



Bluegrassin'

Volume 10, Issue 6

Nov-Dec 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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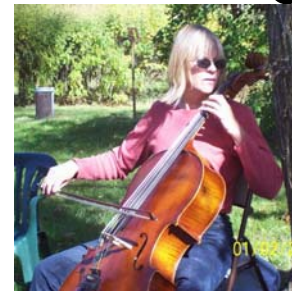
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Trumble Creek Campout Photos



Clockwise beginning at top center:

1. Roger
2. Janet Haarvig, a newcomer to the celebration and a great addition
3. Roger Underwood and Jim King
4. Wendy Upton
5. Martha King
6. Steve McKlosky
7. Dave Renfrow
8. John and Sandy Campbell who recently celebrated their Golden Anniversary
9. Ken Benson

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 Black Mountain Boys play. 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.
- ◆ NORRIS HOT SPRINGS – Sunday evenings 7-10pm, Thermalgrass plays, The band includes Tom Murphy, Quentin King, and Ian Fleming (MRBA Member)



President's Notes

Hey everybody. Once again, the time is upon us for the annual MRBA meeting. This year's will take place on Saturday, Dec 6th, 3PM, at Ruby's Inn & Convention center, on North Reserve St., in Missoula. Please bring a pot-luck dish, and an acoustic stringed instrument, of some sort. We will eat after the

meeting, and we will pick after we eat.

We will be electing officers, deciding the place for the winter jams, and planning the next years agenda in this meeting, all members are encouraged to attend.

Thank you,

Curt the Prez

Editor's Note

Editing this newsletter has been a fantastic learning experience and a great pleasure. I recently looked through the archive of MRBA newsletters and it took me aback to see the great effort and love that all previous editors put into *Bluegrassin'* before the job came to me. Raynae Redman, Brian Hall, Ben Essary, and Tari Conroy all added their own ideas and creativity to the project, and I am honored to have been a part of it's evolution.

This newsletter will be my last for the MRBA and I write hoping that you'll consider lending your talents to this fun and enriching job. It involves about 10 hours of (enjoyable!) work every other month.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve ,

Caroline Keys

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Information printed in **Bluegrassin'** is at the discretion of the **Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association**

Got Something to sell? Advertise in Bluegrassin'!

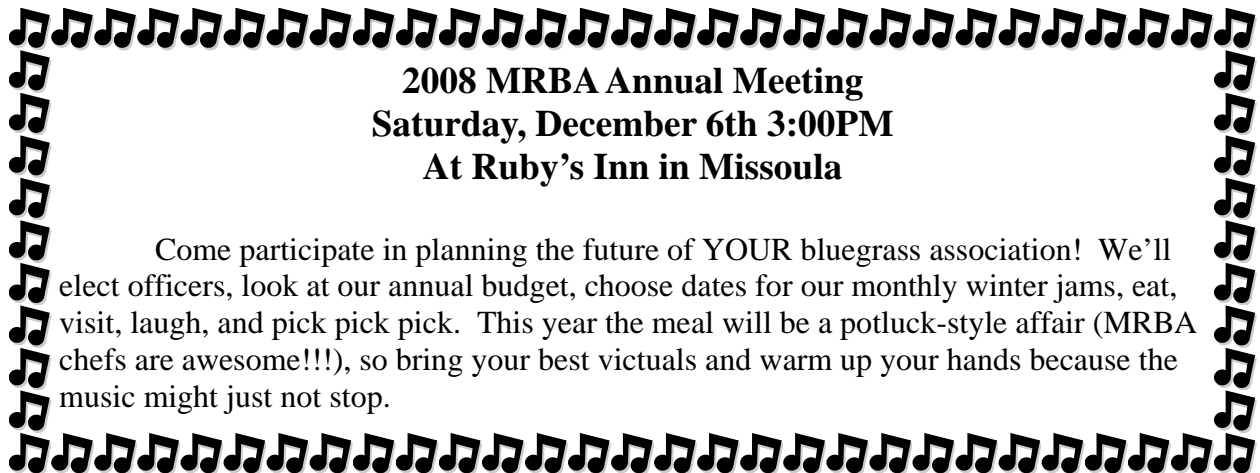
Full Page – \$25.00, 1/2 Page – \$15.00, 1/4 Page – \$10.00 Classified – \$5.00

Message from the Secretary

John and I will be leaving the 21st of October for our trip to Australia and New Zealand and therefore will not be checking mail for about a month. It will be put on hold at the P.O. until we return. We have been busy getting things done and so missed a couple of the jams but we hope that will change when we get back.

John's leg is almost healed and our doctor gave him the OK to snorkel if he so chooses. That was a dream of his for a long time to snorkel the Great Barrier Reef. We will see. We will hopefully have lots of pictures to share when we get back. Hope to see many of you at the annual meeting in December. Take care and good jamming!

-Lois Maliekie



**2008 MRBA Annual Meeting
Saturday, December 6th 3:00PM
At Ruby's Inn in Missoula**

Come participate in planning the future of YOUR bluegrass association! We'll elect officers, look at our annual budget, choose dates for our monthly winter jams, eat, visit, laugh, and pick pick pick. This year the meal will be a potluck-style affair (MRBA chefs are awesome!!!), so bring your best victuals and warm up your hands because the music might just not stop.

While you're browsing the Internet

The Bluegrass Blog— www.thebluegrassblog.com

A central clearinghouse for bluegrass news and comment, targeted at both industry professionals and folks who would enjoy following what's going on.

Mike Compton's online Mandolin Lessons— <http://www.mikecompton.net/lessons.php>

Legendary mandolin player teaches live one-on-one lessons via webcam!

**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) _____

Review: Pert' Near Sandstone Needle & Thread

By Caroline Keys

These boys from Minnesota play traditional fiddle tunes and well-crafted originals written about everything from hard work to lost lovers— not unusual subjects for the bluegrass genre, but executed here with unique and unadorned flair.

Pert' Near Sandstone have the high-energy thing down and their rough-around the edges sensibility never undermines the beauty of their work.

If you're interested in checking Pert' Near Sandstone out, **they play at the TopHat in Missoula on Thursday, November 6th.** CDs will be available at the show and are also available online at CDBaby: cdbaby.com/cd/pns3 and at www.pertnearsandstone.com



- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Fly Around My | 9. Colored Aristocracy |
| Pretty Little Miss | 10. Sonny's Rag |
| 2. Needle & Thread | 11. Grim King of the |
| 3. A Lazy Man's Load | Ghosts |
| is a Heavy One | 12. Just One Day |
| 4. No Rest | 13. Little Birdy |
| 5. Old Joe Clark | 14. Chief O'Neill's Fa- |
| 6. Corsican Lady | vorite |
| 7. Mill City March | |
| 8. Paddlin' Down First | |
| Avenue | |

Thinking About Going to Wintergrass?

Several 2008 IBMA Nominees are to perform at the 2009 Festival

Vocal Group of the Year – Blue Highway, The Isaacs

Instrumental Group of the Year - Blue Highway, Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper

Female Vocalist of the Year – Sonya Isaacs

Album of the Year – Blue Highway for “Through the Window of a Train”, The Steeldrivers for “The Steeldrivers”

Song of the Year- Blue Highway for “Through the Window of a Train”, The Steeldrivers for “Drinkin' Dark Whiskey”

Emerging Artist of the Year – The Steeldrivers

Bass Player of the Year – Missy Raines, Marshall Wilborn

Fiddle Player of the Year – Michael Cleveland

Dobro Player of the Year – Rob Ickes

Guitar Player of the Year – Tim Stafford

Mandolin Player of the Year – Ronnie McCoury

Wintergrass had the honor of winning the Bluegrass Music Event of the Year in 2005!

Jack Tuttle's Top Ten Ways to Become a Better Bluegrass Musician

1. **Practice.** Okay, this is an easy one. The real question is how much. I have students ask me this all the time and I usually tell them at least a 1/2 hour every day. The key here is *at least*. The truth is, if you want to become a really good musician, just 30 minutes will probably not suffice. I'm from the camp that believes the more practice the better, especially if done wisely. Mark O'Connor and Bela Fleck, as kids, each practiced 8 or more hours a day for several years.
2. **Practice wisely.** This one is a bit harder. By wisely, I mean that you understand exactly what your weaknesses are and how to deal with them. As a full-time teacher for over twenty years, I would say that most people are not very good at understanding exactly what they're having trouble with. I've seen students countless times tell me they're struggling with the right hand bowing or picking on a particular passage, when on close examination, their left hand fingers are tripping over themselves (or vice versa). Take the time to accurately identify any problems so you can attack them head on.
3. **Isolate problem areas.** Identify problem areas within pieces and practice them over and over again. Highlight any especially difficult passage and play it 25 times out of context of the piece. This will allow for many more repetitions of the areas that need the most work.
4. **Listen to yourself.** Part of understanding your weaknesses is knowing exactly how you sound as you play. But most beginners cannot play and listen accurately at the same time. Try using a tape recorder and listening back. Make it your goal to eliminate the difference between how you think you sound as you're playing, and how you actually sound to yourself on tape.
5. **Listen to others.** Music is an aural art. It's just not possible to be a successful musician from a book or sheet of music alone. You must immerse yourself with the music you're trying to play. You should spend at least some listening time very focused on the music, making the listening an exercise itself. This is most important if you're trying to play a style that you didn't grow up around.
6. **Play slowly and clearly.** It's important to play at a speed allows for accuracy so that you are training good habits. It's much easier to hear and correct poor intonation, weak notes, picking or bowing problems, at a slow pace.
7. **Play fast.** Playing slowly and clearly is great, but my experience with students is that if they only play slowly, they never get fast enough to play with others. Even if the hands have trouble keeping up, by trying to play fast, you're teaching your mind to think faster. The hope is that eventually your hands will catch up. As somebody once said, "You can't get fast by playing slow".
8. **Sing in your mind.** Whatever you're trying to play should be heard in your inner ear. Most musicians do this so naturally, they would wonder why I bring it up, but I have found some beginners don't know to do this. Make sure you are mentally singing your pieces. As a teacher, I can't always tell if my students are doing this, so to check, I sometimes make them sing the piece out loud.
9. **Jam.** I've found that people who go out and get involved in local jams reach a higher level much quicker than those who stay at home. Playing with others is like developing a support group for your addiction. It is also very good at helping you play at real-world tempos (see #7) and learning to play through mistakes.
10. **Find inspirations.** The key to success, in the long run, is to keep the passion for playing music. Often hearing the right player, whether it's live or from a recording, can give a shot in the arm that will make practicing come easier. Buy CDs. Go out and hear live concerts. And don't overlook books or films about the culture or history of the music you're trying to play.

November 2008 Bluegrass Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						I
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat	Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat		6Ramblin' Rose Kozy Korner Greenough Pert' Near Sandstone TopHat	Porter Creek Montana Coffee Traders Columbia Falls	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat	Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat		13Canyon Creek Ramblers Great Northern Whitefish Ramblin' Rose Kozy Korner	Porter Creek Colter Coffee Kalispell	Old Crow Medicine Show Wilma Theatre Missoula
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat	Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat		Ramblin' Rose Kozy Korner Greenough		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat	Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat		Ramblin' Rose Kozy Korner Greenough		Canyon Creek Ramblers Bierstube Whitefish
30						

December 2008

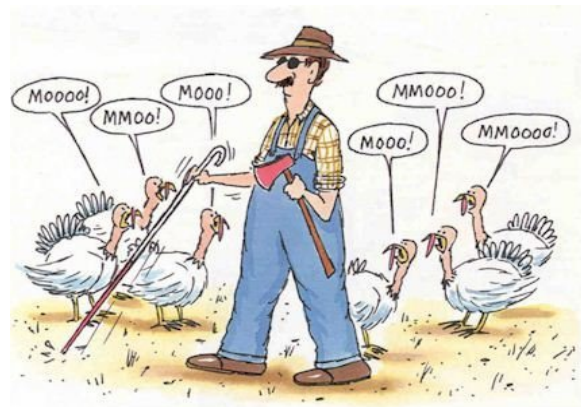
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat		he Acousticals Bitterroot Brewery Hamilton Ramblin' Rose Kozy Korner Greenough	Porter Creek Colter Coffee Kalispell	MRBA ANNUAL MEETING Ruby's Missoula
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat		Ramblin' Rose Kozy Korner Greenough		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat		Ramblin' Rose Kozy Korner Greenough		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat				
28	29	30	31 ***	***FIRST NITE MISSOULA: Acousticals Break Espresso Ramblin' Rose UC Lounge	***FIRST NITE FLATHEAD: Leftover Biscuits	
		Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Top Hat	Canyon Creek Ramblers Bierstube Whitfish			

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We wish you a happy Thanksgiving!



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Former Bluegrass Boy and Country Gentleman Eddie Adcock Picks Banjo During Brain Surgery

If you have checked your email lately, you may have already seen footage of Eddie Adcock plucking away at his presumed sterilized banjo while surgeons stimulate different parts of his brain.

Adcock was awake for the Deep Brain Stimulation surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville this October. The surgery was done to correct a tremor in the musician's hand, and Adcock played banjo through the surgery. His playing served as a guide while the doctors stimulated different parts of his brain.

Good Morning America ran a feature story on Adcock's surgery that can be found on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqWBDHRvHrQ>

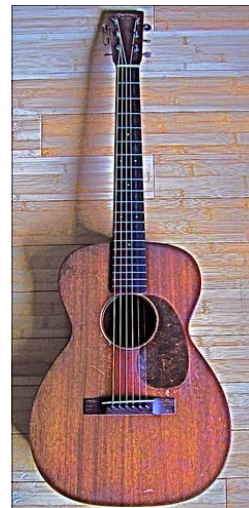


Eddie Adcock and his banjo in pre-op

Good News As Heard By Fred Frank:

"May this downturn
in the economy
turn folks' attention
back to the
simpler joys in life:
good friends
and
good roots music!"

Lost/Stolen:



Caleb Klauder (of Foghorn Stringband)'s
Martin 1939 0-17
caleb@calebklauder.com

Banjo Jokes

Q: What's the difference between an onion and a banjo?

A: No one cries when you cut up a banjo

Q: What do you call a beautiful woman on the arm of a banjo player?

A: A tattoo.



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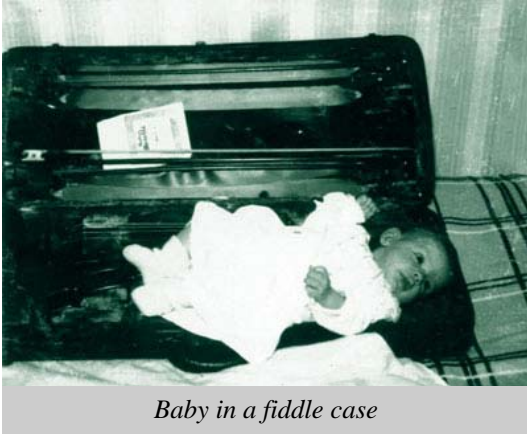
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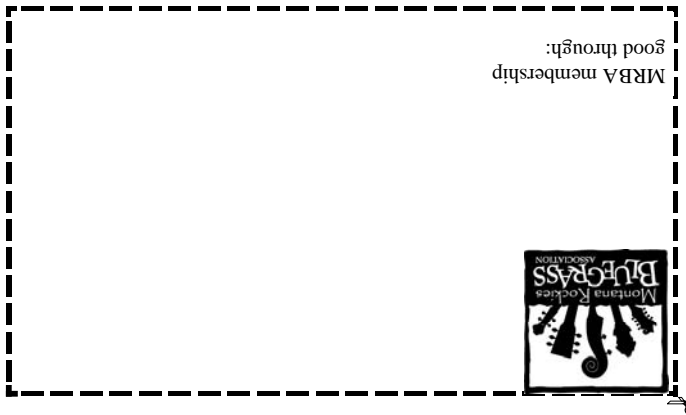




Baby in a fiddle case

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.



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

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