



BLUEGRASS Clippings

April 2011

Yellowstone Bluegrass Association

YBA Officers:

President—Wade Steinmetz
Vice President—Trent Indreland
Sec.-Treas.—Terry Indreland

YBA Board Members:

Ed Pierson
Brad Sherseth
David Nelson
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)

September-May

2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$15/Person or \$25/Family

CONTACT US:

YBA	yellowstonebluegrass.com
Wade Steinmetz	wades@usadig.com 656-9783
Terry Indreland	indreland@mac.com 652-4677
Laura Steinmetz Pat Gum	cattlelady1@gmail.com gumb@bresnan.net

EDITORIAL NONSENSE

To check out online or on TV

The Bluegrass Blog at www.thebluegrassblog.com
WAMU's Bluegrass Country, online information and listening.

On RFD TV

Every Saturday night, check out the lineup starting at 5:00 pm.

The Reno's Old Time Music: Bluegrass guest every week,

The Marty Stuart Show: great country and bluegrass music,

The Presley Family Country Show,

The Cumberland Highlanders Show:

from the home of Bill Monroe, featuring the Cumberland Highlanders and various guest bands,

Larry's Country Diner: a fun mix of talk, memories, guest stars and comedy, great for the nostalgia lover



Go Dave Go!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I don't know if it was the long, hard winter, and folks were feeling shut in, but our mid-winter jam/party was a rousing success. We had old and new friends from all different corners of eastern Montana who joined us locals for a day of outstanding music. The new idea of bunching musicians together in "put-together bands" made for lively and surprisingly good music. It gave those who are not in an established band the opportunity to perform before an audience with quality backup. Of course, some of our regular bands regaled us with their own sets. We had side rooms available for warming up and jamming, and this led to some of the finest impromptu jamming I've ever heard. Our new friend Wes Horton, a talented upright bass player from Nashville, worked his fingers off assisting all of our newer talent and then later, jamming well into the evening. When asked what he thought of our Montana bluegrass, he exclaimed, "These people can flat out pick!!!" He continues to rock at the Friday night jams. Special thanks go to David Nelson and Brad Sherseth for their hard work in organizing, food delivery and set-up of the buffet and clean-up. A special thanks goes to the membership of the

Unitarian Fellowship Building which was a perfect venue for the event. From the large hall, which had great acoustics, to the smaller rooms for jamming and dining, to the nice kitchen, all of our needs were met.

The Friday night jams continue to be well-attended. Each week we have new faces and are appreciative of our long-time members who care enough to show them the ropes. If you haven't attended in a while, stop in. You might be surprised.

Remember, the showcase is on April 29. Please contact Trent Indreland to reserve a spot for your band. We already have some new bands signed up, so get a slot. The first song will be "I'll Fly Away" in A, and any YBA members are invited to come onstage to start the evening and of course, finish with "Circle" at the evening's close.

I reiterate my feelings of pride at the growth and, yes, blossoming of the YBA. We have musicians coming from as far as Reed Point and Sidney to take in our events. They are so welcome.

Keep practicing, and remember, pick it solid.

Wade

Please Remember To Pay Your Annual YBA Dues By April 30 or this is your last newsletter!

Remember, our **Spring Showcase** will be **Friday, April 29th**.

Contact Trent Indreland if you plan to perform

Happy Easter



DID YOU KNOW

Bluegrass History, or What you do know and maybe what you don't!

If you are involved with bluegrass music whether as a musician or just a listener, chances are you already know about the roots of this uniquely American art form. Most of the tunes, some dating back as far as the 1600s, have been passed down through generations of musicians who came mainly from the British Isles. But with each passing down came perhaps new words to familiar songs, or access to new instruments which changed the sound. Owing to the prosperity of the person and also the fact that people have always been on the move, it is logical that early instruments were both affordable and easily moved. For these reasons, we don't encounter pianos, harps, or metal instruments in today's bluegrass bands. It's hard to "tote yer piana", and most couldn't afford that trumpet or tuba. So, luckily for us, the violin in its various sizes, and likewise the mandolin and guitar have survived almost as the same piece or as some lovely variant which is still with us today.

You most likely know that the banjo was introduced to Americans by the African slaves who brought it over about the same time the Europeans were landing up north with their folk music and traditions. Called the banjar, the instrument has been described as some sort of dried gourd to which a neck was eventually attached, and

strings ran the length of the banjar over a cut-out sound hole.

As the eastern edge of our country filled with immigrants, and slavery made its way from the south well into the north, it is only natural that folks got to experience each other's musical traditions and instruments. The real creative types started fashioning their own versions of those items which probably were not readily available in the few stores around back then, nor could they afford to buy them had they been for sale. As they say, necessity is the mother of invention. And music and stories were all anybody had for a couple of centuries in our new country.

We cannot forget the oldest, and I feel, best instrument in any bluegrass band: the voice. As long as there have been humans, there have been songs. A good bet is that the lullaby is one of the oldest art forms. For every human emotion and experience, there have been the song writers to witness and record them so that our common bond, no matter our heritage, can be shared through music. How many of you have heard a Japanese or Czech bluegrass band? Even if they aren't singing in English, which many of them do, there is a good chance you recognize the song and story.

Poor Banjo Players

banjo player: "When I die, I want to leave the world a better place."

guitar player: "Don't worry, you will."

UPCOMING EVENT

Concerts/Events

- **Praire Winds Cafe** Enjoy local Bluegrass Bands on Saturday mornings from 9am-12 noon in Molt
- **Tunes for Tuesday Open Mic Night**- Yellowstone Valley Brewing Co. Garage
- **Tuesday Music** 6:00-8:00 Bull Mountain Grille
- **Monday Night Open Mic** 7:00-9:00 Pryor Creek Bar & Grille (Apr 4-no music)

Festivals

- **Montana Folk Festival** July 8-10 Butte
- 3rd Annual **Kootenai River Bluegrass and Beyond Festival** at Roosevelt Park in Troy Mt. on July 15-17
- **Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival** July 22-24 in Hamilton
- **Music on Wings** Miles City Sept 16-18.

Music Camps

- **Thermopolis Bluegrass Academy** Bluegrass Workshop. Thermopolis April 16
- **Montana State Oldtime Fiddlers** 16th Annual Fiddle Camp Monarch June 5-10 or June 12-17
- 6th Annual **Grand Targhee Resort Bluegrass Camp** Aug. 10-13

Bulletin Board

- Music equipment for sale or to buy
- Announcements (weddings, grandbaby etc.)



Clayton Olson stars in the "Stereo Rockets" 1960

Contact us with newsletter ideas, photos, articles, classified, or comments.

Laura: cattilelady1@gmail.com
656-9783

Or

Pat: gumb@bresnan.net
256-9182

Bulletin Board



Barry's Cleaning House (256-9182): **AppleCreek Mountain Dulcimer** with gig bag, nearly new \$175.

Martin (D12X1) 12 string-\$550.

Taylor(110GB) 6 String- \$550.

Mandolin for sale: 2003 Weber Yellowstone, Serial number 3122401 Original Brekke bridge replaced w/ Cumberland Acoustic & recent set up by Big Joe's Guitar Works, Nashville, Tenn. Tone bar bracing, radiused fretboard. Has one ding easily noticeable on the bass side of the front.
Call Don Giuliano:
Cell: 423-368-1836;
Home: 423-334-2789

Clippings' Feature Member

I think it is true that each and every one of us have been wowed by **Clayton Olson's** ability to carry out a musical performance. Well that didn't happen overnight!

Growing up in a musical home in North Dakota, Clayton has always played music. He would come home on Sundays and play the hymns on the piano that he heard and sang in church. He played guitar in a rock band called the Stereo Rockets in Litchville, ND in 1963. That doesn't surprise anyone who has been around when Clayton breaks out the old rock and roll goodies! He played accordion for N. D. dances and in the Dick Yanni Combo band when in Alaska while serving in the Army.

He now enjoys playing bluegrass and playing in church on Sundays. Clayton worked his

entire career as a T.V. technician at Radio Equipment Co. here in Billings. He retired in 2003 and now has time to enjoy his hobbies which include woodworking and making things for his granddaughters. He and his wife, Cleone, have been married for 46 years and they enjoy their 4 grandchildren and their twin great granddaughters (we understand he spoils them with homemade ice cream).

All-in-all Clayton has mastered the guitar, mandolin, accordion, piano and Keyboard. For those of us who can't handle one instrument, Clayton is quite a wonder and looking at the picture I am sure that many a girl would bat her eyes his direction! Clayton truly ROCKS!

Thanks Cleone for your help!

Yellowstone Bluegrass Assoc.



Address Label