

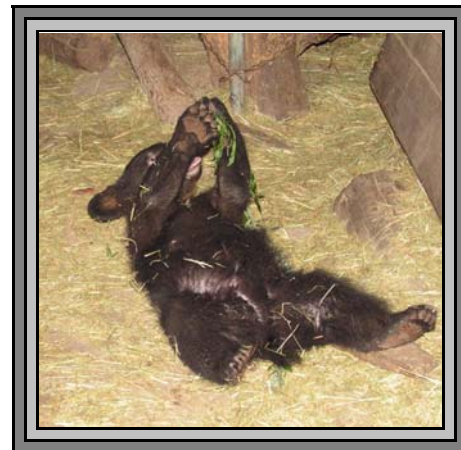
# BEARS FIRST

Idaho Black Bear Rehab., Inc.

November 2009



**2009 - A Very  
Challenging Year!**



It is with a weary, but hopeful heart that I'm writing this today. 2009 has been a real challenge for everyone and IBBR is no different. We have managed to meet and conquer many of the challenges presented this year, but face more challenges in the future. I know 2009 was a tough year for everyone in many ways. So many times over the years I worried about how to feed bears or pay the bills and yet it always worked out. I am so humbled this year by the generosity of so many people who stepped up and gave unselfishly to help the bears even during these difficult times.

IBBR is prepared for any fall cubs that might arrive. Work began again on the intern's house and we hope to finish in the next week (see page 3). We are in the process of adding updates to the web site too. All of that is possible thanks to you and so many others.

IBBR is grateful for all donations and it's our pleasure to send a picture of the bears along with the tax receipt as a way of saying thank you. Aside from the frame, the pictures are all done in-house as a labor of love. Most people enjoy receiving the pictures while a few tell us to save the paper and postage. We certainly don't want to add to the unwelcome mail that often fills the mailboxes. If you prefer not to receive a picture please let us know that when you send a donation and we will respect your wishes. I hope you enjoy this issue of Bears First. Please donate if you can and know we appreciate any support or help you can give IBBR, even if it's just words of encouragement.

Sally Maughan

## **In this issue...**

**2009 - A Very Challenging Year!**

**IBBR 2009 BEARS**

**IBBR WELCOMES NEW BEAR CARETAKERS - INTERN HOUSING NIGHTMARES - FOOD DONATIONS**

**PARTHENON ENTERTAINMENT & ANIMAL PLANET FILM - 2008 BEARS RELEASED**

**FOR THE BEARS**

**PAGE 1**

**PAGE 2-3**

**PAGE 3 4-5**

**PAGE 5-6**

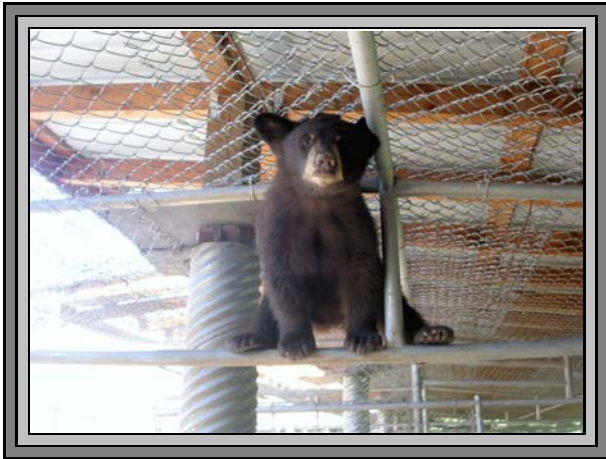
**PAGE 7**

**Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc. \* 6097 Arney Lane \* Boise, Idaho 83714 USA**

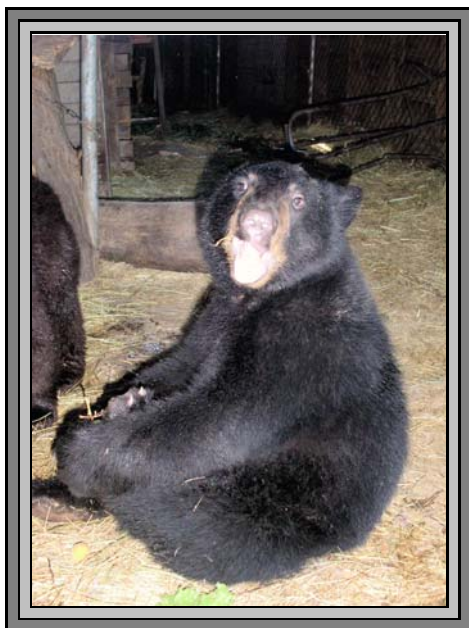
**Phone: (208) 853-3105 \* Fax: (208) 439-6777 \* E-Mail: [INFO@bearrehab.org](mailto:INFO@bearrehab.org) \* Web: [www.bearrehab.org](http://www.bearrehab.org)**

## IBBR 2009 BEARS

The story of our 6 bears is already on the web site. To update you on those bears, they are all doing great. The twins, Kaulana & Kuhilani have grown so much. Kuhilani is the largest of the two and he rules the group. The triplets are growing as well and love to wrestle. Our little Mahalo, which everyone adores isn't so tiny now and is a feisty cub. Despite the fact she is smaller than the others, she holds her own. She also has ears that stick out to the side of her head which makes her even more adorable. She is definitely a water bear - loves to dive under the water in the swim tub. This group of bears are very rough in their play, probably the roughest IBBR ever cared for over the years. There are times when we expect to see fur flying, but they seem to do okay. We did worry about Mahalo with her size and such rough playing. However, she gives as good as she gets. Even Kuhilani, the largest one of the group has backed off when she told him to "knock it off!". We expect to release all of them in December unless the other states want to wait for a spring release. We would like to hold Mahalo until spring to give her small frame time to grow. She will never be a big bear, but releasing her when she is as big as she can be without holding her past the June 2010 deadline would give her a bit more of an advantage. That will depend on whether we have other bears to winter through as we don't want to hold her by herself.



**Mahalo - her favorite spot up high**



**The twins - he hasn't learned to chew with his mouth shut yet.**



**Brown cubs are the triplets**

### **IBBR WELCOMES NEW BEAR CARETAKERS**

In June our long time employee, Jon Knight had to quit. He had a back and knee situation which eventually worsened with all the physical work involved. He couldn't ignore it any longer and we were all sad to see him leave. However, he fills in every now and then as needed. We posted the job on our web site, at Boise State University, and by word of mouth. We received many wonderful resumes so it was a tough decision. After interviewing all those that qualified, we hired (from left to right) Meghan Underwood, Joshua Hood, and Amy Kidwell. Due to conflicts with the work schedule IBBR needs and their availability, the three of them will job share. IBBR wanted one of them to live on site and Amy Kidwell will be that person. Wonder if anyone told her that means helping to welcome a new bear arriving at midnight!



### **INTERN HOUSING NIGHTMARES**

After Sally Maughan's mother passed away, we converted that house into the intern house for an employee. When Jon moved out, we had the house inspected and were given the news that it would cost \$4500 to bring it up to date with the repairs and fixes needed. Sally's parents took immaculate care of the house while they were alive, but it is an old house so the news wasn't unexpected. However, the timing couldn't have been worse since there was nothing in the budget for that work. Amy needed the job and we needed to get her on site to start working so there wasn't much choice.

IBBR called on a contractor, Scott Thomson who has helped us with other projects and he stepped up right away to help with this one. Of course if you watch HGTV or any home repair shows, you know that once you start doing even the smallest of renovations there will always be bad news along the way. Our bad news turned out to be a whopper with many layers.

We have a well rather than city water and septic system rather than city sewer system. Next year we hope to fund the project to connect to Garden City's sewer system. In the meantime, the wiring and fuse box for the well was in the intern's house as was the garage and several of the buildings outside. Over the years as we added freezers and refrigerators in the buildings and garage, lighting outside, used the outside plugins more frequently, & it created an overload that kept kicking all the fuses off. We realized

we couldn't leave it that way even day longer. We have a really great electrician, John Duncan from Winters Electric. He came out and stayed with it until the job was done. In the middle of moving the wiring, the irrigation ditch pipe buried in the ground began leaking (another project for 2010) and he had to stop until we could dry out the ground where his wiring would go. Despite the setback, he got it done in a few days and moved the extra load to Sally's power pole.

That was just the beginning of the nightmares to follow. As work started on the house, we discovered the flooring under the carpet was cracking in the living room, warped in spots, and generally in bad shape. Flooring needed to be replaced throughout the house along with either new carpet or new flooring of some kind. Shortly after hearing that news, we had several days of rain and discovered the roof was leaking. It's bad enough that the garage roof is also leaking where we have a couple of our freezers. We had to tarp that roof until we could afford to fix it, but we can't tarp the intern's house as it would have to remain empty if we did that. Thankfully we were able to repair the leaking areas in the house roof, but a new roof is obviously on the project list for some point in the future.

Sally Maughan put her car up for sale, the laptop, and took out a loan to get as much of the fixes done as possible. With that loan, we got most of the house updated and the wiring moved. Both the roof and flooring had us stopped us cold. There just wasn't one penny left to do the work.

Our most urgent and immediate goal was to meet payroll, pay expenses, and feed bears. Beyond that we still needed to raise funds to finish the intern house and pay back the loan Sally took out and gave to IBBR for the house updates and all the electrical work. After an online and e-mail plea for help, we are FINALLY getting the house finished. We had a setback due to the flooring installation that was to take a week. After 7 weeks it still wasn't completed. IBBR fired them and our reliable contractor Scott Thompson (who was now freed up from another job) stepped in to finish the job. Add to the list - a new water heater, toilet, and sink to replace the old ones, repair the refrigerator, replace several screens on the windows and one window, replace one wall in the utility room due to the roof leak and it "appears" we are done. Considering how old the house is, it's frightening to think how much more we would have faced if Sally's folks hadn't taken such good care of it over the years. Sally was planning to pull out carpet in the cat's rooms of her place and replace them with something easier to clean. After all this with the intern's house she said the word renovation doesn't exist in her vocabulary now.



## FOOD DONATIONS

Thanks to Debbie Mitchell and the staff at the Fruitland Nursery, we have some extra fruit to feed the bears. They donated apricots and peaches that they were no longer able to sell. We are hoping to see more fruit donations this fall. If you know anyone in the Treasure Valley with fruit trees, please ask them to donate the fruit they don't use. Fall is the time when the bears get very serious about



putting on weight for hibernation. They demand a lot of food and a hungry bear is not a good thing.



We can also use sacks of Fred Meyer Chunk Style dog food. Believe it or not, bears, like people have favorite foods. If we give them small kernels of dog food they play with it rather than eat it. A lot of food gets wasted so we stick with chunk style & they prefer Fred Meyer to other brands. At this point any chunk style will have to do as that's better than nothing. Anyone have salmon or trout they wish to donate - these bears love fish! Donations of fruit, dog food, and fish can be left at the front gate any



time of day or evening. Bears also love deer or elk carcass (key word carcass). Donations can be left at the main gate of IBBR or call for directions. For any donations left at the front gate, if you include a paper with your name and address, IBBR will send you a thank you letter and picture of the bears.

With fall and winter approaching it means cubs arriving late this year will often be very underweight. To help them recover quickly, we need to stock up on formula. Normally formula is used for bottle babies, but our formula has proven an exceptional aid to turning around starvation in bears. Even our two year old starved female and Jaws, the bear with his jaw shot off lived on formula for a period of time. Formula is a specialty item and you can find

information on the web site (Bear Necessities) to order it or donate money and we'll order it.

### **PARTHENON ENTERTAINMENT - ANIMAL PLANET FILM**

During 2009 Parthenon Entertainment visited IBBR to film a show for Animal Planet. We were happy to participate. Hopefully the program will remind the public again that rehab is a viable option state wildlife agencies can consider in their bear management plans. We don't have an air date as yet, but will post it on the web site when we know.

### **2008 BEARS RELEASED**

During the month of June 2009, we released 6 Washington bears and 2 Oregon bears. Tom Hazdor from Wide Eye Productions went on the Washington release. Tom has filmed IBBR bears in previous years so it was fun to have him join us on this release. You can read his comments on his website blog at <http://wideeye.tv/blog/?p=215> after the discussion with Dr. Jane Goodall.

As part of our education program, IBBR also sponsored Alison Robinson and Kara Daniels to go on the releases. Alison & Kara are both taking wildlife courses in college. During the summer months they worked for IBBR taking care of the bears until we hired replacements for Jon Knight. You can read about their experiences in the 2008 Bear Journal as updates and pictures on the releases will also be added shortly.





**Unloading the last carrier**



**Three bears ready to go free**



**Can you spot the bear? Here's a hint - look for the brown spot by the tree in the middle.**

**FOR THE BEARS  
SALLY MAUGHAN**

I'm a firm believer that thoughts create reality so I try to remain positive. There have been many nights over the years when I went to bed worried about how I would manage to take care of the bears in the coming days. Yet it always worked out. After all the problems this year, I have to wonder if I've been lax at thinking positive. Sometimes I grab a deck of inspirational cards that offer encouragement and positive thoughts. Not long ago, worried sick about paying the bills, the intern house, and how IBBR would ever survive this year, I grabbed the deck and fanned them out. One of my cats, Gatsby (who loves to bury himself between the file folders in the file cabinet by my desk) took an immediate interest in the cards. I jokingly asked him if he would like to pick one. He immediately grabbed a card in his teeth & pulled it out of the deck. When I turned it over it said **"Worry is Pointless"**. I had to laugh - even the cat knew it wasn't going to do any good to worry.



**No worries here!**



Although people will tell you I personally sacrificed a lot over the past twenty years to provide a place for orphaned cubs, I don't consider it a sacrifice. The bears gave me back far more than I gave them. Regardless of what word you use, this program wouldn't have lasted this long without help from all of you. I know there will be more challenges and more sacrifices in the future even beyond this year. Whether your situation doesn't permit you to help IBBR at this time or in the future, just know we are so appreciative for all the help given in the past. I wish I could somehow share with each of you the joy and gifts the bears have showered on me over the years. Hopefully through the web site and the newsletters, you have been touched in some way by their amazing spirits. For the bears, I ask one more thing - tell everyone you know about IBBR, encourage them to visit the web site, learn about orphaned cubs, and donate if they can.

**Boy is that sun bright! Someone get me a pair of sunglasses.**

**Here is to a bright and sunny future for IBBR and all of you!**

**Please take a minute and send a tax deductible donation to:**

Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc.  
6097 Arney Lane  
Garden City, Idaho 83714 U.S.A.

**For credit card donations use PayPal on our  
web site: [www.bearrehab.org](http://www.bearrehab.org)**



**The Bears Thank you!**