



Bluegrassin'

Volume 12, Issue 6

November—December 2012

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

November 17—The Trapline Band, Quickees, Whitefish, 7:00 pm

November 29—Special Consensus, Ronan Performing Arts Center, 7:30 pm
Tickets (800)823-4386

Dec. 1 - Porter Creek, Haskill Station, Whitefish, 6:30 pm.

December 8 - MRBA Annual Meeting & Holiday Party. Ruby's Inn in Missoula.
(More Details inside)

December 29 - Leftover Bisquits, Haskill Station, Whitefish, MT, 59937

Mark your calendars for Winter Jam Series !

Sat, Jan 12, Feb. 9, March 9 - 2:00 pm – 1:00 am: *Ruby's Winter Jam Series*, Open Jam and potluck 2nd Saturday's Jan-March. Pickin' and grinnin' starts at 1pm – potluck at 5:30 or 6 followed by more pickin' and grinnin'.

Recurring Shows 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.
- ◆ **COLUMBIA FALLS** - First Wednesday of every month. Open acoustic jam at Tea-kettle Building. 7:00 pm—9:00 pm. Call Fred for more info at 406-250-1739.
- ◆ **MISSOULA**— Open Jam. Monday, 6:00pm—8:00 pm. Missoula Manor—Carrousel Room.
- ◆ **Missoula** - Pickin Circle. Tangled Tones Studio. 2005 South ave., West. - Thursdays—7:00 pm to 10:00 pm . (406-396-3352)
- ◆ **Livingston** - Open Jam. Pine Creek Café. Thursday—8:30—10:30 pm. www.pinecreeklodgemontana.com (406)222-3628

If you know of corrections to the shows and jams or new events that need to be added, send an e-mail to: kate@appcom.net

Bluegrass by the Numbers

(From www.ibma.org)

FACTS ABOUT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATIONS :

Active regional/local bluegrass organizations: 158

Average number of members reported: 573

Publish Newsletters: 103

Host Concerts/Festivals: 132

STATS ABOUT BLUEGRASS FANS

- 51% male / 49% female
- 56% between the ages of 25-54
- 30% have a minimum of a college degree
- 76% earn more than \$30,000 per year
- 61% are married
- 4.26% of bluegrass consumers have a Spanish/Hispanic or Latino origin
- 77% listen to music for entertainment - *#1 Leisure Activity*
- 18% play a musical instrument
- 36% have attended a live show in the last year

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 Maliek, (406) 549-2444

Board Members - Ken Benson, Greg Boyd, Tari Conroy, Ben Essary

Merchandise Manager - Phyllis Erck

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Montana Rockies Bluegrass

Wanted

Door Prizes

Please consider donating a door prize for the MRBA Annual Meeting and Holiday party.

The prize can be something musical or something humorous.

Christmas themed doodads or holiday goodies would also make great prizes.

We will have a drawing right after dinner.

THANKS!

Kate McMahon



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Got Something to sell? Advertise in *Bluegrassin'*

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

**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) _____



MRBA Annual Meeting



Saturday, December 3rd
Ruby's Inn, 4825 North Reserve Street, Missoula, MT

The MRBA annual meeting will be held on Saturday, December 8, 2011 at Ruby's Inn. The meeting will start at 2 p.m. Dinner will follow between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Jams will be held before and after dinner.

This is your opportunity to get up to date information on the activities of the MRBA and to help chart its future course. As in past years officers and directors will be elected for the upcoming year. All positions will be up for election. Please consider what you can do to help the MRBA remain an active part of the Montana/Northwest bluegrass scene.

Regarding dinner, the association will provide the meat course for the meal. We ask that others bring potluck side dishes and deserts. In order to plan for the meal, please email:

kmcmahon406@gmail.com

no later than Dec. 5 if you plan to attend the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

*Ellie
Nuño*

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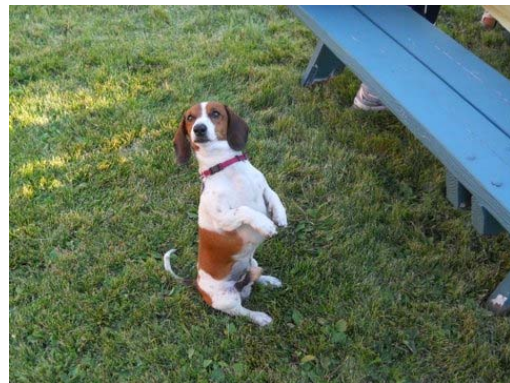
Trumble Creek Campout



More Bluegrass Dogs



Artie
(Travels with Carol)



Shadow
(Hangs out with Bob)

2012 INTERNATIONAL BLUEGRASS MUSIC AWARDS

Hall of Fame Inductees for 2012

Doyle Lawson
Ralph Rinzler

Entertainer of the Year

The Gibson Brothers

Vocal Group of the Year

Blue Highway

Instrumental Group of the Year

The Boxcars

Male Vocalist of the Year

Russell Moore

Female Vocalist of the Year

Dale Ann Bradley

Emerging Artist of the Year

Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers

Album of the Year

Heart Of A Song, Junior Sisk & Ramblers Choice

Instrumental Recorded Performance of the Year

"Angeline The Baker" by Lonesome River Band

Gospel Recorded Performance of the Year

"Singing As We Rise" by the Gibson Brothers with Ricky Skaggs

Song of the Year

"A Far Cry From Lester & Earl" by Junior Sisk & Ramblers Choice

Recorded Event of the Year

"Life Goes On" by Carl Jackson, Ronnie Bowman, Larry Cordle, Jerry Salley, Rickey Wasson, Randy Kohrs, D.A. Adkins, Garnet Bowman, Lynn Butler, Ashley Kohrs, Gary Payne, Dale Pyatt, Clay Hess, Alan Bibey, Jay Weaver, Ron Stewart & Jim VanCleve (artists); Jerry Salley, Carl Jackson, Larry Cordle, Jim VanCleve & Randy Kohrs (producers); Rural Rhythm Records

MEET THE ARTISTS

Doyle Lawson

Doyle Lawson was born April 20, 1944, in Fordtown, Tenn., near the city of Kingsport. His father sang in a gospel quartet, and he was attracted to both gospel and bluegrass music as a child. By the time he reached his teens, he could play mandolin, banjo and guitar, but captivated by Bill Monroe's playing, he specialized in the former. He began his professional career in 1963, playing banjo with Jimmy Martin's Sunny Mountain Boys. In 1966, he began an association with J.D. Crowe, first playing guitar but soon moving to mandolin. He joined the Country Gentlemen in 1971 and remained a member until 1979. During this time, he toured in Japan and Europe, recorded 10 albums with the group and also recorded a solo mandolin instrumental album.

In 1979, Lawson left the Country Gentlemen and formed his own group, Quicksilver, which initially comprised Lawson, Terry Baucom (banjo), Jimmy Haley (guitar) and Lou Reid (bass). Over the years, there have been several changes of personnel, and some have called Quicksilver "the farm team of bluegrass." Alumni have gone on to play for IIIrd Tyme Out, Mountain Heart, Continental Divide and Ricky Skaggs' band Kentucky Thunder.

The Gibson Brothers

For Eric (b. 1970) and Leigh (b. 1971), their talent was developed as youngsters on an upstate New York dairy farm. "There's not a lot to do up here," Eric laughs. "Playing baseball and playing music were pretty much it. I got interested in the banjo -- I heard Earl Scruggs on the Flatt & Scruggs *At Carnegie Hall* album -- and started taking lessons at a local music store. Leigh was playing guitar, so I was the one that kind of drove us toward bluegrass." The two began playing together in 1983.

By 1994, they had hooked up with Mike Barber on bass, and his dobro-playing dad, Junior, and recorded their first album, *Underneath a Harvest Moon*. Serving notice that the sibling harmonies of predecessors like the Louvin Brothers and the Everly Brothers were being carried forward by a new generation, the CD earned them a 1995 showcase appearance at the International Bluegrass Music Association's annual World of Bluegrass and, in short order, a contract with Virginia's Hay Holler Records. 1998 was a triumphant year for the brothers, as *Another Night of Waiting* took off (it eventually spent close to a year on *Bluegrass Unlimited's* airplay-based chart) and they earned the IBMA's emerging artist of the year award. The future looked bright for the duo, and they capped off the year by signing with Ricky Skaggs' Ceili Music but eventually found a label home on Sugar Hill Records.

(Source: <http://www.cmt.com/>)

Hardtime Festival—Bluegrass At It's Best

Arlene Wolf

In the heart of the Bitterroot Mountains of Montana is a bluegrass gathering like no other. It's the Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival, ten miles south of Hamilton, tucked up in the ponderosa pine forest the fourth weekend in July. The setting, on the Heiland-Thomas ranch, offers a perfect open spot in which a stage, built to look like a porch, has been built. There are buckets of wildflowers and dill, a home-style atmosphere, and a sign on the front of the porch that says, "What happens on the porch stays on the porch." On the backside of the porch is a sign that says, "Bitterroot Valley – Poverty with a View". On this porch pass the most accomplished bluegrass musicians in the northern Rockies and Pacific NW.

So what sounds unusual so far? Could be 100 festivals, right? Well, there are a couple of other things happening. It's not just the red long johns and aprons on the clothesline off the porch, or the 1931 Model A car and 1930 Model A truck to the right and left of the stage. It's not just that campers are jammed in close to make room for more friends. It's not just the *Burma Shave* style signs that line the entry and exit routes. In a time of hype in so many things, including music and entertainment, organizers Mike and Tari Conroy of Conner, Montana, have hit the nail on the head on how to do it right, bluegrass style.

Admission is \$10 for the entire weekend. Music is on stage Friday from 6pm – 10pm, Saturday from noon to 10pm and Sunday from 10am-3pm. It also costs \$10 to camp....for the entire weekend. It's another example of Mike Conroy's wry wit listed at the bottom of the entrance sign that says, "'Nuff said". The festival is, after all, named Hardtimes.

It began four years ago as the brainchild of the Conroys. A local popular bluegrass festival ended and a void was created. This down-to-earth Montana couple are also phenomenal musicians with a lifestyle revolving around bluegrass. It was a natural progression for them to develop a festival reflecting the hard times folks were going through. They connected with Tom and Janice Heiland, and Pat and Mary Thomas, who, with side-by-side ranches, provided the perfect location for the festival.

This year's festival attracted over 1200 spectators on Saturday alone, and included 47 musicians in 10 bands. There is always special fun, too. "Kids in Bluegrass" features youngsters who are learning to play. "Pioneers in Northwest Bluegrass" is another special feature, and honors folk who have had a long-time passion for bluegrass and who have shared it with others for many years. Both are heart-warming and at the core of the music. And then there are the Darby Sireens, an all-female group that can almost break the barriers of bluegrass music and fun. Landowner Mary Thomas plays with the Sireens and works hard to keep her washboard in tune.

It's all about the music, and Mike and Tari keep it at that level. Musicians are paid per time on stage, and bands and band members are equal. It's simple. It works. All bands are more than glad to play. It's not the pay that gets them here, even though they are welcome to sell their band CD's, too. It's not even the high quality one microphone system that is easy and fun to use. It might be the great jamming, though, that happens all hours of the day or night. The drive to get to Hardtimes is the desire to get to a gathering of people and musicians who like to share time and music with other bluegrass musicians. It's simple. Simple is good and honest.

The festival rules are simple, too. No open fires. There is a designated smoking area. No alcohol, please. Please, pets on a leash. Please pick up after yourself and remember to gather all your belongings when you leave. But the most important rule of all is to enjoy the music and to have fun.

The bluegrass community is an extended family. Friendships go back years, families grow up together, and there are births and deaths. Other than gospel music on Sunday morning (anyone can sign up for two songs), nobody talks religion or politics. Bluegrassers joke that campouts are like family reunions - - except that you like everybody.

The respect goes deep, too. There's no trash. People are respectful, even when they are hot from the July sun. Folks are helpful, and will give a hand to anyone who needs something, whether it is help parking a camper, setting up a tent, or learning a new chord progression. It's a "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" kind of place.

Yep, the Conroy's have struck a chord, so to speak, one that ties together the best parts of the bluegrass world and humanity in general. Bluegrass is "made in America", and it brings together the best of the really important stuff, the good stuff. Some would say this festival rivals big festivals back east or out on the west coast. Don't think so. It surpasses them, and gets to the heart of the matter, the real heart, the struggles of people and shared empathies.

The Hardtimes Festival is an example of the best of the best, of how to integrate real life and real fun, and how to touch the heart and soul of all of us. It represents the ties that bind. Some would say it has great karma, others would say it is blessed; everyone agrees it is all about the music....and more. Whatever you think, just don't miss out - join the fun at the Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival the fourth weekend in July 2013. Check out www.hardtimesbluegrass.com for more info. See you there!!



GREENBACK DOLLAR

Per a reader's request, below are the music and lyrics for Greenback Dollar.

Once, I loved a fair young maid-en And she
 thought th world of me Till an - oth - er man per -
 suad - ed Her to care no more for me I don't
 want your green-back dol-lar I don't want your watch and
 chain All I want is your heart dar-ling Say, you'll
 take me back a - gain

VERSE 2

Many an hour with you I've rambled
 Down beside th deep blue sea
 In your heart, you love another
 In my grave I'd rather be
 Mamma said, we can never marry
 Papa said, that could do
 But if you ever learn to love me
 I will run away with you

VERSE 3

I was born, in East Virginia
 South Carolina, I did go
 And I learned to love a maiden
 But her age, I did not know
 I don't want your greenback dollar
 I don't want your watch and chain
 All I want is your heart darlin'



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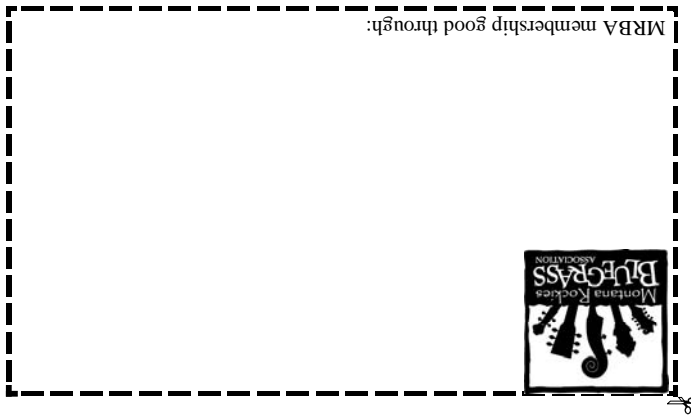
6 meeting rooms

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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.



PO Box 1306,
Missoula, MT 59806

