



# IdaGrass

Volume 6 Issue 6

November - December 2010

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## ISBA Monthly Jams

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

Intermediate Jam, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Call Stan Strickland at (208) 377-5326 for more information.

**Northern Zone Jam - Noon to 5pm.**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday @ Orchards United Methodist Church, 1213 Burrell Ave, Lewiston

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Message From the President



As 2010 is winding down, so is my term as President. For those of you who are new or who have forgotten, the ISBA elects the President for a two year term. My two year term is up at the end of December, and we will hold an election in January.

So -- for the coming month of December, if you wish to nominate someone to run for President or if you would like to run for President yourself, please send your nomination to Will Williams our Secretary. We vote by email or by using the post office. At the beginning of the election during the first week in January you will receive an email ballot or a paper ballot if you receive a paper copy of the newsletter. The period for returning the ballot will be just over a week, enough time for the ballots to arrive by ground mail and a week for you to figure out for whom you want to vote. You will either return your ballot by mail or by email to an address specified on your ballot.

I have enjoyed being your President. I have met and worked with many wonderful people and have enjoyed the ISBA functions and events that I have worked on during my Presidency. I have been fortunate to have worked with people who have given generously of their time to promote the performance and appreciation of Bluegrass music. I have watched both the Spring Jam and Fall Festival grow and prosper. As you think about both Festivals and make plans for your vacations next year, think hard about both attending and even helping a little with them. Among my richest experiences working with the ISBA are the times I have worked with other volunteers who start out as strangers and become friends because we have our love of the music in common.

The Fall Festival is our one money making project for the year and should finance other ISBA

activities like the Spring jam. It is also a show case for our ISBA bands. We want to nurture and care for these groups, so rare in this part of the country, and showing them off at the Fall Festival and paying them to play is one way we can assure their continued existence.

The biggest regret of my Presidency is not being able to attend all of the regional jams sometime during the last two years. They are the strength of our organization, the place where new bands are born, and the place where ordinary pickers -- the good and not so good -- can gather to enjoy and participate in the music.

I have big plans for all of the extra time I will have when I am not President. I look forward to being able to spend more time maintaining the ISBA web site and also to having more time to play my banjo. For these last two years, there have been so many other duties that the web site mostly gets a "lick and a promise." Instead of doing an ok job on a lot of things I hope to do a darn good job on one thing -- the web site. Thank you all for your good will and support over these two years.

Regards, Carolyn

## Banjo Picker's Medical Terms

*To help with "grinning" part of pickin' & grinnin'*

Benign.....What you be, after you be eight.  
Artery.....The study of paintings.  
Bacteria.....Back door to cafeteria.  
Barium....What doctors do when patients die.  
Enema..... Not a friend.  
Hangnail..... What you hang your coat on.  
Labor Pain..... Getting hurt at work.  
Morbid..... A higher offer.  
Nitrates..... Cheaper than day rates.  
Recovery Room..... Place to do upholstery.  
Seizure..... Roman emperor.  
Terminal Illness....Getting sick at the airport.  
Tumor..... One plus one more.

My apologies to all the banjo pickers I know  
and admire – I just couldn't resist :-)  
For more grins: <http://bluegrassbanjo.org/>

## Festival in Review

By Syd Howland

Desert Bluegrass  
Association's  
**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Desert  
Bluegrass Festival**  
Oct 29-31 at the AVA  
Amphitheater,  
Sol Casinos.



This was my first Tucson festival experience and it was fantastic. The amphitheater has a 5,000 capacity and seats 1,700 in theater-style seats outside in the shade. The stage was attractively decorated with painted Halloween pumpkins, scarecrows and fall leaves. The casino, owned by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, is huge and elegant. They are obviously used to a larger, more rowdy crowd, as the security personnel on Day #1 numbered approximately the number of bluegrass attendees! I'm sure they considered us a pretty dull bunch. They had several beer (\$5) and margarita (\$8) vendors, but very little participation. There were a few food vendors, but nothing unique. Other vendors were the usual: Frank's Fiddles from Meridian IDAHO (not OHIO as the MC once announced!) and Tricopolis Records, as well as the unique-to-the-southwest jewelry, art and home décor folks.

We were allowed to camp free in a paved parking lot adjacent to the amphitheater. It was fun meeting up with my Arizona bluegrassers there and making some new friends (one from Stanley, Idaho!) The Friday evening show was free. Another thing I thought very special was this page in the program:

*The Desert Bluegrass Association welcomes Active Service Personnel from Davis-Monthan AFB and their families as our guests. Thank you for your service and sacrifice for our country.*

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Old Blue Sound from Mesquite, Nevada was superb, as usual. Those guys are up north in the summer and at many festivals down here in the winter.

Groups performing included:

- Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out—IBMA Vocal Group of the Year 7 consecutive years. Terrific a capella numbers
- Special Consensus—their 35<sup>th</sup> year with Greg Cahill, former IBMA president on banjo
- Palmer Divide—Colorado foursome plays only their “first class original material with excellent musicianship all around”
- Tangled Strings—Phoenix band formed in 2005
- X Train—All Arizona guys recently formed this new band. They're HOT!
- Jam Pak Blues 'n' Grass Neighborhood Band—a large group of young people of all ages from Chandler

With all the incredible talent it was not easy to choose a “favorite” but Palmer Divide came out on top for me. Jody Adams, their front man, I dubbed the “Master of Pratter.” He was fun and funny, non-stop with no corny jokes. He continually referred to Greg Reed as the “Tennessee American.” Their songs were of course new and interesting, real bluegrass and excellent harmony.

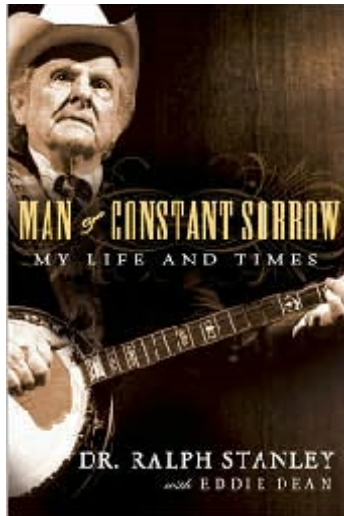
## Upcoming Bluegrass Events

### Valley Bluegrass Stage

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm  
Clarkston High School Auditorium,  
5th & Chestnut, Clarkston, WA.  
\$5.00 for Adults; children under 10 are free with an adult.

More info: [lombard@gorge.net](mailto:lombard@gorge.net)

## Trying to find that perfect Christmas gift for your favorite bluegrass?



A book review of Ralph Stanley's autobiography, "Man of Constant Sorrow", *My Life and Times*

By Raynae Redman

I've wanted to get this book and read it ever since it came out last year, so I finally purchased it through Amazon.com and could hardly wait to get my hands on it. I knew I was going to love it from the very first words I read. Ralph dictates this book in his own language and I was entranced as I read one story after the next; all told in his own voice. In the first part of the book he states, "*One thing I can promise you is to talk in plain old words. I know correct and proper English just fine, but I don't use it because that's not the way I was raised*". This entire book is told in a story fashion of Ralph's life from the time he was a little boy until current.

He states, "*As for time, I don't know how much I've got left. This book is my way of saying all the things I haven't been able to say, before it's too late*". It's fascinating to read and you feel like you're right there, sitting across the table visiting with him as he tells you one story after the next. You learn a lot about his personality and his style of music through his stories. I was fascinated by the history of the early bluegrass that I learned as I read each story, starting with his early childhood then on to their early band years, and finally the years that he had to go on without his brother Carter. This is a book that

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is hard to put down once you start it, and the reading is easy and fun. You find your thoughts coming through in the Southern style of dialect and accent as you read along. Ralph tells how he has always been shy and quiet speaking through his music, whereas his brother Carter was always outgoing and had the personality to be an entertainer. He talks about where he was raised and how the people lived and still live in the "deep rolling hills of Ole Virginia". You're fascinated as you read all about his life and bluegrass career. I only wished that Ralph would have put more pictures throughout the book to follow the time line. He has pictures on both sides of the front and back cover pages, but I would have liked them throughout the book. I would defiantly recommend this book to anyone who has the passion or love for bluegrass music. If you don't get it for Christmas then buy or borrow it and you'll have a great book to curl up with this winter.

### Donation to ISBA from James Ligart

Bob Greer received a surprise call. The estate of James Ligart called to tell him that Mr. Ligart had donated \$200 to the ISBA because he had attended Bob's Bluegrass in the Barn for several years and had so enjoyed the music and the atmosphere. We would like to thank Mr. Ligart, his family, and Bob Greer for providing this donation to the organization.



## Application for Membership

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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cthorse@gmail.com

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Pete Northcutt, Grangeville  
pnorthcutt@mtida.net  
Will Williams  
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### Southern Zone

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### Middle Zone

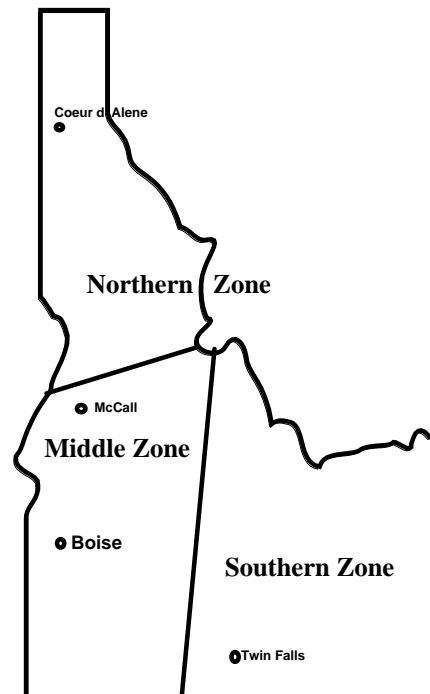
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Check us out on the web: [www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org](http://www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org)