

# James Reams & The Barnstormers

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

~ *Banjo Newsletter*

James Reams formed the Barnstormers in 1993. 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. Known as an "Ambassador of Bluegrass," James is dedicated to and deeply involved in the thriving bluegrass and Americana music community. To date, he has released eight CDs including a special DVD documentary of the band. His original songs are important additions to the bluegrass repertoire, keeping this tradition alive with contemporary issues and new sounds. His guitar playing was highlighted in Flatpicking Guitar Magazine's "Masters of Rhythm Guitar" column. James is also the organizer of the Park Slope Bluegrass Oldtime Music Jamboree, an annual music festival he started in 1998 that attracts musicians and fans of traditional music to its workshops, jamming and concerts — the only event of its kind in or around New York City.

The band will be releasing their new album, *Rhyme & Season*, in late March, 2016. Their most recent CD, *One Foot in the Honky Tonk*, made two Top Ten CD Lists for 2011 and had a single that charted nationally. In 2013 the band promoted its' 20-year anniversary with a Coast-to-Coast Celebration featuring special guest performances and reunions with previous band members. To coincide with the Celebration, James released another documentary, *Making History with Pioneers of Bluegrass*, in July. For this film, he interviewed first generation bluegrass musicians about the early days, capturing and preserving this tasty slice of America's musical pie for the future.

## ***Meet the Barnstormers:***

- **Mark Farrell**, like James, is no stranger to bluegrass and old-time country music, having played and recorded for many years with a number of bluegrass and old-time string bands, including Major Contay & The Canebrake Rattlers. He also contributes his extensive arranging talent to many of the band's recordings. His great hoedown fiddling and edgy mandolin playing (as well as his sometimes unpredictable humor) earns him friends wherever he goes.
- **Doug Nicolaisen** has been playing banjo with bluegrass bands in the NY tri-state area for over 20 years. His music incorporates many of the best elements of all the major banjo players yet his style reflects an individuality of its own and adds to the hard-driving energy of the band.
- **Carl Hayano**, has been a mainstay with the Barnstormers since they started over 20 years ago. He adds a rock-solid feel when it comes to singing and playing the bass. His generosity and creativity show in everything he does.