



BLUEGRASS Clippings

November 2012

Yellowstone Bluegrass Association

YBA Officers:

President—David Nelson

Vice President—Trent Indreland

Sec.-Treas.—Terry Indreland

YBA Board Members:

Ed Pierson

Brad Sherseth

Wade Steinmetz

Eric Prescott

Newsletter Editors:

Pat Gum

Laura Steinmetz

ACTIVITIES

Friday Night Jams

7:00-9:00 P.M.

Lincoln Center

Basement

Band Room

415 N. 30th

Billings

(Use SE Entrance)

MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$15/Person or \$25/Family

Full time Students are dues

exempt

Mail to:

YBA

PO Box 23143

Billings, MT 59104

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Bluegrass Jamming

Walnut Valley Bluegrass Festival:

By Paul Dextras

The Walnut Valley Festival is known by most attendees simply as Winfield. This festival is deeply entrenched in Bluegrass but over the years has included almost every style of acoustic music. The standard date for this four day event starts around the third weekend in September.

The festival is home to national champion- ships for guitar, banjo, mandolin, fiddle, dulcimer, and about any acoustic instrument you can make noise from. The national recognition attracts international professional and amateur performers. Truly the best of the best musicians can be found either on one of the four main stages or a camp ground stage that has a rather eclectic following. Stages are open from around 10am to 12pm daily and bands play for about an hour on one stage and repeat performances on the other stages throughout the festival.

It is estimated that half of the campers (12,000) bring an instrument. This leads to marathon picking jams by the hundreds and campers can usually find any level and venue to satisfy their musical taste and talent. This festival has received the “International Bluegrass Event of the Year” award and for over 40 years has been the highlight for musicians and acoustic music lovers far and wide.

For those who like to travel or camp without many amenities, there is access to showers, 24-hour food booths, and even medical care in the event you sprain a finger from too much picking. This is billed as a family festival and alcohol, drugs, and pets are not permitted or at least strongly discouraged. The actual music stages (4) are separate from the camping area but within easy walking distance so once your camp is established taking off to see your favorite band(s) is a short easy walk.

Check out the Winfield Bluegrass Festival on Google and I guarantee once you go you'll be hooked to return every year.

Message From Our President

I hope all of you are having as much bluegrass fun this year as I have! I enjoyed playing with many of you at Mt/Wy. festivals this summer and fall. I'm grateful for all the effort that goes into making those events possible.

Our own YBA, all-day/jam, summer picnic was well attended and 30 of us enjoyed BBQ and some good picking.

Trent Indreland has outdone himself this year and produced 2 fine concerts and is planning yet another. Mike Dowling and Growling Old Men were both excellent performances and **Special Consensus will be at the Babcock Dec. 1.**



Our YBA board asked Bonnie Zeiske, Archie Bott and Dave Webinger to nominate our slate of board candidates which they graciously agreed to do. Our annual election will be **Dec. 7** and if any of you would like to participate in organizing our fun please get in touch with their committee.

Our Friday night jams at the Lincoln continue to provide a great opportunity for people to get acquainted with bluegrass. Several band members are regular attendees and it's always fun to see who comes through the door. We regularly have between 8-20 bluegrassers show up to play.

Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch have offered the YBA the use of their chapel building as a location for our fall showcase **Nov. 16**. It is a very unique building and the acoustics should be great. 8 bluegrass bands quickly filled the available time slots. I hope you plan to come and bring your friends!

Clippings' Feature

By Laura Steinmetz



The season of giving thanks is upon again and it never ceases to amaze me how quickly the year disappears. Gratitude has become a big part of my life, with daily reminders of how I have been blessed in many ways. I am especially grateful for music in my life and the friends I have met through the YBA and related events. This message will address the gift we have been given from the opportunity to showcase music at the Prairie Winds Café in Molt.

Most of you are aware of our longtime (started in October 2001) association with Fran and Jerry Urfer and how they have opened their arms and doors to us yahoos who love to make music. I won't bore you with the history of their business; rather, I suggest you take a moment to reflect on how special our mutual friendship has been. Unfortunately, the day is drawing near when the doors to their business will close and this special bit of American life will fade away like dust in a prairie wind.

For a while now, the Urfers have had their business up for sale, and word has gone out that as soon as next summer the Prairie Winds will close unless a buyer comes along. I would only hope a buyer appears and they would continue the tradition of Saturday breakfast served up with a big, hearty slice of bluegrass music. If not, we face the prospect of either locating another business with the same spirit and desire to which we'd move our Saturday showcases, or face the grim fact that our unique addition to what makes the Billings area

and Montana great is going to end. How do we replace the happy home we have had at the end of the pavement?

As you all prepare to welcome the holidays with your loved ones and rejoice in those traditions you hold near and dear, perhaps you could take a moment to at least mentally give thanks to Fran and Jerry for their generosity for years of support. Better yet, get out a thank you card and let them know what it has meant to you to be able to participate in this wonderful activity, not to mention how you have enjoyed Fran's awesome cooking. There are no better pancakes anywhere. The Urfers will be spending well-deserved time with their two children and three grandkids.

Some of the happiest memories of my life are tied to making music in Molt with folks very close to my heart, and that is where I will keep my affection for Fran and Jerry; close to my heart. Gratitude, folks...never take your blessings for granted. Never pass up the opportunity to let someone know how much they mean to you. Life changes and we can lose something or someone precious in a moment. Thank you, Fran and Jerry, for making the YBA a recognized community. What joy you have given to so many, performers and listeners alike. All our best to you in your retirement.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Nov. 11 - Yellowstone Valley Brewing, The YVBC Fall Bluegrass Blowout, Featuring The Blackberry Bushes Stringband from Olympia, WA and Ted Ness and the Rusty Nails with Maverick String Stretchers, Music starts at 4 goes to 8, \$5 at the door.

"The Blackberry Bushes are a Northwest Alt-Folk Stringband. The Bushes' innovative acoustic sound draws from the deep roots of American traditional music to create a rich patchwork that shares threads with artists like Gillian Welch and David Rawlings, Sean Hayes, and Crooked Still. Joyful singing and songwriting are supported by carefully constructed soundscapes that feature virtuosic fiddle. A longtime Northwest favorite, the band has developed into a national act, with recent tours across the US and Europe. Their live show is joyous and vibrant with an intention to move the audience in their hearts and out of their seats.



Nov. 16- The Yellowstone Bluegrass Association will present our **FREE Fall Bluegrass Showcase** at **7 PM on Friday November 16th, 2012** at the **Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch chapel** located at **1732 South 72nd Street West.**

HAVE A WONDERFUL
THANKSGIVING

THE SPECIAL CONSENSUS is a four person acoustic bluegrass band that began performing in the Midwest in the spring of 1975.

Sat. Dec. 1, 2012 8:00pm
Babcock Theatre - Billings, MT
2nd Ave. (2nd Ave. N. Broadway

Dec. 7- YBA annual meeting and election --- at the Lincoln Friday Jam

Mark your calendar and be there.

Q. If you drop a banjo from a tall building, what do you hear when it hits the ground?
A. Applause

..From Almeda

A big THANK YOU goes to the bluegrass groups who donated their time playing on the Western Expo Stage during the NILE. The Maverick String Stretchers, Hwy 302 and Cold Frosty Morning participated and helped make the entertainment portion of the NILE so successful! A new group, The Crazy Mountain Trio, made up of YBA members Lynn Weber, Gloria Kandle and Lisa Heineman debuted and did a very nice job, also! Many thanks to them as well!

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS: Thursday **December 6** from 6:00-9:00 PM the Bradshaws are hosting a COWBOY CHRISTMAS PARTY at the M2B Ranch Concert Barn. There are some 30 minute stage times available if your group would like to play. Please call Almeda for more information: [406-348-3282](tel:406-348-3282).

More things
Prairie Winds Cafe Enjoy local Bluegrass Bands on Saturday mornings from 9am-12 noon in Molt

November 10 -Southbound
November 17 -Cold Frosty Morning
November 24 -Highway 302
December 1 -Spur of the Moment
December 8 -Bluegrass for Breakfast
December 15 -Southbound
December 22 -Long Time Lonesome Dogs
December 29 -Highway 302

Tunes for Tuesday Open Mic Night- YVBC is always looking for people to play on open mic Tuesdays. If there is enough interest we could have a Tuesday dedicated to a bluegrass jam.

Q. What's the difference between a Harley Davidson motorcycle and a banjo?
A. You can tune a Harley.



Yellowstone Bluegrass Assoc.



Address Label