top of all the work Gail did to put the event together and host a Thursday night pot luck, Gail some how found the time to haul a recliner (yes, a real recliner) over to the grassy area in front of the stage so that Mac would have a place to rest and hear the music. She then made him go sit in it. He was still protesting while his eyes were closing as he fell asleep to the music he loves so much. We have many volunteers that care as much as Mac and Gail. I'd say our organization is in good hands.

Remember and start planning for the ISBA Fall Festival in Cambridge on Labor day. We will have nine great bands, workshops, open mic, and excellent facility in a wonderfully supportive community. There will be dry camping in a pretty, grassy field. The stage will be in a covered (but open on four sides) area. There will be food vendors and local artisans on site as well as restaurants near by.

May – June 2010

Have a great summer, Carolyn

Upcoming Bluegrass Events

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



Chicken Dinner Road at Open Mic
(Photo by Dale McMinn)



All Ages Love Bluegrass
(Photo by Raynae Redman)



Kids In Bluegrass practicing away
(Photo by Raynae Redman)



Higher Ground
(Photo by Dale McMinn)



Tradition Bluegrass Band
(Photo by Dale McMinn)



Just a pickin' and a grinnin'
(Photo by Dale McMinn)



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

2ND ANNUAL HARTTIMES 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
- Gravelly 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
Firr Redman, Hamilton, MT

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

The Chapman Family

By Helen Smith

The Chapman family has been playing bluegrass music together in a band configuration for over 20 years, with father, Bill on banjo and sons John, Jason and Jeremy on guitar, mandolin and bass, respectively. Just recently they have added fiddler, Tyler Beckett to join them on tour. They are fine instrumentalists with vocal harmonies that will knock your socks off. They are coming to the Bluegrass Barn in Nampa, June 15th and they were gracious enough to visit with me prior to their performance.

IdaGrass: In your video “Youtube” interview, found on the Bluegrass Blog, you talk about each family/band member has been fired from their jobs many times, talk about the unique strengths and disadvantages of being a family band.

Jason: *The biggest plus in being a family is the total cohesion. We know each other better than anyone else. We can be brutally honest with each other (sometimes too much), and we know what each other is thinking. One of the downsides is that we don't have many outside influences. That is why adding Tyler has been such a great plus.*

IdaGrass: All bands have jobs; booking, spokesman, bus driver, peacemaker. Who has what job and how have the jobs changed over the years.

Chapmans: *Dad has always been one of the main people involved in booking the band. From the beginning he was the driving force. Now Jeremy and Jason have become a major force in that part along with the various agents we've worked with. Jason has taken on a role as graphic designer. Along with designing posters and promo etc., he designed all the artwork for Grown Up. Jer is kind of the task master; taking on the overall business of the band and seeing that it gets done. John lately has been one of the main drivers, seeming to feel more comfortable behind the wheel than in the back of the Chapmobile riding. Tyler is the official supplier of entertainment on the road. (most at his expense)*

IdaGrass: A band's distinctive style or sound is a combination of the individual style of each band member and the musical influences that are band

valued by the band. The musical influence you have acknowledged range from “jazz, rock n roll, and straight-ahead, traditional bluegrass; Monroe, Stanley and the Osborne Brothers”. Tell us about the development of the Chapman's style.

Jason: *Our sound continues to grow and change as we grow and change. Every new experience, whether musical or not, influences who we are and what we put forth in the music. I don't see an end for that. Music is what you put into it, and the more we learn the more we can put in.*

IdaGrass: Bill, a very long time ago, you purchased a banjo from Sears and started to play it around the house. You have come a long ways from there. What is the thing you have most enjoyed as you have traveled on this amazing bluegrass journey with your family?

Bill: *Meeting lots of interesting people, seeing some beautiful parts of the country as well as other countries, and getting to do it all with the boys; though the last part isn't always easy.*

IdaGrass: Jason, you are the youngest of the brothers and were the last to join the band on bass. Besides being the bass player, what strength do you feel you have brought to the band?

Jason: *Besides visual appeal (lol), I'm not sure what I bring other than an extra opinion and or tie breaker when it comes to a decision on where we eat while on the road, and over the last few years I have gotten handy with graphic design and video editing, which always comes in handy when you're in band.*

IdaGrass: Jeremy, you have said that you started playing mandolin when you were young because the guitar was too big. What musician(s) has had the biggest influence on the development of your own personal style? (Continued on page10)



Album Cover from “Simple Man”

A Simple Way to Volunteer

Would you be willing to help advertise the ISBA Fall Festival by **hanging a flyer** on your town bulletin board or neighborhood grocery or music store?

Or **take flyers to a bluegrass festival** or musical event you are attending? If you are willing to help in this way, contact Carolyn Johnson for more information about obtaining flyers: cthorse@gmail.com

CD Reviews by Murry & Jack



Moon Over Austin

By J D Webb & the Downstate Ramblers

If it is possible to use bluegrass, JD Webb, & mellow all in the same sentence, then it gives some idea of the flavor of the latest album "Moon Over Austin", released by JD Webb & The Downstate Ramblers.

Most of the songs on the album were written by JD, and the lyrics in several speak directly to your heart on different levels. The instrumental accompaniment on the album is nothing short of genius. Those musicians knew exactly what they were doing, and did it to perfection leaving you wishing for more. They grab your attention and you can do nothing but enjoy!!! The harmony vocals could have had a little more balance. The female voice needs to be better heard to be more effective as well as the others. On an album like that a few strictly instrumental numbers could be included for variety.

If you enjoy easy listening that touches your soul, better check it out.



Enjoying the Music and the Weather
(Photo by Dale McMinn)



Local Artisan, Mike Butts, Banjo Bear & Pete Northcutt
(Photo by Dale McMinn)



More Gospel Music
(Photo by Raynae Redman)

KZBQ 93.7 FM, KORR 104, KOW Stereo AM 1290 &
the Bannock County Bluegrass Music Association
Presents

Idaho's 7th Annual BANNOCK COUNTY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Featuring

- Cold Creek • Chicken Dinner Road • New South Fork •
- The Panhandle Polecats • The Bluegrass Coalition • Tradition •
- Red Desert Ramblers • Hammer Down • Strings Attached •

Sponsors

- Mikes Music • Budget Tape & Records • Franks Fiddles •
- Agrium • Mullen Crain • Simplot • Idaho National Laboratories •

Ticket Prices

- Family Weekend Pass
\$80.00 before Aug. 1 \$100 after Aug. 1
- Weekend Pass
\$30.00 before Aug. 1 \$35 after Aug. 1
- Friday Pass \$10.00
- Saturday Pass \$15.00
- Sunday Pass \$10.00

**Beer
Garden**

**Martin D-28
Guitar Raffle**

Tickets Available at:

Mikes Music
208-233-9650

Budget Tape &
Records
208-237-3500



August 27, 28, 29, 2010

Bannock County Fair Grounds • Pocatello, Idaho

For more information go to
www.bannockcountybluegrassfestival.com



Montana Coalition
(Photo by Dale McMinn)



Some fine music from the Gospel Set
(Photo by Raynae Redman)



Ron Hillier and John Boyer off to find music
(Photo by Dale McMinn)



Will Williams and Gravel Road
(Photo by Dale McMinn)



Downstate Ramblers
(Photo by Raynae Redman)



The thing we like best, pickin'
(Photo by Dale McMinn)

Will Williams And Gravel Road

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Give us a call !***

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Traditional Family and Traditional Music

***Will Williams banjo and vocals, Chris Williams mandolin and vocals
Hannah Williams guitar and vocals, Raynae Redman bass and vocals.***

e-mail - will@williamscustombanjos.com

Visit our website at www.willwilliamsandgravelroad.com

Phone : 208-839-2814 Fax: 208-839-2711

Jeremy: *One thing that has helped me create my own style is the large number of influences I've had on my playing. I've slowed down, and learned solo's from just about anyone you could think of, and taking my favorite parts from each has allowed me to create my own sound. To name a few of my tops though... Adam Steffey, Chris Thile, Sam Bush, Doyal Lawson, David Grisman, Bill Monroe, Dempsey Young, Dan Tyminski, Alan Bibey, Wayne Benson...*

IdaGrass: John, you are the lead vocalist for the band. What things you like about the spot? Anything you don't like?

John: *What I like about singing is getting to put emotion and character to each song. I really enjoy that art form. It is great to see people get affected by the songs we play, and hearing their stories of why certain songs mean something to them. As far as not liking something, I don't really have anything I don't like. Sometimes I kinda wish to just be a backup musician and just sit back and enjoy the others in the band. I'd like to know what that's like.*

IdaGrass: You all are excellent instrumentalist, but your vocal harmonies are stellar. Tell me about the process of find the balance between instruments and vocals.

John: *For me, I tend to lean on the vocals as a main focus. I know that the rest of the band is going to come up with amazing things with the instrumental side and that part just seems to happen.*

IdaGrass: When you produced your first project, you acknowledge that Ray Deaton and the studio musicians helped you recognize the importance of attention to detail. Identify a couple of specific areas in which bluegrass pickers could improve their musicianship by "paying attention to details".

Chapmans: *One of the biggest things all musicians need to remind themselves that they need to support the main focus in every song. What I mean is that at any given moment in a song there is something that you want your audience to focus on. It could be the Lead Singer, the harmonies, or a solo etc. Your job is to make*

whatever it is sound better without distracting. A lot of times that means sacrificing that flashy lick, solo for the greater good.

IdaGrass: Tell me about using cutting edge technology and professionals to help market the band and your music

Chapmans: *There are so many tools available now online to make it easier to get our music to our fans and we have made an effort to find and use as many of them as possible and integrate them into our fan site www.chap-tv.com and we have also found that social networking sites like "twitter" & "facebook" are not just for teenage girls anymore, they are also a great way to keep in contact with the fans on a day to day basis.*

IdaGrass: Recently fiddler, Tyler Beckett, has been playing with the band on tour. Tell us what Tyler brings to the band and the music.

Chapmans: *Tyler is an amazing talent and great guy. He brings an outside opinion (which we rarely listen to) and a new energy that has been incredible to work with. We love him like he was family.*

IdaGrass: Just recently I read that you played a concert in the Cumberland Caverns in TN, 330 feet below ground. Tell us about that experience, or about a concert setting that you considered amazing.

Chapmans: *That has to be the most unusual and unique venues out there. We've all enjoyed doing cave tours since we were kids, so performing in a cave was a real treat. It was a really cool idea to set up a stage, and have bands play their music 300 feet underground in a big open cavern. It's going to take a lot to top that one. Maybe underwater or in the air...*

If you are interested in watching the "Youtube" video interview, you can find it on The Bluegrass Blog at: <http://www.thebluegrassblog.com/the-chapmans-video-bio-online/>.

The Chapman's also have a great, interactive website. If you would learn more about the Chapman's or hear a broad sampling of the Chapman's Music, visit <http://www.thechapmansonline.com/>.

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

Check us out on the web: www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org