



IdaGrass

Volume 9 Issue 6

November-December 2013

Upcoming Bluegrass Events

Blythe Bluegrass Festival

January 17-19, 2014

Colorado River Fairgrounds, Blythe, CA

www.blythebluegrass.com

SPBGMA 40th Annual Bluegrass Music Awards

January 30-February 2, 2014

Nashville, TN

www.spbgma.com

Wintergrass

February 27-March 2, 2014

Bellevue, WA

www.acousticssound.org

Ongoing ISBA Sponsored Bluegrass Jams

Middle Zone Jam:

Stan Strickland, in Boise, hosts an intermediate jam the first and third Thursday of each month at 5714 Centerbrook Dr. from 7-9 PM
For more information, contact Stan at 208-377-5326

Northern Zone Jams:

First Saturday of the month is at the Clarkston Heights Grange Hall.
The third Sunday of the month is at the Lenore Store on Highway 12.
Both jams run from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

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Picture by Raynae Redman

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

There's snow on the ground out there, with more coming down, so I suppose winter isn't far away. My husband has been handing me information about mandolin workshops all over the country, so it's apparently also time to think about settling in and using this time to set some new goals and get practicing!

The fall and winter months are the seasons for recharging our batteries, re-examining our goals, and giving ourselves time to integrate new habits into our lives. It's also time to think about, and plan for, the year to come. It's time to put another log on the fire, make a pot of soup, and invite friends over to play some tunes.

As we enter the holiday season, make time to slow down and connect with those around you. We all love good music, so let's be sure to let the magic of those harmonies fill your homes and hearts and feed our souls.

PT Limehouse

A Message from our new ISBA President

I just want to thank everyone who voted for me as president of the I.S.B.A. It is an honor and a privilege to be part of this organization. I am proud to serve as a trustee and a liaison between the membership and the board of directors for the association, and to continue the promotion of bluegrass music. I would like any member, or nonmember, that has a question about the I.S.B.A and its function, or any subject matter that you would like me to bring to the board, to feel free to call me at any time. My phone numbers are 208-743-5715 or (cell) 208-553-1597.
Steve Gleason

The Board of Directors Reconvenes

Our ISBA Board of Directors has 4 new members, and a few new assignments. As you peruse the list of BOD members on the last page of this newsletter, you'll see some new names---or at least new to this list. The people should be familiar to most of us: Doug Jenkins and Keith Freedman from Nampa, Rich Johnson from Boise, and Trudee Strickland, from Boise. Steve Gleason, of Lewiston, is our new President, Carolyn Johnson of Boise takes charge as Chairman of the Board, Bill Estes as Treasurer, and Trudee Strickland as Membership Chairman.

The BOD has been hard at work since the Fall Festival in Round Valley, and wants to share their thoughts with the general membership. Therefore, you'll find minutes of the two most recent BOD meetings printed in this newsletter. Please read them, and contact your local BOD member with any feedback or input.

From the Board: A Definition of "Bluegrass"

A Definition Of Bluegrass Music

The following is intended to generate a discussion, not an argument.

Why define "bluegrass"?

- to provide our membership a clear description of the music we seek to preserve, and to promote, and to play (late into the night out on the back porch)

- to focus our commitment to and appreciation for the music by which we are identified The Idaho Sawtooth Bluegrass Association.

Definition of "bluegrass": that music with a distinctive 'high lonesome' sound, such as the high pitched melodies and harmonies characteristic of Bill Monroe, The Osbourne Brothers, Del McCoury (for just a few

- dolin, fiddle, dobro
- certain subject matter; cabins (lots of cabins), mom and dad, mountains, moonshine, sweethearts, traveling, and a lot of rain

claxamples), featuring:

- specific acoustic instruments; guitar, bass fiddle, banjo, manssic, somewhat edgy melodies and harmonies that feature flatted 7th and 3rd notes- think minor pentatonic scale used against the major key as in the Clinch Mountain Backstep
- breakdown instrumentals
- and a complimentary component, "bluegrass gospel"

That's the meat and potatoes of bluegrass!

*We enjoy other music forms (old time music, fiddle tunes, classic country, blues, swing, etc.) but are not identified by them.

Minutes of ISBA Board Meeting September 27, 2013

Present: John Boyer, Bob Greer, Doug Jenkins, Keith Freedman, Rich Johnson, Bill Estes, Stan Strickland, Trudy Strickland, Carolyn Johnson

The meeting was called to order and the board concurred that Carolyn Johnson will be the new Chairman of the Board, Bill Estes will be the new Treasurer, and Trudy Strickland will be the Membership Chairman.

The existing board (John Boyer, Bob Greer, Carolyn Johnson, and Stan Strickland) concurred that the following new members should be added to the Board: Trudee Strickland, Doug Jenkins, Keith Freedman, and Rich Johnson.

Rich Johnson, Stan Strickland, and Trudee Strickland volunteered to manage the election.

A committee headed by Keith Freedman was form to develop a survey to ask member what they would like the organization to do.

Roles of the Chairman of the Board and President were defined. Chairman of the Board: Chair meetings, administer the 501C3 classification with IRS and also insurance for the organization.

President: Assist and coordinate with those project chairs (see below) who implement organization activities.

A general philosophy of our approach to events was developed. The Board decided that for any event to take place including the Spring Super Jam and the Fall event the following has to happen.

1. Someone in the organization must volunteer to chair the event (project chair).

2. That person must develop a budget and present it to the Board
 1. Projected expenses
 2. Projected income if any
 3. List of volunteers who will help conduct the event
 4. Projected location of the event
- The Board must approve the budget.

The Board discussed the need for a sound system for the organization and how we might obtain one.

Minutes of ISBA Board Meeting October 28, 2013

Present: Bill Estes, Doug Jenkins, Bob Greer, Stan Strickland, John Boyer, Trudee Strickland, Rich Johnson, Keith Freedman

Absent: Carolyn Johnson, Scott Lombard
The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Bill Estes.

Bill reported he and Carolyn would soon be opening an account at Wells Fargo for future ISBA banking business.

The Board discussed a proposal by Raynae Redmond to sponsor a 1-day event in Melba.

Rich reported the votes indicate Steve Gleason has been elected the new ISBA President. Stan will call to inform Steve on November 1st.

Helen Smith has volunteered to chair the Spring Super Jam at Kamiah.

Keith moved and all concurred the Board of Directors will be the Band Selection and Scheduling committee.

The following article first appeared online at www.bluegrasstoday.com

and is being published here in three parts. Part One appeared in our May-June issue, and Part Two in the September-October issue.

The Doc Watson Principles: Part Three

This remembrance of Doc Watson on the first anniversary of his death is a contribution from Kent Gustavson, author of the Watson biography, Blind But Now I See. Kent also serves as editor of Blooming Twig Books, based in Tulsa, OK where he resides, and New York City.

Doc Watson Principle #4: Humility

The thing Doc talked about in almost every interview was humility. He didn't want people to put him on a pedestal for his talents, his incredible story, or his fame. Doc could have let all of the praise go to his head, but he worked hard not to let that happen, which makes him an incredible example for other musicians and celebrities.

The praise started early. From the beginning of his career, Doc was known as an incredible guitar player. In his local area in the 1940s and '50s, people already knew that Doc was the best guitar player anywhere around, and they asked him to come to various jam sessions, dances, and so on. He played with a band for several years, and he did brief stints on the radio, but was only an occasional professional until 1960.

All of a sudden, in 1961, Doc Watson was launched into a folk music scene,

and he was soon playing to tens of thousands of people at Newport, and every guitar player in America was buying his records and slowing them down to imitate his licks. Future stars such as Jerry Garcia, Bob Dylan, Clarence White, Taj Mahal, and countless others came to Doc Watson concerts and watched his hands, transfixed by his deep voice and lightning-fast runs. Many started to think of him as a guitar god — someone with incredible innate talent who was far more capable of this music than the rest of us.

Even in his prime Doc didn't like being put on a pedestal — he wanted to be a simple country fellow who came out and played several weeks a year to earn money for his family. But when stories started spreading of him wiring his house for electricity, fixing an air conditioner in a hotel room, playing auto-harp, banjo, mandolin or any style guitar thinkable, he couldn't avoid the mythology surrounding him and his family.

Doc had the last laugh on this matter. In a wonderful sequence of events, the city of Boone commissioned a statue of Doc to sit in the downtown area, and he refused to give them his blessing unless they included a special phrase along with the statue. He insisted that they write "just one of the people" on his

likeness. Now, children and adults can sit next to Doc Watson, put their arm around him, read the inscription, and feel inspired by Doc's desire to be one of us, despite his fame.

Our whole world is filled with hierarchies, power inequalities, and misunderstandings. Doc taught us, through his humility, to seek greatness in our own way, but also to smile, be gracious and humble, leaving a spot on the bench for someone to sit next to us.

Doc Watson Principle #5: Home

The previous four principles, honoring traditions, hard work, hospitality, and humility, all point towards the principle that Doc followed most religiously. In his thinking, all roads pointed towards home. No matter where he was in the world, his heart was counting down the hours and days until he could return to his family and home. For 89 years, Doc returned to Deep Gap, to his parents, to his wife and children, and to the sounds and smells of home.

Deep Gap kept Doc Watson alive (and picking) for 89 years, sharing his love, friendship, and tunes with the world. God willing, our homes, and our own sense of home will keep our hearts ticking —we can always hope.

DUES INFORMATION

In the past, we've made the IdaGrass available by postal mail or email—all for the same price. However, due to ever-increasing postal rates coupled with the cost of producing the print version, our dues structure must necessarily reflect the cost of mailing out the newsletter. Your dues must be current to continue receiving IdaGrass.

If you wish to continue receiving your copy of IdaGrass via email, your dues remain \$15.00/year. If you would prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you, yearly dues will increase to \$20.00/year to offset these costs. In either case, you can easily renew by contacting Trudee Strickland at (208)377-5326.

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 remain at \$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 Trudee Strickland
 5714 Centerbrook Dr.
 Boise, ID 83705

**Have ideas, comments, questions, or concerns?
Want to get involved? Here's your Board of Directors:**

Northern Zone

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Southern Zone

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Middle Zone

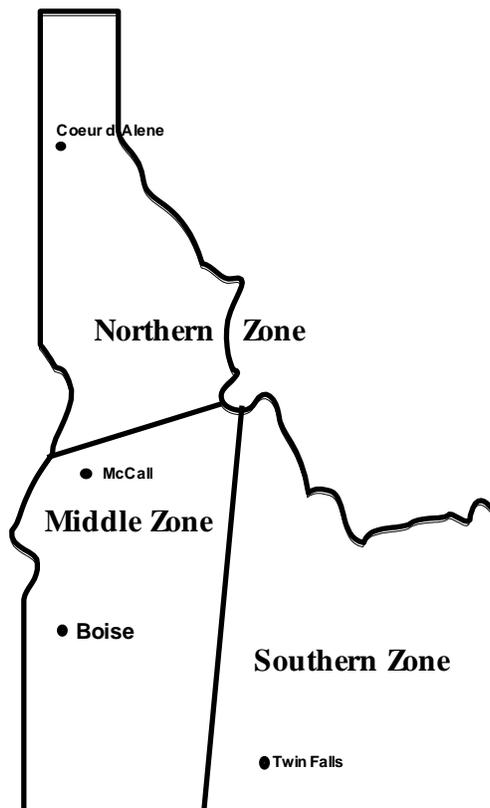
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