



Bluegrassin'

Volume 10, Issue 1

January-February

The Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association is a non-profit association dedicated to promoting preserving and sharing our love of bluegrass music in a spirit of family and friendship.

Inside this issue:

- Page 1
Annual meeting info, Recurring Shows and Jams
- Page 2
President's notes
- Page 3
Membership application
- Page 4
Florence Show & Jam article & photos
- Page 5
Florence Jam photos continued
- Page 6
January Bluegrass Calendar to hang on your refrigerator
- Page 7
February Bluegrass Calendar for your fridge
- Page 8
Montana Band Represents USA at Festival in China
- Page 9
Winter Jam info, To Do in 2008

MRBA Annual Meeting



Kate McMahon came all the way from Whitefish!



Debbie Kerns, Tari Conroy, Fred Frank, and Mike Conroy get to grooving



Dallas Olson the Gorgeous Grinner



Larry Gangi Sr., Debbie Kerns, and Fred Frank



Alex Hogle came from Polson and ripped it



Dale Kerns plays it where it lays!

Recurring Show and Jams

- ◆ MISSOULA – Tuesdays, TopHat (134 W. Front St) - Bluegrass jam. 7pm.
- ◆ MISSOULA – Tuesdays, TopHat – Pinegrass plays around 10pm.
- ◆ GREAT FALLS – 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Bert&Ernie's (300 1st Ave South) 7pm. Call 453-8003 for info.
- ◆ MISSOULA – Tuesdays, WheatMontana – Moozoola Opry 6pm 'til 8pm the Cuzin Ray band plays. Admission is free, we just ask that you buy a sandwich or soup from the fine folks at WheatMontana as you sit back and enjoy an evening of music.
- ◆ HAMILTON – Saturdays, Charlo Heights Clubhouse – bluegrass jam.
- ◆ KALISPELL – Red Lion Hotel, Kalispell Center Mall – every Friday from 7-10pm. Contact Vicki Bodfish, 257-3935
- ◆ NORRIS HOT SPRINGS – Sunday evenings 7-10pm, Thermalgrass plays, The band includes Tom Murphy, Quentin King, and Ian Fleming (MRBA Member)



President's Notes

On Monday, December 10, we said fare thee well to one Judith Paull. We knew her as Mike Roesler's wife, Judy, bluegrass fan and grinner of the highest order. She came to a lot of our functions, always had a smile for everyone, and always made our get-togethers that much more fun. She will be missed.

At her funeral, several MRBA members said goodbye in song, others shared stories & tales about her, and about our times with her. Our thoughts & prayers are with Mike, and the Roesler & Paull families.



The Buckhorn Mountain Boys were also sad and sorry to report that Kathy Giacomini (Al Jackson's wife) passed away after a long serious illness. She died quietly and peacefully at their home in Nampa, Idaho on Thursday, December 6th. Her funeral was held on December 13th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Meridian Friends Church in Meridian, Idaho.

At the MRBA's Annual Meeting in December, Lois Maliekie was elected as Secretary/Treasurer for 2008 and Tari Conroy was elected to the Board of Directors. We thank Debbie Kerns for her service as Secretary/Treasurer for the past year and we thank Ben Essary for his service as a Director on our Board for the past year.

The pickin' will be great in '08!

-Curtis

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

PO Box 1306, Missoula, MT 59806
(406) 363-4055

Website: www.mtbluegrass.com

email: mrba@mtbluegrass.com

President – Curtis Rathburn

Vice President – Mike Conroy (406) 821-3777

curtis.rathburn@erckhotels.com

tariconroy@webtv.net

Secretary/Treasurer – Lois Maliekie, (406) 549-2444 postage_due@msn.com

Board Members – Phyllis Erck, Tari Conroy, Brian Herbel, Caroline Keys

Newsletter Editor – Caroline Keys, jymchaak@yahoo.com

Bluegrassin' is a bi-monthly publication of the **Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association**
Information printed in **Bluegrassin'** is at the discretion of the **Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association**

Got Something to sell? Advertise in *Bluegrassin'*!

Full Page – \$25.00, 1/2 Page – \$15.00, 1/4 Page – \$10.00 Classified – \$5.00

A Letter of Thanks from Debbie Kerns

To all of the members, officers and board of the Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association: I'd like the thank you all for the opportunity you entrusted in me to serve as your Secretary/Treasurer this past year. It was an honor and a privilege to be a part of this great organization. I'm afraid I got off to a bumpy start while I was learning the ropes but I hope that as time went on I did a satisfactory job of the duties I was elected to perform. It was a great learning experience and gave me the chance to interact with more of our members. We have a very talented group of musicians and a wonderful fan base and it takes all of us to make this organization a success. This coming year I hope you all have the opportunity to take part in some of the functions that MRBA puts on. That kind of support will help keep Bluegrass music alive and well in our little corner of the world. I'd like to welcome Lois Maliek as our new Secretary/Treasurer. I know that she will do a great job for this organization. Lois and her husband John are very familiar faces at all of our bluegrass functions. Dale and I want to thank them both for stepping up to the plate because we know that it is a joint effort. I hope to see you all this spring for more pickin' and grinnin' until then take care.

Greetings from Lois Maliek

As your newly elected Secretary/Treasurer I will try my best to keep records straight. In the future please send correspondence and dues to MRBA at:

P. O. Box 1306

Missoula , MT

59806-1306

If you need to contact me by e-mail you may do so at postage_due@msn.com or by phone at (406) 549-2444. I hope I can do my job in a fashion pleasing to all of you. Hopefully we will have a great new year.

Since I am a stamp collector, I plan to purchase commemorative stamps for the newsletter and would love to get some of you members to save some & all of your used stamps for me, unless you collect for yourself of course. I would appreciate it.

Thank you so much.

Annual Deerlodge Jam January 19

The Annual January jam in Deer Lodge will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at the "Office" located at 511 Main in Deer Lodge, MT. from 12:00 noon until the wee hours. We will prepare a scrumptious meal for Saturday dinner and Sunday morning breakfast for a nominal fee of \$5.00 per person (for both meals). To make a reservation at Scharf's Motel to spend Saturday evening you can phone - 846-2810 or online at montana-motels.com. Identify yourself as being with the Bluegrass group to receive a rate of \$50/2 people one bed or \$55/2 people/2 beds. That rate also includes the tax. We also reserved the "house" at Scharf's for any folks wanting to share that cost. If you have questions call Bill/Charlene Anderson at 846-1843 or email wildbillander-son@msn.com or Mike/Judy Roesler at 846-2240 or email milwdlmt808@msn.com.

**Membership Application
MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 1306, Missoula, MT 59806**

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone No. _____

E-mail _____ Individual (\$10.00) _____ Family (\$15.00) _____

November MRBA Show & Jam

by Mike Conroy



Ken & Phil with the Mayor of Forrest Flats



Susanne Knauer, good to have her back!



Bill & Verna with Curtis keeping his head warm

The first ever MRBA Show and Jam was held November 11, 2007 at the Florence IOOF Hall. It was a lot of fun. We had 28 MRBA members sign up to perform on stage and they played to a packed house. This new format allowed musicians to sign up on a sign up sheet when they arrived. When their turn came, they could gather the musicians they wanted to help them perform their 2 tunes on stage. It was a new kind of fun and our next show and jam is scheduled for January 6, 2008 at the Florence IOOF Hall, 2:00 Pm. Here are some pics taken from the show. Come join the fun on Jan. 6th.



Dallas, Mistress of Ceremonies



Jesse & Caleb, Let'r go boys!



Jay, now that's soulful singing



Ben, Mom, and Mary with that sweet mountain sound

Curtis, our fearless leader

See y'all on
January 6 for
more fun!



Irene Abbey, fine mountain Bluegrass



Verna, Bill & Dale



Enjoying the bluegrass

The MRBA show and jam was so much fun that we have scheduled three more for this winter. They will all be 2pm on Sundays at the Florence Hall, and the dates are January 6th, February 24th and March 16th..

One thing I noticed at the last show is that in this association the majority of musicians are rhythm guitar players,. That's not a bad thing, but we need more mandolin, fiddle, Dobro, banjo, and bass pickers! I know that on the first of January two of our bass players, Ben and Debbie, and that guitar pickin Dale are headed down south for the rest of the winter. Several other bass and lead players are also heading south for the winter. So if you have been thinking of getting a doghouse bass, mandolin, banjo, Dobro or fiddle, or starting to sing harmony, times a wastin'! Let's get with it, we got bluegrass pickin' to do! It will help the association and you'll have more FUN!

January 2008

Bluegrass Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	2	3	4	5
6 Open Show and Jam Florence Hall Florence, MT	7	8 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	9 The Acousticals Bitterroot Brewing Hamilton	10 11	12 MRBA Monthly Jam Ruby's Missoula
13	14	15 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	16 17	18 Daddy Claxton (John Lowell, Ian Fleming, Chad Fadely) Norris Hot Springs	19 Deer Lodge Jam "The Office" Deer Lodge
20	21 The Acousticals RedBird Missoula	22 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	23 24	25	26
27	28	29 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	30 31		

February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	6	7	8	9 Monthly Jam Ruby's Missoula
10	11	12 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	13	14	15 Infamous Stringdusters Big Sky, Montana	16 Tim O'Brien Infamous Stringdusters Big Sky, Montana
17	18	19 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	20	21 Wintergrass Tacoma, Washington	22 Wintergrass Tacoma, Washington	23 Wintergrass Tacoma, Washington
24 Open Show and Jam Florence Hall, Florence Wintergrass	25	26 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	27	28	29	

Montana Bluegrass Band Represents USA at Festival in China



We had a little down-time while the other 24 countries arrived, so we went to the Chinese version of Greg Boyd's and played instruments. Caroline plays the "erhu" while Nate fiddles.



Singing at Sunshine City



We had a great time jamming with the band from India. Matt discovered that banjo players and tabla players are kindred spirits.



It seemed that for every event there was a spokesmodel!



Broken Valley Roadshow brought Bluegrass into the living rooms of 6 million Chinese citizens when we played on TV at the festival finale!



We met a little girl named Jenny on an airplane. It turned out that she played the erhu too. It's a two-string bowed instrument.

In October, Missoula bluegrassers Broken Valley Roadshow represented the USA at the Nanning International Folksong Arts Festival in China. We were honored to be one of 25 groups invited to play music native to our country.

While we were there we jammed with musicians from India, Germany, South Africa, Italy, New Zealand, Cambodia, Philippines, and Indonesia. They

all were fascinated with the banjo (who isn't!?!?) When the German band heard what state we were from, they sang "Montana Cowboy."

Audiences seemed to enjoy the high lonesome sound from the USA. They made us feel very very welcome and every time we played, they clapped along. Our interpreter definitely caught the bluegrass bug—he may have already started a Nanning Bluegrass Assoc!!



Dancers greeted us with jasmine flowers when we arrived at one venue



Ceremonial dragons greeted us as we arrived at another venue!



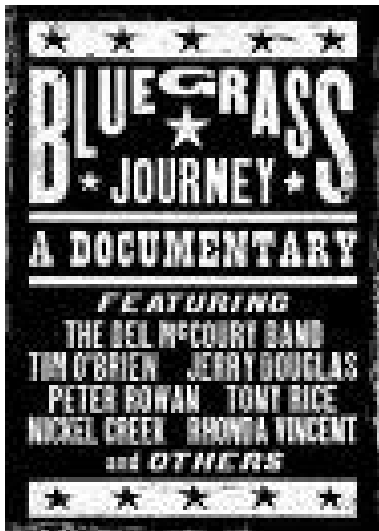
Waving goodbye after our performance at the TV studio in Nanning

MRBA Winter Monthly Jams

We're gearing up for another winter season of regular monthly jams and potluck dinners at Ruby's Inn in Missoula. We will be having these jams on the 2nd Saturdays in January, February & March. Those dates are Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 8. The pickin' will start at 2pm and potluck dinner will start at 6pm followed by more pickin' until when we've had all we can take or the sun comes up. Whether your just getting started or a seasoned pro, you're welcome. We'll have a separate room for slow jams for those who are shy and just getting started. This is an opportunity to get together and socialize with your fellow MRBA members in a cozy spot with lots of good food. We look forward to seeing you this winter. For questions about these jams contact Phyllis Erck at mrba@mtbluegrass.com or (406) 829-6546.

To Do in 2008:

See this Movie



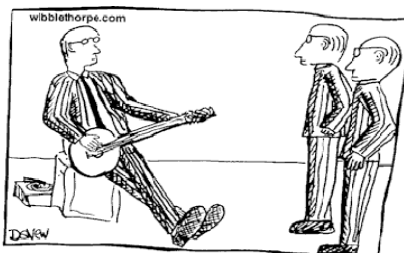
Try this chocolate



Belgian Milk Chocolate with Pecans

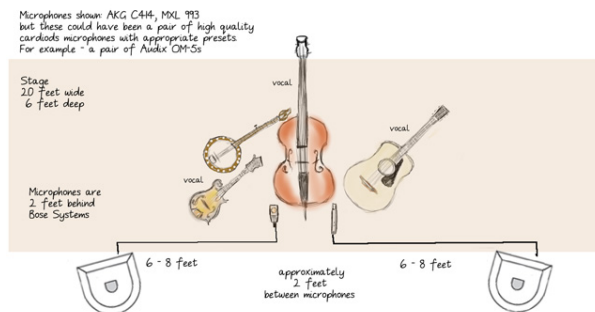
Net Wt. 57 gr. (2 oz.)

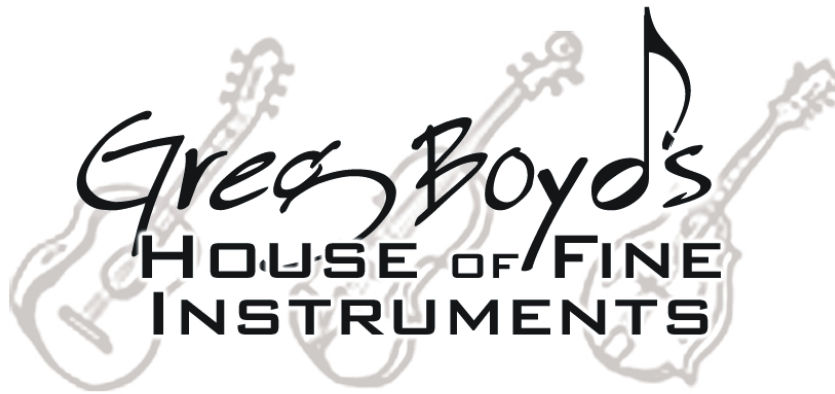
Learn to play banjo



After 25 years the other band members realized that the banjo player had been miming to a record.

Try new stageplot





311 Knowles St Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 327- 9925
www.gregboyd.com

Hours: Mon-Thu 10am - 6pm / Fri til 5pm / Sat til 4pm

→→→→ **\$3 sets Banjo STRINGS !** ←←←←
→→→ **\$4 & \$5 sets Mando & Guitar STRINGS !** ←←←←

Roy Noble Guitars / Bourgeois Guitars / Weber Mandolins
Collings Guitars / Collings Mandolins / National Resophonic
Vintage Martins / Vintage Gibsons / Beard Resophonic
Lebeda Resophonic / Prucha Banjos & Mandolins
Professional Mandolin & Banjo Parts



Straps / Strings / Bridges / Tailpieces / Bluegrass Picks
Calton Cases / Capos / Wood Hardshell Cases / Gig Bags
Electronic Tuners / Metronomes / Books / Care Products

EASY ordering with SECURE ENCRYPTION

www.gregboyd.com

Free Shipping in Montana (on orders \$25 or over)



Ruby's Inn
&
Convention
Center

4825 N. Reserve Street
Missoula, MT 59808
406-721-0990
800-221-2057

During your next stay in Missoula
or
When planning your next event

**THE MOST BLUEGRASS FRIENDLY
HOTEL IN MONTANA**

Free hot breakfast buffet daily 6 – 10am

Free soup/dessert 5:30 – 8:30pm

Free airport shuttle

Close to major shopping district

Quiet picnic area on Grant Creek

Outdoor pool/hot tub

Guest laundry

Full-service catering

6 meeting rooms

Free local calls

Located off I-90 exit 96, 1/4 mile on right



Mark's Handyman Services

Some jobs too big, none too small!
Fast, courteous, reliable.

Mark Hagan
Hamilton, MT

home 375-9179
cell 546-5787

ATTENTION:

We have set up the address label on your newsletter to be your membership card, please clip it out and use it for proof of your membership to the MRBA.

MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
FIRST MONTH FREE!

\$1295*
PER MONTH

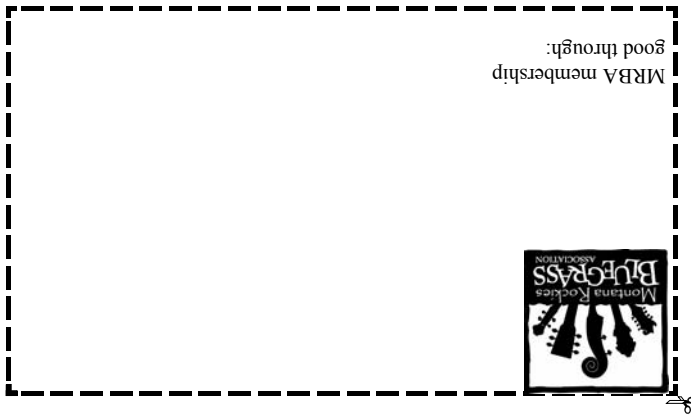
* If paid by credit card - \$14.95 if not by credit card.

DIAL-UP ACCESS

- 9400 LOCAL U.S. DIAL-UP ACCESS NUMBERS
- LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
- WEB-BASED EMAIL ACCESS
- TWO EMAIL ACCOUNTS PROVIDED
- 10M PERSONAL WEB SPACE
- FREE TECHNICAL PHONE SUPPORT

CENTRIC
Internet Services

1410 SOUTH RESERVE MISSOULA, MT 59801
PHONE: 406.549.3337 FAX: 406.549.9337
WWW.CENTRIC.NET



PO Box 1306,
Missoula, MT 59806

