



Bluegrassin'

Volume 16, Issue 6

Nov.—Dec. 2014

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
Black Mountain Boys	4
MRBA Annual Party	5
20 Years of Gibbonsville	6
IBMA World of Bluegrass	8
IBMA Awards	10
Trumble Creek Photos	11

Upcoming Bluegrass Events

Nov. 13—Porter Creek, Top Hat, Missoula 6:00 pm

Nov. 15—Pinegrass, Bitterroot Brewery, Hamilton, 6:00 pm

Nov. 21—Two Bits Frank—Lincoln County High School—Eureka, MT.
Call 406-297-0197 for more info.

Nov. 27—HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Dec. 5— Pinegrass, Top Hat, Missoula 6:00 pm

Dec. 13— Montana Rockies Bluegrass Assoc.—Holiday Party—Missoula
(See details on pg. 5)

Dec. 15—Acousticals, Red Bird, Missoula, 7:00 pm

Dec. 25th—MERRY CHRISTMAS

SAVE THE DATE

Ruby Winter Jam Sessions—2nd Saturday of Jan., Feb. & March.
Details in next newsletter.

Recurring Shows and Jams

- ◆ **Missoula** - Pickin Circle. Tangled Tones Studio. 2005 South Ave., West. - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays—6:00 pm to 9:00 pm . (406-396-3352)
- ◆ **Missoula**—Open Jam. Top Hat. Tuesdays. 7:00 pm
- ◆ **Livingston** - Open Jam. Pine Creek Café. Thursday—8:30—10:30 pm.
www.pinecreeklodgemontana.com (406)222-3628

Send corrections or addition to: the_kate@appcom.net

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 McMahan

Thanks Arlene for 20-years of the Gibbonsville Bluegrass Campout!



Arlene Wolf , daughter Elora and her friend Katy getting ready for the ice cream social at Gibbonsville .



Like us on Facebook!

The MRBA Facebook page has 571 “Likes”. That is 100 more than last year at this time. According to Facebook, the biggest group of followers are from ages 55 to 64. The MRBA Facebook page is a great way to stay connected to people in the Montana bluegrass community and to stay updated on bluegrass happenings.

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

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Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

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Get MRBA Newsletter by E-Mail
If you would like to get your newsletter delivered electronically via e-mail send a message to:

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(P.S.—It will help keep down printing & mailing cost for the association)

**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) _____

Do you want the newsletter delivered electronically? YES NO

You can e-mail your membership form to: **mccauley_kemo@hotmail.com**

Black Mountain Boys Play Final Show

The Black Mountain Boys played our final show at Wheat Montana last night.

Last week, the store's new owners made the decision to discontinue the long running Tuesday night bluegrass show for the time being. The band wishes the new owners of Wheat Montana success in their new venture.

We want to thank former owner Kathy Finneman for all her support over the years. Kathy started the Tuesday night bluegrass show the week after its grand opening of the 3rd and Reserve street store nine years ago. It has continued nearly every Tuesday night since then.

Also, thanks to all the long list of local bluegrass musicians who played at Wheat Montana either as members of the band or coming by to fill in when needed.

A big thanks to the Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association for sponsoring and promoting the show!

Finally, thanks to our loyal fans came out to our live shows and kept this gig running for over nine years! In today's world that kind of longevity is a rare and special thing, and you are all a special bunch!

Stay tuned to our Facebook page. We'll be posting the next chapter of the Black Mountain Boys story here as it unfolds.

Best Wishes and Thanks from the Black Mountain Boys!

MRBA Recipe Book

How many times have you attending a potluck at Rudy's or at a camp out and gone away thinking "Wow I'm still hungry" or "I didn't see anything I wanted to eat"? I'm guessing NEVER! It is more likely that you were thinking "I going to have to get that recipe". Wouldn't it be fun to have a recipe book of favorite recipes of the MRBA? Lois and John Maliek have already submitted some of their favorites.



Please, send any of your favorites to Susan McCauley at suz10251952@gmail.com. We hope to have the recipe book available to purchase by the Holidays.



MRBA Annual Meeting



Saturday, December 13th
Ruby's Inn, 4825 North Reserve Street, Missoula, MT

The MRBA annual meeting will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2014 at Ruby's Inn. The meeting will start at 2 p.m. Dinner will follow at 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:

mccauley_kemo@hotmail.com

no later than Dec. 10 if you plan to attend the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

(P.S.—Please consider donating a door prize for the raffle. See the wanted notice on page 2.)

Ellie Nuño



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Twenty Years of the Gibbonsville Bluegrass Campout!

By: Arlene Wolf

It's hard to believe that it's been 20 years since Nancy Ady, Bill Roper and Rosemarie Ramey came up with the idea of a Gibbonsville bluegrass campout. Nancy, Bill, Arlene Wolf, and Ted and Bev Kirkpatrick would often travel from Salmon to play at Ramey's Broken Arrow Restaurant where they would play for tips and a free meal of great Mexican food. It seemed a perfect combo: a restaurant with great food, cabins to rent, an RV and tent campground, just 14 miles from the top of Lost Trail Pass, and in a gorgeous ponderosa pine forest. So, weekend after Labor Day, 1995, a wonderful new campout was born.

We've never had any dull moments at Gibbonsville. It's cooler and at a higher elevation, and frost (or snow) is common in the mornings. There has always been the campfire to go to, except a year or two when it was too dry to have one. Just two years ago the National Guard woke us Sunday morning to tell us we had to evacuate by noon due to the fires. No problem – we had our Sunday breakfast potluck, played a few gospel tunes, and headed out like good little campers. Can't rattle pickers. In 2000, the year of the terrible fires, we were afraid we'd have to cancel the campout. But the rain arrived just a few days before, and we all felt that huge relief and the jamming was great.

On Saturday morning we gather at the fire or in the restaurant, which is open for coffee and breakfast for just us pickers. The campfire is also the gathering point for the Saturday night potluck and the Sunday morning breakfast potluck. We spend hours and hours taking turns and playing in the restaurant. The place is hopping all weekend. Lots of people just come out to listen. Folks like Mike and Tari Conroy, who bring a wall tent every year, are appreciated for their efforts at keeping pickers warm and dry and keeping the music alive.



Another tradition started almost 10 years ago is the ice cream social at 1pm on Saturday. Man oh man, we've had some great toppings and homemade syrups and nuts and fruits and.....and.....well, you get the picture. It is a way popular event. By all accounts, bluegrassers like vanilla ice cream to chocolate about two to one, and everyone loves huckleberry syrup. One year it was so cold that everyone got their ice cream dished up and hurried to the campfire to huddle up and eat the cold goodies. But we never have many leftovers....or complaints!

There have been some of the very best bluegrass memories made here. One year Rick and Gloria Anderson got married by the mayor of Salmon under the big pine at the front of the restaurant. Full moons have always brought out the stamina in the pickers, and those years are full of memories of wall tents resonating with sweet music until early morning. Sometimes it was like walking around and listening to a 5 CD player. One thing has never changed; there has always been unbelievably great music.

Never lacking local talent, we had Cowboy Poetry several years on Sunday morning led by Verna Molenda. She's got some great poems! We also had local cloggers come out (including Arlene and her kids Elias and Elora) for several years and dance to live bluegrass music on the wooden patio at the Broken Arrow on Saturday afternoon. It was fun to coordinate the beat of the dance song to the beat of the bluegrass song. The dancers weren't affected by the change of melody, and they liked the strong beats of the bluegrass. So fun to watch!

So many years have been special. On what would have been Bill Monroe's 100th birthday, we had trivia questions all weekend about The Man. Winners got a highly coveted pinecone and guitar string award. On his 40th birthday, Bill Anderson's big family threw him a surprise party at Gibbonsville. Bill and pals were off golfing Saturday morning in Salmon when his coordinated family arrived and crammed into a wall tent. Charlene worked hard to get him to go into the tent without being too suspicious. Of course she succeeded, and his reactions were great! Man, what a party weekend that was! Another year we had LOTS and LOTS of ground bees. Glad that has only happened once!

Jammin at Gibbonsville

There are many tender memories, too. Remember Clay Lewis? "Clay the Miner" was a wonderful man from Lincoln, MT who died of burns, but lived to be 80+ with a rich, full life. He is still missed, and his picture still hangs in the café. Of course, there is Marion Moore, father of Gary and Steve. He and wife Mary never missed Gibbonsville until the last couple of years. Important bluegrass and old-time fiddle family members like the Moore's have influenced countless pickers. There will always be a hole around the campfire where their RV should be. We'll always miss Leon Farnsworth and his little guitar, and Cowboy "Chuck" Charlie Cairns and his piercing blue eyes and great songs. And we can't ever forget those other Gibbonsville folk who have joined the bluegrass circle in the sky: Judy Paul, John Swigert, Jerry Swafford, Suzanne Knauer, Darlene Clark, Beverly Dodds, Char Steele, Olin & Merle Curtis, Rex Bovee, Walter Cunningham, Ken Wages, Chuck Rafferty, Bob Stewart and Beverly Kirkpatrick.



Twenty years. The Broken Arrow Café song was written when Rosemarie's triplet grandbabies were born, and they now have graduated from high school with honors. Elora was in diapers that first Gibbonsville and Elias was a 5 year-old wild man; he's now joined the pickin' circle. We were **all** taller than the Silcher boys, and Chad Fadely was a teenager learning the mandolin. Most of us now have a few more wrinkles, a few more pounds, less hair or grey hair, and a few more stories to tell. Twenty years is longer than most marriages lastoh wait, that is *Pinegrass's* byline (thanks, guys). But it really means that if something is good, it will continue to last, to be sustainable. Gibbonsville has done that. "In the shadow of the pines, at the bend of the road. Come on in, sit right down and ease your weary load". As soon as you unwrap your calendars on Christmas morning, mark them for the Gibbonsville campout. See you the weekend after Labor Day 2016 at the Broken Arrow! Let the fun continue!!



Going thru the line.

Vince eating his ice cream



IBMA 2014

By Raynae Redman

Raleigh, North Carolina bound for the 2014 IBMA, and my mind is racing from tune to tune, singing them in my mind, mandolin breaks I'd take and waiting for Sunday, my departure day. This was my life the week before I got to fly out for this year's IBMA.

Last year this huge International Bluegrass conference, the grand daddy of them all, was moved from Nashville to Raleigh, NC. I'd missed getting to go last year, (you see my trip got taken for "granite", countertops that is,) so I was really excited and ready to go this year. Finally Sunday arrived!

I decided to only take my mandolin due to the airlines and how horrible they can be trying to fly with your instruments. I took the red eye flight so that I could arrive there early Monday morning rather than late Monday night. I wasn't going to miss a single minute of jamming.

Upon landing at the airport I had to figure out a way to get myself to the conference site which was located at the Marriott Convention Center in downtown Raleigh. I've learned from experience to ask for help at the airport desk. This paid off very nicely. I had options of \$40, \$28 or 2.25 if I took a city bus which was direct and stopped just 4 blocks from my destination. Of course you know which option I took. Within 20 minutes we had arrived, so here I was ready to hit the pavement running, or I should say rolling my suitcase along. As I started walking, directions gotten, I met a fellow mandolin player who had been on my same bus, so we walked to the convention together. He was from Australia and his band, The Davidson Brothers, was picked to showcase there during the week. We visited and walked along and within moments there I was, the convention site in all its glory was right in front of me. A huge statue of Sir Walter Raleigh standing there with Deering banjo necks all around him, encasing the statue like a frame to welcome us all.

I found fellow acquaintances from California having lunch on the open sidewalk. They recognized me with my trademark Open Road Stetson, and I joined them for lunch. This is how my IBMA began. The sun was shining and it was a perfect temperature for what promised to be a super week. Shortly thereafter the booth was open for us to pick up our name tag lanyards so after doing some scouting in the big convention center finding where that was, I had my ticket around my neck. All day long more and more people were arriving and I was finding more and more of my friends from all over the United States trickling in. It was a glorious reunion for all of us.

Evening came and the jamming began. It was so amazing and awesome; jamming everywhere and the fun spirit of our week ahead of us was just bringing out the best music imaginable everywhere you turned. I totally lost track of the time and played until 5AM. There were still plenty of people playing when I decided to turn it in too.

After a short 4 hours of sleep, Tuesday morning classes began and the conference was off in full swing. They had workshops for each instrument, and several times throughout the week different people would teach them so you could take mandolin lessons from Mike Compton and later in the week from someone else if you wanted different styles. They had all kinds of classes a person could take from the business side of the music to learning all kinds of things that would help you in your music. I took a vocal harmony workshop, and went to panel discussions on all sorts of different things. Each two hour time slot they offered about eight or ten choices that a person could choose from. It was hard to decide which class you wanted to attend.



Then in the afternoon they had the keynote speaker who was Bela Fleck and they fed us a nice luncheon with that. Throughout the week we got treated to three different luncheons or snack buffets. Wednesday evening I had been jamming in the California Bluegrass Associations Suite and when I left there at 2:30 AM here in front of the elevators at a lobby was Chris Henry jamming with some of his band. I'm acquainted with Chris and so he asked me to join them in the jam. We had Chris, me, Kayla Hotte from Canada and his bass player. It was amazing to be jamming with the pros and I actually felt like I was keeping up too. The following day they had a real fun exhibition hall to walk through and see all the products, and try out instruments, get free candy...hmmm, it was great fun taste testing and browsing. Along with this there were more classes and they even showed bluegrass films a person could go see.

Thursday evening was the awards show and that's when you dress up a little nicer and get to go to a fancy auditorium, an easy half block walk, to see all the bluegrass greats nominated for awards, and see if who you voted for wins. They do it just like the CMA awards you see on TV so it's pretty fun to get attend something like this for our genre of music. All week long a person rubs shoulders with the stars. The night of the awards show you see them all dressed up real fancy. Before the show starts they ask us all to clap and carry on for them to record our clapping to use as a track throughout the evening as nominees are announced. This is just to add to the clapping we already do to make it a fuller sound. (That's a little known tidbit of what happens the behind the scenes.)

Later that night the excitement was high as everyone was jamming at full speed ahead. I found my friend Greg Cahill, along with my Australian bus friend and his brother. They were jamming in a nook so I joined them. The TV news came and filmed us and later my friend found the clip of it on the Internet. It was great!

Friday the conference starts a new leg of activities for IBMA week and the business conference part is over with at that point. Since moving to Raleigh, IBMA re-named this weekend part to be called Wide Open Bluegrass instead of Fanfest. IBMA and the city of Raleigh came up with the idea to do an outside street fair along with the main huge outdoor stage, where they bring in all the big acts to perform. So this was a really amazing thing that no one could believe unless you saw it. They had five blocks closed off to traffic and street vendors lined up on both sides of the street all the way down, plus a block on each of the intersecting streets with stages set up on them. A total of around ten stages and bands playing every hour at each one, and they gave us a schedule so that a person could see who they wanted to see. This Wide Open Bluegrass was open to the public to attend for free. However at the huge stage, The Red Hat Amphitheater, a person had to have tickets or your conference pass to get into that. They brought in the big named bands for playing there, Del McCoury, Ricky Skaggs, The Lonesome River band etc. It was really a festive way to close out the conference. I even bought me a super cool leaded glass banjo necklace.

Each night, when the outdoor activities closed down once again there was jamming galore everywhere you looked, inside, and outside. I never went to bed before 4AM the entire week. My flight home was later in the afternoon on Sunday which was nice because I didn't have to hurry to the airport like usual. As I was in the hotel lobby and waiting to walk back to the bus station, here comes a friend of mine that I met this year at the Weiser banjo camp. She's a lady from Canada and I hadn't run into her all week long. Since the tally has come out that 180,000 people attended this year's IBMA it's not unusual that we hadn't seen each other till we were homeward bound.

Well not to let a moment of jamming time go to waste we got out our instruments and jammed in the Marriott lobby until time to head out. I told her about the cheap bus fare and so she elected to join me. We found that our flights were leaving at the same time, however different airlines, so we left together and upon arriving at the airport we found out that our departing gates were only 5 numbers apart... more good news... you guessed it, we just had to jam one last time.

What a way to end a perfectly perfect IBMA week! Life is Good.... :)



IBMA Awards—2014



Hall of Fame
The original “Seldom Scene”
Neil Rosenberg

Entertainer of the Year
Balsam Range

Instrumental Group
Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen

Male Vocalist
Buddy Melton

Female Vocalist
Amanda Smith

Emerging Artist
Flatt Lonesome

Song of the Year
“Dear Sister” - Claire Lynch

Album of the Year
Noam Pikelnny Plays Kenny Baker Plays Bill Monroe

Recorded Event of the Year
“Wild Montana Skies” - Special Consensus with Claire Lynch & Rob Ickes

Instrumental Recorded Performance
“Thank God I’m a country Boy”, Special Consensus

Trumble Creek Campout—2014



Jammin by daylight



Brenda singing



Jammin by lantern light

Steve on the banjo—leading the jam



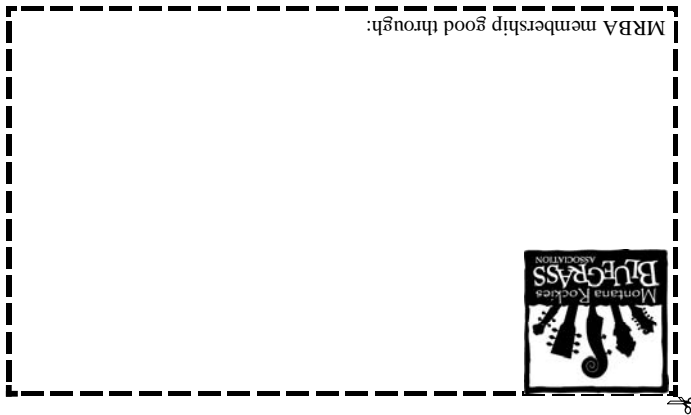
Jammin by firelight



Young fiddler's are always welcome

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,
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