



BLUEGRASS Clippings



Yellowstone Bluegrass Association

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PR coordinator - Paddy Moore Newsletter

Pat Gum - Editor
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ACTIVITIES

Friday Night Jams

7:00 P.M.
 Base
 Band
 415
 (Use SE Entrance)

MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$15erson or \$25/Family
Full time Students are dues exempt
Mail to:
 YBA
 PO Box 23143
 Billings, MT 59104

YBA	yellowstonebluegrass.com
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February 2014

Bluegrass Jamming

GRAND OPENING OF EARL SCRUGGS CENTER

There was over a thousand people who attended the grand opening of the Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby, North Carolina, on January 11, 2014. Although with a downpour of rain, it didn't dampen the spirits of those attending and performing this fine mans' talent on the 5 string banjo! Many dignitaries from the state were there, along with a variety of bluegrass and country musicians

Opening the ceremony was a group of 4 th grade students performing " You are my Flower", then followed by a single banjo player playing " Reuben", and quickly joined by a huge group of musicians, including The Steep Canyon Rangers, and many others, to complete the song. Brief speeches were given by those responsible for building the center, and stories by people who knew Earl personally. They said they would be brief, because Earl would have enjoyed listening to music more than speeches! After that there was a quick scramble for instruments (we all know what that's like), to return to the stage for a version of "Foggy Mountain Breakdown". which had the crowd clapping along

The Center offers tours, and includes a small museum, located in the historic Cleveland County Courthouse, the county where Earl grew up. It has a life sized statue of young Earl, holding a banjo, complete with his Presto tailpiece on it, and with his famous "National Picks" on his fingers. There are also many musical and historical exhibits, along with Scruggs' first homemade tuner, made in 1952. They have two of Scruggs' banjos, and numerous photos tracing Scruggs' life. It may not be a mecca of three-finger banjo, but interesting to look at the life and influences of a man who many consider a musical hero! Earl Scruggs has touched all of our lives in some way. If you are ever in the North Carolina area, take some time and visit this fine tribute to this man. Thanks to the citizens of this state for giving us this opportunity.

A Little History About the Dulcimer

There are basically two types of dulcimer's, the Appalachian (or mountain dulcimer), and the hammered dulcimer. The Appalachian is a fretted instrument, typically with three or four strings. Its origins are in the Appalachian region of the US. It first appeared in the early 1800's among the Scotch - Irish immigrants, however with no know precedent in Ireland or Scotland.

The hammered dulcimer, a predecessor of the psaltery and the piano, arrived in the US over 300 years ago by way of Europe. It originated in Persia around 900 AD, and was commercially produced and shipped within the United States by the late 1800's. The modern hammered dulcimer's have between 10 to 80 strings, two bridges-bass and treble- and is capable of producing a wide variety of sounds by tapping or striking the strings with small wooden hammers. It developed a trapezoidal shape in the early 1600's in Europe.

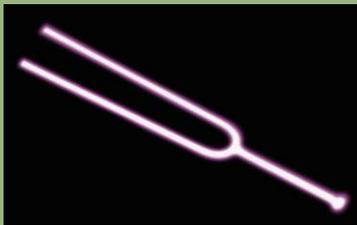
The hammered dulcimer generates one note per string, similar to the harp or piano, where the mountain dulcimer has a fretted note system which can be played like the guitar or violin.

The dulcimer is an often neglected instrument in the traditional music world, despite its potential to create beautiful music. There is one man noted to be the most recognized player of the hammered dulcimer is Ken Kolodner, who along with his son Brad (a clawhammer banjo player), have recently released an album together featuring these two instruments. An album based around a clawhammer banjo and hammered dulcimer might not seem like it should work, but it does! The album is described as " peaceful ", and is quite calming and soothing. The Kolodner's also include the fiddle in some of their arrangements on the album, and include guest artists. The album is called " Skipping Rocks ", a unique old -time experience.

Old-time music has recently experienced a rise in popularity. There are many sites on-line, if you are looking into learning to play either types of dulcimers. I would like to see someone bring one to our jams and play it! Let's keep on playing! Sharon

Fiddle Camp Scholarship

Looking for student nominations/ applications, for Fiddle Camp Scholarship. We send a student every year to this. It will be for one week in June, held in Monarch, MT. Under the age of 17, need to be accompanied by a parent. Send name to Sharon54@centurylink.net , or call 1-406-930-2168.



Time to FORK over your dues

**DEADLINE
MARCH 15**

2014 SPBGMA AWARD WINNERS

The 2014 awards from the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass of America were announced on February 2, 2014 in Nashville, as the Grand Finale of their 31st annual National Convention. Here are a few of the winners.

- * Preservation Hall Inductee-- Rhonda Vincent
- *Bluegrass Songwriter -- Tom T. and Dixie Hall
- *Bluegrass album --" In a Country Town" by The Farm Hands
- *Bass fiddler -- Mickey Harris
- *Dobro -- Tim Graves
- *Guitar -- Josh Williams
- *Mandolin --Danny Roberts
- *Banjo -- Sammy Shelor
- *Fiddle --Michael Cleveland
- *Gospel group --Dailey and Vincent
- *Vocal group --Dailey and Vincent
- *Instrumental group of the year--Rhonda Vincent and the Rage
- *Entertainer --Rhonda Vincent
- *Song --"They Called It Music", by The Gibson Brothers

President Message

Greetings to everyone!

I must say, it was quite a shock for me to be chosen as the President of the Yellowstone Bluegrass Association this last December, but I am humbled, proud, and excited to take on this duty. First of all I love this organization, and the people in it, and the music we all make! Its all for the love of the music! That's why we have so much fun in the first place, and to share it with each other. That builds bonds and good friendships, and that is my philosophy of this organization. We are like a family, and we care about each other. Its not important how you play or sing---its the fact your with us and sharing yourself with us. I think we need to pat ourselves on the back more often, because we are involved in creating something beautiful, and that's good for the body and soul.

I really want to give a BIG THANKS to Dave Nelson for all his hard work for the past couple years. I didn't understand all the tasks involved in planning , setting up, and taking down our events, that he so graciously did so quietly! He was the unseen hero here, and we need to appreciate what he did. I will still need Dave's advice -ALOT! He even came to my house and spent the entire day teaching me the ins and outs of running this organization. There is a lot to it. I can't say as I remember it all Dave, but I know I can count on you when I need you again! So again- Thank You- for your hard work and dedication to keep our organization alive and well!

Now to go into some of the events we are planning this year. First of all we will again have a Spring Showcase, which we haven't had for several years since the loss of the Lincoln Center. It is scheduled for Friday, May 9th at the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (YBGR) chapel. And as long as we're on this subject, there is also a Fall Showcase planned at the same place on Friday, October 24th. We are grateful to Regina Demis, who is so gracious in working with us for providing us a venue for our showcases, and she has told me she is excited to work with us again this year. It provides us an opportunity to display our talents, and promote bluegrass music in our area. We will have a table set up in the lobby to sell CD's of bands who have them, and also YBA T-shirts, and a place to sign up new members. Also something new this year, which will also be out at the YBGR, is what I call "Jam on the Greens". We will have a Sunday afternoon YBA jam on the grounds of this beautiful setting, and host a pot-luck dinner. It's planned for June 29th, starting at 2:00PM. We will provide the ham and buns, and salads and deserts from you. This should be a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon, and give us another excuse to play and to visit with each other :) They have plenty of trees out there, and we can use there gazebo, and they will provide us with picnic tables. So what else do we need! I hope its warmer by then though, and the bugs aren't so bad yet.

It does bear mentioning that a group of YBA members will be going to North Carolina this April for a Bluegrass Gospel Baptist Revival! WOW! What fun are they in for huh? They are driving down there April 23rd, and coming back on May 3rd! I know they will have some stories to tell when they get home! Good luck everyone, we wish you a safe trip and Gods' protection. I expect a story or 2 from some of you!

Then there is the Mid-Winter Jam/BBQ coming up March 1st, at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall. This event is always fun. It will start at 1:00PM. and go until whenever. Good food, good music, and good people! Invite your family and friends to come along, and ask them if they would like to even join our YBA group. Who knows, you might be doing them a favor by inviting them to something they would enjoy, and enrich their lives. I know it did for me!

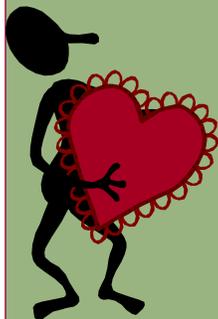
Then again something new this year will be the YBA sponsoring a "Learn A Bluegrass Song". I will ask 4 members of our group to teach 1 or 2 bluegrass songs to students, and then have them perform as a bluegrass band in front of their families and friends and community. Trent Indreland has accepted to teach the mandolin class, and Wade Steinmetz has agreed to teach the banjo class. I have yet to find the guitar teacher and a harmonica teacher. But this should be fun too! It will be limited to 1 hour of classroom teaching, then 1 hour to practice as a group, then perform it. I have a venue in mind, but still have more planning to do on this one, but just so you know.

The Lincoln Center issue will be resolved soon, and we can continue our Friday night jams. Actually there would be no jam on February 14th anyway, school is closed on that day. I wouldn't be surprised if we can't start by the 21st, but we'll just have to wait.

We also have printed up YBA T-shirts, and they will be available for purchase at the Mid-Winter Jam. They are nice!

Well I hope you enjoy viewing our Bluegrass Clippings E-mail Newsletter. Refer to the activities list for all activities that are planned so far this year, its on there somewhere, so mark your calendars if you want. Let me know what you think of it? And REMEMBER= THIS IS YOUR EMAIL SITE AS WELL! WE WANT YOUR THOUGHTS, STORIES, JOKES, YOUR BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENTS, YOUR UP-COMING GIG INFORMATION, OR WHATEVER. SEND IT EITHER TO ME, OR TO PAT GUM @ patgum4@gmail.com Lets keep on Pickin!

Sharon



"Happy Valentines Day to all you lovers out there, and we know you're out there!"

February 15 and 16-Dillon Fiddle Contest Depot Theater Dillon, Contact: jeanjames@bresnan.net.

March 1st: Mid-Winter Jam/BBQ. Unitarian Fellowship, 2032 Central Ave, starting at 1PM. Blues BBQ served around 5PM, then more pickin

April 18th: No Jam, Lincoln Center closed

May 9th Spring Showcase at the YBGR chapel, starting at 7PM

May 10th: Medora Ribs and Bluegrass, Medora, North Dakota

May 20-21st: Missouri River Bluegrass Festival, Cross Ranch State Park. Washburn, North Dakota

May 30th: Last day of jams at the Lincoln Center. School is out for the summer.

June 7th: International Music Camp/ Fiddle competition. Dunseith, North Dakota

June 20-21 is the Missouri River Bluegrass Festival at the Cross Ranch State Park

June 29th: "Jam on the Greens", on the grounds of the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch. Potluck and jamming starting at 2:00 PM.

July 11- 13th: Big Horn Mountain Festival, Buffalo Wyoming

July 19th YBA Picnic and BBQ, Riverfront Park, Pavillion #2. Starting at 1 PM

July 25-26th: Montana State Fiddle Contest, Choteau, MT

August 1st- 3rd Livingston's Fiddlers Picnic. Livingston, MT

August 8th- 10th Columbus Jam. Columbus, MT

August 31- Cotton Wood and Cobbler concert at 7pm Cross Ranch State Park

Sept. 19-21st: Miles City Bluegrass Festival. Fairgrounds Contact Gloria Tucker: [406-853-1678](tel:406-853-1678) (cell) [406-234-2480](tel:406-234-2480) (home)

Oct. 24th: Fall Showcase at the YBGR chapel

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hello everyone,

Mark your calendars for our Mid-Winter Jam/BBQ on **March 1st**, at Unitarian Fellowship, 2032 Central Ave. We will begin at 1 PM. with Blues BBQ being served around 5ish, then more pickin until whenever. Invite your family and friends! and lets enjoy each other and our beautiful music! For our new members, this events is free, so come and get involved. It's a lot of fun! and good food! Also any bands that have a gig and want to advertise it, email me and I will put it out on our YBA members email list. Just need your bands' name, name of facility you are playing at, address, and date and time".Thanks, Sharon

Jeremy Kittle, formally of the Turtle Island String Quartet, and Nathaniel Smith, cellist with Natalie MacMaster, will be conducting a WORKSHOP on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH**, from 1:00PM - 3:00 PM, along with performing a concert that same evening at 7:00PM. →

TUESDAY TUNES ON TAP & OPEN MIC AT THE GARAGE

Mid★Winter
B I O E C B V 2 2 E E 2 1 I A V I

<http://www.midwinterbluegrass.com/>

Feb 21-23, 2014
Northglenn Ramada Plaza
Denver, Colo.

Thermopolis 2014 Jams at EXXON
Southside

February 7 & 28, March 7 & 21, April 4 & 18,
May 2 & 16, June 6 & 20, July 4 & 18, August
1 & 22, September 5 & 19, October 3 & 17

Bulletin Board



WHERE: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HALL 2032 Central Ave,
WHEN: WORKSHOP 1:00-3:00 pm
CONCERT: 7:00 pm
COST: WORKSHOP - \$15.00
CONCERT: \$20.00 (\$ 15.00 for workshop attendees)
SPONSORED by: Billings Ceilidh Fiddlers
CALL: JANNY KIRK, KIRK HOUSE OF MUSIC [406-254-0400](tel:406-254-0400)

2013 INTERNATIONAL BLUEGRASS MUSIC AWARDS

Hall of Fame Inductees: Tony Rice, Paul Warren

Entertainer of the Year: The Gibson Brothers

Vocal Group of the Year: The Gibson Brothers

Instrumental Group of the Year: The Boxcars

Male Vocalist of the Year: Junior Sisk

Female Vocalist of the Year: Claire Lynch

Emerging Artist of the Year: Della Mae

Album of the Year: Papertown, Balsam Range, produced by Balsam Range, Mountain Home.

Song of the Year: "They Called It Music," The Gibson Brothers, written by Eric Gibson & Joe Newberry.

Instrumental Recorded Performance of the Year: "Foggy Mountain Rock," by Tom Adams, Dan Tyminski, Ron Stewart, Dennis Crouch, Clay Hess and Randy Kohrs; written by Louise Certain, Burkett Graves & Gladys Stacey; Rounder Records.

Gospel Recorded Performance of the Year: "Beulah Land," Marty Raybon, written by Squire Parsons, produced by Marty Raybon, Rural Rhythm.

Recorded Event of the Year: "What'll I Do," by Terry Baucom with Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas, Wyatt Rice, Steve Bryant & Buddy Melton; produced by Terry Baucom, Cindy Baucom and Ed Lowe; John Boy & Billy label.

Bluegrass Songwriter of the Year: Eric Gibson

2013 award winners Bluegrass Event of the Year: Bill Monroe Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival in Bean Blossom, Indiana.

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Have you heard about **Ed Kemmick's** new online newspaper? Free and up to his high standards!



BLUE GRASS NEWS TODAY:

Martin Guitars at the Met

Starting in January, and running through the end of 2014, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City will be hosting a special exhibition of historic guitars from C.F. Martin. Coming from their own inventory of classic Martins, and ones donated from a number of collectors, 35 rare and special guitars will be on display.

The special focus of the exhibition is on the very early luthiery of Christian Frederick Martin, prior to the development of the large body dreadnaught and orchestration models that are so familiar today. In fact, these may seem almost prehistoric, though most are between the ages of 150 to 190 years old.

C.F. Martin moved from Saxony in 1833 to New York City, then moved to Nazareth, Pennsylvania. He originally was building Spanish-style guitars, until after a period of about 20 years, he set the course for building the all American style guitar we are familiar with. He has forever changed the guitar world since.

What is going on with Gibson Banjos?

The Gibson banjo makers have long been known as one of the premier makers of fine instruments in the US.. They provided tenors for the explosion of popularity in the style of banjo in the early 1900's, and their Mastertone models from the 1930's through the early 40's serve as the standard of excellence by which all modern banjos are measured. But since the flooding of the Cumberland River in Nashville ravaged their production facilities in May of 2010, Gibson has not assembled or shipped a single banjo. Nor have they been willing to discuss the status of banjo building in their future plans.

The shop was completely destroyed with ruined machinery floating in several feet of water, and the site was abandoned with their banjo and mandolin luthiers sent to work in other Nashville production areas. Numerous calls to Gibson for comment have been met with stony silence, but the Gibson mandolins, which were made in the same shop, have resumed production, but still no word on the banjo.

It seems fair to ask: "what is going on with Gibson Banjos"? Is it possible that the company whose banjos are so enmeshed with bluegrass music is abandoning their production forever? It seems that the banjo lovers, dealers and collectors who have supported Gibson these many years deserve an answer to that question at the very least.

Martin introduces D-28 Authentic 1937

Among the several new products announced for 2014, Martin has a few that will be of special interest to bluegrass guitar pickers. Of particular note is a new model in their Authentic series, the D-28 Authentic 1937. Like the others in this series, the vintage reproduction was designed to be an exact replica through careful examination and measurement of the "real thing", including the use of digital imaging technology.

The one difference is that this new guitar uses Madagascar rosewood instead of the Brazilian. Martin believes that the characteristics of this African wood are nearly identical, grown in similar latitude, as regards to both tone and structural integrity. The Brazilian wood is all but unobtainable in today's market, unless it was cut and exported before 1992. But otherwise, the specs for the 1937 are as close to identical as modern luthiery can manage.

The top is Adirondack red spruce, with forward shifted hand-scalloped X-bracing, mahogany 14 fret neck, and all expected D-28 appointments. Its list price is \$ 8499. Other new models with bluegrass appeal are the OOO-18 Retro (\$ 3399), and the D-35E Retro (\$ 4499). Check out Martin's web site for full specs and photos

Jesse McReynolds recuperating at home

Mandolin icon Jesse McReynolds is resting at home after undergoing a minor cardiac procedure on Jan. 17. He has been experiencing dizzy spells and an accelerated heart rate, and a procedure was done to eradicate damaged nerve tissue. It may need to be repeated, but Jesse is resting at home and is to avoid performing for now. His wife Joy said that he is already eager to get back on stage, as this will be his 50th anniversary year! Jesse will be 85 years old this summer. We wish him well.

FYI: If you have ever thought about learning to improve your musical talent, I would like to suggest a website you can go to for online lessons on just about any style, or musical instrument you would like. I personally took a course online with Tony Triska on the banjo, and it improved my playing tremendously. The website is <artistworks.com> , and there you can explore the many classes they offer. I give this an A+ rating. Go check it out.

Q: What do you say to the banjo player in a three piece suit?
A: Will the defendant please rise.

Q: How do you get a guitar player to quit playing?
A: Put notes in front of him.



Hey All,

Well this is the first newsletter of the year, We hope you like it. We have a lot of things going on.

First we have a new President. Way to go Sharon Karlson. Trent Inderland is the Vice President and Scott Moore is the Secretary/Treasurer. It is going to be a great year.

We have the Winter Jam coming up on March 1, 2014. It will be at the Unitarian Fellowship on Central Ave. in Billings. It will start at 1 pm. That's a little bit later than we have started before, but we will be getting in some great music before 5. That is when the food will be served, usually, well, close to that time. With a lot of great music afterwards. Bring a friend or two, or three or... Bring lots of friends!

There has been talk of a Spring Showcase. We will get word out about that when it is available.

The jams at the Lincoln Center were doing great. We have seen a lot of new faces, and some old friends. We have had a few people come back that we haven't seen before, and it has been nice to see them again.

Due to some unforeseen remodeling issues we can't get into the Lincoln Center for a bit. The fun is being moved to Hardees on 27th until we are able to get back into the Center. I hope we can all keep getting together. We will be sending out little notes once in a while, via email, so if you want to be included make sure that we have your e-mail address, or if you know someone that would like to know have them get us theirs.

Finally, it is a new year, and we need to get those dues paid.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Events and Jams.

If you have anything to add to the next newsletter let us know, and we will be happy to get it in there.

We hope you have a happy Valentines Day with lots of good friends, and good music.

Karen Schlosser

Please complete the form to accompany your dues so our membership list is current.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yellowstone Bluegrass Association

P.O. Box 23143 - Billings, Mt. 59104

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Check One: Individual (\$15.00) _____ Family (\$25.00) _____

Instruments played _____

Dates of Interest for Calendar _____