



Bluegrassin'

Volume 9, Issue 4

July- August 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.

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Highlights from the West Fork Campout



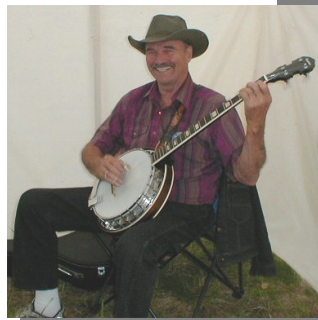
Ben Essary makes his debut on bass. Michael Baines on Dobro said he was there under the "wit-less protection program." Sorry for blowing your cover Michael!

Conroy's 11th annual Memorial Weekend Bluegrass Campout, was another great success!

We had pretty good weather at times, lots of pickin' and grinnin' and of course the food was excellent.

Mike & Tari

The Bluegrass Construction Crew successfully erects a wall tent to keep pickers and gridders warm and dry



Jeff Forbes and his son Sam Forbes from Idaho Falls fiddle around

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, Charlo Heights Clubhouse - Bluegrass jam (closed for summer, but will return the first Saturday of October!)
- ◆ KALISPELL - Red Lion Hotel, Kalispell Center Mall, every Friday 7 -10pm, contact Vicki Bodfish, 257-3935
- ◆ NORRIS HOT SPRINGS - Sunday evenings, 7-10pm, Thermalgrass, a bluegrass band including Tom Murphy, Quentin King and Ian Fleming(MRBA member)

President's Notes

What a time we had in Garrison, seems like we had folks from all over the U.S. of A there listening to the bluegrass music. We had excellent weather, fantastic scenery, pickin' 'till the wee hours, and yummy food. My idea of a good time.

We will be having a M.R.B.A. sponsored campout at a place you may know as "Forest Flats", during the weekend of Aug 3rd, 4th, & 5th. This is located off the Turah Exit along the Frontage Road. We will make sure the place is well marked, and do our best

to get everyone there. All M.R.B.A. members are invited, we will supply some sort of meats & eats for Saturday Nite, and prizes will be given away. As soon as we have all the details, we will post them, directions & all, on the website.

I need to thank Forest Clark for his effort in helping this happen, along with Debbie Kerns & Phyllis Erck for working thru the computer problems we've been having.

I am looking forward to seeing you all there. keep on pickin'.

Curtis

Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival

July 13,14,15, 2007

Cedar Hill

Buckhorn Mountain Boys, Cuzin Ray Bluegrass Band

New South Fork, Pinegrass

Prairie Flyer, Broken Valley Roadshow

At the Hamilton Fairgrounds!!!

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

First Annual Hi-Line Rendezvous

by Tim Whitney

The first annual Hi-Line Rendezvous was held at Zurich Park May 4, 5, and 6. The weather was beautiful, the turnout was great, and a good time was had by one and all. There were approximately 25 to 30 pickers that came and throughout the course of the weekend it was estimated that there were 75 to 100 people who came to listen, dance, and socialize. People came from Helena, Billings, and Glasgow as well as throughout Northcentral Montana.

Zurich Park is a perfect place to hold a weekend campout. It is located 10 miles east of Chinook about a mile north of US Highway 2. It is situated along a creek in a secluded coulee with plenty of big Cottonwood Trees for shade. The park has many places for campers, tents, etc to set up. It also has playground equipment for the kids, horseshoe pits, and a baseball field, etc. but what really makes it ideal is that there is a large building that can be used if the weather is bad. It is a really neat old stone building with a big fireplace built back in the 1930's by the WPA. Many family reunions, wedding receptions, etc. are held there. It's a



Good weather and great picking prevailed at Zurich Park!

very popular place. So, we picked outside during the day and moved inside and built a fire in the fireplace when the sun went down. The park has a full time caretaker and is very well kept.

The music varied from Bluegrass to Old Time Fiddle to Old Time Country, etc., so there was a little something for everybody. We were fortunate to have some of the talented people from Fort Belknap come and play some of their music (Old time fiddle...some

French/Canadian tunes, Metis tunes, etc.). There are some very, very talented musicians at Fort Belknap that many people are not aware of. We requested that people only bring acoustic stringed instruments...nope, there were no drums or accordions and folks only had to put up with three banjo players. ☺ The number of other pickers and fiddlers is too large to list indi-

vidually, but needless to say some great tunes were played by each and every one.

The weekend was a huge success, so we'll be making plans for a repeat.

Thanks go out to Steve Hughes and Sharon Pavlovick for coming up with the idea and getting the ball rolling.

Pasture Pickin' in Libby**August 12-18 5502 Pipe Creek Rd**

Bluegrass, Old Time, and Country music jams are welcome (non-electrified stringed instruments only please). Dry camping and spring water available for no charge. For more info contact Dale and Debbie Berg at 293-6608.

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) _____



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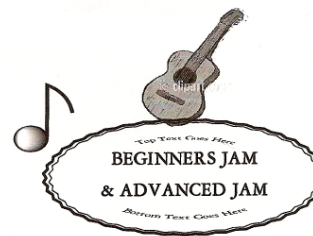
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Montana Bluegrass Band Makes Cross-Country Tour, Lives to tell the Tale

In the 11 days between May 28 and June 8 2007, Broken Valley Roadshow kicked off the summer bluegrass season by putting 12 states, 9 shows, and over 5,000 miles under our belt.

The first stop on our trip was a Memorial Day all girl set at the Jackson Hole Hootenanny (we would pick up the boys at Nashville Int'l Airport 3 days later). "The Ladies of Broken Valley Roadshow" were the featured act at the Hoot and we felt incredibly welcomed by the community there—the newspaper ran a very nice article about Angie(Dobro), Grace(fiddle), and I (guitar) and a large, responsive crowd showed up. The Hoot audience was so supportive that Angie took her first public Dobro solo at that show! That night Pete Sibley joined us on "Squirrel Hunters," playing clawhammer banjo and his wife, Anne, joined us on stage to help sing "Used to Be." Several folks told us not to bother picking up the boys in Nashville, that we should take our show on the road as an all-girl rig...but we couldn't do it without our bass, banjo, and mando men!!!

The next few days were a blur of interstate driving, interesting podcasts, and SCARY rainstorms. At



Martha Scanlan invited us onstage during her set at the Blue Plum Festival in Johnson City, Tennessee

one point, while caught in a severe thunderstorm in Kansas City, Grace said "this must be what it feels like for a person from Florida to be caught in a blizzard. I just don't know how to drive in weather like this!"

After our first night squeezing 7 people into one motel room, we headed to Johnson City, TN where we played at the wonderful Blue Plum Festival. Also on the bill that night were The Earl Brothers, Martha Scanlan, Casey Driessen, and Darrell Scott. We were so honored to be included in such a lineup! When we saw signs for "BobbyHicks Hi ghway," we started to get pretty nervous about whether our Montana version of bluegrass would be OK with the natives. But once I caught sight

of my parents (who had come from Georgia to see my band for the first time) checked in with Ellen Buchanan (who brought us to TN), and finally got on stage, those jitters disappeared. After playing our set, visiting with my parents, and having breakfast at Martha's house the next morning, all of us BVR folks set out on the road to Chattanooga feeling like we had been very warmly welcomed into the land where our music originated.

While Chattanooga and the next few shows on our trip weren't packed (we have a lot to learn about publicity!), we certainly made lots of friends and got to visit with some of our musical heroes. Betse Ellis from the Wilders hooked us up with 2 great shows in Kansas City and we got to visit with Nate G(Wilders bass man) there. Our next stop was Bradford Lee Folk(Open Road)'s bar in LaPorte, Colorado where he and Erin Youngberg (Hit&Run, Uncle Earl) joined us on stage for a couple of songs. After that show, when we got caught in a blizzard in Wyoming at 2am, Matt Cornette (BVR banjo) boosted everyone's morale by silently handing us each a strawberry and a slice of gourmet chocolate. We might not have made it to the next town if not for him! We played to a small but appreciative audience in Boise, and then let a sigh of relief when we arrived at our final destination, the Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival in Pasco, Washington and found our friends the Pandhandle Polecats from Idaho camped out right next to us. We sat quite still after driving 8-12 hours a day. Maybe we relaxed a little too much—SOMEone from our band locked all of our instruments, clothes, and KEYS in the van 20 minutes before our first set at Sacajawea! As if The Father of Bluegrass *Himself* was looking down on us from heaven, a company called "Monroe Locksmith" arrived and let us into our van *just* in time for us to get our instruments and play our set. Thanks Mr. Monroe!

-Caroline Keys



Giving Nate Biehl some "Roadshow Rage" at Sacajawea Festival in Pasco, Washington

July 2007

Bluegrass Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 John Cowan Band Myrna Loy Center Helena	3 The Acousticals Roundup Independence Days in	4 Wise River Mercantile Rattlesnake Gardens, Missoula	5 The Acousticals Taco Del Sol Reserve St, Missoula Head for the Hills Murray Bar, Livingston	6 Head for the Hills TopHat	7 Head for the Hills Machinery Row
8	9	10	11 Cedar Hill Cisel Recital Hall Billings	12	13 Bluegrass on the Bay Great Falls Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival Hamilton	14 Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival Hamilton
15 Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival Hamilton	16	17	18 Hot Buttered Rum Gallatin County Fair- grounds, Bozeman Green Mountain Grass Silver Dollar, Butte	19 Hot Buttered Rum The Otherside Missoula	20 Green Mountain Grass TopHat, Missoula Broken Valley Road- show Union Club, Missoula	21 Green Mountain Grass Flanagan's Whitefish
22 LeftoverBiscuits Art in the Park Kalis- pell Broken Valley Roadshow Raspberry Jam, Arlee	23	24	25	26 Flat Mountain Girls TopHat Missoula	27 Flat Mountain Girls Murray Bar Livingston	28 BabbFest Babb Flat Mountain Girls Filling Station Bozeman
29	30	31 Billy Pilgrims Murray Bar Livingston				

August 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Billy Pilgrims Live at 5 Concert Series Helena	2 The Acousticals Bitterroot Brewery Hamilton	3 Dusty Miller Hangin' Art Gallery, Arlee Billy Pilgrims Zebra Cocktail Lounge Bozeman MRBA Campout Turah	4 Leftover Biscuits Arts Festival, Bigfork Broken Valley Roadshow Mountain Jam, Libby Billy Pilgrims Badlander, Missoula Waybacks Sweet Pea, Bozeman MRBA Campout Turah
5 Billy Pilgrims Izaak's Craig, MT MRBA Campout Turah	6	7 Leftover Biscuits Depot Park Concert Series Kalispell	8 Billy Pilgrims Flanagan's Whitefish	9 Acousticals Taco del Sol Reserve St Missoula Whitewater Ramble Zebra Cocktail Lounge Bozeman	10 Bluewaters Bluegrass Festival Medical Lake Washington	11 Bluewaters Bluegrass Festival Medical Lake Washington
12 Leftover Biscuits Sitter Park Concert Series, Bigfork PASTURE PICKIN' BEGINS IN LIBBY	13 Whitewater Ramble TopHat Missoula Pasture Pickin', Libby	14 Larry Keel Flanagan's Whitefish Whitewater Ramble Charlie's Babb Pasture Pickin' Libby	15 Larry Keel Packway Handles Woodbox Gang Flanagan's Whitfish Pasture Pickin' Libby	16 Packway Handles Bandito's Virginia City Pasture Pickin Libby	17 Whiskey Puppy TopHat Missoula Pasture Pickin' Libby	18 Woodbox Gang AuroraFest Polebridge Whiskey Puppy Murray Bar, Livingston Pasture Pickin' Libby
19 Packway Handles Chico Hot Springs Pray, MT	20 Packway Handles The Filling Station Bozeman	21 Packway Handles Silver Dollar Butte	22 Packway Handles Bert & Ernie's Helena	23 Packway Handles Machinery Row Great Falls	24 Bannock County Bluegrass Festival Pocatello, Idaho	25Bannock County Bluegrass Festival Pocatello, Idaho
26 Bannock County Bluegrass Festival Pocatello, Idaho	27 Packway Handles Charlie's Babb	28	29	30	31	



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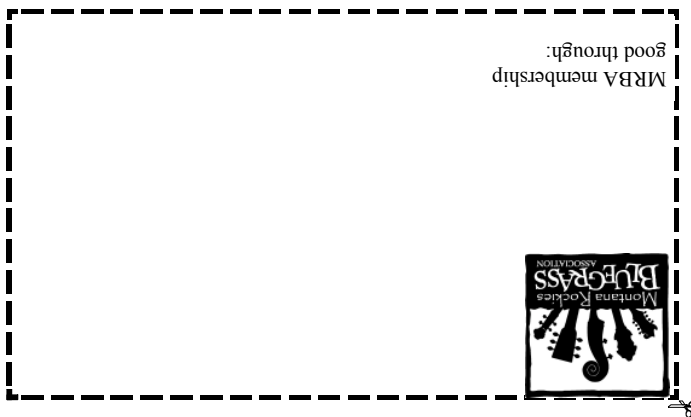
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