

# James Reams & The Barnstormers

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James Reams sounds "as smoky  
as his heroes: Lester, Carter, and Red."

~ *Banjo Newsletter*

James Reams has been a bluegrass bandleader for over 20 years. Coming from a family of traditional singers in southeastern Kentucky, James has played both old-time and bluegrass music since he was just a little sprout. James is known as an "ambassador of Bluegrass" for his dedication to and deep involvement in the thriving bluegrass and Americana music community. To date, he has released nine CDs including a special DVD documentary about the band. His 2016 release, *Rhyme & Season*, is receiving high acclaim. In 2002, his self-titled album featuring Walter Hensley received an IBMA nomination for Recording Event of the Year and earned James an IBMA nomination as Emerging Artist of the Year. A single (Almost Hear the Blues) from his 2011 CD, *One Foot in the Honky Tonk*, charted nationally and the CD made 2 Top Ten Lists of 2011. His original songs are important additions to the bluegrass repertoire, keeping this tradition alive with contemporary issues and new sounds. And he's no slouch on the guitar either! His guitar playing was highlighted in Flatpicking Guitar Magazine's "Masters of Rhythm Guitar" column.

James Reams & the Barnstormers tread the terrain where bluegrass, old-time, classic country and folk meet in the night to swap stories. They feature driving rhythm and 3-part harmonies that take you back to a time before bluegrass was smoothed out for the uninitiated, the ill-prepared or the faint of heart. The band includes James on guitar and lead vocals; Billy Parker on mandolin and harmony; Evan Ward on banjo and harmony; and Dan Meyer on upright bass.

## **Meet the Barnstormers:**

- **Billy Parker** brings passion and style to every set. A 30+ year veteran, Billy has been heavily influenced by bluegrass legends and mandolin masters Bill Monroe, David Grisman and Clarence White. A former member of the Southern CA band, Lost Highway, Billy has developed a confident and spirited approach to seamlessly move between the rapid-fire bluegrass tunes and more soulful melodies. Parker's diversity, creativity and dedication – as well as a sense of band dynamics – helps propel the music to a higher sound to the delight of audiences everywhere he plays.
- **Evan Ward's** masterful and fluid style of banjo playing and soft baritone vocal add depth and vigor to the Barnstormer mix. Evan's ceaselessly rolling banjo sprinkled with licks reminiscent of banjo masters like Earl Scruggs and Jim Mills takes bluegrass to a whole new level. Evan also performs with Audie Blaylock and Redline.
- **Dan Meyer** has been playing the ultimate "out of the spotlight" instrument, aka the upright bass, since the 1970s. He has performed at the IBMA Bluegrass Showdown in Louisville and at bluegrass festivals across the Midwest. Holding down the bottom for the Barnstormers with his rock steady and intuitive bass stylings, Dan really lights up the place with his ready smile while laying down a smooooooth rhythm.