



Bluegrassin'

Volume 10, Issue 2

March-April 2008

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.

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Photos from the January Open Show and Jam in Florence



Banjoes a comin' and a goin'



You just name it, I am ready!



Greg came by to play a couple



Let me explain This tune...

The last open show and jam of the season is Sunday, March 15 at 2pm. See you there!!!



Some loyal fans



Phyllis taking the lead

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)

Message from the Secretary-Treasurer

you there!

Just so you all understand what we did with the newsletter labels, I marked your expiration date in red if you are receiving this as your last letter and in yellow if your membership is nearing expiration. Please check these as it very expensive to print and send letters. You only get 2 letters after your membership expires and we would sure like to keep you all in the club. This was decided at the Dec. meeting as a change to the by-laws. It helps if dues are paid on time so we don't have to sound like the bluegrass police. Let us hear from you soon. Also, the label has been designed as your membership card. It helps if you have it with when you renew so we know the date of your membership without having to go to a long list to find it.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the monthly jams and show but especially at the Festival on April 12th in Stevensville. This is our big fundraiser and we need it to do well. Your participation does that. See

Volunteers Needed for Stevensville Festival

Please let me know if you would be willing to volunteer your time to help at the festival. We will need help in the kitchen, merchandise and at the door. At the March jam at Rubys I will have a sign up sheet for these areas and would appreciate it if you will fill a slot to help out. I am in charge of the kitchen and making the bar b que since Debbie is gone and we will need some sales and service help in that area. I will also have the sign up sheet at the show in Florence on March 16th. Thanks to all of you. I hope to do a good job in the future.

Sincerely,

Lois Jean Malikie, Secretary-Treasurer

**Leapt Year Jam and Potluck
Gibbonsville March 1**

Doors open at 12, potluck begins at 1pm at the Gibbonsville Improvement Association Building in Gibbonsville, Idaho (the old school house). The North Fork Store/Café/Motel has offered a discount package on rooms and meals for anyone who would like to stay over. They have a limited number of rooms so please call early for a reservation at 208-865-2412.

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

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(406) 363-4055

Website: www.mtbluegrass.comemail: mrba@mtbluegrass.com**President** – Curtis Rathburn**Vice President** – Mike Conroy (406) 821-3777curtis.rathburn@erckhotels.comtariconroy@webtv.net**Secretary/Treasurer** – Lois Malikie, (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

MRBA Feels the Loss of Perry Vose and Billy Poole

Perry W. Vose

From the Ravalli Republic: Perry W. Vose, 71, of Hamilton passed away Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008 at the Marcus Daly Hospice and Palliative Care Center from cancer. He was born June 29, 1936 in Gloversville, N.Y. the son of Theodore and Ascenath Vose.

Perry served in the Delaware National Guard. He married Edwina Hoster Nov. 16, 1962. Perry retired from Amoco Chemical in 1991 and together they moved to Hamilton in 1992.

Perry was the chairman of the Bitterroot Bluegrass Festival. He enjoyed playing and teaching the banjo, woodworking, hunting and riding his ATV. His talents were varied, whether it was his interest in music or felling a tree. Perry took challenges in stride and had the ability to organize and accomplish tasks. Friends and acquaintances will remember him as being reliable, kind and always willing to help.

Perry was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Edwina of Hamilton; his sister Jayne Temple of Gloversville, N.Y.; his nephew Barry Temple of Bear, Del.; and his niece Kathy Briggie of New Castle, Del.

No formal services will be held. The family suggests that memorials be made in Perry's name to the Marcus Daly Hospice Endowment Fund, 1201 Westwood Dr, Hamilton, MT 59840.

Billy Poole (son of Phyllis Erck)

From the Missoulian: William George Poole, extreme skier and kindhearted soul, died pursuing his passion on January 22, 2008.

Born on March 30, 1979 to Phyllis Erck and James Poole, "Billy" Poole was raised by his mother in Missoula, Montana and later in Hardwick, Massachusetts. It was the mountains of Montana that originally inspired his love for skiing. Billy was a star athlete growing up, starting with Pee Wee Hockey in Cambridge, Mass. and soccer, baseball, wrestling and skiing, throughout his school years. Billy graduated from Quabbin Regional High School in Massachusetts in 1997, winning State Championship in Wrestling that year, and went on to study civil engineering at the University of New Hampshire. After he graduated from UNH in 2001, skiing quickly became more than a hobby. He competed in his 1st Big Mountain competition at Snomass in 2002, finishing an impressive 5th overall. He continued competing on the circuit for the next 2 years and eventually worked with the industry's leading filmers and photographers, traveling nationally and internationally to capture breathtaking images of Billy skiing in the beautiful places that he loved so passionately. He was filmed skiing in Sweden, Japan and South America. He was known as one of the most kind hearted, hardest working and most driven skiers in the industry. His ski movies and images can be seen throughout publications and online. His death came at a time in his ski career when his years of hard work were coming to fruition. With several film appearances to his credit, a new hat company, with his friend Julian Carr, a profile in the latest issue of Powder Magazine, and a sponsorship as Black Diamond's marquee alpine skier, Poole was just

Continued on page 9

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) _____

9th Annual MRBA Oldtime Bluegrass Festival

The 9th Annual MRBA Oldtime Bluegrass Festival will be held April 12th at the Stevensville Junior High multi-purpose room. The Festival starts at 12 noon and goes until 11pm. There will be extra parking behind the school back (watch for signs). This year the MRBA has rented the American Legion Hall for folks who would like to park overnight and/or jam and visit after the festival (late Saturday night). Sunday morning we will do a free biscuits and gravy breakfast at the American Legion hall at 10 am for folks before they head home. As in years past, people who would like to help by bringing food to the Festival should bring desserts. Anyone who would like to help out at the festival should call Tari or Mike Conroy at 406-821-3777 or find them when you get to the festival.

April 12 Festival Line-Up

12:00-12:30 Kids In Bluegrass	5:50-6:20 Pinegrass
12:35-1:05 Chester Rudyard And Mullan Road	6:25-6:55 Too Hot Too Handle
1:10-1:40 Blue To The Bone	7:00-7:30 New South Fork
1:45-2:15 Three Rivers Bluegrass	7:35-8:05 Will Williams And Gravel Road
2:20-2:50 Bill And Verna Molenda And Friends	8:10-8:40 Darby Sireens
2:55-3:25 Leftover Biscuits	8:45-9:15 Gravely Mountain Boys
3:30-4:00 The Accousticals	9:20-9:50 Ramblin' Rose
4:05-4:35 Salmon Valley String Band	9:55-10:25 Black Mountain
4:40-5:10 The WheelWrights	10:30-11:00 Greg Boyd And Friends
5:15-5:45 Mike And Tari Conroy And Friends	

Directions to the Foreign Legion Hall (also called the Burnt Fork School)

Drive south from the front of the Stevensville Junior High's multi-purpose room

At the First stop sign turn LEFT

Follow that road up Burnt Fork 3 miles

The American Legion Hall is on the Left

YA'LL COME

CD Review: Kentucky Wild Horse

This band really knows their stuff. They take their name from an old eastern Kentucky fiddle tune and, as this album proves, the group are fluent pickers and singers whether playing flawless guitar intro, sawing an old-time fiddle tune, or harmonizing on an original number.

The originals that appear here are clever and catchy and at the same time speak to the band's reverence for the music that came before. The standout track here is "High On a Mountain," a haunting tune featuring only vocals and clawhammer banjo, written by a friend of the band.

While it is not likely that these Kentucky fellers will play in Montana any time soon, there is no doubt that their music fits in among the mountains here just as well as it does in eastern Kentucky.



Tracks:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Hot Night on Greasy | 10. Rocky Road Blues |
| 2. Richmond Blues | 11. God Take a Hold |
| 3. Boatin' up Sandy | 12. Kentucky I Long to See |
| 4. Downtown City Bar | 13. Lonesome Road Blues |
| 5. A Miner's Life | 14. Rock Andy |
| 6. Hard for to Love | |
| 7. Ode to Buddy Thomas | |
| 8. Lay My Shovel Down | Available at: |
| 9. High on a Mountain | Kentuckywildhorse.com |

CD Review: Spring Creek

These "kids" from Colorado won both the Telluride and RockyGrass band contests in 2007 (only band besides Hit&Run Bluegrass to win both in the same year!) and you won't want to miss any opportunity to see them.

Most of the gang hold degrees from South Plains College in Texas and they play a quite contemporary-sounding brand of bluegrass. The lineup includes bass, guitar, mandolin, banjo, and all of the picking is squeaky-clean. In fact, the whole record is squeaky-clean—which is a good reason to check them out in concert. The band will hit Montana just before the March-April MRBA newsletter goes to print and the band has two summer Washington festival dates: Sacajawea in June and Blue-Waters in August. So check them out at either of those festivals or keep your fingers crossed that they make it back to Montana this summer. Either way you shouldn't be disappointed.



Tracks:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. I Wonder Just Where | 8. Harvest of '55 |
| 2. You are Tonight | 9. High up in the Mountains |
| 3. Waterline Blues | 10. Clara Belle |
| 4. Caleb Meyer | 11. Memories of Greenbrier |
| 5. Clinch Mountain | 12. Gone but not Forgotten |
| 6. Freak-out | Available at springcreek-bluegrassband.com |
| 7. Blue Ridge Cabin Home | |
| 8. Bowling Green | |
| 9. In the Backwoods | |

March 2008 Bluegrass Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						¹ Spring Creek Bozeman Gibbonsville Jam
2	3	⁴ Moozola Opry Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	5	⁶ The Acousticals Bitterroot Brewery Hamilton	7	⁸ Pick at Ruby's Missoula
9	10	¹¹ Moozola Opry Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	12	13	14	¹⁵ Pinegrass Bitterroot Brewery Hamilton
¹⁶ Open Show and Jam Florence	17	¹⁸ Moozola Opry Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	¹⁹ Great American Taxi The Badlander Missoula	20	²¹ New South Fork Portneuf Brewing Pocatello, Idaho	22
23	24	²⁵ Moozola Opry Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Moozola Opry Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	2	3	4	5
6	7 The Acousticals RedBird Missoula	8 Moozola Opry Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	9	10	11 Yonder Mountain Stringband The Wilma Missoula	12 MRBA Festival Stevensville
13	14 The Acousticals RedBird Missoula	15 Moozola Opry Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	16	17	18 Leftover Biscuits Blue Canyon Grill Missoula	19 Leftover Biscuits Symes Hotsprings
20	21	22 Moozola Opry Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	23 The Gourds Yellowstone Brewing Billings	24 The Acousticals Bitterroot Brewery Hamilton	25 The Gourds Wilma Theatre Missoula	26
27	28	29 Moozola Opry Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	30			

Notes From the Road

By Deb and Dale Kerns and Pam and Ben Essary

Hello from the road! In January, we left Montana on a four month trip. Our plan is to attend Merlefest in Wilkesboro, North Carolina in late April. In between we intend to see some of the country, take it easy, play some music, and visit friends and family.



Deb and Dale left Hamilton on January 2nd and attended the festival in Portland, Oregon. We had a great time at the Portland festival. Saw a lot of great Bluegrass performers in action. It was a three day event at the Portland Convention Center so it was held indoors. Although we didn't jam we noticed a lot of people were. There were a lot of rooms opened up for that purpose. It looked like attendance at the festival was real good. There were a lot of performers and their styles varied from Traditional to, well let's say, unconventional. A little something for everyone. We especially enjoyed Dry Branch Fire Squad. We have liked their music for years and this was our first opportunity to see them live. They put on a great show. We also enjoyed The Del McCoury Band, Rhonda Vincent & The Rage, The Dan Tyminski Band, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver,

and The Sceldom Scene. The list goes on and on. They had a great line-up. We had a lot of fun and are thankful we had the opportunity to attend the festival



The Seldom Scene at the Portland Festival

Pam and Ben left Stevensville on January 11th and hooked up with Deb and Dale in McMinnville, OR. From there we took a leisurely trip down the Oregon and California coast. The scenery was beautiful and the rain was constant. It was so bad we were checking every day to make sure we weren't growing web feet.

Getting tired of the rain we headed



MRBA ambassadors Ben and Dale jam with California pickers

across and traveled through the California gold country. We managed to find a bluegrass jam in Sonora, California and spent the night with some good pickers. The fiddler was head of the California Bluegrass Association. He was familiar with the MRBA and invited all the Montana pickers to Grass Valley in the spring.

We finally managed to get out of the rain in Death Valley. The scenery was beautiful and the weather was warm. February and March are the ideal months to visit.. It was so nice we spent over a week seeing the sights.

Now we are spending a few days in Benson, Arizona. We went to a bluegrass gospel program the other night and met Marilyn and Gary Deeds. They spend about six months of the year traveling across the United States and Canada with their gospel music. The Deeds said they were at Libby about five years ago and were really appreciative of the hospitality of Dorothy and Dale Berg and all the folks at the pasture pickin'. They were just starting out with their music and still remembered the encouragement they received from Tari and Mike Conroy. Small world isn't it?



*California pickers with Montana connections:
Marilyn and Gary Deeds*

Billy Poole continued...

coming into the prime of his career. Billy's ambition, talent as an athlete, and good name in the ski industry in no way overshadowed his magnetic personality. A matchless source of positive energy, Billy leaves behind many, many friends in Montana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Colorado, Utah, South America and Asia, who will miss his raucous brand of enthusiasm.

Billy Poole had long dreamt of starring in a Warren Miller ski film and finally got his first crack at realizing that dream this winter. Billy's last big adventure took place in the backcountry of Utah's Big Cottonwood Canyon; it was his first week out filming with the Warren Miller Entertainment crew. Billy died that bluebird afternoon at University Hospital in Salt Lake from injuries sustained while jumping a cliff. He was 28 years old.

Billy is survived by his sister, Pennie Thompson; mother, Phyllis Erck and her fiance Curtis Rathburn; grandparents, Lou and Ruby Erck and nephews, Caleb & Brevlin Thompson, of Missoula, Montana; aunts, Lisa Gray and Rose Lockwood and uncle Charles Erck; cousins, Moon, Auguste and Theo Lockwood, Scarlet, Rohan, Sam, Rosa, Ruby Lelani Erck and Jasper and Zachary Stover and Ashley O'Connor; step-father, David Wright; step-brother, Luke Wright; step-sisters, Sarah Meyers, Becky McDonald and Ashley O'Connor.

A foundation has been setup in Billy's name to help kids to learn to ski. Donations to this foundation can be made at www.bilypoole.com





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