

# Grass Clippings

Yellowstone Bluegrass Association

January, February  
2008

## Is the Lincoln Center the Only Game Now?

Changes found their way to YBA's doorstep as 2007 turned into 2008. There was a slight change to the board of directors. There was a slight change to the slate of officers. A larger and less expected change came when Pizza Hut ( a long -time host of late night bluegrass jams) decided to end their association with YBA.

Some pickers chose to use words such as "shocking" and "disturbing" to characterize Pizza Hut's actions, while others said they saw the writing on the wall long ago. It is true that large numbers of YBA members, friends, and family crowded into the Grand Ave. location on Friday nights. Only Pizza Hut's management knows, however, if those folks actually spent money. Pizza Hut jams, like Christmas candy, are probably gone.

What now? YBA board members met on January 11, 2008 and went so far as to come up with this: "YBA will not be involved in

organizing or scheduling any jam session other than at the Lincoln Center. We will publicize any jam sessions that may be organized by others."

Although YBA's board came up with a cut and dried answer to the finding another place to play question, other possibilities were discussed. How about a laundry mat? Would another pizza joint take us in? The Bus Depot is open late! One member (Ed Pierson) pointed out that Billings isn't the only town with YBA members, the Lincoln Center is not the only place to play, and Friday at 7:00 isn't the only time for bluegrass!

The board, if it's any consolation, did say they would explore the idea of jams at the Lincoln starting at 6:00 or 6:30 pm. For some folks such a change would be a great opportunity to get more of a musical fix in each week. For others who work later anyway, not so much.

**P.S. President Bishop is negotiating with Pizza Hut to return once a month. Watch for details in next newsletter.**



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## New Addition to the Board/New President

The election of board members was held at the Lincoln Center in December. Double the number of members participated in this year's election than took part in last year's. Wade Steinmetz is the newly elected board member. Congratulations!

At the most recent YBA board meeting in January, the following officers were elected by the board: Chuck Bishop-President; Barry Gum-Vice-President; Terry Indreland-Secretary/Treasurer.

## Thank You, Mike Rolison

The YBA Board of Directors and the members of YBA would like to thank Mr. Mike Rolison for his years of service as president of our humble group. Many great things happened on his watch. Mike is at the moment recovering, from some health issues. We all wish him a speedy recuperation and hope to see him pickin' again soon.



Former President Rolison

# Molt Meatball Dinner- February 24, 2008



**Members \$10**

**Nonmembers \$12**

**Children (12 years and under) \$5**

**Dinner starts at 3:00 pm; Auction and jamming to follow**

**Bring an item to auction; money to benefit YBA**

**Reserve your meals by calling any YBA board member**

## Ed & Mark's Big Music Swap a Big Success

*"See that engine hummin', oh she's making time. That old train is wearing out the rails, rails, rails. Headin' for the mountain that she has to climb. Bringin' in the Georgia mail!"*  
From Sam Bush's DVD, *On the Road*



Ed & Mark's Big Swap on December 1, 2007 was a big success. The event got a rather slow start but progressed into an interesting jam dominated by the mandolins.

It seemed that nearly every form of recorded sound media was represented except maybe the Edison Cylinder. Ed played some of his "Homer and Jethro" 78 rpm record collection. Mark brought his beloved Finnish country music on c d. There was, if one had any doubt, plenty of bluegrass to listen to also.

Food also was not in short supply. To get the party going, those in attendance enjoyed chips, dips, sausages and cheeses. The main course was potato soup made with real potatoes and real cream. While enjoying their soup and snacks, participants were able to catch some of Sam Bush's DVD, "On the Road" on the big screen (at my house 28" IS the big screen).

Now that the event is in the near distant past, one can only wonder if any truly great deals were struck. Did someone get

the c d, d v d, or record they've always been looking for? People who work swapmeets are a lot like poker players...their faces rarely show failure and never show success. Watch for other swap meets throughout the year. They are a great chance to listen, learn, and pick.

## At the Prairie Winds Café, Molt

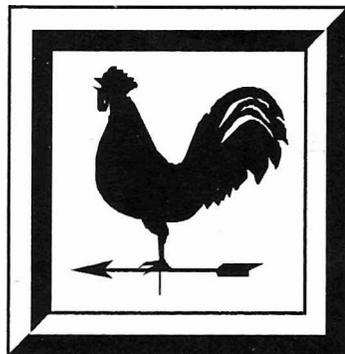
2/2... Spur of the Moment

2/9... Southbound

2/16... Highway 302

2/23... Cold Frosty Morning

3/1... the Muddy Warblers



## Terry Indreland: An Interview with Dave Webinger

**DW** Our guest artist this issue is Terry Indreland. I met Terry about six years ago. He had moved to Billings to retire. He mentioned that he was taking up the guitar. I told him about the Friday jams at the Lincoln Center. He said his brother had told him of it also. Terry said he couldn't play good enough to play with other people. I assured him about half of us couldn't play a lick when we first came to the jam. We just kept coming every week and slowly improved. Terry started coming every Friday. You could tell he was working hard because his playing got good very quick. Very quick.

**DW** Terry when did you first play the guitar?

**TI** I took lessons off of the TV in 1970. This lasted about 3 months, then I didn't pick up the guitar again until 2002.

**DW** Do you read music?

**TI** Very little. I do read a little TAB. My brother, Trent, played several instruments since he was about 12. So I was exposed to a lot of music. I played drums all through high school so I have a good sense of rhythm. It does help to have a little music knowledge.

**DW** Do you practice a lot and how do you practice?

**TI** I practice a lot; usually 4 times a day. I like to limit them to about 15 minutes at a time. I don't prefer any certain time. I just make sure I get it done. I have a quiet room to practice in.

**DW** What music do you prefer?

**TI** I like bluegrass and folk type music.

**DW** Tell me about your guitars.

**TI** I have three Martins. The first is a DX1. I leave it at our cabin in Redlodge. I have a D 28 and a D 42. They are both sweet guitars. I am using John Pearce strings. I like a large Imm pick.

**DW** I see you lately playing a beautiful Weber mandolin. Best looking case I've seen.

**TI** Yes, it is a Yellowstone F style. I bought it at Hansen Music. I'm having a great time. I found it hard to pick melody on the guitar. The mandolin seems to come a lot faster. I'm having a lot of fun. I can hardly wait to pick it up. I'm using a Golden Gate extra-heavy pick.

**DW** You have good rhythm and timing. Do you think the drums helped a lot.

**TI** I sure do. Just having that sense that was there since high school means a lot.

**DW** You have been on the

board of the YBA for the past five years. Do you enjoy it? I know the festivals are a lot of work.

**TI** I enjoy it a lot. For all the work we've done on the festivals the number of people that show up to see us perform is very disappointing. I've worked on the 2003, 2004, 2005 shows in Redlodge. I chaired the 2006 festival at the zoo. It was nice but it seems we never get more than 200 people a day. So that makes it kind of disappointing.

Being retired gives me time to be secretary and treasurer. This is fun.

**DW** Do you belong to more than on band?

**TI** No, I belong to the **Ramblerin' Laurels**. We work hard and have a good time. We practice at Wade and Laura Steinmetz' home. The other members are Mike Rolison, Ken Brandt, and Barry Gum. Belonging to the band is the ultimate high. Nothing feels better than playing for people.

**DW** Well, thank you, Terry. This has been fun.



## Steinmetz Sends Wife to Meeting

There are many reasons why folks don't attend meetings. Sometimes relatives drop in uninvited, sometimes the member of an organization is ill, and sometimes the car wouldn't start (usually this is an excuse; cars always start).

It was apparent during the last YBA board meeting that someone was missing. Wade Steinmetz (newly elected board member) sent his wife in his

place. Board members lauded his honesty (most of us would have used an excuse). Had I sent my wife in my stead, she would have made a motion that all of us lazy bluegrassers return home pronto to fix the leaky faucet or some such.

Laura said that Wade could not attend the meeting because he was taking a banjo lesson from Dr. Banjo, Pete Wernick, in Colorado.

Let's hear the proof! If Wade Steinmetz tried to improve his playing in such a conventional manner, YBA applauds his guts. If his banjo lessons are, however, just an elaborate excuse, shame on you, Wade. Sending your wife in your place, now that's genius.



**Yellowstone Bluegrass  
Association**

**There will be a YBA board meeting at 2:00pm at the Mott Community Hall on February 24, 2008. Members welcome!**

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Promoting bluegrass music in the  
Yellowstone Valley

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**Showcase**

**April 18, 2008**

**Lincoln Auditorium 7:00 pm**

**Beppe Gambetta**

A gifted acoustic guitarist born in Genoa, Italy, Beppe began his musical training in a classical plectrum orchestra before drawing on traditional European and American guitar techniques to develop his own original style. In 1977, he formed the acclaimed Italian bluegrass band Red Wine.

Later as a dynamic solo performer, he toured Europe and America while rediscovering, teaching and promoting flatpicking and other great—but less known—guitar forms. Beppe has collaborated with masters of the acoustic scene on ambitious projects such as reviving and contemporizing the energy of the “brother” duets with guitar master Dan Crary. An accomplished author, Beppe wrote the first Italian manual on flatpicking, many instructional videos and

articles for several music journals.

Beppe's 14-string harp-guitar was custom made for him by Antonello Saccu; this design is deeply rooted in the music of the era (from the liner notes of *Traversata: Italian Music in America* a CD on the Acoustic Disc record label).

Mr. Gambetta will appear in Billings on April 12, 2008 at the Cisel Recital Hall at 8:00 pm.

**YBA VIPs**

**President...Chuck Bishop 248-3645**

**Vice-President...Barry Gum 256-9182**

**Secretary/ Treasurer...Terry Indreland 652-4677**

**Board Members...Trent Indreland, Brad Sherseth, Wade Steinmetz and Ed Pierson**