



Bluegrassin'

Volume 18, Issue 2

March—April 2016

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

- March 4—Acousticals, Cabinet Mountain Brewing Co., Libby 5:00 pm
- March 12—MRBA Winter Jam Series, Ruby's Inn, Missoula - Pot Luck at 6:00 pm with jammin' afterwards
- March 14 - Acousticals, Red Bird Wine Bar, Missoula—7:00 pm
- March 16— Yonder Mountain String Band, The Wilma, Missoula—8:00 pm
- March 17—Beargrass Band, Draught Works Brewery, Missoula 6:00 PM
- March 18—Lochwood Bluegrass, Eagles Club, Columbia Falls, 7:00 pm
- March 19—Lochwood Bluegrass, Kalispell Brewery, 5:00 pm
- March 26—Leftover Biscuits, Belton Chalet, West Glacier, 7:00 pm
- April 9—Beargrass Band, Missoula Brewing Company, Missoula, 6:00 pm
- April 15 - Lochwood Bluegrass, Top Hat Lounge, Missoula 6:00 pm
- April 16— MRBA Spring Festival, Stevensville, Lone Rock School. See pgs 4-6 for details
- April 16 - Acousticals, Bitterroot Brewery, Hamilton, 6:00 pm
- April 24— Acousticals, Norris Hot Springs, Norris, MT 7:00 pm

Calendar is subject to changes and additions. Check band websites or call venue for latest information. Send event info to newsletter editor.

Recurring Shows and Jams

- ◆ Missoula—Open Jam. Top Hat. Tuesdays. 6:00 pm
- ◆ Missoula—Tangled Tones Pickin' class. Wednesdays 6:30 pm.
Laurie Criger, tangledroot13@yahoo.com or call 406-552-9208
- ◆ Livingston - Open Jam. Pine Creek Café. Thursday—8:30—10:30 pm.

Wanted—Volunteers For Spring Festival!

It's time again to start thinking about a very important part of our Lone Rock Festival, the FOOD! For the last ??? years Verna and Bill Molenda have shopped, cooked, loaded in supplies, and managed the kitchen. What a huge job! Verna, who has been cooking for the masses for many years, has very graciously done the lion's share of the work for our spring festival. This year she is taking a break. Don't worry, she will still be baking the delicious turkey that we love. But this year she is trusting us to keep the kitchen going.

We will need many hands to step in and make the kitchen run smoothly. Bill has been, among other things, our chief sampler and muscle man when setting up and cleaning for the event.

Please try and find a time during the festival to help out in the kitchen.

If working in the kitchen is not your choice, then we can always use desserts to sell. Pies, cobblers/crisps, and cheesecakes are among the most popular desserts for adults, but the young folks love anything sweet. Please contact Susan McCauley with questions or to sign up to help. [360-489-7114](tel:360-489-7114).

Don't forget that Mike always pipes in the music for us in the kitchen. See you at the festival!



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 - Anne Merrifield, happy pasture9@gmail.com, 406-360-1877

Board Members - Tari Conroy, Kate McMahon, Ben Essary, Verna Molenda

Merchandise Manager - Dallas Olson

Newsletter Editor - Kate McMahon, kate@appcom.net, 406-863-9255

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 editor.

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Advertise in *Bluegrassin'***

*Full Page – \$25.00,
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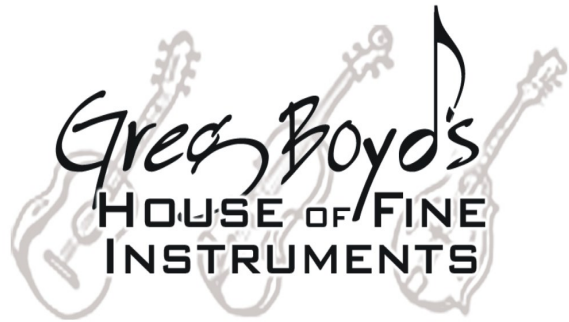
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If you would like to get your newsletter delivered electronically via e-mail send a message to:

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Electronic version has color photos & hyperlinks to websites.

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



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MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION
Membership Application

Date _____ Last Name _____ First Name _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone # _____
E-mail _____ Individual (\$10.00) ___ Family (\$15.00) ___

Do you want the newsletter delivered electronically? _____ YES _____ NO

Please mail your application to: MRBA, PO Box 1306, Missoula, MT 59806

[08]

Tentative 2016 Lone Rock Schedule

12:00 - 12:25	Kids in bluegrass
12:30- 12:55	Holtzens / Bluegrass 101
1:00 - 1:25	Windy Ridge
1:30 - 1:55	Darby Sireens
2:00 - 2:25	Pinegrass
2:30 - 2:55	Skookumchuck Bear Claws
3:00 - 3:25	Acousticals
3:30 - 3:55	Mike & Tari Conroy Band
4:00 - 4:25	Lochwood
4:30 - 4:55	Fred & Emily Frank
5:00 - 5:25	Spring Thaw
5:30 - 5:55	Flatgrass
6:00 - 6:25	Salmon Valley String Band
6:30 - 6:55	Silver Gravelys
7:00 - 7:25	Montana Ramblers
7:30 - 7:55	The Loose String Band
8:00 - 8:25	River City Ramblers

MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

**SATURDAY
APRIL 16
NOON-8:30 PM
LONE ROCK
SCHOOL
1112 Three Mile
Creek**

Lone Rock School is located 5.5 mile north-east of Stevensville on East Side Highway, then 3 miles up Three Mile Creek.

**FOOD
AVAILABLE**

**ADMISSION
\$5 NON MEMBERS
\$3 MRBA MEMBER
UNDER 12 FREE**

FEATURED BANDS

- Fred & Emily Frank
Gate Falls, ID
- Acousticals
Missoula
- Windy Ridge
Missoula
- The Montana Ramblers
Missoula
- River City Ramblers
Missoula
- Skookumchuck Bear Claws
Grangeville, ID
- Pinegrass
Missoula
- Kids in Bluegrass
- Darby Sireens
Darby
- Spring Thaw
Missoula
- The Silver Gravelys
Abertan
- Lochwood
Missoula
- Bluegrass 101
Hamilton
- Salmon Valley String Band
Salmon, ID
- Flatgrass
Missoula
- The Loose String Band
Missoula
- Mike & Tari Conroy Band
Conroy
- The Holtzen Family
Hamilton

Oldtime Bluegrass

FESTIVAL & FUNDRAISER

For information: 406-821-3777 • mtbluegrass.com

* * * MRBA Spring Festival * * *

Old Time Bluegrass Festival & Fundraiser
Lone Rock School, Stevensville, MT - April 16, 2016

Well, we're getting geared up again for a great festival with great bands and a whole lot of fun! There will be free overnight camping at the school, and the music will start at 12:00 noon and go non-stop until 8:30 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the festival with the ticket tables, in the kitchen, or staffing merchandise sales, please call Mike or Tari at 821-3777. You can also just check in that day with the organizers, and they'll find a spot for you to help.

Sunday morning we will have a free biscuit & gravy breakfast for folks camping at the school.

Directions to the school:

(watch for signs) Lone Rock School is at 1112 Three Mile Road, Stevensville, MT 59870
 Directions from South— traveling north on Highway 93 from Hamilton, turn right at Stevensville turnoff drive one mile, turn left when entering Stevensville onto East Side Highway. Continue 5 1/2 miles. Turn right on Three Mile Road. Continue on Three Mile Road for 3 miles. School is on the left just past the fire hall.

Directions from the North: (from Lolo)

Turn left at Florence (Conoco station) onto East Side Highway. Continue on East Side Highway 6 1/2 miles, turn left onto Three Mile Road. Continue on three Mile Road for 3 miles, school is on the left just past the fire hall.

Ellie
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Ruby Winter Jam Photos



Happy Jammers at February Jam!

Howdy from the Jammers in the Hallway



Paula in the Pickin' Circle

Lots of Grub & Great Friends!



Pickin' & Grinnin' at the Winter Jam.
Y'all come back now!

On the Road With MRBA



Linda McKnight and Deb Kerns with the Gibson Brothers Band at the Bythe, CA Bluegrass Festival. The Gibson Brothers were voted 2013 & 2012 Entertainers of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association.

MRBA Newsletter with the Karl Shiftlett Band at the Colorado Bluegrass Festival



The MRBA newsletter is getting around. Linda and Deb with the Ronnie Reno Band at the Colorado Bluegrass Festival.

Yes!—Ronnie Reno is the eldest son of Bluegrass Legend - Don Reno.

Way to go Linda and Deb!

Getting to Know MRBA Members The Buckley Family

Hello! We are Taylor and Kelly Buckley and we recently moved to Missoula after many years spent in Rochester, NY, and Philadelphia, PA. Having both been born and raised in the region (Taylor is from Roundup, MT, and Kelly is from Spokane, WA) we are incredibly happy to be in Missoula!!

Being part of a musical family (his grandfather played, as well as both of his parents), Taylor began playing fiddle at the age of 3; Kelly's interest in music began in 1986 with her first piano lesson, and at age 10 she took up fiddling.

Little did we know that while competing in local and regional fiddle contests, we would not only make lifelong friends, but we were each competing against our future spouse!! We were married in 2008, welcomed our first daughter (Maggie) in early 2015, and are expecting our second daughter any day now.

Prior to moving to Rochester, NY, Kelly spent 5 years in a top-40 country/rock cover band, and Taylor spent many years in Rochester, NY playing with a bluegrass band, Lost Time, and a gypsy jazz/Django style band, Lumiere. During our time together in Rochester, we played in a progressive bluegrass band called Old Divide. When we're not playing music or playing with Maggie (who already loves music!), we enjoy camping, hiking, golfing, traveling, skiing, spending time with family and friends, and Taylor has recently developed an interest in fly fishing. We are looking forward to getting involved in the music community here and also enjoying all of the outdoor activities the region offers! It's great to be home!



Grammy Awards

February, 2016



Best Bluegrass Album Winner

The Muscle Shoals Recordings - The Steeldrivers



Nominated Albums

- Pocket Full Of Keys—Dale Ann Bradley**
- Before The Sun Goes Down—Rob Ickes & Trey Hensley**
- In Session—Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver**
- Man Of Constant Sorrow—Ralph Stanley & Friends**

*Buy any of these CDs at the Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association (MRBA) On-line Store:
A portion of all sales goes to support the MRBA
Thank you for supporting MRBA through the Pickin' Post store.*

<http://www.mtbluegrass.com/store/>

Bluegrass Week at Augusta Festival

By Mel Waggy (sole member of the West Virginia Chapter of MRBA)

If you're a bluegrass picker in the west, the Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins, West (by God) Virginia may be unfamiliar to you. However, in the east the Center is well known for its exceptional instruction in most genres of traditional music, dance, craft, and folklore. One of the most popular courses is Bluegrass Week. This past summer (2015) I attended Bluegrass Week at Augusta and wanted to share this fabulous experience with my fellow MRBA pickers. If you are looking for a bluegrass camp that has excellent instruction, endless jamming, and exceptional concerts, Augusta may be your place.

Bluegrass Week runs from Sunday to the following Saturday and is typically held in late July. There are several options for housing ranging from dormitory to bed and breakfast. Price varies depending on what option you choose. I like to stay in the dorms; it's the most cost efficient and is a throwback to my college days. I like to refer to this option as "roughing it." The dorms provide you with sheets, but you bring the rest including a fan (there are dorms with air conditioning if you prefer). Meals are provided in the cafeteria, which can be a bit of a mixed bag. However, there is always a salad bar, ice cream, and pie available if you don't like the entrée. Mealtime is a great opportunity to meet other students and talk bluegrass. Occasionally your favorite bluegrass star may sit down and join you for a meal.

Monday through Friday are filled with instruction, jamming, concerts, and dancing. The instruction is my favorite part of the week. Augusta staff carefully picks their instructors not only for their skill, talent, and notoriety, but also for their ability to teach. Last summer's instructors included (but were not limited to) Ned Luebreke on Banjo (from Blue Grass Junction); Chris Jones for singing (from Night Drivers and Bluegrass Junction); Byron Berline on Fiddle (played with Monroe); Herschel Sizemore on Mandolin (played with Jimmy Martin, Del McCoury, and others); Tyler Grant on Guitar (Grant's Farm); Sharon Gilchrist on Mandolin (who hasn't she played with); Missy Raines on Bass (with New Hip); Jack Lawrence on Guitar (played with Doc Watson); Sally Van Meter, Lap Guitar queen; Mark Simons songwriting instruction (from Berklee School of Music, songs recorded by Infamous String Dusters, Alison Krauss, and others); and Darol Anger, fiddler extraordinaire. All are as gracious and friendly as they are talented. Students choose one course that meets every morning Monday through Friday. Afternoons are for electives; courses change each day. Three levels of instruction are offered for most instruments; beginner, intermediate, and advanced. I took intermediate guitar with Tyler Grant. His instruction was focused, clear, and relevant. Using several songs to demonstrate, we learned ways to improve our lead playing and improvisational skills. He went out of his way to make sure each student was keeping up with his instruction. I left there with a basket full of tools to improve my playing.

In the afternoons, evenings, and into the wee hours of the mornings you can always find a jam. Because everyone is there to learn, players of all abilities are typically welcome at any jam. If you are a beginner and jumping into a jam intimidates you, Augusta staff host a beginners jam every afternoon where you can learn new songs, take a chance on that lead you've been practicing, and learn jam etiquette. If you're looking for more of a challenge, Augusta instructors host jams in the afternoon where you'll have the opportunity to play with some of your favorite pickers. I had the good fortune to jam with Tyler Grant, Joe Walsh, and Darol Anger. Many of the jams take place on the porch of Halliehurst Mansion. Built in 1890, this porch is one of the grandest settings I've ever had the pleasure to play music.

Included in your tuition are two concerts where all of the bluegrass instructors perform. This assemblage of talent all on one stage is a rare opportunity not to be missed. The concerts are almost worth the price of tuition alone.

If you're not worn out by the days' busy events, in the evening you can head over to the dances held under the open-air pavilion complete with Christmas lights. During Bluegrass Week all dances are square dances. If you have a partner or friend who would like to attend Augusta but does not play a musical instrument, they can join you for concerts and dances and attend singing, history, or art classes during the day. There is even a program for children.



On Friday afternoon a student concert (optional participation) is held where even the weak-in-the-knees will feel safe to participate. The week ends with a Saturday morning brunch, and if you're lucky, one more jam for the road.

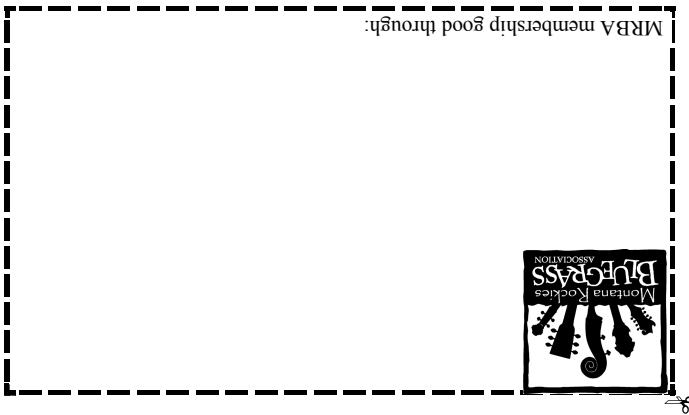
For those of you interested in other genres of music (it may be hard for some of you to believe there are other genres besides bluegrass), Augusta hosts instruction weeks for Blues, Jazz, Cajun, Celtic, Traditional Country, and Old-time. Classes are held throughout the summer. If your interest has been piqued, go to the Augusta Heritage Center website (<https://augustaheritagecenter.org>) for more information. I miss my friends at MRBA and hope to see some of you at Augusta in the coming years. Happy picking.



“I’m trapped in an elevator—wait, it gets worse”

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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