

# McCall Monday Music Jams Celebrate Second Anniversary



Cody Albrechtsen, foreground, plays with other musicians during a recent Monday night jam session at Broken Horn Brewing Co.

Photo by Melissa Shelby/For The Star-News

## Jam

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carry the jam's legacy forward.

"It's a great way for us to raise money for a camp that teaches young kids to do what we're doing now," he said.

Broken Horn co-owner Jenna Dodge credited the jam for meshing well with the brewery's efforts to build a "relationship with the local community."

"This just goes hand-in-hand with that and it's helped develop that relationship even further," Dodge said. "Mondays could've been hit or miss before whereas now we always have a decent group."

Patrons of the brewery tout the jam as a unique live music event that sets itself apart through the casual, fun nature of the jam and the sense of community musicians share with guests.

McCall resident Bryant Kerrigan has attended the jam regularly for about a year and enjoys the "laid-back" atmosphere created by both the musicians and Broken Horn.

"It's nice cause you can bring your own food and make a potluck out of it," said Kerrigan, 29, noting that he brought chili to that evening's jam.

Cheryl Knowles of McCall has been attending the jams weekly with her husband for about two years, but continues to be impressed with the quality of the music.

"The most unique part is the wealth of talent that's right here in town and nobody knows about them," said Knowles, 60. "It's the best kept local secret."

For more information about participating in the jam, contact Gemelli at 208-630-3985 or [cgranch@frontiernet.net](mailto:cgranch@frontiernet.net).

## The Joy of Jam

BY DREW DODSON

The Star-News

Jim Beaver flashed a grin before unleashing a melodic chorus of fiddles, guitars, harmonicas, mandolins and banjos at Broken Horn Brewing Company on a recent Monday evening.

"All together now," he told seven other musicians gathered in a circle with him.

Beaver is one of the founders of the group, which meets every Monday night at 5 p.m. at the brewery for a three-hour bluegrass jam session with as many as 20 musicians.

The jam functions as unrehearsed bluegrass, Americana, blues and traditional music performed by intermediate and advanced musicians, with each taking turns selecting songs for the group to play.

"We're not like a band or anything, we're just a bunch of people that like

music," said Beaver, a Meadows Valley resident.

On Oct. 8, the group celebrated two years and more than 100 jams at Broken Horn, but the group's roots trace back even further.

Beaver and fellow musicians Glenn Gemelli and Jeff Sheldon began playing together about seven years ago, but didn't take their jams public until playing at Ice Cream Alley in downtown McCall on Sundays during summer of 2016.

Broken Horn then became the jam's permanent home, providing the group with an ideal venue to continue sharing their love of music with others through the winter.

"Once we started coming here (Broken Horn), it really blossomed," said Beaver, noting the increase of musicians.

The venue change also boosted the size of crowds listening to the jams, but Gemelli points to the group's love

of music as a key reason the Monday night jams have been so successful.

"It's more for the joy of playing together than it is for entertaining the crowd, although it turns into some entertainment too," said Gemelli, of New Meadows.

Over the years, Gemelli estimates at least 70 different musicians from McCall and as far away as New England have participated in the jam.

Tips received by the musicians are donated to the McCall Folklore Society, which uses the funds to provide scholarships for the Kids Mountain Music Camp in McCall each July.

The camp is designed for youths aged 8 to 18 and offers lessons songwriting, singing and playing instruments like the banjo, fiddle, mandolin and guitar.

About \$2,400 has been raised for the camp in the last two years, which Gemelli ultimately hopes will help

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