



# Bluegrassin'

Volume 9, Issue 5

September-October 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  
Highlights from the Annual MRBA Campout, Recurring Shows and Jams

Page 2  
President's notes, Gibbonsville Campout Information

Page 3  
Local picker's IBMA nomination, Steve Kaufman Workshop Info, Membership application

Page 4  
Bluegrass Cruise Report

Page 5  
Bluegrass Cruise con't, MRBA MySpace pages

Page 6  
September Bluegrass Calendar to hang on your refrigerator

Page 7  
October Bluegrass Calendar for your fridge

Page 8  
CD Reviews  
Page 9  
Kids in Bluegrass!



## Highlights from the MRBA Campout



The Mile Marker 124 wildfire kept Curtis and Forest on pins and needles all week wondering if they should cancel the party. Mother Nature was on our side and cleared out all of the smoke from the fire on Thursday night and kept her clear through Sunday. Forest arranged to have a big portable water tank located on site with 2500 gal of water to use if fire did come through. Luckily we didn't need to use it!

*Mayor Forest Clark presiding over the good people of "Forest Flats." Thank you for all your hard work, Forest!!!!*



*This was Rachael Wogsland's last jam before heading off to college. We'll miss you!!!*



*Mary Jane proves that grinning is just as important as picking!!!*

## 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**

Hiya, folks.....

Well we certainly had some weird weather at this year's M.R.B.A. campout. Seemed it rained, but only on Bill Molenda's camper. He didn't appreciate it as much as everyone else, but all kidding aside, we had a really great time, and we hope to make the first

weekend in August the time, and Donovan Field, or "Forrest Flats" will be the place, from now on. We hope to get more & more regular members to come.

I hope & pray your summer has been safe & enjoyable, and you've been spared of any ill effects of this fire season. Hope to see you soon.

Curtis

**Gibbonsville Campout 2007**

Just a reminder that the 13th annual (holy cow!) campout at the Broken Arrow is the **7th-8th-9th of September.**

THINGS TO DO: Check in with Dell Scott when you arrive, bring goodies for the ice cream social at 1pm on Sat, bring food for the potlucks Sat night and Sun morning, bring your instruments & jokes & laughter, come early and stay late!

Let me know if you have any questions (208-756-2766 or awolf411@hotmail.com) or contact the Broken Arrow at 208-865-2241. The smoke level is low - - probably better than the Bitterroot, no doubt! See you there!

**Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association**

PO Box 1220, Hamilton, MT 59840  
(406) 363-4055

Website: [www.mtbluegrass.com](http://www.mtbluegrass.com)

email: [mrba@mtbluegrass.com](mailto:mrba@mtbluegrass.com)

**President** – Curtis Rathburn

**Vice President** – Mike Conroy (406) 821-3777

[curtis.rathburn@erckhotels.com](mailto:curtis.rathburn@erckhotels.com)

[tariconroy@webtv.net](mailto:tariconroy@webtv.net)

**Secretary/Treasurer** – Debbie Kerns, (406) 363-4055 [cugina@in-tch.com](mailto:cugina@in-tch.com).

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

**Newsletter Editor** – Caroline Keys, [jymchaak@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Member Nominated for IBMA "Recorded Event of the Year"

Our own Mike Conroy's album, *The Old Spinning Wheel*, which he recorded with former Montanan Ivan Rosenberg, has been nominated by the International Bluegrass Music Association for the "Recorded Event of the Year" award. Conroy and Rosenberg join quite a distinguished list of nominees that includes Tony Rice, Tony Trischka, Rhonda Vincent, Bobby Osborne, Doyle Lawson, J.D. Crowe, Blue Highway, and Alison Krauss. The winner will be announced at the IBMA Music Awards Show on October 4. Keep your fingers crossed for Mike and Ivan!



*Ivan Rosenberg and Mike Conroy say  
"cheese" for their album cover*

### Guitar Workshop with Steve Kaufman

Steve Kaufman will be conducting his world-famous two-day-hands-on-all levels guitar workshop in Fort Benton on September 14-15. This 8-hour workshop costs only \$90 and there are a few spots still available. If you're interested, please contact Dee Lohse at 622-5812.

\*\*\* If the address label on your newsletter says 'We want you back, please renew with us,' your membership has expired. Please renew if you'd like to receive the November-December newsletter!\*\*\*

#### 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) \_\_\_\_\_



## Bluegrass Cruise 2007

By Tim Whitney

Last February my wife and I took the Bluegrass Cruise. I'm sure you have all seen it advertised. For those of you who have never taken it but have wondered about it, here are my thoughts on it.

The cruise is 7 days and 6 nights. We flew into Fort Lauderdale, which is where the cruise originates. We had never taken a cruise (or even been to Florida for that matter), so it was all a new experience for us. There were 7 bluegrass groups on board (The Cherryholmes Family, Marty Raybon and Full Circle, Audie Blaylock, Michael Cleveland and Red Line, Tim Graves and Cherokee, The Mark Newton Band, Lorraine Jordan and Carolina Road, and Chasing Steel). The groups played each evening that we were not in port. The shows lasted approximately 4 hours each eve-



*Marty Rabon, Phil Ledbetter, and Mark Newton tear it up on stage at the Bluegrass*

ning.

The ship was the Magica (Costa Cruise Lines). This is an Italian Cruise Line, so consequently there were a lot of people on board who didn't speak English. The ship

was nice....very nice rooms, etc. We stopped at San Juan, The Virgin Islands, The Dominican Republic, and The Grand Turks. It was nice being on warm sunny beaches in February!



*Cherryholmes goes casual when they're south of the border!*

We really enjoyed the evening shows. All of the performers were extremely cordial. Throughout the cruise if we ran into them anywhere on the ship they more than happy to sit and visit. Of course a cruise is a bit different than a festival....they had no where to go after the performances! ☺ Marty Raybon is a class act and a great guy. While most all of the groups were outstanding, to us Marty really stood out. He had the perfect blend of humor and musical talent. He's a true entertainer.

There were supposed to have been several workshops throughout the day, but that ended up being a hit or miss proposition. They left a bit to be desired. The workshops are something they need to work on. My biggest disappointment was the lack of jamming. I brought my guitar and banjo along, but jamming was almost nonexistent. I think I played twice the entire trip.

*Continued on page 5...*

Cost of the cruise was about \$1,200 per person plus the miscellaneous expenses during the trip and the plane fare to get there. Two people can plan on dropping about \$4,000 to \$4,500 when it's all said and done.



*Jamming on the boat: a rare scene indeed!*

So, was it worth it and would we do it again? Maybe. We really did have a great time overall. We do plan on taking another bluegrass cruise, but after visiting with other people and doing a little research our next cruise will be the Rhonda Vincent Cruise. From what I understand it's just a much better cruise overall. The jamming is pretty much nonstop. Probably the best part of the cruise was meeting some new people. We became good friends with some people from Tennessee and West Virginia. We are planning a trip next summer to visit them and they are making plans to visit Montana. ☐



## While You're on the World Wide Web...

Check out the exciting MySpace pages of MRBA member bands! On the pages you can listen to recordings of your pals, look at their photos, and perhaps read about their adventures in Bluegrass!

### Ramblin Rose

(Phyllis Erck & Curtis Rathburn) is at:

<http://www.myspace.com/ramblinrosebluegrass>

These folks keep a MIGHTY fine bluegrass picking blog complete with photos!

### New South Fork

is at:

<http://www.myspace.com/newsouthfork>  
You'll listen (for free!) to excellent tunes here!

### Wise River Mercantile

(Brian Herbel, Caroline Keys, and pals) is at:

<http://www.myspace.com/wiserivermercantile>

You might find a photo of yourself in the photo album here!

### Broken Valley Roadshow

is at:

<http://www.myspace.com/brokenvalleyroadshow>

Here you'll find frequently updated touring photos!

*Let us know if you or your band have a MySpace page that you'd like to share!*

# September 2007

## Bluegrass Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Asylum Street Spankers Caras Park, Missoula
2 The Wilders, Jawbone Railroad at Yellowstone Music Festival, Gardiner	3	4 Pinegrass TopHat, Missoula	5	6 The Acousticals Taco Del Sol Reserve St, Missoula	7 Conroy-Frank Coalition Pend Oreille Festival Cusick, Washington Gibbonsville Campout	8 Conroy-Frank Coalition Pend Oreille Festival Cusick, Washington Gibbonsville Campout
9 Conroy-Frank Coalition Pend Oreille Festival Cusick, Washington Gibbonsville Campout	10	11 Pinegrass TopHat, Missoula	12	13 The Mammals High Side Brews and Tunes, Livingston	14 Steve Kaufman Guitar Workshop, Fort Benton Leftover Biscuits - Music on Wings Bluegrass Festival, Miles City	15 Steve Kaufman Guitar Workshop, Fort Benton River City Roots Festival, Missoula Leftover Biscuits, Miles City
16 Broken Valley Roadshow, Hot Buttered Rum at River City Roots Festival	17	18 Pinegrass TopHat, Missoula	19	20	21 Iron Lasso Shadow's Keep Missoula	22
23	24	25 Pinegrass TopHat, Missoula	26	27 The Acousticals Bitterroot Brewery Hamilton	28 Iron Lasso Old Post, Missoula Trumble Creek Campout Columbia Falls	29 Trumble Creek Campout, Broken Valley Roadshow- Utica Pinegrass-Bitterroot Brew
30 Trumble Creek Campout Columbia Falls						

# October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	10	11	12 Broken Valley Road- show Union Club, Missoula	13 Whitewater Ramble Harvest Fest Idaho Falls
14	15	16Pent Near Sand- stone & Trampled By Turtles Filling Station Bozeman	17Pent Near Sand- stone & Trampled By Turtles The Otherside Missoula	18	19	20
21	22	23 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	24	25	26	27 The Acousticals Symes Hotsprings Hotsprings
28	29	30 Pinegrass TopHat Missoula	31			

### **Brenda Hanson** **Who's Foolin' Who** By Caroline Keys

This June saw Brenda Hanson celebrate the release of her first solo album. Hanson is a member of The Fletcher Girls, an inland northwest/northern rockies-based band comprised of 5 talented sisters who pick bluegrass, folk, and old-time music. Hanson's experience playing with her sisters proves to be a positive jump-off point for the songwriter and some of her sisters lend talents to the recording.

The album's production is quite sophisticated and many northwestern Montana players appear—Chad Fadely, Ivan Rosenberg, Richard Eich, and Timothy Hay to name a few. Hanson's songwriting style draws from her bluegrass background, but ultimately, she

stamps her work with a uniquely feminine sensibility that will bring listeners back for many helpings of Hanson's story-filled songs.



- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Who's Fooling Who | 12. Who Stole My Future                 |
| 2. Bottomline        | 13. Tell Me                             |
| 3. Sad Sad Lady      | 14. Emery's Ground                      |
| 4. Someone's Fool    | 15. Last Escape                         |
| 5. Life's Lullaby    | 16. Walt's Guitar                       |
| 6. Longing           | 17. Dixie                               |
| 7. Ghost             | 18. New Orleans                         |
| 8. Summer Rain       |   |
| 9. Ice               | All songs by Brenda Hanson except Dixie |
| 10. Come Back        |   |
| 11. My Heart Answers |   |

### **The Acousticals** **Glory Days** By Caroline Keys

If you live in Montana and like bluegrass, you have likely seen Chad Fadely, Richie Reinholt, or Ted Lowe play at some point. The three instrumental wizzes have played together as a group for about a year and have released one fine album that is made up mostly of guitarist Reinholt's original songs.

Each of the three performers (Fadely on mandolin, Reinholt on guitar, and Lowe holding down the bass) gives a solid performance—you'll find no empty space here. Reinholt's quirky lyrics and out-of-the-box chord progressions make this album interesting and refreshing for bluegrass fans in search of something a little different. The two cover

tunes on the album are pulled off exquisitely—Dylan or Young couldn't have done better!



1. I Dunno
2. Betty Lou
3. Lost in a Storm
4. Sunset
5. The High Life
6. Stray Raven
7. Insomnia
8. Life #2
9. Powder Finger (N. Young)
10. Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues (B. Dylan)
11. Voices in the Rain



## Kids in Bluegrass

By Arlene Wolf

Once again, the KIDS IN BLUEGRASS were the hit of the Hamilton Festival. Unbelievable talent is coming in mighty small packages these days! It does a person good to see all the young 'uns learning and playing bluegrass.

Tanner Errecart from Oregon played with grandpa Houston Rushing and sang with his velvet voice. Monique and Katie Vachon made their folks proud as they belted out bluegrass songs - - we can tell what they all do in Blanchard, Idaho. Jeremy Morris from Indiana (and wearing a Bean Blossom Festival shirt) got a good go on the banjo, and James Schlender of Bozeman flew through fiddle tunes like a young pro.

"Topside", consisting of Madison, Zach and Joram Top from Sunnyside, Washington, was a heck of a band. I realized I was standing there with my mouth open when nine year old Zach took a great break on "Blackberry Blossom". Jealous? Me? You bet!

The Bluegrass Stompers again entertained us with their fine brand of bluegrass

from the heart. Their recent encounter with Rhonda Vincent was wonderful for them, and I bet she was just as impressed with them as we all have been. This year's Stompers included Cortney, Tanner and Torri Christensen from Pocatello (Raynae Redman's grand-kids), Brandy Lynde from Missoula, Jesse and Sona Brown from Florence, Caleb Postal from Lolo, and Kade Roach from Grangeville, ID.



*It's NEVER too early to get 'em hooked on Bluegrass!*

Another highlight was the band competition, because Madison and Zach Top, Brandy Lynde, Caleb Postal, Jesse Brown and Cortney Christensen formed a band to compete. Guess what....you got it.....they won! It was great. They took home \$60 a piece. I'll never forget Zach Top singing "Orange Blossom Special" in that perfect tenor bluegrass voice. Everything they did was wonderful.

So be assured that bluegrass is alive and well in this part of the country, and my bet is that some of these youngsters are practicing as we speak. Er - - I gotta go now, time to learn that new pick - - -

Thanks for your support for this program and love to all !

\*\*\* If the address label on your newsletter says 'We want you back, please renew with us,' your membership has expired. Please renew if you'd like to receive the November-December newsletter!\*\*\*





**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*



*Adam Lowe from North Carolina sings at Bluegrass on the Bay in Great Falls*

### 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!**

**\$12.95\***  
PER MONTH

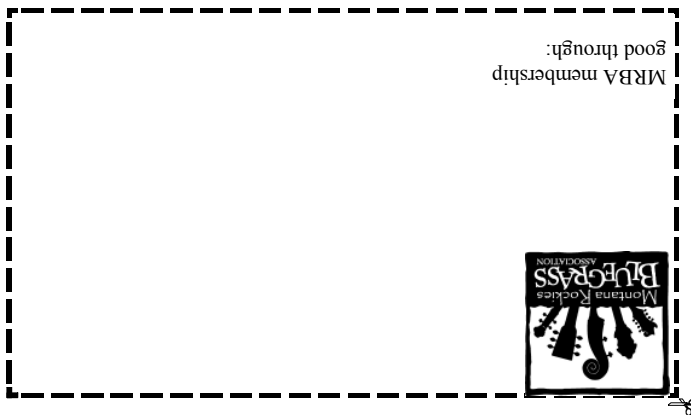
\* If paid by credit card - \$14.95 if not by paid by credit card.

**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



Hamilton, MT 59840

PO Box 1220,

