

# Bluegrass Clippings

## NEW BOARD ELECTED

On January 12, 2007, ballots cast for the Board of Directors of the Yellowstone Bluegrass Association were counted. Despite a meager number of participants in the election(16) the necessary procedures, motions, and seconds brought about some political change in the organization for better or worse. Board members are currently: Barry Gum, Ed Pierson, Trent Indreland, and Brad Shereth.

Offices of President, Vice-President and Secretary Treasurer were chosen by the board on February 2nd. Those offices are currently manned by Mike Rolison (628-8639),

Chuck Bishop (248-3645), and Terry Indreland (652-4677) respectively.

Discussion of the financial status of the organization (it's not completely broke) led members to ask , first, about revenue generated by last year's festival at ZooMontana; second, about the possibility of another festival there. Although the jury remains out on the issue of ZooMontana/YBA Bluegrass Festival II, most agreed that the Zoo had not been as helpful in promoting the event as members directly involved in the festival would have liked.

The small group present

at the Lincoln Center that evening began then to ask : If not at the Zoo, where? If not in the summer, when? To put on a successful bluegrass festival in Billings may not be part and parcel of the organizations reason for being, but it is a lofty goal indeed.

Thanks to the past year's board members, Stan Moser and Mark Harmala, whose service to the organization is greatly appreciated.

January/ February 2007

### When jamming, remember

- Tune Your Instrument
- Listen
- Welcome others and let them selecte the next tune
- Keep the rhythm steady
- Play at a reasonable speed

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## WINTER FESTIVAL SEASON?

Winter need not be the unbluegrass season per se? Yes, we all think of picking in the old camp ground as "bluegrass", but there are festivals in the winter also.

This year plan to attend "Wintergrass" in Tacoma, Washington, February 22 - 25. The stellar lineup of performers includes but is not limited to Tim O'Brien,

Jerry Douglas, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, Blue Highway and The Gibson Brothers. [www.acousticssound.org](http://www.acousticssound.org)

Bluegrassers can also find relief from winter's clutches in Denver, Colorado, February 16-18 at the Mid-Winter Bluegrass Festival. Those who make the trip will encounter the Dillards, Beppe Gam-

beta, the Larry Stephenson Band and other great pickers. [www.midwinterbluegrass.com](http://www.midwinterbluegrass.com)

Big Sky Resort, right here in the Big Sky Country, will offer a minifestival February 20&21. Growling Old Men, Crooked Still, the Infamous Stringdusters and more will perform. [www.bigskyresort.com](http://www.bigskyresort.com)

## Clayton Olson: An Interview by Dave Webinger

**Dave:** How long have you been playing?

**Clayton:** Since I was 12 years old. My uncle said I would try to play songs when I got home from church. My sister and brother-in-law would help with the chords.

**Dave:** What instruments do you play?

**Clayton:** Guitar, Mandolin, Piano, and Accordion.

**Dave:** Tell me about your Martin D-18.

**Clayton:** I bought it at Lindamood Music Store in Billings in 1958. The price at that time was \$180.00. It has been a great guitar. The Martin has great volume. About a year ago, I had the neck reset and some other minor work done to it. It helped the ac-

tion allot. It is a great old friend.

**Dave:** How about your mandolin?

**Clayton:** Larry Larson gave it to me. The story goes: Mike Blohm found it in a pawn shop. It had a broken neck. He gave it to Larry. Larry fixed it with JB Weld and a sheet rock screw. These two items are Larry's expertise. Jim McGowen gave me a damaged case for it. It too is a great, old friend.

**Dave:** Do you read music?

**Clayton:** No! ! I listen and play.

**Dave:** Have you taken lessons?

**Clayton :** No

**Dave:** Do you practice?

**Clayton:** No, just play.

**Dave:**What's your favorite music?

**Clayton:** Bluegrass and Gospel music at church.

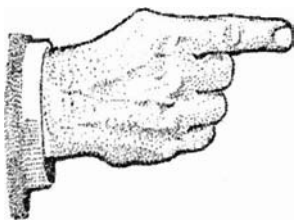
**Dave:** Where do you play?

**Clayton:** Prairie Winds Café at Molt, wedding gigs, or whatever.

**Dave:** Are you in a band?

**Clayton:** Yes, our band is Highway 302. I fill in with **Cash & Friends**, and I've also filled in with **Cold, Frosty, Morning**.

**Dave:** Thank you ,Clayton for being at the jams. You make the room come alive.



## Lyrics to Great Bluegrass Standards: the Bluegrass Songbook

Have you ever noticed how attached some bluegrass pickers are to their literature? Don't get me wrong, it just **makes sense**

to have a notebook with lyrics to your favorite tunes **handy** at the jams. It helps speed things along and prevents all that crazy humming. Many of these notebooks are **very personal items** collected by the pickers themselves. With that in mind, I would recommend a reference book that was recommended to me long ago to add to your lyric collection. **Bluegrass Songbook** by Dr. Banjo, Pete Wernick, is a must for a *bluegrass* singer. Songs included in this collection are: *the Ballad of*

*Jed Clampett, Before I Met You, In the Pines, Mountain Dew* and **127** others. Wernick's book, from 1976, also gives a discography of the tunes, so a person just learning can find recordings of these tunes. Learning the melodies is so much easier that way.

Interviews with the most well-known bluegrass singers that make up the prologue are worth the price of the book. Folks like **Jimmy Martin, Bobby Osborn, Lester Flat, Hazel Dickens, and Charlie Waller** tell about bluegrass singing in their own words.

If you're looking for the bed-rock of traditional bluegrass

lyrics, look first in **Bluegrass Songbook.**, and you'll be using a good book.



## ULTIMATE SPACE/STEP/BAA SEEK PICKERS

At the board meeting held at the Lincoln Center on Feb 2, the Yellowstone Bluegrass Association was approached by the owner of "Ultimate Space", Mr. Barry Thomson. His business, a new idea to the area, sells garage space. He has built a complex of storage units on the property just north of Elysian Road at Mallowney Lane. It all sounds useful, unusual, and well, fancy. If storage is what you need, contact Mr. Thomson at (406) 697-4217.

He is planning on holding a at all of the new garage space he has created to (Special Training for Exceptional People) and the

BAA (Billings Art Association).

Step is hoping to set up an emergency fund for family's of folks with developmental disabilities to help with transportation, education, and other costs of that nature. Some of the money raised from this event would land there.

The Billings Art Association helps promote art such as pottery, painting and graphic design in local area schools.

Here is where we come in! Mr. Thomson's vision is to hold an event celebrating "ART". This means music of all kinds, dance, literature, culinary and others. He plans for this to be

a weekend deal on April 14 & 15, 2007. He would like bluegrass groups from Yellowstone Bluegrass Association to perform on a covered stage and in a less organized fashion in some of the new space. The event is for charity (you all know what that means).

If your group is interested, please contact Mr. Chuck Bishop at **CHUCK.BISHOP@FAA.GOV**.

# Molt Meatball Dinner February 25, 2007

**Members \$10**

**Nonmembers \$12**

**Children \$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 Board member.**



**"The Surgeon General suggests three servings of Molt Meatballs daily in the bluegrassers diet."**

## Brainstorm Scheduled to Hit City Brew

No, even the worst headache is not a brainstorm. During a brainstorm a group of people (in this case members of the YBA) sit around and bounce ideas off of each other.

The first of possibly many YBA brainstorming sessions is to take place on March 7, 2007 at 7:00pm at City Brew on Grand Ave. President Mike Rolison suggested such a

meeting (without the aid of brainstorming) at the last board get-together. He hinted at topics he would like discussed. The festival question tops the President's list as well as formation of a state wide bluegrass association. Getting more pickers to join in, and making the Lincoln jams more fun for everyone are also to be ruminated over. This is a great opportunity to

put one's two cents worth in and drink some coffee.





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## At the Prairie Winds Café, Molt

- February
- 10... Rambling Laurels
  - 17... Spur of the Moment
  - 24... Cash and Friends
- March
- 3... Longtime Lonesome Dogs
  - 10... Southbound
  - 17... Cash and Friends
  - 24... Highway 302
  - 31... Spur of the Moment

## Elsewhere

February  
20&21... Infamous Stringdusters  
with Growling Old Men-Big Sky Re-  
sort

Last Tuesday of  
every month  
Open Jam-Laurel  
Pizza Hut 7pm



Tuesdays  
Open Jam, River of Life Church-  
Laurel 7pm



**Mandolin for Sale!**  
  
Weber Yellowstone  
Custom F-model  
Asking \$2650  
Contact: Arlan Ellis at  
669-3191

WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
[WWW.YELLOWSTONEBLUEGRASS.ORG](http://WWW.YELLOWSTONEBLUEGRASS.ORG)

# Showcase Friday, April 13th, 2007

If your group is interested in appearing, please contact your nearest board member. Show starts at 7pm in the Lincoln Auditorium. Bring the lucky charm of your choice.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED. YOU MUST BE A PAID MEMBER FOR 2007 TO RECEIVE DISCOUNTS AT UPCOMING EVENTS. \$15.00 SINGLE \$25.00 FAMILY**

## Bluegrass Mondays @ KCTR

Please call in or e-mail KCTR Radio Mondays before 9am and request any bluegrass number to be played sometime between 9&10am. Selections by well-known artists like: Ricky Skaggs (Uncle Penn, Highway 40 Blues, Wheel Hoss), Tom T Hall (Bill Monroe for Breakfast), Elvis or Bill Monroe (Blue Moon of Kentucky), Allson Kraus (When You Say Nothing, Atlanta, Man of Constant Sorrow), Dolly Parton (I Don't Believe You've Met My Baby, Mule Skinner Blues), Osborn Brothers (Rocky Top) or Dueling Banjos. If you can think of others, request them and listen in. Let's make it Bluegrass Monday with the Flakes. E-mail [KCTR103@vahoo.com](mailto:KCTR103@vahoo.com) Phone: 248-5665