

BLUEGRASS CLIPPINGS

March-April 2010



Newsletter of the Yellowstone Blue Grass Association

Annual Dues: \$15.00 per individual \$25.00 per Family

Officers

Wade Steinmetz President

Trent Indreland V.P.

Hardees

Terry Indreland Secy-Treas.

Board Members

Ed Pierson

Brad Sherseth

David Nelson

Chuck Bishop

Activities

Friday Night Jams 7-9 P.M. Lincoln Center
8 PM Summers at

Band Showcases Fall and Spring

Bluegrass Sponsored Concerts
As Scheduled

Kaleva Park Pig Roast Bones Pizza Party

Newsletter Editor: Roger Koch gdaefiddler@g.com (406) 656-5186

Website: yellowstonebluegrass.com Webmaster: Trent Indreland

Phone: Wade Steinmetz 656-9783 Terry Indreland 652-4677

SPRING PIZZA PARTY JAM - BONES BREWERY 2 P.M. MAR. 28

Spring pizza party/jam will be held at Bones Brewery on Broadwater Ave., at 14th Street. March 28th, 2010. Come at 2 P.M. Bring your instruments. Jamming first. Pizza later. Free pizza for members. Memberships may be paid there. Guests at \$5.00 each.

* * * * *

SPRING SHOW CASE APRIL 9, 2010

Those wishing to participate, contact Trent Indreland: ybbluegrass@msn.com or at 652-2660. You may also contact any other officer or board member.

* * * * *

BLUEGRASS CLIPPINGS TO GO ONLINE!

Beginning with the next edition, Bluegrass Clippings will no longer be mailed to all members. If members wish to continue to receive a copy via the postal service, they are requested to contact Terry Indreland, secretary-treasurer, as soon as possible at (406) 652-4677 or e-mail to: indreland@mac.com. (For downloading photo speed, dial-up users consider this.) All other members will receive the May-June edition in an e-mail. **IF YOU CHANGE YOUR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER YOU MUST CONTACT TERRY OR HE CANNOT SEND OUR NEWSLETTER TO YOU!** Also, he periodically sends out e-mail notices regarding any scheduled concerts, changes in schedules, reminders of Friday closings at Lincoln, etc. Please keep your internet address up to date with Terry.

The Editor's Desk

Much of this edition discusses how our association, jams, and various bands came into being. Hopefully this will be inspirational to independent jammers and "closet pickers."

The decision to send the newsletter via cyberspace was made at a recent meeting of the YBA board. Other organizations have increasingly been making use of electronic communication with their members. The costs of paper editions have continued to rise, so the YBA will save a good deal by going to this media. Beginning with January 2010 it was decided to use only black and white photos in the print edition of CLIPPINGS. Colored photos are much more expensive to have printed. Also, due to postal regulations we have to send mail by first class postage only. We are therefore limited to four or possibly five pages to keep it within one ounce - one stamp limits. Advantages of the on-line edition will include members receiving it several days sooner as well as expanded coverage of the print stories, most photos in color, and more photos of members and events. We believe most members will be pleased with this change.

Your Board of Directors is also concerned about providing the best opportunities for the membership. They have been having serious discussions about the scheduled activities including the number and structure of showcases and whether to include additional opportunities for members to gain experience in performing and playing with other musicians. If you have thoughts in this regard you are encouraged to bring them to the attention of the officers or board members. You may write a letter to the editor of BLUEGRASS CLIPPINGS, as well.

Roger Koch, Editor: Bluegrass Clippings

NO JAM IN MUSIC ROOM ON APRIL 9TH DUE TO THE SHOWCASE NO LINCOLN JAMS ON APRIL 2ND OR MAY 7TH

Showcases are from 7 PM to about 10 PM in the Lincoln auditorium off North 29th Street. There is no charge for admission. Following the showcase some of you may wish to jam at Hardee's on North 27th. No jams on school holidays: April 2nd and May 7th. Try Hardee's after 8 PM.

Note: The outside Lincoln doors are locked to keep transients from roaming the building at 8:30 on Jam nights. It had been locked at 8 P.M., but Larry Larson used his boyish charm on the lady custodian to wait until 8:30. (He had been locked out with their bass, although LaLonnie had made it in on time. Poor Cold Frosty Larry!)

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP LISTS TO BE DISTRIBUTED

The secretary has received requests from members for a list of other members,. The board has decided to make this list available, however members may opt out if they wish. **IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR NAME TO BE ON THIS LIST PLEASE NOTIFY TERRY INDRELAND.**

The list will NOT be posted on the YBA website.

GOOD SHOWS ON MONTANA PBS

Chet Atkins: Certified Guitar Player 3/7 10:30 AM, 3/8 8:30 PM, 3/9 4:30 AM, 3/20 10 PM

Never Long Gone: The Mission Mountain Wood Band 3/10 8:30 PM, 3/20 8:30 PM

Aber Day Kegger: Library benefit - MT Woodstock? 3/15 7 PM, 3/21 2 PM

Friday Jam Attendance for Jan-Feb has improved and averaged about 14 per night..

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

I have been selected to be president of the YBA for the upcoming year. I am looking forward to the challenge. First of all, I would like to thank Chuck Bishop for his service for the past several years. He came up with some fresh ideas for getting the community involved with the YBA and bluegrass music in general. I am open to suggestions, ideas and comments concerning the betterment of our organization. My phone number is 656-9783. E-mail is wades@usadigic.com. Criticisms are welcome, too. I have a pretty tough hide.

Remember the Spring showcase is April 9 at the Lincoln Auditorium. Once again, we encourage all bands to participate. If we have several bands, we will again limit the number of songs played by each band to 4 or 5 because of time constraints. I realize that there has been some discussion and unhappiness about limiting playing time. The board feels the showcase is a sampler of the fine music performed by all of our YBA bands. Limiting the number of songs has our audience sitting on those hard seats for 2 1/2 to 3 hours. Feedback from the past audiences has indicated that this is the limit comfort-wise. So, I hope you understand our dilemma. We would like to give every band a half hour, but we just can't do it. We draw an appreciative audience and we want to keep them happy.

The Spring pizza party/jam will be held at Bones Brewery on Broadwater Ave., at 14th Street. Come at 2 P.M. on March 28th. The association will buy pizza for paid-up members. You can renew or purchase memberships at the door.

Please participate in the Friday night jams, even if it is only to listen. It's nice to have more experienced players there for the benefit of the beginners. Let's remember, part of the goal of the YBA is to educate and help other musicians. This doesn't mean you can't play fast! Trying to keep up is part of the learning process. It is also fun to take non-traditional songs, i.e., country, rock, etc., and make it bluegrass. I was listening to Lonnie Bell's radio program the other morning and he was playing a lot of bluegrass. He said, "Anything can be bluegrass, but you gotta be good."

I am hoping for a good year. Pick it solid.

Wade

* * * * *

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Greetings: I want to thank you the this issue of the Bluegrass Clippings. It was newsy (if there is such a work), gave some history and honored some bands and individuals. I would like to clear one thing up that I have been hearing for years and you made mention of it in your paragraph on Mike Rolison. Mike was not the founder of the Rambling Laurels. I begin coming to the Lincoln Center in the early nineties and after I moved to Laurel 2001 the Association was getting ready for a showcase in the fall. I thought it would be a good idea if some of us from Laurel could form a group and play at the showcase. So I called Mike and Joe Russel to see if they were interested. They said yes and we practiced for about four weeks, put together about 4 songs and played at the showcase. We were the first three members of the Rambling Laurels. Myself on Guitar, Mike on Guitar and Joe on Upright Base. Not a typical Bluegrass Band but a group who got their first experience of stage fright. Later we added Dave Fischer on Mandolin. We played at Molt , at Rest homes ect. Dave was still working and couldn't play with us at some of our gigs and dropped out. We then picked up Wade Stienmetz on Banjo. Our schedule became so full that I couldn,t do some of the other things I wanted to do and after about

three years I dropped out and shortly after Joe dropped. I,m glad to see the group continue and am sure Mike had something to with holding it together.
Sincerely Ben Lewis

An apology was sent to Ben upon receiving this letter. This should serve as a correction. Even though your editor played for about a year with the original trio that detail was unknown until now. R. K

* * * * *

YBA BLUEGRASS BAND AND MOLT CAFÉ MAKE THE BIG TIME!

PRAIRE WINDS, COLD FROSTY MORN, WILL SELF, ED KEMMICK

Thanks to Parade magazine, Parade.com, the Billings Gazette and reporter, Ed Kemmick, the Prairie Winds Café in Molt and YBA band Cold Frosty Morn have hit the world wide web and newspaper inserts in cities and towns across America. There they were in living color: Dave Webinger, Dennis Anderson, and Bonnie Zieske. The photographer was composing a picture to get the atmosphere of Saturday breakfast at the café. As a result he shot diners in the foreground and the band members in the background. Unfortunately his composition did not include intrepid bass player and former BG Clippings editor, Rick Weingerter, who was off camera. This was a first for Parade magazine which was beginning a weekly series on cities and towns across the nation. It was fortunate for all of us that the Gazette chose ace reporter, Ed Kemmick to write the story. Few others would have chosen Molt, but Kemmick, member of the Longtime Lonesome Dogs, the Peach Pickers, and other bands had performed at the Prairie Winds himself and saw this as an opportunity for a unique glimpse into Americana. The opportunity was done very well.

PRAIRIE WINDS CAFÉ - THE SATURDAY MORNING SESSIONS. Some of our very first pickers came from Molt: Larry and LaLonnie Larson plus Steve and Peggy Stephenson, original members of the band, "The Hogsback Five," (and Plus Two). They came up with the idea of having a Saturday morning jam at the Prairie Winds Café. This was so successful that it turned into a date for area bands to sign up for, and the simple jam concept disappeared. Fran Urfer, proprietor of the café, now says they are booked up for the entire year. The original idea was extremely successful.

* * * * *

APPEARING AT THE PRAIRIE WINDS CAFÉ 9 AM-NOON MOLT, MT

Mar. 6 Longtime Lonesome Dogs	Apr. 3 Rambling Laurels	May 1 Justin Johnson &
Mar. 13 Southbound	Apr. 10 Spur of the Moment	Denise Ray
Mar. 20 Cold Frosty Morn	Apr. 17 Southbound	May 8 Spur of the
Mar. 27 Highway 302	Apr. 24 Highway 302	Moment
		May 15 Frosty Morning
		May 22 Highway 302

The Prairie Winds Café in Molt, Montana. A short drive from Billings. Head west on Rimrock Road and keep going. Great traditional breakfasts and great music with great service and great hosts make a great start for your great Saturdays

WILL SELF DEC. 2, 1944 - DEC. 16, 2009 FRIEND AND MENTOR TO MANY



Textured photo of Cold Frosty Morn. Dennis Anderson, Will Self, Dave Webinger, Pete Michelotti. Michelotti Photo.

Long time friends of the YBA may remember watching Will Self play bass behind local bands Cold Frosty Morn and the Longtime Lonesome Dogs. Will was a professor of mathematics at Montana State University, Billings. He was a gifted mathematician, wood worker, musician and solver of puzzles. He was a big, gentle man who enjoyed the simple pleasures of life including playing with his dogs, hiking, cooking and taking road trips. Will helped many members of the Bluegrass Association in our musical pursuits including your editor as well as the members of Cold Frosty Morn. The first time we heard his music was on the KEMC "Strings and Things" radio show. He and his wife, Margaret Cunningham, were playing Irish music and being interviewed by Doug Ezell. That love of Celtic melodies eventually resulted in the band, "Maggie's Drowsy Bowsers," which was a bit of a play on a traditional Irish reel and the name of the Longtime Lonesome Dogs. Only a few short weeks before he was to retire, Will was crossing North 27th Street on his way to the MSU-B campus when he was struck by a pickup truck. He was in surgery for hours with severe physical injuries and brain trauma. Miraculously he survived, but unfortunately, as in the case of brain injuries, he was never quite the same again. Over several years his health gradually deteriorated and he passed away on December 16, 2009. His death was a loss to all of us and his talents are sorely missed.

PLANT SOME SEEDS SOME MUSICAL SEEDS

It is that time of year to think about planning a garden and perhaps planting a few seeds indoors for germination and later transplanting when it is warmer. Planting some musical seeds works too. Remember Jack and the Beanstalk and his magical beans? Bob Massey had an idea in the early '90's to start a bluegrass club in Billings and your editor was able to help with that seed planting. The Yellowstone Bluegrass Association has grown out of that effort. Hosting a jam can lead to seed planting as well. Early on several pickers began a practice jam at the Ramsey house in the Heights to learn some Friday night tunes. Eventually they formed a band called "Almost Bluegrass." That band came to spawn several others over the years and several members are still playing. Here are some other seeds that were planted, some accidentally by myself. I had invited some other pickers over to my house to jam, among them Will Self and Margaret Cunningham. Here Will met Ed Pierson. They decided to go to Pug Mahon's or the Depot when Ed Kemmick brought in a folk singer from Butte. There they hooked up with tenor banjoist Bob Zuklic. Will invited your editor to a jam at his home and Ed Kemmick brought his guitar, harmonica and vocal style. They all started jamming together and added John Kemmick and Kevin Oliver and the Longtime Lonesome Dogs were born. Another time Ed had come over to my jam with a mandolin student, Peter Michelotti. This was likely in 2000. Pete also became part of the Dogs as well as combining with Will, Dennis Anderson and Dave Webinger to form Cold Frosty Morn.

If you wish for something to happen, don't wait for someone else to do it. Would you like more jams to play in? Or play in a band? Or play other types of music, etc.? Make it happen yourself. Plant a musical seed or two and see what comes of it. You might be as surprised as Jack was with his beanstalk.

COLD FROSTY MORN - THE GENESIS OF A BAND.

While Ed Pierson was mentoring Pete Michelotti they wanted to bring in a guitar player and asked Dennis Anderson to jam with them. They played as "Pryor Mountain," at a YBA benefit for Ed Finley, fellow picker and organ transplant patient. Dennis wanted to add fellow guitarist Dave Webinger and Ed's friend, Will Self had been playing bass with them all along. Among other tunes, Ed introduced them to a New England fiddle tune, "Cold Frosty Morn." They decided it would be fun to play together in a showcase, but they needed a name for the band. Will Self finally said, "Let's use 'Cold Frosty Morn,' That would be a good name." So Ed Pierson and Will Self were both responsible for naming that band. Soon after, Ed Pierson went on to other musical pursuits and left the band. After Will's unfortunate accident, he was replaced with bass players, Rick Weingerter or Frank Mouat, depending upon availability. Longtime fiddler, Phil Fadely played for a time, but moved away. Your editor was jamming with them on fiddle when Moat invited Bonnie Zieske to join in. I bowed out as I knew Bonnie wanted to play fiddle with a band and didn't need anyone else fiddling, too. When Peter Michelotti also moved on to his other musical groups, she added her mandolin to both her female vocals and fiddling. Bonnie has provided another good, solid dimension to "Cold Frosty Morn."

WHO LET THE DAWGS OUT?



The Longtime Lonesome Dogs, that is. This group started as a jam band and included many musicians and instruments over about eight or nine years. They played a very eclectic repertory of music including blues, old time country, rocking stuff, and some bluegrass. Introducing them at a YBA Showcase, MC Terry Jessee described them as one of his most favorite bands. They became a favorite of many other music enthusiasts in this region as well. Although this group disbanded back in August 2008 they are reuniting for a March 6, 2010, event at the Prairie Winds Café in Molt, one of their favorite venues. Doug Haberman has been their bass player in recent years. There will be a large crowd there, but it may be your very last chance to ever hear the Dawgs play. (More photos on YBA website. Click on Newsletters.)

BLUEGRASS IN LIVINGSTON

Open Bluegrass Jam 7:30 PM Thursdays

Pine Creek Lodge & Café Livingston, MT 406-222-3628

BLUEGRASS IN THERMOPOLIS

Happenings in Thermopolis, WY. Courtesy of Ed Capen

March 1st (Monday) Jam at Big Horn Federal Bank 6:00 - 8:00pm.

March 5th (Friday) Prickly Pear Concert (Cowboy Music) at the VFW 5:30pm.

March 19th (Friday) Jam at Southside Shell 6:00 - 8:00pm.

April 16th (Friday) Jam at Southside Shell 6:00 - 8:00pm.

April 17th (Saturday) Spur of the Moment (from Billings, MT.) Concert at Hot Springs School Auditorium at 6:30pm.

May 29-30 Wyoming State Fiddle Contest

BLUEGRASS IN MISSOULA

Winter jam series - 2 PM second Saturdays - potluck about 5:30 PM. Ruby's Inn & Convention Center 4825 North Reserve

MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



Wade and Laura Steinmetz have been partners in marriage and music for 30 years. Wade is the new president of the YBA and they are staunch members of the Rambling Laurels. Wade's banjo rolls and Laura's vocals and bass rhythm provide the core for much of the Laurel's music. She is also an excellent guitar player and her father was a musician for decades going back to WWII days. They jammed with friends and on Tuesday's in Laurel for years, prior to joining that band.

SECRETARY MAY BE OUT OF TOWN

This issue has directed you to make requests to Terry Indreland regarding printed copies of Bluegrass Clippings and the list of members. Please be patient if he is not available to receive your phone calls. Leave a message and/or call back later. Thank you. Editor.



HANSEN MUSIC IS A MAJOR SPONSOR OF Y.B.A. CONCERTS

PHOTO PAGE



Longtime Lonesome Dogs at Pug Mahon's Billings, MT



Rambling Laurels at Prairie Winds Café Molt, MT