



IdaGrass

Volume 7 Issue 5

September - December 2011

2011 Bluegrass Calendar

Bluegrass in the Barn –

No November Barn

Higher Ground @ Pine Ridge Baptist Church

Sunday, November 13th, Kamiah ID

More info: ismusic@clearwire.net

Hotwire @ Best Western Salmon Rapids, open to community

Friday, December 9th, 7 pm

Riggins, ID

Bluegrass in the Barn –

Saturday, 17th December, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

1822 W Orchard, Nampa ID

More info: bobggreer@msn.com

2012 River City Bluegrass Festival

January 6 - 8th Janzen Beach, Portland, OR

www.rivercitybluegrass.com/

Valley Bluegrass Stage

Saturday, January 14th 7:00-9:00 pm

Clarkston High School Auditorium

Cost: \$5.00, under 10 free

More info: ismusic@clearwire.net

2012 Wintergrass

February 23 – 26th

Hyatt Regency, Bellevue, WA

More info: www.acousticsound.org

Valley Bluegrass Stage

Saturday, April 21, 2012, 7:00-9:00 pm

Clarkston High School Auditorium

Cost: \$5.00, under 10 free

More info: ismusic@clearwire.net

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ISBA Sponsored Jams

Boise – 1st & 3rd TH, 7 pm - 5714

Centerbrook Dr. Intermediate jam,

(208) 377-5326 for more info

Lewiston –

1st Saturday @ Orchards United

Methodist Church, 1213 Burrell Ave

3rd Saturday @ Highlander

Community Room,

616 Warner, Steve Gleason

208-798-8280

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

Greeting from Grangeville, Greetings from Grangeville,

Well, the summer festival season is over. What can we do now? Well, we could find those lists we made this summer, lists of new song that we really liked and said we'd learn in the future. We can find a regular place to play music – join an existing jam or start a new one. Maybe we take a lesson from a local teacher or advanced player. We could dig out or purchase a DVD from a professional player that you really admire. Even if you've watched it before, because you have an additional summer's worth of experience, you will find new things to learn. Most of all, keep pickin'

This is the last issue of IdaGrass for which I will function as the editor. As with all things, change is the only constant. The responsibilities and commitments in my personal life have changed and I am no longer able to volunteer in this way. (When I grow up, I want to be a kindergarten teacher – so I am back to school) I will still be involved with the ISBA, but not in this capacity.

I would like to express my appreciation to the current and past board, to all those who have been so supportive. A special thanks to Jim McCue and all those who have submitted photos – they added a wonderful dimension to the newsletter. Thank to Nora Killion, Rudy Corbett, board members and others who have written articles.

Sometimes when I think about the geography encompassed by the ISBA, I think about bluegrass musicians and the towns in which they live – I think about Fred and Emily in Idaho Fall, Ron in Filer, Jim and Helen in Yakima, Gary in North Fork, Carol in Pocatello, Lou Ann in Lewiston – and all of you across the state and surrounding area. I have had a great time and this space has allowed me to meet, interview and play music with amazing people, many of whom are you!

The ISBA is a wonderful way to connect bluegrass and acoustic musicians. If this is

important to you, "step up to the plate" and volunteer. Everyone has skills and talents that are of value to this kind of organization. Contact a board member and tell them you want to be involved. Be specific; tell them what things you like to do and how you think you can help.

Have a good winter and until I see you again next summer at a festival -
Be well and keep pickin',
Helen

trueblue@wildblue.net or
1556 Stites Road, Grangeville ID 83530

Please use the website for current ISBA Information:

- Calendar
- Bands
- Contact Info
- Photos



Round Valley School House
(Photo by Greg Harness)

WANTED: Bluegrass bands to play at the Valley Bluegrass Stage in Lewiston in JAN and APR. Interested band can contact Scott Lomard: 509-780-3730

Snapshots from Round Valley



Buckhorn Mountain Boys Reunion
(Photo by Greg Harness)



Mike & Tari Conroy Band
(Photo by Greg Harness)

The ISBA was delighted to have Al Jackson at the festival as Master of Ceremonies.

It was great to hear the Buckhorn Mountain Boys performing together again. I heard many comments saying, "they sounded better than ever!"



Kids in Bluegrass
(Photo courtesy of Raynae Redman)



A "young" Man of Constant Sorrow
(Photo courtesy of Raynae Redman)



JD Webb & Downstate Ramblers
(Photo by Greg Harness)

Traditional Bluegrass Instrumentation – Fiddle

By Nora Killion

Is it a fiddle, or a violin? Is there a difference?

Almost all European countries claim the invention of the violin, but none can seriously challenge the prominence of Italy in its history. The oldest surviving violin dates back to 1564 and was made by Andrea Amati, whose techniques have become the blueprints for all violin makers since. The accepted modern form of the violin, with the exception of the shape of the neck, was confirmed by 1710 thanks largely to Antonio Stradivari. It was in the early eighteenth century that the modern design of violin was firmly established. In terms of its accepted construction, then, the fiddle is the oldest instrument in the traditional music of many countries. However, the fiddle has undergone a process of continual development, particularly in the area of string and bow technologies.

Gradually the finger board has become longer to facilitate moving into higher positions for greater range, and the neck has been made narrower to make this movement easier. In 1820 the chinrest was introduced and, later still, was followed by the shoulder rest. These additions permit the player to grip the instrument with the chin, so allowing the hand to move more freely. However, owing to the nature of the melodies and the social context in which the fiddle existed in traditional music, many of these developments were ignored for many years after their introduction. The fiddle was an ideal instrument for traditional music of almost every culture, especially for the dance tunes. It broadened the horizons of traditional music, in terms of ornamentation and melodic variations: there was the capacity for ornamentation with both the fingers and the bow, and, as the notes were not fixed in pitch, as they were on the whistles and harps, there

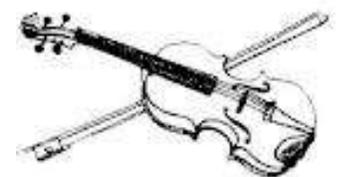
was a greater melodic range available to the players.

The dance tunes that were played on the fiddle rarely reached above the notes covered in first position (that is the low G to the upper B") therefore the extended fingerboards and chin rest were considered unnecessary. Many players of traditional music today still play without chin and shoulder rests.

In a nutshell, the stereotypes are thus: violins have chinrests, shoulder rests, gut strings and pegs. Fiddles have no chin rests, no shoulder rests, steel strings and fine tuners. A violinist is a classical trained musician who reads music, plays with great precision and usually does not improvise from the written music. A fiddler plays by ear, sometimes with no classical training at all, is one who improvises in notes and bowing to create the sound they desire, and has been known to hold a fiddle in many varied positions in order to sing or call a square dance. The music of a violin belongs in symphony halls around the world while fiddle music is generally associated with a style of music i.e., bluegrass, old-time, or Celtic. Remember, these qualities are stereotypes, not actuality.

The fiddle and fiddle players have shaped the fabric of America. We all remember "Pa" in "Little House on the Prairie" and "Girl of the Limberlost". How about the barn dances and the fiddlers playing until dawn? (That still happens at festivals!) Where would bluegrass music be without Vassar Clements, Chubby Wise and Kenny Baker?

The fiddle to me is the most beautiful of all the instruments in bluegrass music and I will admit to being a little biased due to the fact my little chickie plays fiddle. I can't help it, when she picks up her fiddle I turn into a wimpy mess.



Festival Picks

Last issue I invited folks to write in with their favorite festival picks – some reviews came on their own, for some, I had to twist an arm or two.

Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival , Hamilton MT – Mid July

Hi Helen--I know it's no shocker, but Tari and I pick The Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival, 10 miles south of Hamilton MT as our favorite. It's always the 4th weekend in July. I believe it is our favorite festival we have ever been to (although one year they had the old Hamilton Festival down in the trees by the river- that was pretty cool). I wouldn't change anything. I can think of- it is low cost, great music, great jammin, featured individual PIONEERS, and a great setting. Mike and Tari

Seen below is our 1930 model A festival truck. Llike it says in the song "the gals are all aching to be ask to be taken, for a ride in the model A"



Mike and Tari Conroy at Trapper Peak Observation Point

Five Suns Bluegrass Festival, Moses Lake - Late July

THIS AIN'T EASY! You know I love them all, but--

I pick Moses Lake, Washington. It is FREE--free camping on grass, free music with top groups, located at a park on the river in the downtown so you can walk to the post office, restaurants, pubs, ice cream store, great folks running it, showers at the next door water park, and my second favorite activity after bluegrass--a fantastic Saturday

farmers market adjacent to the festival with so many wonderful veggies, baked goods, crafts and food it is hard to describe. The festival has a hot dog/hamburger barbecue with chips, corn on the cob and soft drink for \$5. After living in Washington State 25 years, I meet up with many friends there and the weather is sunny.

Syd Howland

Council Mountain Music Festival, Council ID – 3rd Weekend of August

Why I like the Council MTN. music festival - it is a reasonably short, pretty drive from Boise. The setting in the Veteran's park is wonderful. They have two stages, so there is very little down time. The park has a lot of shade trees. The Council Mountain band and Hotwire are the local bands and I dearly love jamming with them. (and they let me) The people and the town are very friendly and relaxed. It's a lot like the Alaska festivals that I'm used to. I guess I just like the music, the setting, and the people. What more is there?

Legs Alick

(This year was the Harness's first time at the ISBA Fall Festival. When I asked him how he liked the festival, this is what he said. It sounded like a perfect festival review to me :-)

ISBA Fall Festival, Round Valley – September, Labor Day Weekend

We had a great time! This was our first ISBA festival and we were impressed. The cold mornings were the only thing my family complained about. On the positive side: Nice seating area. A GREAT sound system. Good food reasonably priced. They were on schedule and a whole bunch of wonderful bands. I love the Buckhorn Mountain Boys and that reunion was worth every degree of cold weather for me. The rest of my family was smitten by the Panhandle Polecats who not only put on a great show but were extraordinarily accessible and easy to talk to. It was a very enjoyable festival, and we plan to spend many more Labor Day weekends in Round Valley.

Greg Harness

More Snapshots from Round Valley



Enjoying the Music
(Photo by Raynane Redman)



Panhandle Pole Cats
(Photo by Greg Harness)



Tradition
(Photo by Greg Harness)



It must sound good!
(Photo by Raynane Redman)



Will Williams and Gravel Road
(Photo by Greg Harness)

Round Valley Photos

Greg Harness took a few photos at Round Valley, and has posted some of the best ones on Flickr. These are all public, so if any would like to view or use them, please feel free. I'd just like credit if you do.

My photos are all in this set:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/gharness/sets/72157624381202474/>.

Thanks Greg!

"Give Me The Banjo,"

Premiering on PBS Friday, November 4. Directed by Emmy® Award-winning writer/producer Marc Fields, it explores the colorful, controversial history of that instrument. Banjo master Tony Trischka, one of the most acclaimed acoustic musicians of his generation, served as music director, and the program is guided by modern banjo masters such as Earl Scruggs, Pete Seeger, Bela Fleck, Mike Seeger, Carolina Chocolate Drops and Abigail Washburn.

Song Virus may indicate a real problem

Dear Dr. Gott:

I continuously hear a tune in my head, which I accompany at time with the clacking of my teeth in rhythm. I can consciously change to another song, but cannot stop the notes from running through my mind at all times. I can control myself so that other do not realize I have a problem, but, frankly, I'd like to improve the quality of my life.

Dear Reader: This is surprisingly a common complaint that affects many people for short periods – especially after a concert or other musical entertainment.

My neurologist consultant tells me that a consistent symptom such as yours is often the result of an obsessive neurosis, meaning that it may have an emotional basis that should be addressed by an appropriate mental health professional.

Nonetheless, I hasten to add that some types of seizures may cause rare and bizarre symptoms. Thus, I urge you to be examined by your doctor, and if indicated by a neurologist. In my opinion, you need blood test, an MRI scan and a brain-wave test to rule out a serious disorder.

If the test are normal and you are in good health, you may simply have to put up with your symptom – or as I mentioned, seek counseling. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Mental and Emotional Illness." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long self-addressed envelope and \$2 to Newsletter, PO Box 167. Wickliffe OH 44094. Be sure to mention the title.

WINTER PROJECTS & CONTACT INFO

Several of our area bands have CD projects scheduled for this winter.

Chicken Dinner Road:

www.chickendinnerroad.com

Hotwire:

www.dalefisk.com

Will Williams and Gravel Road:

www.willwilliamsandgravelroad.com

To have the most current band info, check their websites/email for performance schedules and updates:

Downstate Ramblers:

www.downstateramblers.homestead.com

High Desert Band:

www.highdesertband.com

Higher Ground: Higher Ground:

www.northwesthigherground.com

Red Desert Ramblers:

Mail-SharonIAMA@aol.com

**A Special invitation to the
Lewiston Monthly Jam -
Saturday, November 5th @ Orchards
United Methodist Church, 1213 Burrell
616 Warner, Steve Gleason
208-798-8280**



Soggy Bottom Girls, Fall Festival
(Photo courtesy of Raynae Redman)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ EmailAddress _____

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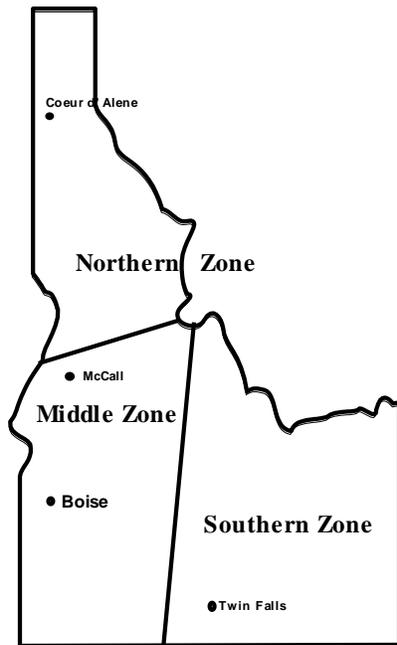
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Check us out on the web: www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org