



IdaGrass

Volume 13 Issue 3

May – June, 2017

UPCOMING BLUEGRASS EVENTS

KAMIAH SPRINGS SUPER JAM

June 2, 3, 4, 2017

KOA phone: 208-935-2556

email: lcresort@lewisclarkresort.com

NATIONAL OLDTIME FIDDLERS' CONTEST AND FESTIVAL

June 14 – 24, 2017 (Contest June 19 – 24)

Slocum Hall, Weiser High School, City Park

Phone: 208-414-0255

Email: admin@fiddlecontest.com

2017 WEISER BANJO CONTEST

June 17 – 18, 2017

Slocum Hall, Snake River Heritage Center

Details: <https://sites.google.com/site/weiserbanjo/home>

Phone: 208-414-0255

KIDS MOUNTAIN MUSIC CAMP

July 11, 12, 13, 2017

Ponderosa State Park, McCall, ID

www.TheSummerMusicFestival.com

Inside this Issue:

From the Chairman 2

From the Editor's Desk 2

Ongoing Bluegrass Jams 2-3

Fiddlevideo.com 3

Talk About "Making Music" 4-6

NOTF Contest & Festival 6

Kamiah Springs Super Jam 7-8

Weiser Banjo Contests 9

Kids Mountain Music Camp 10-12

Membership Application 13

Meet Your Board Members 14



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.

ONE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Greetings ISBA members:

The Treasure Valley Bluegrass Night (TVBN) on May 12th marked the fifth concert presented by the ISBA. I am sorry to report that attendance at the April TVBN was a disappointing 32 bluegrass fans. The board of directors is working hard to find a way to resolve this low attendance problem.

There will not be a TVBN during the month of June. The reason for that decision is that we have the Kamiah Super Jam on June 2-4 and then the National Oldtime Fiddlers Contest and Festival June 19-24, opening up on June 14th.

The board plans to schedule another TVBN for the month of July.

Hope you all have reserved the first weekend of June so you can come to the Kamiah Super Jam. Our 3 board members in the Northern zone, and volunteers, have been busy putting a program together to make June 2-4 a fun weekend. I'm looking forward to some jamming and visiting with friends not seen since last year.

See you in Kamiah,

Stan

IDAGRASS EDITOR

I work for the National Oldtime Fiddlers Contest and Festival. May and June don't afford us a lot of free time, so I wanted to get this newsletter out as soon as possible, with as much information as possible. If I have left something out, please let me know and I will make sure I send a blast email to everybody. Thanks! - Aimee

You can reach me by email at:
admin@fiddlecontest.com

ONGOING BLUEGRASS JAMS—IDAHO BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Beginners' Jam every Thursday

A beginner bluegrass jam is held on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9pm in the Pioneer Building (106 N 6th St), right next to Wise Guys Pizza (Main and 6th)

Intermediate Jam every Wednesday

from 6:30 to 9pm in the Pioneer Building

Open Jam at Boise/Meridian KOA RV Park

Meridian, Idaho
Every Tuesday 7 – 9:30 pm
**ONGOING ISBA SPONSORED
BLUEGRASS JAMS**

Middle Zone Jam:

On the first and third Thursday of each month at Stan and Trudee Strickland's home in Boise. 7-9 PM. Call for details: Stan Strickland 208-377-5326.

Northern Zone Jam:

On the third Sunday of the month at the Lenore Store on Highway 12, from 1-4 PM. Call for details: Steve Gleason at 208-553-1597

The Saturday jam at Jack in the Box is on hiatus until further notice.

Southern Zone Jam:

On the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, 7-9 PM, downstairs at Gertie's Pizza in Twin Falls. Call for details: John Boyer at 208-733-4552

FIDDLEVIDEO.COM JOINS THE ONLINE INSTRUCTION FIELD

Revolutions can sweep away what came before them in swift and surprising ways, and we see that in the manner that music education has changed in the digital and internet age. New companies appear on a regular basis that take advantage of technological innovations that can bring the most qualified instructors right into your home, who will play a difficult piece over and over for you without a complaint.

Fiddlevideo.com is just such an outfit, focusing exclusively on teaching tunes and techniques for players of traditional fiddle music. They embrace the breadth of musical styles that

have emerged from the Celtic heritage, including Irish and Scottish fiddling, Canadian, Cape Breton, old time, and bluegrass music. Four instructors have created lessons that cover basic and style-specific techniques, plus more than 100 tunes taught in great detail. They use the membership model whereby all of the content on the site is available for viewing online to subscribers for as little as \$35/month. All videos on the site can be played back at different speeds to make critical study of hand positions easier, with split screen presentation showing the left and right hands in close up detail.

Instructors include master Irish fiddler Kevin Burke, US National Scottish fiddle champ Hanneke Cassel, US bluegrass/old time fiddler Casey Willis, and Canadian Métis/Québécois fiddler Patti Kusturok.

Even non-subscribers can view the performance videos for each tune, but the beginner and advanced tutorial videos, audio practice tracks, and sheet music are restricted to members. But they do offer a three-day free trial membership without all the bells and whistles to give potential subscribers a chance to test drive the site before committing.

Tunes can be selected by style, by instructor, by difficulty, or by tune form. Fiddlevideo.com also hosts an active discussion forum where members can ask each other questions or simply engage in online fiddle chat.

More details can be found by reading the FAQ at www.fiddlevideo.com

John Lawless, *Bluegrass Express*,
3 August 2016

Let's Talk About "Making Music"

While we all enjoy camping, being outdoors, and spending time with friends, the point of what we do in the ISBA is really making music, that good old traditional bluegrass kind of music.

I think music is one of the desserts of life. It isn't usually the main course for most of us but rather a great hobby and interest we enjoy as often as we can. I like to think about music as a dish of strawberry shortcake with fresh strawberries and a mound of whipped cream.

In order to begin to talk about making music, we need to define it and then ask what makes 'good' music?

We may simply define music as a beat and a tune, but more properly we would say that music has 3 components: rhythm, melody, and harmony.

Rhythm is the shortcake, the foundation, the structure upon which the melody and harmony depend and on top of which the melody and harmony rest. Rhythm is the accompaniment providing the beat. This can be done by clapping our hands in time or by the bass picking notes on the 1st and 3rd beats and the mandolin chopping on the 2nd and 4th beats. The guitar may pick a bass note and strum on the 1st and 2nd beats and then do it again on the 3rd and 4th beats, while the banjo may vamp on the 2nd and 4th or do an 8 note roll (2 notes/beat).

Rhythm is the foundation, but it is not the feature. As such it needs to be quieter than the vocals or the lead picker. This means that all of the instruments playing rhythm, together

must be quieter than the one taking a break or the one singing; otherwise we lose the melody and then we only make rhythm and fail to "make music". Melody must be a bit louder than the accompaniment.

Melody is the strawberries and syrup, the good stuff. It is the tune, the lead vocal (what you may whistle when walking away from a good jam). Melody is the point and it is the feature. It is the sweet fruit you want in every bite. Also, the melody serves to deliver the story or poetic words of the song.

The melody, either by lead voice or by lead instrument needs to stand out from the accompanying rhythm. So, the backup instruments must quiet down to a level that supports but does not overpower the lead voice or instrument. This requires that everyone listen carefully and be sure they are playing quiet enough (along with all of the other instruments) that he or she or everyone can hear the lead well. If this is not done, the feature is lost – the most appealing element of the music is drowned out.

One reason I like small jams is because there is less of a chance the instruments will overwhelm the lead. It only takes one or two loud instruments or a few of the quieter instruments to crank out more volume than a singer can produce. Likewise, when a guitar takes a break, it is very important that the other instruments reduce their volume so the picker does not have to pick so hard that he breaks his strings - just to be heard. What is strawberry shortcake without the strawberries?

Harmony is one or more complimentary parts sung above or below the melody, adding depth and richness to the song. Harmony is the whipped cream. It is sung along side of the melody but it is a bit quieter than the lead. Harmony is often only sung on some phrases or only on the chorus. Harmony enhances the music with a complimentary vocal part that adds another dimension to the music. If you want to learn to sing harmony, stand next to someone who is singing the tenor or baritone part and listen. Then try to sing with them, getting a feel for the notes they are singing to harmonize with the melody.

Take your cues from the lead vocalist or other singers as to when and where to add harmony. Just as lead vocalists don't appreciate someone else singing with them, sometimes the lead vocalist only wants certain folks to sing harmony with them. That is his or her call since this is his or her song.

So, to make music we need 3 components, rhythm, melody, and harmony. But these have to be at the proper volume or else we lose the feature and only end up with the supporting structure or the accompanying vocals (the shortcake and whipped cream).

How do we make good music? Can beginners make "good music"?

Yes, as long as there is rhythm and melody, a beginning jam can make good music. That means that the one choosing the next

song must know the chords and be able to change chords on his instrument in time. It also means the one doing the singing must know the words and be able to start with a verse and chorus and then do so again after a break. If someone wants to take a break, then he or she must be able to start and stop their break in the flow of the song to keep the tune going.

If you are a beginner, practice the chords, learn the words, and play your break over and over until you are confident you can play it in time. If you do those things, you can make music. If the other beginners can do likewise, then you all can enjoy making music together. If, however, you really don't know the chords, the words, or the break – then the music is ruined, kind of like someone sitting on your strawberry shortcake.

(Sometimes simple instrumentation is more melody oriented and therefore more musical than a bunch of notes that have no resemblance to the melody.)

Another thing to watch out for, is trying too hard and either singing or playing too loud. It is easy to overwhelm the lead vocalist or the one taking a break. Also it is easy to speed up the tune and end up playing at such a pace as to make a bunch of mistakes. So, we should start with simple tunes that we can do well.

You don't have to play fast to make music. **It is much more important that the melody be prominent, the rhythm supportive and the harmony embellishing.** Speedy tunes certainly have their place in bluegrass, but anytime the tune or the timing is out of whack then we have sacrificed the musicality of the song. Some of the best bluegrass is slow but rich in harmony and dynamic instrumentation.

Here's to making good music together,
Keith Freedman.

**NATIONAL OLDTIME FIDDLERS
CONTEST AND FESTIVAL**

Don't forget to check out City Park where the Festival runs from Tuesday, June 20th through Saturday, June 24th. Lots of vendors, food, free music and a lot of fun! On Saturday, June 24th at 12:00 noon the parade runs through the downtown area and is always a fun thing to see. The Carnival will be at Memorial Park Wednesday, June 21st through June 24th there are also food vendors and more to see at this park as well.

Visit Slocum Hall where the Banjo Contest will be held and music is always being played and walk behind Slocum Hall to Stickerville. There is always great music being played there as well!

Contest Schedule
This schedule is subject to change

MONDAY
9:30a - 5:00p Small Fry Round 1 and 2
17 and Under Swing Fiddling
6:30p - Close Certified Competition for State & Regional Winners
Small Fry Division Finals, 17 and Under Swing Fiddling Finals, and 16 and Over Swing Fiddling Finals

TUESDAY
9:30a - 5:00p Junior - Junior Division Round 1
Twin Fiddling Round 1
6:30p - Close Certified Competition for State & Regional Winners
Junior Jammers
Junior - Junior Division Rounds 2 and Finals

WEDNESDAY
9:30a - 5:00p Junior and Senior - Senior Divisions Round 1
6:30p - Close Certified Competition for State & Regional Winners
Twin Fiddling Finals
Junior Division Round 2 and 3

THURSDAY
9:30a - 5:00p Senior Division Round 1 and 2
Senior - Senior Division Round 2
Adult Division Round 1 and 2
6:30p - Close Senior Round 3, Adult Round 3, and Grand Champion Division Round 1

FRIDAY
9:30a - 5:00p Young Adult Division Rounds 1, 2, and 3
National Grand Champion Division Round 2
6:30p - Close Finals of Senior - Senior, Senior, Adults Divisions
National Grand Champion Division Round 3

SATURDAY
6:30p - Close Finals of Young Adults, Juniors, and National Grand Champions Divisions



12th Annual Kamiah Spring Super Jam **Thursday, June 1st – Sunday, June 4th**

The most Bluegrass fun you can have between
Mother's Day and Father's Day!

FREE ADMISSION FOR DAY ACTIVITIES

Kamiah KOA

Call for Reservations: 208-935-2556
Motel Rooms, Cabins, RV Campsites
4243 Highway 12, Kamiah ID 83836
email: lcresort@lewisclarkresort.com

For more information:

www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org
www.facebook.com/isba.superjam

Super Jam Schedule

Thursday: Potluck Dinner 6p.m.

Friday: General Membership Meeting 1:30 p.m.

Vocal Harmony Workshop 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Open Mic 7 to 9 p.m.

Saturday: Instrument Workshops 10 to 11 a.m.

Outdoor Bluegrass Concert Noon to 6 p.m.

Open Mic Following Concert

Sunday: Gospel Sing 9 to 11 a

HIGHER GROUND



FLATGRASS



HICKORY BLUFF



 <p>Weiser Banjo Camp & Contest <small>www.banjocontest.org</small></p>	<p align="center"><u>2017 WEISER BANJO CONTEST</u> Beardsley Hall Lawn at the Intermountain Institute. Bring your lawn chairs. Free admission but donations appreciated to cover contest costs. Audience participation encouraged in novelty contests.</p>
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<u>Saturday June 17</u>	<u>Banjo Events</u>	<u>Novelty Events</u>
2:00-4:30pm	Banjo Open Mic	Sugar Beet Throwing Contest
6:00-8:30	Intermediate Banjo Contest	Air Banjo Contest
<u>Sunday June 18</u>		
2:00-4:30pm	Advanced Banjo Contest	Crazy Things I've Seen Humans Do Contest
6:00-8:30pm	Banjo plus Fiddle Contest	Hog Calling Contest
Immediately after banjo+ fiddle contest	Banjo / Fiddle "war" across Paddock Avenue	
Immediately after banjo/fiddle "war"	World's longest continuous banjo jam begins at Slocum Hall	

Banjo contest registration on Sat./Sun. mornings at Slocum Hall Information Center.

Late banjo contest registration at the events (space permitting).

Novelty contest signup at the events.

Banjo contest rules at Slocum Hall Information Center and www.banjocontest.com .

Contest prizes:

Intermediate Banjo (1st/2nd/3rd) \$40/30/20 + handmade Idaho fruit pie

Advanced Banjo (1st/2nd/3rd) \$50/40/30 + handmade Idaho fruit pie

Banjo + Fiddle (1st/2nd/3rd) \$100/80/60 + handmade Idaho fruit pie

Novelty Contests (1st/2nd/3rd) small handmade pie/gag prize/gag prize

For the Air Banjo Contest, bring a thumb drive or CD with a banjo tune you will accompany.

Or, we'll have some audio tracks for you to choose from.

THE SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL AT ROSEBERRY

**KIDS MOUNTAIN MUSIC CAMP**
Happening July 11th – 13th 2017

KMMC is a three day workshop in beautiful McCall, Idaho. The classrooms are in Ponderosa State Park on the McCall Outdoor Science School campus overlooking beautiful Payette lake.

During the 3 days (10am-3:30pm) children ages 8-17 will learn basic music skills and history of American folk music with emphasis on Folk, Bluegrass, and Old Time music. Classes cover many instruments including, mandolin, guitar, fiddle, banjo, bass, singing, and more. At the end of classes, students are encouraged to participate in the camp concert at the Summer Music Festival at Roseberry on the Main Stage. This performance will be the opening act for the entire festival and gives the students real life experience of performing for a live audience as well as giving them an attainable goal throughout camp.

Registration Details

Registration is done by filling out the Online Registration Form below. Class sizes are limited and preferences are honored by registration arrival. Camp schedule, songbook, and other information will be given to the camper when they arrive at camp. Forms and payment are due by Friday, July 7th 2017. Payment and/or scholarship details will be sent by email once registration form is completed.

Instruments

The camp, still working on our student instrument collection, will provide some instruments, but students are encouraged to bring their instruments from home if they have them (only mandolins, fiddles, banjos, upright basses, and guitars please).

Location

The “MOSS” Campus

(McCall Outdoor Science School)
at Ponderosa State Park
1800 University Ln.
McCall, ID 83638

Meals

Healthy snacks & lunches will be provided each day!

Daily Schedule

Family members are welcome and encouraged to attend Morning Activities! Morning and Afternoon Activities are all-campus activities, in which students get to meet and interact with their fellow campers, doing activities such as jamming, sing-a-longs, and band performance workshops lead by the teachers.

9:30am- 10:30am – Registration-First Morning Only!

10:00am – Morning Activity

10:30am – Block 1

11:15am – Snack Time

11:30am – Block 2

12:30pm – Lunch

1:00pm – Band

2:00pm – Block 3

3:00pm – Afternoon Activity

3:30pm – Done for the Day!

Our Instructors:

Our staff consists of national touring musicians who are all great teachers and have experience with youngsters.

This year’s stellar instructors are:

“THE GREG BLAKE BAND”

- Greg Blake – guitar
- Craig Korth – banjo
- Isaak Calendar – fiddle
- KC Groves – mandolin

Registration Form:

Camper's Name

Camper's Age

Parent or Guardian's Name

Mailing Address

Street:

City & State:

Zip Code:

Phone Number

Email Address

What instrument is the camper most interested in studying?

Does the camper have their own instrument? Or would they need to borrow one for the camp?

If the camper DOES own an instrument(s), what do they have?

DUES INFORMATION AND 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 are \$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 Rich Johnson

1544 W Dakota Loop

Nampa, ID 83686

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

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

Northern Zone

Randy Berg, Orofino
rlberg@live.com
Bodie Domiguez, Clarkston

bdominguez2001@yahoo.com
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jlazzarini@sbcglobal.net

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