



Bluegrassin'

Volume 9, Issue 1

January-February 2007

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
Bluegrass Calendar, Recurring Shows and Jams

Page 2
President's notes

Page 3
MRBA Annual Meeting info

Page 4
Profile: Kelly Marie Makela, Trumble Creek Campout Report

Page 5
Winter jam info, Bitterroot Festival fundraiser info

Page 6
Conroy/Rosenberg Album Review, News

Page 7
New Years Bluegrass Festival photos

Page 8
Thanks to outgoing officers, Martha Scanlan CD review

Page 9 Book review: Fiddler's Dream by Greag Spatz, Bluegrass venue info



Bluegrass Calendar

- ♦ **January 4 – The Acousticals** – Taco Del Sol (Reserve Street), Missoula 7pm-9pm. This group features Ted Lowe on bass, Chad Fadely on Mandolin, and Richie Reinholdt on guitar.
- ♦ **January 5 – The Wayword Sons** – Halfmoon Saloon, Big Sky. Newgrass. 9:30pm.
- ♦ **January 6 – The Wayword Sons** – Zebra Cocktail Lounge, Bozeman. 9:30pm.
- ♦ **January 9 – The Wayword Sons** – Flanagan's Central Station, Whitefish. 9:30pm.
- ♦ **January 10 – The Wayword Sons** – Murray Hotel, Livingston. 9:30pm.
- ♦ **January 12 – Leftover Biscuits** – Montana Coffee Traders, Whitefish. 8:30-10:30pm.
- ♦ **January 12 – Broken Valley Roadshow** – Flanagan's Central Station, Whitefish. 10pm.
- ♦ **January 13 – MRBA Monthly Jam** – Ruby's, Missoula. 2pm picking, 6pm potluck dinner.
- ♦ **January 13 – Leftover Biscuits** – Hot Club of Troy, Troy. 7:30-9:30.
- ♦ **January 13 – Broken Valley Roadshow** – Flanagan's Central Station, Whitefish 10pm.
- ♦ **January 18 – The Acousticals** – Taco Del Sol (Reserve Street), Missoula 7pm-9pm.
- ♦ **January 20 – Fourth Annual Deer Lodge Jam** – Deer Lodge. Details inside.
- ♦ **January 23 – Tony Furtado + Whitwater Ramble** – Flanagan's Central Station, Whitefish.
- ♦ **January 24 – Swing Grass Duo** – Spice of Life, Hamilton. 6-8pm.
- ♦ **January 24 – Whitewater Ramble** – Silver Dollar Bar, Butte. A Fort Collins favorite!
- ♦ **January 25 – Whitewater Ramble** – Zebra Cocktail Lounge, Bozeman.
- ♦ **January 26 – Jackstraw** – Flanagan's Central Station, Whitefish. Portland, Oregon's finest.
- ♦ **January 27 – Jackstraw** – Flanagan's Central Station, Whitefish.
- ♦ **January 27 – Pinegrass** – Symes Hotel, Hot Springs. 8pm-10pm.
- ♦ **January 27 – Whitewater Ramble** – Chet's Bar, Big Sky.
- ♦ **January 30 – Drew Emmitt Band** – Flanagan's Central Station, Whitefish. This band features Drew Emmitt, formerly of Leftover Slamon on mandolin and Eric Thorin, formerly of Open Road, on bass.
- ♦ **January 31 – Drew Emmitt Band** – The Loft, Missoula
- ♦ **February 1 – Drew Emmitt Band** – The Filling Station, Bozeman.
- ♦ **February 9 – The Acousticals** – Montana Coffee Traders, Whitefish. 8:30-10:30.
- ♦ **February 9 – Broken Valley Roadshow** – Eureka Auditorium Theater, Eureka.
- ♦ **February 10 – MRBA Monthly Jam** – Ruby's, Missoula. 2pm picking, 6pm potluck dinner.
- ♦ **February 20 – The Infamous Stringdusters** – Big Sky Resort. THESE GUYS ARE HOT!!!
- ♦ **February 21 – The Infamous Stringdusters** – Big Sky Resort.

Recurring Shows and Jams

- ♦ **MISSOULA– Tuesdays, Top Hat**(134 W. Front St) - Bluegrass jam. 7pm.
- ♦ **MISSOULA– Tuesdays, Top Hat** – 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, Wheat Montana – Moozoola Opry 6PM till 8PM the Cuzin Ray band plays. Admission is free we just ask that you buy a sandwich or soup from the fine folks at Wheat Montana as you sit back and enjoy an evening of music.
- ♦ **HAMILTON** – Saturdays, Charlos Heights Clubhouse – Bluegrass jam.
- ♦ **CHINOOK**– first and third Tuesdays, Past Time Bar -- Bluegrass, Old Time, and Old Country jam at 7pm. Contact: Tim Whitney 357-3840.

President's Notes

Winter is here! It's time to bear down on some bluegrass music. Gone are the long and beautiful summer days that may have tempted us to spend our time on other pursuits.

We had a good annual meeting on Saturday, December 2nd. Turnout can always be better but we had an enthusiastic crowd. We owe a special thanks to Ruby Erck providing the facilities for the meeting. The staff at Ruby's Inn were all very helpful in making our meeting a success.

The minutes of the meeting and a financial statement are included later in this issue. The bottom line is that the association is in good shape. We are set to have a continuing slate of activities supporting the goals of the association and our finances are in good order. The annual election of officers also gives the MRBA a committed leadership team well qualified to making sure the association is an important part of the regional bluegrass scene. The lineup of officers and directors are included in the minutes.

Curtis Rathburn was elected president. As most of you know Curtis is a talented bluegrass musician and singer

and brings extensive knowledge of the music to his position. Debbie Kerns was elected as Secretary/Treasurer. She plays bass, sings, is a regular attendee at association functions and has worked over the years at our annual festival. Brian Herbel was elected to the board. Brian plays mandolin, is deeply involved in the music and has helped Caroline Keys with the newsletter. I will stay on the board as a director. We welcome all these folks to their positions.

Pam Essary and Tari Conroy gave up their positions on the board. Pam served as Secretary/Treasurer for the last four years. This is the most demanding position on the board and we all owe Pam thanks for the work she has done. Thanks also to Tari Conroy who has been an important part of the MRBA since the association began. Her work on the annual festival has been a key part of the success of the association. We look forward to Pam's and Tari's continued support of the MRBA.

I want to thank everyone for their support during my three years as president. It has been an interesting time. I've met lots of folks and participated in a lot of bluegrass activities that I would have otherwise missed. I look forward to continuing to be involved in the MRBA.

Ben

Ben

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

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curtis.rathburn@erckhotels.com

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Board Members –Phyllis Erck, Ben Essary, Brian Herbel, Caroline Keys

Newsletter Editor – Caroline Keys, jymchaak@yahoo.com

Bluegrassin' is a bi-monthly publication of the **Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association**

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

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association
2006 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

The Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association 2006 Annual Membership Meeting was held on December 2, 2006, at the Ruby's Inn and Convention Center, Missoula, Montana. Ben Essary, President, chaired the meeting.

Association Update

Ben Essary provided an update on association activities for 2006.

Financial Statement

MRBA started the year with \$3,375.96. There was income of \$6,586.65 and expenses of \$6,761.64. Current bank balance is \$3,200.97. A copy of the statement is included as Attachment 1.

Old Business

Ben discussed the low level of member participation in association activities.

New Business

Ben thanked the following businesses and individuals for their continuing support to the MRBA:

- Greg Boyd's House of Fine Instruments
- Larry Gangi Jr.
- Ruby's Inn and Convention Center
- Centric

Election of Officers

The membership elected the following members to the positions indicated. The officers will assume their positions on January 1, 2007.

President: Curtis Ratburn
Vice President: Mike Conroy
Secretary/Treasurer: Debbie Kerns
Board Members: Phyllis Erck
Ben Essary
Brian Herbel
Caroline Keys

**MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS
ASSOCIATION
2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

STARTING BALANCE \$
3,375.96

INCOME \$
6,586.65

Admissions	\$ 1,351.00
Advertising	\$ 430.00
Concessions	\$ 937.00
Merchandise	\$ 1,963.00
New Member Dues	\$ 665.00
Renewal Dues	\$ 1,240.00
Bank Interest	\$ 0.55
Other	

EXPENSES \$
6,761.64

Newsletter Reproduction	\$ 1,171.01
Postage	\$ 632.58
Administrative Expenses	\$ 231.77
IBMA Membership	\$ 150.00
Merchandise	\$ 847.50
Venue Rental	\$ 828.00
Band Costs	\$ 100.00
MRBA Festival CD	\$ 891.27
Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ 592.22
Food	\$ 365.47
Picnic Expenses	\$ 309.04
Bluegrass Festival Sponsorship	\$ 600.00
Kids in Bluegrass	\$ 40.00
Bank Charges	\$ 2.78

ENDING BALANCE \$
3,200.97

**Membership Application
MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 1220, Hamilton, MT 59840**

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone No. _____

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



Five-Year-Old Fiddle Whiz

By Nancy Ady

Hey folks, meet Kelly Marie Makela. If you attended the Gibbonsville campout this year, you might have caught Kelly playing her songs with a jam session

or two. Having turned five years old in August, Kelly has already competed in the Idaho Open Fiddle Contest and in the small fry division at Weiser.

Currently Kelly lives in Boise, Idaho with parents Paul (a guitar, mandolin, and

fiddler player who accompanies his daughter in contests) and Amy who joined the Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association in 2005. She started taking lessons at the age of 3½ with Cristin Newhall until Cristin moved out of state. Her teacher now is Danita Rast.

Her repertoire now includes: Boil 'em cabbage, Rocky Top, Sweet Marie, Arkansas Traveler, Tennessee Waltz, Old Joe Clark, Red-haired Boy, Whiskey Before Breakfast, Ook Pik Waltz, Redwing, Rubber Dolly, Swallowtail Jig, Cotton-Eyed Joe, Camptown Races, Angelina Baker, Buffalo Gals, Short-nin' Bread, Cindy, Cripple Creek, Crawdad Song, Edelweiss.

Kelly also enjoys singing, reading and horses. The rest of us fiddle players might as well stand back and listen- she is way cuter than the rest of us!

Mother Nature Allows Short-Sleeves at Trumble Creek Campout

By Mary-Jane Cunningham

THE TRUMBLE CREEK CAMP-OUT (Sept. 29 - Oct. 1) was a lot of fun. There were only about 10 campers, but there were lots of day-trippers and the music went on into the early morning hours. The weather was perfect, as you can see by the t-shirts in the photos and we never even had to use the tents that were set up, just played around the huge campfire. There was a pot-luck dinner on Saturday night and a Biscuits and Gravy Pot-luck on Sunday morning, so I don't have to tell you about the food. Nobody does pot-luck better than Bluegrassers!!

I didn't take too many pics, I guess I was too busy visiting and pickin. Oh well!

Wishing you and all my Bitterroot friends a healthy, happy New Year. I'll see you in the Spring.

Hugs, Mary-Jane



Pickers line up for pot-luck goodies. Maybe next year they'll call it "YUM-ble Creek"

MRBA Winter Monthly Jams*Y'all Come!*

Whether your a rank amateur wanting to learn to play with others or an old pro looking to steal licks from some of the best pickers in the valley, you'll want to make your way over to Ruby's Inn for the series of MRBA pickin' parties and potlucks this winter. These events are scheduled for Saturdays, **January 13, February 10 & March 10**. The pickin' will start at 2pm with potluck dinner starting at 6 followed by more pickin' until whenever we get played out. Mark your calendars now and come on over and add to the fun. For more information contact Phyllis or Curtis at phyllis@erckhotels.com or 829-3777.

4th Annual Deer Lodge Jam*By Bill Anderson*

The Fourth Annual Mid-Winter Jam in Deer Lodge will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2007 at the "Office" at 511 Main starting at 12:00 noon. If anyone is interested in coming Friday evening (1/19/07) we can arrange for jamming Friday evening as well. We've contacted the Downtowner Motel, which is conveniently located across the alley from the "Office", and negotiated a reasonable cost for rooms for those wishing to spend the night. Single occupancy - \$32.10 and Double occupancy - \$37.45, which includes tax. You can contact the Downtowner Motel for a reservation at 406-846-1021. If you can't get through to the motel, contact Charlene or Bill by phone or email to make a reservation for you. The guy that owns the place is the "real" Forrest Gump!!

We will provide a dinner meal for a cost of \$5.00 per person on Saturday evening and provide breakfast on Sunday morning. If you have questions you can contact Bill or Charlene Anderson at 406-846-1843, email – wildbillanderson@msn.com or Mike and Judy Roesler at 406-846-2240, email – milwdlmt808@msn.com.

Bitterroot Bluegrass Festival Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser

March 2, 5:30pm at the Kitchen in Hamilton

The Kitchen is located at 102 South 2nd Street , Hamilton . We will sell advance tickets but not on a reserved seating basis. However, we will only print and sell tickets up to the number of dinners to be prepared, What tickets are not sold in advance will be sold at the door and we will stop letting people in when we run out of tickets. Tickets can be purchased from any Festival Committee Member. Tickets available @ The Kitchen 363-0903 or Mountain Music 167 S. 2nd St. in Hamilton (363-3505) or from Perry Vose. For more info, call 363-7095.

The Old Spinning Wheel

Ivan Rosenberg and Mike Conroy

Review by Caroline Keys

If you've been a bluegrass fan or picker here in Montana for any length of time, chances are you've heard Mike Conroy's technically profound mando tinkling and seen sparks shoot out of Ivan Rosenberg's Resonator guitar.

The pairing of these Montana maestros proves to be a pleasant one as they sa-shay through both traditional and original instrumentals. Conroy and Rosenberg are as professional as they come—you won't find a stray note here. The serious musicianship never out-weighs the fun for these two, as illustrated by the titles of their original numbers.

A must-have recording by folks who probably know you by name!



- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Preparation G | Mountain |
| 2. Maiden's Prayer | 9. Shenandoah |
| 3. Kentucky Waltz | Waltz, |
| 4. The Old Spinning Wheel | 10. Down in the Wil- |
| 5. Dobro Waltz | low Garden, |
| 6. Shook Mountain | 11. Evening Prayer |
| Hop | Blues |
| 7. Midnight on the | 12. Turkey Knob |
| Water | 13. Strolling Along |
| 8. Sugarloaf | 14. In The Garden |

Keep Your Eyes and Ears Peeled for...

- * A new outfit called **Mighty Squirrel** with Greg Spatz (fiddler from John Reischman and the Jaybirds) on octave mandolin and fiddle, his wife Caridwen Irvine-Spatz on fiddle and vocals, David Keenan playing anything with strings and singing, and Ivan Rosenberg on Dobro, banjo, and vocals.
- * A new outfit called **The Acousticals** featuring Richie Reinholdt on guitar, Ted Lowe on bass, and Chad Fadely on mando.
- * Rachael Wogsland, Caridwen Irvine-Spatz, and Grace Decker fiddling with **Broken Valley Roadshow**
- * A new outfit called **Wagon Train** that employs Dave Richey on guitar, Aaron Youngberg on banjo and pedal steel, Erin Youngberg on bass (all three formerly of **Hit and Run Bluegrass**) and Caleb Roberts (formerly of **Open Road**) on mandolin.
- * A mighty fine article by Ben Essary on Greg Boyd in the next issue of **Bluegrassin'**
- * The **Infamous Stringdusters** making their Montana debut in February at Big Sky!



"Lil Roy" Lewis of the Lewis Family picks a hot banjo number. What this picture does not show is Roy taking off one shoe and one sock



What Southern Bluegrassers eat

**Photos from the
31st Annual New Year's
Bluegrass Festival on
Jekyll Island, Georgia
By Brian Herbel**



Jere Cherryholmes tells a bear joke that was new to the folks down in Georgia



BJ (righthanded) and Molly Kate (lefthanded) Cherryholmes fiddle so fast that they blur the photo



The large crowd was incredibly well-behaved

This was the second year in a row that Brian and Caroline were in Georgia at the right time to attend The Jekyll Island New Year's Bluegrass Festival. The lineup included Jesse McReynolds, Lerry Sparks, James King Band, The Isaacs, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, the Grascals, the Lewis Family, Cherryholmes, and Ralph Stanley. By the way, Ralph Stanley has a great new CD out called "A Distant Land to Roam" that consists entirely of Carter Family tunes.



Pam Essary



Ben Essary



Tari Conroy

Thank you for your outstanding leadership!

Outgoing officers:

Pam Essary — MRBA Secretary

Ben Essary — MRBA President

Tari Conroy — MRBA Director

Your service is much appreciated!



The West Was Burning

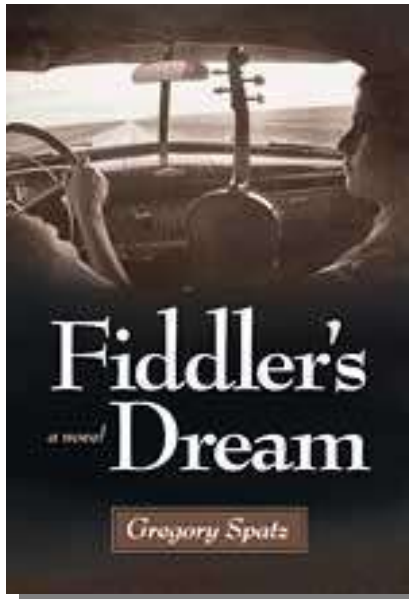
Martha Scanlan

Review by Caroline Keys

It's really not very fair of me to review this record before it's available to you all. If the history of recorded country music was a cross-sectioned tree, the ring around 2007 would be one of those well-nourished, robust growth rings because of this album alone.

Sugar Hill Records will release Martha Scanlan's (formerly of The Reeltime Travelers and formerly of Missoula) solo debut on February 13. I was fortunate to receive an advance copy of this fine recording that features Dirk Powell, Levon Helm (The Band), Amy Helm & Glenn Pascha (Ollabelle) soulfully accompanying Martha on her original tunes. Now a resident of East Tennessee, many of Martha's songs find her pining for the long lost Montana she left behind—quite the opposite, geographically, of your typical Appalachian fare.

Recorded by Levon Helm and produced by Dirk Powell, this is a most significant debut.



Fiddler's Dream A novel by **Gregory Spatz**

Gregory Spatz's name is familiar to many of the Bluegrassers in our region—he plays impeccable fiddle with John Reischman and the Jaybirds. When he isn't on the road with Reischman, Spatz writes fiction and teaches creative writing at Eastern Washington University in Spokane.

Fiddler's Dream is a sort of bluegrass Odyssey that follows Jesse, a young musician as he leaves his dysfunctional home in Vermont to seek out and play with Bill Monroe and search for his estranged father, a musician who left him and moved South some time before.

If you have ever participated in a bluegrass jam or watched a bluegrass jam and wondered what goes on inside the musicians, pick up this book—Spatz gets his readers as close as they can get to the intense feeling of making this music.

SMU Press – Available at Amazon.com

Bluegrass-Friendly Venues In and Around Montana

- Hangin' Art Gallery — Arlee, Montana. 406-370-3076
- Symes Hotel — Hot Springs, Montana. 1-888-305-3106
- Montana Coffee Traders — Whitefish, Montana. 1-800-345-5282
- Flanagan's Central Station — Whitefish, Montana. 406-862-8888
- Hot Club of Troy — Troy, Montana. hotclubcafe@yahoo.com
 - Halfmoon Saloon — Big Sky, MT (406) 995-4533
 - Murray Hotel — Livingston, MT (406) 222-6433
 - Silver Dollar Saloon — Butte, MT (406) 782-7367
 - Chet's Bar — Big Sky, MT 406-995-5791
 - The Filling Station — Bozeman, MT. (406) 587-0585
 - Charlie's Place — Babb, MT. (406) 587-0585
- Portneuf Valley Brewing Company — Pocatello, ID (208)232-1644
 - Knotty Pine — Victor, ID. (208) 787-2866
- Bitterroot Brewing — Hamilton, MT (406) 363-7468

If you have more venue info, please email it to jymchaak@yahoo.com





Ruby's Inn
&
Convention
Center

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406-721-0990
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During your next stay in Missoula
or
When planning your next event

**THE MOST BLUEGRASS FRIENDLY
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6 meeting rooms

Free local calls

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

For Sale:

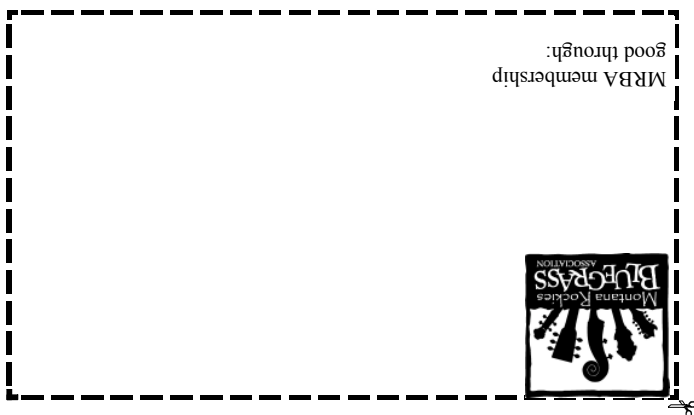
For immediate sale is a 3/4 size Cremona double bass. Solid ebony fingerboard and tailpiece, solid maple neck. Laminated spruce top with maple back and sides. The back has some very nice figuring and the color is a deep, rich brown with a satiny finish- Quite a handsome bass. And the sound: Well-balanced but particularly loud on the bass end, so it's perfect for thumping out Bluegrass rhythm. Condition is very good, with one small surface repair. No structural problems. Made in the good ol' PRC.

\$750- What a bargain, folks!

Call Ted at 406-880-0414 if interested.

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.



MRBA membership
good through:



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

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