



BLUEGRASS Clippings

April 2012

Yellowstone Bluegrass Association

YBA Officers:

President—David Nelson

Vice President—Trent Indreland

Sec.-Treas.—Terry Indreland

YBA Board Members:

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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)

NO JAM May 4

LAST JAM MAY 18

MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$15/Person or \$25/Family

Full time Students are due

exempt

Mail to:

YBA

PO Box 23143

Billings, MT 59104

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|----------------------------|--|
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| Terry Indreland | indreland@mac.com 652-4677 |
| Laura Steinmetz Pat Gum | cattlelady1@gmail.com gumb@bresnan.net |

DID YOU KNOW by Laura

Bluegrass Jamming Basics

by Pete Wernick
(Dr. Banjo)

Traditional Unspoken Ground

Rules: These rules are used
WORLDWIDE!

1. Whoever is singing lead or kicks off an instrumental usually leads the group through the song, signaling who takes instrumental solos (“breaks”) and when to end.

2. Typical arrangement formats:

A. When there are few or no instrumental soloists, a singer can start by playing simple rhythm on the root chord (“Mac Wiseman Beginning”), let others come in, then sing until verses run out. Or the singer can give a solo to anyone willing, following format:

B. On a song when some instruments can solo:
Break (“kickoff”), verse 1, chorus,
Break, verse 2, chorus,
Break, verse 3, chorus — [optional:
add solo(s) and final chorus]

C. On instrumentals, the same person usually starts and ends, with solos going around in a circle to those willing. Most common end: double “shave and a haircut” lick. 3. Regarding solos (“breaks”):

A. Breaks for songs generally follow the melody and chords of a verse.

B. At the beginning of a song, the song leader asks if someone can play a kickoff break. Near end of each chorus, the song leader offers breaks

C. Head and body language (nodding) are used to offer, accept/decline.

D. If no one can solo, the singer just keeps singing verses and choruses to the end.

E. If there are more soloists than there are verses of the song, some solos can be grouped together to give everyone a turn. Or the singer can repeat verses to lengthen the song.

F. If there are more than enough spots for breaks, some soloists can take an extra turn.

4. If an instrumental soloist starts late, listen for whether the break is starting from the top or from a later point in the song. If you and others realize you seem to be at different points in the song, try to resolve it quickly, usually by falling in with the soloist, even if he/she is mistaken.

5. When the lead singer doesn’t start a verse on time, keep playing the root chord and wait until the singer starts before going to the chord changes.

6. Sing harmonies on choruses only normally. Verses are sung solo. But in less advanced

jams, people may sing along on choruses or verses, even if not singing a harmony.

7. Use signals to help everyone end together: Foot out, hold up instrument, end after “one last chorus” or repeat of last line. Listen for instrumental licks that signal ending.



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Time once again for the Yearly membership dues. They are the same as last year

\$15.00/person or \$25.00/family.

However, all full time students (High School or College) are exempt from paying dues but have all the privileges of full membership.



Message From Our President

Please note the list of area events below. Google or otherwise investigate to be sure about time, date, etc. Much diligent effort and planning goes into these events and it is great to support the effort, bluegrass music, and make some new friends.

In keeping with our intention to educate and promote bluegrass music we annually sponsor an aspiring young musician and send them to Montana Fiddle Camp. If you know of a student with an interest in bluegrass music who would be a good candidate for this opportunity please let your board or officers know.

Be sure to get the **July 21st** date on your bluegrass calendar and come and enjoy a day of bluegrass jamming with friends, YBA at Riverfront Park here in Billings! We have reserved a shelter and will have refreshments and late afternoon BBQ. (your membership dues at work) Please bring your friends and a picking chair. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

I had a chance to go to the Midwinter Bluegrass Festival in Denver early February. I'm sure there were at least 700-800 attendees with many of them

staying in the hotel. Many bands performed but the highlight was the jamming. There were larger organized jams/workshops with Pete Wernick among others and smaller jams taking place throughout the large lobby as well as the entire building. So much music! Opportunities to play with friendly familiar faces from Wyo and Mt as well as with professional musicians one sees on the stage in other settings.

Our midwinter all day bluegrass jam, Feb. 25, was well attended by over 40 enthusiastic musicians. Folks came from as far away as Melville and Miles City and we were pleased to pick up some new members as well. The BBQ was great and so were the brownies made by Laura Steinmetz! Many hands made light work with the cleanup.

Our weekly Friday night jams at the Lincoln continue to attract a good crowd including some new faces. In visiting with new pickers who find us, invariably it is by way of our well maintained website. Thank you, Trent Indreland.

Clippings' Feature

Earl Eugene Scruggs From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. (January 6, 1924 – March 28, 2012) was an American musician noted for perfecting and popularizing a three-finger banjo-picking style (now called "[Scruggs style](#)") that is a defining characteristic of [bluegrass music](#). Although other musicians had played in three-finger style before him, Scruggs shot to prominence when he was hired by [Bill Monroe](#) to fill the banjo slot in his group, the Blue Grass Boys. **Early life-** Scruggs was born near [Shelby, Cleveland County, North Carolina](#), to Georgia Lula Ruppe and George Elam Scruggs, a farmer and bookkeeper, who played banjo and sadly died when Earl Scruggs was only 4. His older brothers Junie and Horace, plus his two older sisters Eula Mae and Ruby Scruggs all played banjo and guitar. Earl Scruggs mother played the organ.^[4] He grew up in [Cleveland County, North Carolina](#) **Career-** Scruggs joined [Bill Monroe's](#) Blue Grass Boys in late 1945, and quickly popularized his syncopated, three-finger picking style. In 1948 Scruggs and guitarist [Lester Flatt](#) left Monroe's band and formed the [Foggy Mountain Boys](#), also later known simply as Flatt and Scruggs. In 1969, they broke up, and he started a new band, the Earl Scruggs Revue, featuring several of his sons. On September 24, 1962, singer [Jerry Scoggins](#), [Lester Flatt](#) and Scruggs recorded "[The Ballad of Jed Clampett](#)" for the TV show [The Beverly Hillbillies](#), which was released October 12, 1962. The theme song became an immediate [country music](#) hit and was played at the beginning and end of each episode. Flatt and Scruggs appeared in several episodes as family friends of the Clampetts in the following years. In their first appearance (season 1 episode 20), they portray themselves in the show and perform both the theme song and "Pearl Pearl Pearl". On November 15,

1969, Scruggs played his Grammy-winning "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" on an open-air stage in Washington, D.C., at the [Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam](#), becoming one of the very few bluegrass or country-western artists to give support to the anti-war movement. In an interview after his performance, Scruggs said, "I think the people in the South is just as concerned as the people that's walkin' the streets here today ... I'm sincere about bringing our boys back home. I'm disgusted and in sorrow about the boys we've lost over there. And if I could see a good reason to continue, I wouldn't be here today." In January 1973, a tribute concert was held for Scruggs in [Manhattan, Kansas](#). Among the artists playing were [Joan Baez](#), [David Bromberg](#), [The Byrds](#), [Ramblin' Jack Elliott](#), [The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band](#), and [Doc and Merle Watson](#). The concert was filmed and turned into the 1975 documentary film

[Banjoman](#) **Awards and honors-** Flatt and Scruggs won a [Grammy Award](#) in 1969 for Scruggs' instrumental "[Foggy Mountain Breakdown](#)". They were inducted together into the [Country Music Hall of Fame](#) in 1985. In 1989, Scruggs was awarded a [National Heritage Fellowship](#). He was an inaugural inductee into the [International Bluegrass Music Hall of Honor](#) in 1991. In 1992, he was awarded the [National Medal of Arts](#). In 1994, Scruggs teamed up with [Randy Scruggs](#) and [Doc Watson](#) to contribute the song "Keep on the Sunny Side" to the [AIDS](#) benefit album [Red Hot + Country](#) produced by the [Red Hot Organization](#). In 2002 Scruggs won a second Grammy award for the 2001 recording of "Foggy Mountain Breakdown", which featured artists such as [Steve Martin](#) on 2nd [banjo](#) solo (Martin played the banjo tune on his 1970s stand-up comic acts), [Vince Gill](#) and [Albert Lee](#) on electric guitar solos, [Paul Shaffer](#) on piano, [Leon Russell](#) on organ, and [Marty Stuart](#) on mandolin. The album, *Earl Scruggs and Friends*, also featured artists such as [John Fogerty](#), [Elton John](#), [Sting](#), [Johnny Cash](#), [Don Henley](#), [Travis Tritt](#), and



Bulletin Board

• Hoener 5-string banjo, 2 yrs. old, case, tuner, extra strings, picks, music books, cds. \$350. 656-3990

• Baby Taylor Guitar for sale. It's a model 301, serial # 960710309-1, bought new about 2006. Has a tan soft case that comes with it. Asking \$175.00. Can call 628 6944. Ben Lewis

Archie Bott Happy Birthday



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

Laura:

cattlelady1@gmail.com

656-9783

Or

Pat: gumb@bresnan.net

256-9182

[Billy Bob Thornton](#), Scruggs was honored at [Turner Field](#) in [Atlanta](#) as part of the pre-game show for an [Atlanta Braves](#) home game. Organizers set a world record for the most banjo players (239) playing one tune together (Scruggs' "Foggy Mountain Breakdown"). On February 10, 2008, Scruggs was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 50th Annual [Grammy Awards](#). **Personal life-** Scruggs' wife and manager, Louise, died on February 2, 2006, aged 78, at [Nashville's](#) Baptist Hospital following a lengthy illness. **Death-** Scruggs died from natural causes on March 28, 2012, in a Nashville hospital.^{[1][12]} His funeral was held on Sunday, April 1, 2012 at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee at 2pm and was open to the public. He was buried at [Spring Hill Cemetery](#) in a private service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18 Maverick String Co with Ted Ness and the Rusty Nails. No cover Yellowstone Valley Brewing Co. Garage

April 20 The Jam in Thermopolis, WY. Will be at the Front Porch Deli.

May 19 **Two Bit Franks** are John Lowell, Tom Murphy Jeff Shouse, and Russ Smith \$5 cover. Yellowstone Valley Brewing Co. Garage

MAY 19 Come celebrate Archie Bott's **80th Birthday**, Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at the White Bird School House south of Columbus. We will have a potluck/music jam session. We will have meat, coffee, punch, cake and ice cream. Bring your favorite side dish, instruments, and smiling faces. (No gifts, please, we want the pleasure of your company).

Directions: South out of Columbus, cross the river, take right branch, highway 78, drive about 7 miles, turn on White Bird Road at the sign. Stay on the main road as it winds up the valley about 6 1/2 miles. You will see the school. Hope to see you. Barbara and Archie

June 3-8 and June 10-15, 2012. Montana Fiddle Camp, Monarch, MT, Fred Buckley, 319 Old Divide Rd., Roundup, MT 59072, (406) 323-1198, buckley@midrivers.com; www.montanafiddlers.org

June 18-23 National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest, Weiser, Id

July 6,7,8 The Big Horn Mountain Festival, Buffalo, Wy., featuring: Houston Jones, Sons And Brothers, Northern Departure, Travers Chandler & Avery County, Spring Creek, The Jalan Crossland Band, Troxel & Krieger, and Too Wet To Plow www.Bighornmountainfestival.com.

July 7 "Growling Old Men" will play Venture Theater in Billings sponsored by YBA

July 21- YBA Picnic/Jam at Riverfront Park in Billings 10-10

July 27-29 Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival, 10 miles S. of Hamilton, Mt

August 3-5 Fiddlers Picnic, Livingston The event will take place at 5230 U.S. Highway 89 South in Livingston across the highway from the old Firehouse 5 Theatre and next to the Gallatin National Forest Service's Livingston Ranger District office. Saturday noon potluck.

August 10-12 Musicians Rendezvous, Itch-Kep-Pe Park, Columbus, Mt. Later Saturday afternoon **potluck**.

August 17-18 Wyo. State BBQ and Bluegrass Festival, at the fairgrounds, Worland, Wy., Kenny and Amanda Smith Band. Free.

September 14-16 Music on Wings Bluegrass Fest., at the fairgrounds, Miles City, Mt

October 17-20 NILE Cowboy Code Gathering. Bluegrass groups will be featured Wednesday through Saturday 5:00-6:00 PM. Sign up is on a first come first served basis. Also, any group or individual who wants to play Western Music on the day stage between the hours of 12:00 - 5:00 PM can also sign up. Please contact Almeda Bradshaw 348-3282

Skip Gorman will be a featured entertainer/educator at the 2012 NILE Cowboy Code Gathering. Skip Gorman is known for his Bill Monroe-style mandolin playing and will be conducting a MANDOLIN WORKSHOP for YBA members Wednesday October 17, 7:00-9:00 PM with location TBA. The workshop fee will include admission to the Cowboy Code Night Show Friday October 19. Learn more about this fine musician/historian at www.skipgorman.com

More things

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

- May 5th Spur of the Moment
- May 12TH Southbound
- May 19th Cold Frosty Morning
- May 26th Highway 302

Tunes for Tuesday Open Mic Night-

Always looking for people to play. Phone 697 2324 to get a slot. Great fun!

Address Label

Yellowstone Bluegrass Assoc.

