



Bluegrassin'

Volume 12, Issue 1

January-February 2010

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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Upcoming Bluegrass Events

January 9, 2010—MRBA Bluegrass Jam, Ruby's Inn, Missoula. Jamming starts at 2 pm and continues in the evening. Bring a potluck dish for supper at about 6 pm.

January 23, 2010—Deer Lodge Jam. See more information on page 7.

February 13, 2010—MRBA Bluegrass Jam, Ruby's Inn, Missoula. Jamming starts at 2 pm and continues in the evening. Bring a potluck dish for supper at about 6 pm.

February 25-28, 2010—Wintergrass, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Bellevue, WA. More information at www.acousticsound.org.

March 13, 2010—MRBA Bluegrass Jam, Ruby's Inn, Missoula. Jamming starts at 2 pm and continues in the evening. Bring a potluck dish for supper at about 6 pm.

April 17, 2010—MRBA Spring Festival. Stevensville School Multi-purpose Room. More information upcoming in the next issue.

July 23-25, 2010—Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival. See more information on page 7.

Musicians and Bands

The MRBA plans to sponsor three bluegrass shows from late January thru late March. Two show will be held in Missoula and one in the Bitterroot Valley. Two bands will perform at each show. If your band is interested in performing in one of these shows contact Ben Essary at bgessary@msn.com or call 406-777-7028.

Recurring Show and Jams

- ◆ MISSOULA – Tuesdays, Wheat Montana – Moozoola Opry 6pm 'til 8pm the Black Mountain Boys play. Admission is free, the band asks that you buy a sandwich or soup from the fine folks at Wheat Montana as you sit back and enjoy an evening of music.
- ◆ GREAT FALLS – 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Bert & Ernie's 300 1st Ave South) 7pm. Call 453-8003 for info.
- ◆ NORRIS HOT SPRINGS – Sunday evenings 7-10pm, Thermalgrass plays, The band includes Tom Murphy, Quentin King, and Ian Fleming

(If you know of corrections to the shows and jams or new events that need to be added contact the MRBA at mrba@mtbluegrass.com)

President's Corner

By Dallas Olson

By the time you receive this newsletter the Holiday Season will be behind us. I hope you had the opportunity to worship as you chose, spend some time with your family and friends, eat some good food and enjoy some bluegrass music.

The MRBA annual meeting was held on December 5th at Ruby's Inn in Missoula. The meeting minutes are posted later in this newsletter. I am pleased remain the president for the upcoming year. We elected two new members to the board of directors—Ken Benson and Greg Boyd. We look forward to their contributions in the coming year.

One of the topics covered at the meeting was the role of volunteers. None of the volunteers, officers or directors receive any compensation for the work they do to support the association. We need your help to keep the MRBA as a vital part of the Montana and Northwest bluegrass scene. Your contributions to the newsletter are very welcomed. Articles, pictures or simply a call to the editor to publicize an upcoming bluegrass event are appreciated. If you are a cartoonist, we would certainly appreciate bluegrass related cartoons. We also especially need help organizing and holding our events. The annual festival, which will be held April 17th this year, requires a lot of work and we can use volunteers in the kitchen, at the admissions table and at the merchandise and CD table. The MRBA picnic, which is held in August also, requires considerable effort. I ask that each of you look at how you can help the organization. You can email the MRBA at mrba@mtbluegrass.com or call me if you have something to offer.

As we look into the bluegrass new year, we have some exciting events coming soon and on the horizon. First up will be the association's January jam session. Monthly jam sessions will follow in both February and March. There are several more events covered in the newsletter. The association is working to put on three bluegrass shows. The details are being finalized as the newsletter goes to press. The shows will be publicized on the website and we will also be sending our emails as the dates and bands are know. More information is available later in the newsletter.

I also ask that you visit the MRBA website at www.mtbluegrass.com. Phyllis Erck has put together a website that is easy to use and an important part of the association's effort to preserve and promote bluegrass music. We welcome your input. It is easy to post information and photos and is an effective way to spread bluegrass news.

I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

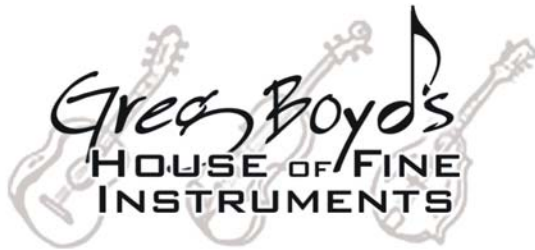
Dallas**Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association**

PO Box 1306, Missoula, MT 59806

(406) 549-2444

Website: www.mtbluegrass.com email: mrba@mtbluegrass.com**President** – Dallas Olson **Vice President** – Mike Conroy**Secretary/Treasurer** – Lois Maliekie, (406) 549-2444**Board Members**—Ken Benson, Greg Boyd, Tari Conroy, Ben Essary**Merchandise Manager**—Phyllis Erck**Newsletter Editor**—Ben Essary (406) 777-7028**MRBA Webmaster**—Phyllis Erck mrba@mtbluegrass.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



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Beverly Dodd



Beverly Dodd passed away on December 18th. Bev suffered from serious medical problems for several years. Despite these health issues she enjoyed life and lived it with great courage. James was a dedicated husband and caregiver for Bev. Our condolences go out to James, Brittany, their daughter, and all of her family. We will miss her. Beverly's services will be January 9th, 2 pm, at the Jubilee Christian Center on Highway 312, towards Shepard from Billings.

Decorative border of musical notes surrounding text: For Sale Martin D-42 Guitar \$3500 Kay Bass \$2500 Mike Conroy 406-821-3777

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) _____

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association
Minutes of 2009 Annual Meeting

The Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association annual meeting was held at Ruby's Inn and Convention Center in Missoula, Mt. on Dec. 5th 2009 with Dallas Olson, President presiding.

The agenda was given a once over by Dallas. The date of April 17th, 2010 has been set for our Stevensville Festival. It was announced that many helpers are needed for advertising, someone in each area to distribute flyers for the festival, help at the festival for kitchen, merchandise and admissions. So please pitch in and help.

Dallas stressed using business cards to promote the music association. They are available from Dallas or Lois.

Jan 9, Feb. 13, and Mar.13 are dates for jams in 2010 at Ruby's Inn. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Dallas suggested the MRBA back the Hardtimes Festival put on by the Conroys. It will be held July 23, 24, and 25.

Forrest Clark was thanked for the work at the campout in Clinton. (Forrest Flats).

New Merchandise has been added: more hats and CD's are now available. A bumper sticker was offered to each member, (one only free).

The minutes and Treasurer's report were given by Lois Jean Malikie Sec/Treas. with a beginning balance of \$2445.00. There was income of \$6243.00 and expenses of \$5409.81 leaving an ending balance of \$3278.19. In addition there is a credit card with \$135.32 remaining which was turned back by Lela Schafer from Merchandise after above figure was printed. A report of where the income came from and where it was spent was also presented by Lois. Breakdown of members both new and renewals was given. Minutes and financial report were approved for the year by members present.

Phyllis Erck described the Web site and told people how to use it. We can access pictures and articles about the MRBA at this site. Thanks were given to Phyllis for all her work.

Greg Boyd talked about the Fiddlers group and there was some discussion about having a roaming festival for the future. He thought we should encourage it. Ben and others said there was a big difference in style of music. No resolution was reached.

Suggestions were made for a couple of music night shows in the area. Ruby's offered the rooms for a show in ballroom or one of the smaller rooms if we wanted to do it. Greg suggested we bring in young players from local groups to do this. Ben will check into this further.

Changes were made to by laws and approved by the members as follows:

Article III section B: The association can be dissolved by the written vote of three fourths of the members attending a general membership meeting after they have received a 30 day notice of such.

Article III section C. All assets of the Association, at the time of dissolution, shall be given to the Idaho Sawtooth Bluegrass Association, (ISBA). Any property of the Association will first be offered for sale, by sealed bid, to the members of the Association. Proceeds from the sale of any property will be given to the ISBA. All of the above is in accordance with Montana Code sections 35-2-720 through 35-2-732.

The club needs a new merchandise manager as Lela Schafer has resigned her position.

Request was made for help for Forrest Clark at Forrest Flats Campout in Clinton.

Officers were elected as follows:

President: Dallas Olson
Vice President: Mike Conroy
Sec/Treas.: Lois Malikie
Board Members: Greg Boyd, Ken Benson, Tari Conroy and Ben Essary

Ben said he would like to have someone take over the newsletter and it was mentioned that Chad Fadley and Vicki Bodfish may be interested. Ben will check with them.

Meeting adjourned and followed by a pizza supper and jams.

Respectively submitted
Lois Jean Malikie, Sec/Treas.

MRBA Annual Meeting Photos



Lois Laying out the Finances

Phyllis Discussing the Website



Pizza Party Following the Meeting



Big Jam!!!



**Gary and Arlene
Old Friends**



**Wes and Caleb
Hot Pickers!**



Wild Bill



Elora Wolf and Tate Ellis
Elora has been on the bluegrass trail since she was a young'un!



**Jack and his well
used banjo!!**



Jeff and Emily



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Traditions



This Christmas I had the opportunity to play some bluegrass music with my grandchildren, Joe and Beth Wineke. Joe plays guitar, trumpet and french horn. He is a pretty hot picker on bluegrass breaks. Beth plays electric bass in her school's jazz band. She took to the double bass very easily. The guitar Joe is playing is a 1955 Martin D-18 that belonged to his great-great uncle Aubrey Cagle. Aubrey bought the guitar new in 1955. He and my Aunt Sue moved from Henderson County Tennessee to Indianapolis that same year. They left behind their sharecropper life and got jobs in factories in Indianapolis. Aubrey had a rockabilly band and was popular in the Indianapolis clubs for many years. He also made several records. He played this guitar for 49 years until he passed away in 2004. I inherited the guitar from Aubrey.

Ben Essary

A Note of Thanks

To all of our music family, Bill is doing great! He's back driving, and can read and write. It is always humbling to receive the tremendous message of love all of you have shared with us. We are a family! When our daughter lost her home, you were there for us, and again when Bill had his stroke. We can't thank you enough. It meant so much to us. You are the best people in the world. God bless you all, and keep you safe and warm for this Christmas season, as well as the year to come. Love to you all.

Bill, and Verna Molenda

Hard Times Bluegrass Festival

Start planning now and mark your calendars! The Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival is scheduled for July 23-24-25 and has a new website at www.hardtimesbluegrass.com. We look forward to a great lineup of bands and good downhome bluegrass music.

Deer Lodge Jam

The Deer Lodge Winter Jam will be January 23rd, 2010. The Jam will be held at the office across from the post office on Main Street. Parking is available behind the office in the alley. Rooms are available at Scharf's Motor Inn. For a reservation call 406-846-2810. The jam will start at 1:00 pm and go until we gitter done. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm for five dollars a plate. Breakfast at my house on Sunday at 10:00 am. For additional information call me at 406-498-6621. Lets Jam it Men!

Bill Anderson

MRBA Spring Festival

April 17th, 2010

Stevensville High School

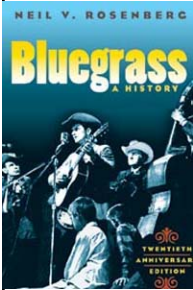
More information in the next newsletter

Bluegrass Books

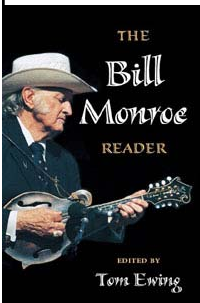
In case you need some downtime from pickin' here are some bluegrass books you might enjoy. The books are available from the International Bluegrass Museum at 1-888- my banjo or at <http://www.bluegrassmuseum.org/store/page6.html>.



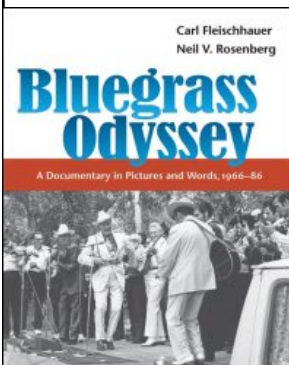
A complete guide to the world of the five-string banjo written for both beginners and more experienced players. Packed with over 120 how-to photos and 130 musical examples. 94 track CD included - hear and play along with every exercise and song. The only book to offer instruction in clawhammer, bluegrass, melodic, single-string, minstrel and classic styles. \$24.95 (Editors note: there are no Dummies books available for other bluegrass instruments.)



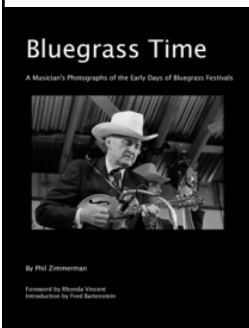
By: Neil V. Rosenberg. The 20th Anniversary paperback edition, updated with a new preface. Beginning with the musical cultures of the American South in the 1920s and 1930s, *Bluegrass: A History*, traces the genre through its pivotal developments during the era of Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys in the forties. It describes early bluegrass's role in postwar country music, its trials following the appearance of rock and roll, its embracing by the folk music revival, and the invention of bluegrass festivals in the mid-sixties. \$24.95



By: Tom Ewing This multi-faceted and richly illustrated reader, ranging from admirers to scholars from over sixty sources, traces the career of the "Father of Bluegrass Music" and will be welcomed as a fitting tribute to the musician who transformed a local musical style into a unique international music form. Soft-cover edition. \$22.98



A Documentary in Pictures and Words, 1966-86 Author: Carl Fleischhauer and Neil V. Rosenberg. The music and culture of bluegrass as revealed through striking photographs and commentary. Many of the photos in *Bluegrass Odyssey* are featured in The International Bluegrass Music Museum! \$24.95



By: Phil Zimmerman. Autographed copies available while supplies last! *Bluegrass Time: A Musician's Photographs of the Early Days of Bluegrass Festivals*. Featuring photographs taken between 1972 and 1984, the book documents the passing of the torch from the first generation pioneers of bluegrass to their successors, who include some of today's top performers. \$25.00



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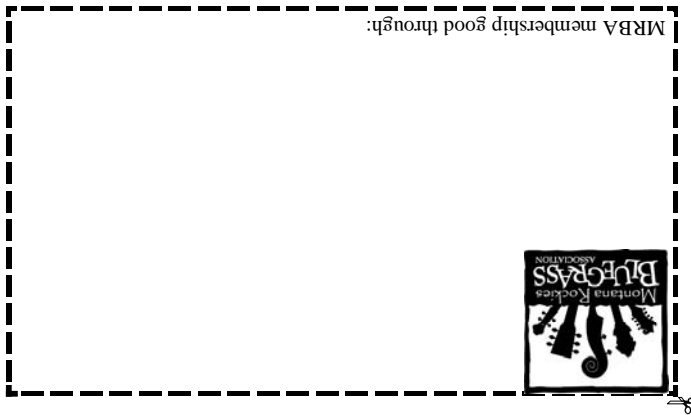
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ATTENTION:

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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