



# Bluegrassin'

Volume 18, Issue 5

July—August 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

Sept. 9 thru 11—Gibbonsville Campout, Broken Arrow Campground (See pg. 7)

Sept. 9, Acousticals, Montana Distillery, Missoula 6:00 pm—8:00 pm,

Sept. 10, Lochwood Bluegrass, Bitterroot Brewery, Hamilton, 6:00 pm

Sept. 11, Acousticals, Norris Hot Springs, Norris, MT, 7:00 pm

Sept. 16-18, Miles City Bluegrass Festival, Miles City, MT

<http://miles-city-websites.com/bluegrass/>

Sept. 16—Lil Smokies, Pine Creek Lodge, Livingston, MT

Sept. 17—Lil Smokies, Columbia Falls—Falls Fest, Marentette Park

Sept. 23 thru 25—Trumble Creek Campout, Columbia Falls, MT (See. Pg. 8)

Sept. 23—Tin Cup Bluegrass, Symes Hotel, Hot Springs, MT

Sept. 29 — International Bluegrass Music Association Awards,

<https://ibma.org/world-of-bluegrass/awards>

Oct. 17— Acousticals, Redbird Wine Bar, Missoula, 7:00 pm

*Note: Dates and times are subject to change. Please check with venue prior to event.*

## Recurring Shows and Jams

- ◆ **Missoula**—Open Jam. Top Hat. Tuesdays. 6:00 pm
- **Helena** - Staggering Ox—Bluegrass Jam, Tuesdays, 6:00 pm

***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Well, it is official, the Hardtimes Festival was AWESOME this year... Folks said every band was great, there was a huge crowd (around 1300- 1400 people) and such a great time was had by all. I don't know how it could be better (ok, maybe we could squeeze in another 200- 300 people next year). Dallas sold around \$450 in MRBA merchandise and we signed up 20 new members. Thanks to all that came.

We have scheduled a Hootenanny for November 5th at the Stevensville Playhouse. I think folks will be ready for some fun pickin and grinnin about then. Come join in the FUN.

On a sad note, Tari and I attended the LAST Libby Jam at Dale and Dorothy Berg's place up Pipe creek, six miles out of Libby. Dale (center in picture) is 84 now and after 23 years of having this week long campout - twice a year-- they are calling it quits. Tari and I were sitting looking across their field, and thinking of the endless hours of enjoyment we had jamming with all the musicians over the last 20 years. Dale and Dorothy have put together a memory book with pictures of most the hundreds of people that have attended. As Tari and I looked through their picture book, we were touched to realize what Dale and Dorothy have done to bring ALL these musicians together and enriched our lives with so many wonderful musical friends. Dale and Dorothy--- we salute you (and Dale- your banjo playin is hotter than a pepper sprout.) Mike and Tari



*Dale Berg Jammin*

## ***Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association***

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***Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association***

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**Contact:**  
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406-360-1877

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



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Do you want the newsletter delivered electronically? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

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

HardTimes Photos



Charlene Anderson—Sing it Purty



The Brothers Parker—Too Cool!



The future of bluegrass



Young fiddlers waiting to go on-stage



Darby Sireens



Thanks mike and Tari Thanks Heiland-Thomas ranches

# HARDTIMES BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

By 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 and Thomas ranches, 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, red long johns and aprons on a line to dry, 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.

Truly, the best musicians, hands down, no lie. People that have played together for over 20 years continue to inspire the crowd, and others just forming new bands were inspiring, too. This year's lineup was phenomenal with 11 bands from all over and a total of 44 musicians. We even got to enjoy Trinity River, a national band that currently have a #1 song on the national bluegrass charts. And the youngsters on stage with Kids in Bluegrass make all of us glad that other generations enjoy the music that we so love.

It was perfect Montana summer weather, and this year's festival attracted between 1300-1400 spectators. Music started Friday night at 6pm and ended Sunday at 5pm. Activities on Saturday included the "shotgun band" competition in which the audience determined the winners of "Best Overall" and "Best Character" bands. This year's "Character" band was hard to beat, with a sweet little baby face in the band happily holding onto mom as mom and dad sang. All winners received Tari's huckleberry syrup as the prize. Lucky them....yum!

"Pioneers in Northwest Bluegrass" is special feature on Saturday early evening, and honors folk who have had a long-time passion for bluegrass and who have shared it with others for many years. This year honored Gary Moore from Gibbonsville, ID, Forrest Clark from Clinton, MT and Glenn Stephens from Boise, ID.

Another special feature this year was the on-stage tribute to Jim Widner, who was a mentor for so many in Montana and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Jimmy died in February, and the music community will always feel the loss of this amazing fiddler and role model. He inspired countless musicians during his 91 years. It was a tender moment when the new owner drove Jim's old green pickup into the festival grounds. I'm sure that more than one of us had leaky eyes sometime during the celebration.

Yep, you get close to people in bluegrass. Gatherings like Hardtimes reinforces how much fun it all is and what is really important, what really is the "good stuff". It can be found on stage or in the many jam circles that happen all hours of the day or night. The desire to get to Hardtimes is to know that you will find your ever-expanding bluegrass family there ..... musicians who share time and music at a special level, one that ties together people, music, memories, stories, places and the land. It's simple. Simple is good and honest.

At the heart of the festival are Mike and Tari Conroy, of Shook Mountain Productions LLC, Conner, MT. As festival organizers and bluegrass musicians extraordinaire, this was the eighth year they produced this class-act bluegrass festival.

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 much, much more. Whatever you think, just don't miss out - join the fun at the Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival the fourth weekend in July 2017. Check out [www.hardtimesbluegrass.com](http://www.hardtimesbluegrass.com) for more info. See you there!!

## Gibbonsville Campout Sept 9th - 10th - 11th

The 22nd (holy cow!) annual bluegrass gathering at the Broken Arrow in Gibbonsville, Idaho is just around the corner! The dates are the 9th—11th of September, the weekend after Labor Day.

All campers need to check in with Tim Ezzell when you get there and he will get you set up in the right spot. Tenting fee is \$5.00 per person; extra fee for large RVs is \$15. Water at the site is limited so fill your tanks before coming. Please keep your dogs on a leash.

The restaurant will be open Saturday morning for a special bluegrass breakfast, and of course will be open on Friday & Saturday nights, serving that delicious Mexican food that we all love.

And....don't forget about the ICE CREAM SOCIAL on Saturday afternoon at 1pm. Y'all bring something to put on the ice cream (syrup, fruit, toppings, whatever) and we'll have another smashing round of ice cream treats!

There is a potluck on Saturday night, and a Sunday morning potluck breakfast, followed by gospel until noon.

Can't wait, be safe on the drive, change your strings, hone your pick, pack the truck and we'll see you at the Broken Arrow the weekend after Labor Day!

For more info: call Tim Ezzell at 850-723-5507

Directions: <http://thebrokenarrow.com/camping/>

### Did You Know..... Orville Wright Played the Mandolin

Picture of Orville Wright's Mandolin From the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum  
<http://airandspace.si.edu/exhibitions/wright-brothers/online/artifactgallery/Index.cfm?id=5738>



# On the Road With MRBA

And Jim McCauley

Susan and I made a trip back east with 14 days of three different bluegrass festivals. Here are some of my favorite pics.



The pic is me standing with Gary Dalrymple, the mandolin player for the Spinney Brothers. It was taken at Bean Blossom in Indiana.



Special Consensus band member Rick Ferris is on the left & Dan Eubanks on the right., The new mandolin player for Special Consensus is Nick Dumas from WA, a kid we watched grow up when we lived in Olympia WA for many years.



In the pic of Greg Cahill on stage, he is wearing my sunglasses. He commented that the sun was in his eyes, so I ran up and handed him my sunglasses. Rick Ferris later commented that the glasses did not help Greg's pickin'!



Jim is holding the program from the Bean Blossom Festival in Indiana. The Festival was started by Bill Monroe. This is the 50th year for the event.

[www.beanblossomtickets.shoppingcartplus.com/page/page/1665687.htm](http://www.beanblossomtickets.shoppingcartplus.com/page/page/1665687.htm)



Here is Dale Ann Bradley. Tall guy on the left is their mandolin picker from Slovakia. Jim is the guy in the middle with the MBRA T-shirt

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual  
TRUMBLE CREEK  
BLUEGRASS CAMPOUT**

**September 23 - 25  
4260 Trumble Creek Road  
Columbia Falls, Montana**

**Directions:**

**From Highway 2: Go west on Highway 40 at the Blue Moon intersection.**

**From Highway 93: Go east on Highway 40 a bit over 3 miles.**

**From Highway 40, go south on Trumble Creek Road. Go about ½ mile.**

**Saturday Night Potluck 6 p.m.**

**And**

**Sunday Morning**

**Biscuits & Gravy Potluck 10 a.m.**

**For more information, contact Mary-Jane (406) 892-3197**

**ALL BLUEGRASS LOVERS WELCOME!!**

## Banks of the Ohio

"**Banks of the Ohio**" is a 19th-century murder ballad. It was first recorded in 1927 but music historians date the song back to the 1840s. The author is unknown but there are other murder ballads with similar themes (Pretty Polly). It is not known if the song is based on a true crime or was part of folk lore that was put to music. There are a number of versions of the song, include some that portray the crime from the woman's point of view. Following are the most common lyrics.

I asked my love to take a walk  
 Just a walk a little way  
 And as we walk, oh, may we talk  
 All about our wedding day

Only say that you'll be mine  
 In our home we'll happy be  
 Down beside where the waters flow  
 On the banks of the Ohio

I held a knife against her breast  
 As into my arms she pressed  
 She said Willie, don't you murder me  
 I'm unprepared for eternity

I took her by her lily white hand  
 And dragged her down that bank of sand  
 There I threw her in to drown  
 I watched her as she floated down

Was walking home tween twelve and one  
 Thinkin' of what I had done  
 I killed a girl, my love you see  
 Because she would not marry me

The very next morn about half past four  
 The Sheriff came knocked at my door  
 He said now young man come now and go  
 Down to the Banks of the Ohio

The song has been recorded by many artist including starting in 1927 with versions by Red Patterson's Piedmont Log Rollers (as "Down By The Banks Of The Ohio") and by [Grayson](#) and [Whitter](#) (as "I'll Never Be Yours"). Other early country music stars who recorded the song included [Ernest Stoneman](#) (1928), The Callahan Brothers (1934), [The Blue Sky Boys](#) (1936), [Clayton McMichen](#) (1931) and [The Monroe Brothers](#) (1936). The Blue Sky Boys version appears in the soundtrack of the 1973 film *Paper Moon*. The song was recorded for the [American folk music revival](#) market by [Bascom Lamar Lunsford](#) (1953) It was recorded several times by [Joan Baez](#): Alan Lomax made a further field recording in 1961 at his New York City apartment, featuring veteran singer [Clarence Ashley](#), accompanied by Fred Price (fiddle), and Clint Howard and [Doc Watson](#) (guitars). Also for Folkways, Doc Watson performed the song as a duet with [Bill Monroe](#) in 1963. Other folk revival artist who recorded the song included the [New Lost City Ramblers](#) and [Pete Seeger](#). Artists who returned the song to country music audiences included [Johnny Cash](#) with [The Carter Family](#), [Porter Wagoner](#) and [Dolly Parton](#). Other recording were made by [The Wolfe Tones](#), [Arlo Guthrie](#) (as "Arloff Boguslavaki," on the 1972 [Earl Scruggs](#) album *I Saw the Light*), [Dave Guard](#) and the [Whiskeyhill Singers](#), Mike Ireland and Holler, [Gangstagrass Olivia Newton-John](#) recorded an arrangement of the song in 1971, for her album *If Not for You*. (Source: Wikipedia)

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*Ellie  
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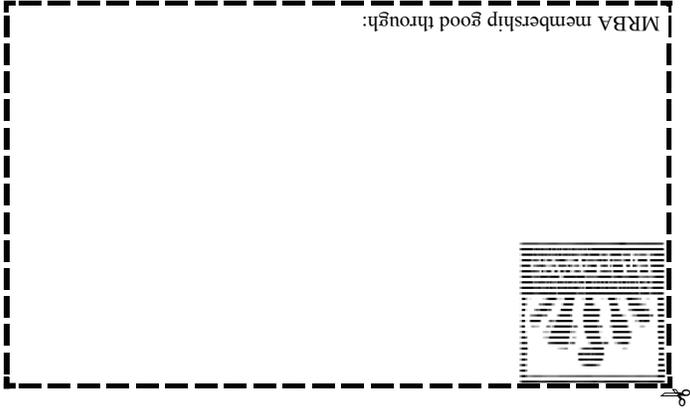
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