



Bluegrassin'

Volume 17, Issue 1

January—February, 2015

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

- Jan. 8**— New South Fork, Bitterroot Brewery, Hamilton, 6:00 pm
- Jan. 9** - New South Fork, Top Hat, Missoula, 6:00 pm
- Jan. 10**— Winter Jam Series— Ruby's Inn - Potluck at 6:00. Pickin' and grinnin' starts at 2:00 pm. Potluck at 5:30 followed by more pickin' and grinnin'
- Jan. 13 & Feb. 3**— Lockwood Bluegrass Band, Lolo Peak Brewery, Lolo, MT—6:00 pm
- Jan. 24**— Deer Lodge Jam - Details pg. 7
- (an. 24** - Lil Smokies, Whitefish, MT (<http://thelilsmokies.com/>)
- Jan. 31**—Lockwood Bluegrass Band, Blacksmith Brewery, Stevensville, MT 6:00 pm
- Jan. 31**— Montana Bluegrass Hootenany (See pg. 9 for details)
- Feb. 5—9**, Big Sky Big Grass Festival, Big Sky, MT—<http://www.bigskybiggrass.com/>
- Feb. 6** - Lockwood Bluegrass Band, Top Hat, Missoula, 6:00 pm
- Feb. 7** - Trapline Band - Belton Chalet, West Glacier, 7:00 pm
- Feb. 12**— Lockwood Bluegrass Band, Bitterroot Brewery, Hamilton, 6:00 pm
- Feb. 14**— Winter Jam Series— Ruby's Inn - Potluck at 6:00. Pickin' and grinnin' starts at 2:00 pm. Potluck at 5:30 followed by more pickin' and grinnin'
- Feb. 26**— March 1, Wintergrass—Bellevue, WA <http://www.wintergrass.com/>
- March 21**—Winter Jam Series, Ruby's Inn

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

From the President

Mike Conroy

Hi all.. I guess it was time for me to step up and take a turn being the fearless leader, head muckie-muck, big dog- ruff ruff (just kidding)... I have a special agenda, which is getting more folks involved in HAVING FUN. I will also need everyone's help to get more "new blood" involved including new bluegrass pickers and the seasoned "old fart" pickers. I also think i can maybe find some young pickers to join in the (you guessed it) FUN'



Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

PO Box 1306, Missoula, MT 59806

Website: www.mtbluegrass.com email: mrba@mtbluegrass.com

President - Mike Conroy, mikevconroy@gmail.com or phone 406-821-3777

Vice President - Dallas Olson

Secretary/Treasurer - Laurie Criger, tangledroot13@yahoo.com or 406-552-9208
9130 Paintbrush Lane Missoula Mt. 59808

Board Members - Tari Conroy, Kate McMahon, Kimberlee Carlson, Verna Molenda

Merchandise Manager - Dallas Olson

Newsletter Editor - Kate McMahon, kate@appcom.net

MRBA Webmaster - Phyllis Erck mrba@mtbluegrass.com

Bluegrassin' is a bi-monthly publication of the **Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association**

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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

Contact: Jim McCauley—mccauley_kemo@hotmail.com

Get MRBA Newsletter by E-Mail

If you would like to get your newsletter delivered electronically via e-mail send a message to:

tangledroot13@yahoo.com

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

Animal Blessings



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Fax# (406) 721-1700
Emergency# (307) 281-0881

CLINIC HOURS
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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: **tangledroot13@yahoo.com**

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association
Annual Meeting - December 14, 2013—2:00 pm
 Minutes submitted by Kate McMahon

1. Update on the Association

Membership update. There were 221 members this year up from 212 members in 2013. More than half of the memberships are family memberships, so the total number of members is around 300. Membership has been stable.

Jim and Phyllis reviewed activities and accomplishments of MRBA in 2014. These included:

- Monthly jams during the winter with “slow jams”, harmony singing and “Band-in-the-Box. We will need volunteers to lead these activities if we want to continue.
- MRBA Spring Festival in Stevensville in April.
- 3 campouts
- Sponsored the Hardtimes Festival in July in Darby.
- Sponsored the Black Mountain Boys concerts on Tuesdays at Wheat Montana. Due to new ownership, Wheat Montana will no longer be hosting the concerts. The Black Mountain Boys are looking for a new venue.
- Sold merchandise at of the events. Recently replenished the inventory.
- Six newsletters a year.

2. Financial Report .

Jim McCauley reviewed the financial report. Revenues increased from 2013. Expenses were higher than 2013 primarily due to the recent costs to restock MRBA merchandise. The ending balance is still within the range agreed to at the last annual meeting.

	2013	2014
Starting Balance	\$5128	\$5934
Income	\$6772	\$7439
Expenses	\$(6509)	\$(8968)
Ending Balance	\$5,391	\$4,403

03. Old Business

- There was not much activity regarding “Kids in Bluegrass”. The members discussed several ideas to increase members and the need to continue to attract youth to the organization. It was suggested that there be an open mic at the monthly jams might attract music students. It was determined that there needs to be someone dedicated to working on this. Kimberlee Carlson agreed to take the lead on this and Phyllis Erck and Barry agreed to form a committee on this effort.

- Phyllis reported that the Montana Hospitality Suite at Wintergrass was a big success. The band showcase was very popular and they will be doing that again. MRBA was a sponsor.

4. New Business

- There was announcement that we always need more volunteers and the Board encouraged members to get involved. We always need volunteers at the spring festival, organizing slow jams, contributing articles to the newsletter, working with kids in bluegrass
- PJ is helping with the association web site.
- There was a discussion on the need to recruit new membership. Someone asked about offering a lifetime membership. There was no interest in this at this time.
- Forrest Clark reported on the MRBA summer campout at Forrest Flats. He said attendance was down and proposed moving the dates to the last week in June so it would not follow the Hardtimes Festival and there would likely be cooler weather for campers. It was noted that the Broken Arrow campground will be hosting a new bluegrass campout the 3rd weekend in June. It was discussed that this should not be a conflict. Kate McMahon moved and Dallas Olson seconded to move the date of the Forrest Flats campout to the last weekend in June. (June 26-27-28)
- There was also discussion on moving the location of the Forrest Flats campout and several alternative sites were mentioned. After discussion, Phyllis moved and Kate seconded to keep the campout at the same location for this year and see if the attendance increases with the change of date.
- Phyllis Erck noted that they will be doing the Ruby Jewel Jamboree again this year and expect to have three concerts. The partnership with Snow Bowl for the David Grisman concert was really well attended with over 1000 people. They are working with Snow Bowl to do another concert in 2015.
- Steve Kaufman is interested in doing a workshop in Missoula. Paul Anastacio is interested in doing a fiddle workshop. Kimberlee will coordinate with him.

5. Election of Officers 0

The following officers and board members were elected for 2015.

President—Mike Conroy

Vice President—Dallas Olson

Secretary/Treasure—Laurie Criger

Board Members—Kimberlee Carlson, Tari Conroy, Kate McMahon, Verna Molenda

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

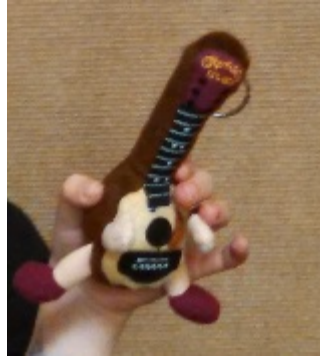
Thanks to Out-Going Board Members

MRBA would like to thank Phyllis Erck—Past President and Jim McCauley out-going treasurer for their service to MRBA over the last few years. The organization would not be able to function without the work of dedicated volunteers. As president, Phyllis has worked to attract new members through slow jams and organizing the Ruby Jewel Jamboree. She has coordinated merchandise sales and represented the organization at IBMA conferences. Jim McCauley eagerly took on the role as treasurer and was responsible for finances, maintaining the membership lists, mailing the newsletter and other tasks. Thanks to the capable work of Phyllis and Jim, MRBA can continue to promote bluegrass music in Montana.

MRBA Annual Holiday Meeting Photos



Fun with fiddlin!



Cool! — It's a dancing guitar



Phyllis jammin on the bass



Jam circle



Emma wows the jam with the mandolin



Roger and Bill



Mark Your Calendars! MRBA Spring Festival Saturday, April 18 2015

Planning for the MRBA spring festival is underway and we look forward to another year of great bluegrass music! Mark your calendar now. The date is Saturday, April 18, 2015. The festival will once again be at the Lone Rock School which is located about five miles from Stevensville. Lone Rock has wonderful facilities and we had a great festival there last year. There is plenty of room for parking and camping at the school. The music kicks off at noon and goes non stop until 10:00 p.m.

There will be plenty of jamming space and delicious food available. The school will be open after the festival for jamming and we will have a breakfast for the campers Sunday morning. More information on band line-ups and detailed directions to Lone Rock School will be included in the next issue. Contact Mike Conroy if you want to get your name on the e-mail list for band sign-up info. (mikevconroy@gmail.com)

Verna Molenda has agreed to be the kitchen manager again at the festival but MRBA still needs volunteers to help in the kitchen, at the front door, or at the merchandise table. The success of the festival depends on volunteers so please consider helping.

Deer Lodge Jam

The final Deer Lodge Winter pick will be January 24th, Starts at noon till we play out. A meal will be provided at a low cost of \$5.00. Charlene is retiring so we won't be able to have this any longer. Also attendance has dropped a bunch. We would like to thank everyone for their past support and hope you can make it to the last one.

Address is 506 Main st., parking in back.
Thanks again, Wild Bill and Charlene Anderson!

For lodging contact the
Western Big Sky Inn at 866-244-7590 or 406-846-2590.
(210 N. Main St.)

For more information contact
Bill Anderson at 406-498-6621 or Charlene Anderson at 406-491-1843.

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association HOOTENANNY

Hi all. The MRBA is having a old-time HOOTENANNY saturday - Janaury 31st at the Chantily Theater in downtown Stevensville Mt... The hoot starts at 1pm but come a little early to put your name on the sign-up sheet. to play. We want to get lots of folks involved from kids to veteran pickers and new members also. Each person can do two songs and pick who ever they want to back them up...or bring your group and jump up and play.... admission is \$3 and if you would like you can bring a desert to munch on....COME JOIN IN THE FUN - Mike Conroy (fearless leader- and mop squeezer)



Gretchen, who owns the art gallery adjoining the Chantily Theater, has volunteered her art gallery for folks warming up or who want to jam... bring a chair if you want to sit and jam. Gretchen even offered to take tickets at the Hoot.... This Stevensville is quite a town --Mike Conroy

Idaho pickers performing at the Sula community clubhouse Hootenanny Oct.18th this year...



"So much for finding intelligent life."

***MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS
ASSOCIATION***

PRESENTS AN

OLD-TIME

BLUEGRASS MUSIC

HOOTENANNY

STEVENSVILLE COMMUNITY THEATER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015

1 P.M. – 4 P.M.

ADMISSION: ADULTS-\$3.00 CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

***PUT AWAY THOSE WINTER BLUES -
COME OUT AND ENJOY SOME GOOD
OLD BLUEGRASS MUSIC***

Lots of young and old musicians playing lots of music

WARMUP AND JAMMING SPACE AVAILABLE

***Signup sheets will be available if you are interested in doing a
couple of bluegrass songs***

For more information 821-3777 or Tariconroy@webtv.net

Getting to Know Laurie Criger MRBA Secretary/Treasurer

I moved back to Missoula one year ago to care for my father who has ALS. His name is Dale Criger. He has been participating in the MRBA as a listener for many years now. So, I started listening to the Black Mountain Boys every Tuesday at Wheat Montana and got hooked on the bluegrass music. Love it! I started playing the Ukulele a year prior and wanted to graduate to the guitar. Jeff Campfield kept asking me if I had a guitar yet and offered free lessons. So, I took him up on his offer. It's been a blast! I went to my first festival this summer. The Hard Times festival at Mike and Terri's. The first time in a long while I stayed up till 2 am. Well worth it. I played classical guitar for a year or so as a kid and wished I'd of stuck with it, so now I'm making it up to myself. I'm completely hooked and volunteered for secretary/treasurer so I could immerse myself in the association and meet all the wonderful people that seem to gravitate to the bluegrass scene.



Getting to Know Verna Molenda MRBA Newest Board Member

Hi,

Just a short note to say that I'm honored to serve on the board of directors for our association. Hubby Bill and I have been members since Raynae first founded the group. Music has been a big part of our lives for the past 45 years. We began with the Oldtime Fiddlers and evolved into bluegrass. Our kids grew up going to jams and contests with us. I've been a fan of bluegrass since my junior high years. My borther-in-law had stacks of old 78 records that I played to death. He was a Georgia boy and loved the stuff.



The folks in this oranizatin are the family we would pick—if we could choose. We help each other over the bumps in this road called life. We've built great memories sitting in the tents and around campfieres. I Love you all.

Verna

WINTERGRASS—2015!!!

JOIN THE JAM!

DEDICATED TO PERFORMING, PROMOTING & PRESERVING BLUEGRASS MUSIC

FEB 27

Montana-Hospitality Suite @ Wintergrass 2015

**MONTANA SUITE 355
BAND SHOWCASES**

Stay tuned... If you'd like to perform visit our website and register mtbluegrass.com

RUBY JEWEL JAMBOREE

Stay tuned... If you'd like to perform contact us at info@RubyJewelJamboree.com

Call for Bands

MRBA is sponsoring the Montana Hospitality Suite at Wintergrass again this year. We will be showcasing bands throughout the weekend. If your band would like to perform contact Phyllis at phylliserck@hotmail.com or visit the website and click: Wintergrass Showcase

Ellie Nuño

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- ★ violin
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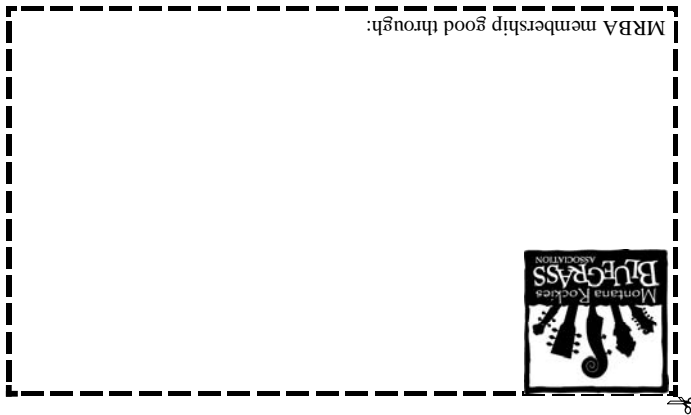
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ATTENTION:

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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