

# THE JAMBOREE IS A COMIN'

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: JULY 20-22, 2007

By Tom Brendgord

For those of you expecting to go to the Montana Bowling Jamboree this September, expect to spend one lonesome weekend. Why? Because it ain't gonna be in September—at least not in 2007.

The delegates at last year's Jamboree voted to test drive a new plan this year in which the Jamboree would be held in July concurrent with the Montana Bowling Proprietors Association convention. Several lines of reasoning went into this new venture.

First, proprietor attendance at the Jamboree has been dwindling in recent years simply because the start of their season falls in September. For that same reason, many youth coordinators have been unable to attend because so many youth leagues start in mid to late September.

Second, the Jamboree Luncheon, in which all of the youths who won scholarships and state high score awards have been honored, has been a semi-bust for many years. Why? Because most of the youths being honored are not even in attendance due to college commitments in September. We hope that in July they will be able to attend. The Jamboree Luncheon on Saturday has always been one of the highlights of the Jamboree and a kickoff to the rest of the fun and entertainment that follows.

Third, since the state USBC merger, no Hall of Fame banquet has been scheduled because nobody really knew for sure where it belonged. That is going to change in 2008, for a new Hall of Fame plan is now in place, but in the mean time, this year's Jamboree appears to be the only venue available for the Hall of Fame banquet, which will be held on Saturday night.

Fourth, no Jamboree would be successful without the attendance of the state delegates. With half of the Montana USBC Board of Directors' positions expiring on August 1st every year, it only seems logical to call a Delegates Meeting in July to elect the new board members. This reason is probably the best of them all, for a Delegates election meeting any other time of the year could result in many lame duck board members and could seriously cripple board actions for months.

### Butte is the place to be....

A year ago Butte offered to host the 2007 Jamboree and there was no opposition to their proposal. With Bob Shaw at the helm, a humdinger of a program has been put together. At the forefront and probably the second biggest change to the Jamboree (the biggest change was obviously the date) is the Saturday evening dinner banquet. Those involved in the planning wanted a theme and since the baby boomers have pretty much taken over the world, it seemed only logical to make it an Oldies theme. So this year the dinner banquet is going to consist of a steak barbecue to be held at the indoor patio of Star Lanes. Preceded by a cocktail hour, the Barbecue will start at 7:00 p.m. and will include the Montana USBC first-ever Hall of Fame ceremony, entertainment by the Butte Strickettes (who have entertained us so well so many times in the past), raffle drawings and a disc jockey who will play 50's and 60's music that people can dance to most of the night.

There will be other highlights as well including the Awards Luncheon starting at 1:00 p.m. Saturday. This will include a memorial service honoring deceased Montana bowlers plus presentations to all the youth who won state scholarships in 2007 and high game, series and average awards.

Sandwiched right in between the Awards Luncheon and the Barbecue Dinner Banquet will be the annual Jamboree adult bowling tournament. This is a 2-game blind doubles event that **actually has a payoff** at the Barbecue Banquet. This is always a ton of fun and a great fundraiser for the youth scholarship program, which derives a great benefit from the entities bowling challenge. Last year, over \$1,000 was raised to benefit youth.

### What about the Montana Bowling Proprietors convention?

The Montana Bowling Proprietors will be returning to a convention format for the first time since 2003. It is their hope that by combining with the Jamboree that more proprietors will be in attendance than in the past. They have some major highlights to mention as well starting with a cameo appearance of John Berglund, who is the CEO of the parent organization, the Bowling Proprietors Association of America. John will speak to the entire congregation at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday just before the Luncheon.

Another BPAA employee and national speaker, Pam Long, will be on the agenda Sunday afternoon with two different 2-hour presentations. Her first presentation starting at 12:30 p.m. covers everything you will need to know about starting an In-School Bowling Program in your town. This should be of interest to non-proprietors as well as proprietors. Her second presentation discusses how to "Manage Different Personalities", which will be useful to anyone who is a business owner or a supervisor.

The proprietors will have their business meeting on Sunday morning starting at 10:00 a.m. Many key business items are on tap including tournament discussions and board elections.

### Delegate's Meeting & USBC national involvement...

National USBC Curriculum Developer Trainer, Karen Schroeder, will be in attendance to deliver the USBC message and conduct training sessions. It is expected that she will start with a session at the Youth Committee meeting on Friday night. She also will assist with an Association Manager's Workshop on Sunday morning immediately following the Delegate's Meeting.

The Delegate's meeting will commence at 8:30 a.m. Sunday and will primarily be convened to approve some bylaw change legislation and conduct the election of half the state board plus the first vice-president's position.

An insert is included in this newspaper that shows the entire Jamboree agenda with a registration form on the reverse side. Be sure to make a photocopy of the agenda before you mail the registration form to Bob Shaw. If you forget, no problem! You will be able to access it all at BowlMontana.com. **Don't forget to make your reservations at the Copper King Inn by July 5th. The block of rooms with special rates expires that day.**

## SPARE NOTES

By Laurel Walker

As our bowling seasons wind down and we look to summer and vacation plans, now is the time to be sure to attend the Annual Delegate Meeting and Jamboree. Butte USBC will host this year's fun, and they have some great things planned for us, including a retro theme from "The Good Old Days."

Sunday's delegates will be voting for nearly half the state board members to serve for the next two years. Each District has one position up for election, as well as the office of First Vice President. The Nominating Committee is seeking people to run for those positions, so be sure to get your information to Ginger Ward, Chairman, 2123 Blueslide Road, Thompson Falls, MT 59873. You can also call her at 827-4597 or email her at [tf19625@blackfoot.net](mailto:tf19625@blackfoot.net).

Guests at Jamboree will be George Martin, Field Consultant for our area, and Karen Schroeder, USBC Curriculum Developer. Both of them will offer presentations that will help you and your local association be more effective.

You will see from the Jamboree and Annual Meeting schedule that the Montana Bowling Proprietors will meet in conjunction with us. Their guest presenters will also be offering some good ideas about the business of bowling to attract bowlers and keep them coming back each season.

Dig up your 50's saddle shoes or your 60's hippy beads, and come to Butte, ready to celebrate another year of bowling in Montana. I look forward to seeing you all there.

## LEWISTOWN NEWS

By Jo Laughlin

Snowy Lanes is offering several types of learning programs. Among these are Beginning and Intermediate Bowling, Spare Shooting, Bowling Equipment and Adjusting to Lane Conditions. These sessions are offered to Seniors, Adults and Youth beginning June 4, 2007 and continuing throughout the summer. Individual classes are also offered.

The bowlers in Lewistown raised \$1200.00 for the Central Montana Breast & Cervical Cancer program during the 2006-2007 season. This program provides mammograms for those unable to pay.

## THANKS FROM MISSOULA

By Bertha Croghan

A heartfelt "Thank You" to all those who attended the Montana USBC Women's Championship Tournament, and to all the Missoula ladies who said 'yes' to being a substitute. Thanks to the ladies who worked so hard on committees and to everyone who helped make the tournament a success.

## CENTER LANES CLOSED

By Ruth Sprankel

Dennis Boggio, long time proprietor of Center Lanes in Billings, has retired. He and his family operated the lanes since 1974. Dennis and his wife were honored these past few weeks by many bowlers who have had members of their family bowling since that time. Good luck on your retirement!

## DUNBAR WINS

By Ruth Sprankel

Chris Dunbar of Billings won the finals in the state Youth Traveling League. Chris took top honor at Liberty Lanes in Missoula on February 25, 2007 and won a \$300.00 scholarship by placing first.

## DILLON USBC BANQUET

By Jim Watkins

Those inducted into the Dillon USBC Hall of Fame during the May 23, 2007 banquet were: Eva Newton (deceased), Carl (Bud) Meier, Josephine Dickey and Les Comer. Receiving Meritorious Service Awards were: Henry Stish, Nora Bossert and Peggy Thompson (deceased).

## GREATER YELLOWSTONE VALLEY USBC

By Ruth Sprankel

The following bowlers were inducted into the Hall of Fame in Billings during the Greater Yellowstone Valley USBC Awards dinner on April 14. Bob Hanson, Meritorious Service and Superior Performance; Elaine Lohrenz, Meritorious Service; Don Rowe, Meritorious Service. Rosalie Dedmore was honored as the Association Secretary of the Year and Arnie Uecker of Cummins Rocky Mountain was honored as the Sponsor of the

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Editor **Jo Laughlin**, 392 Forest Lane, Lewistown, MT 59457 [hglough@tein.net](mailto:hglough@tein.net)

Publisher & Asst. Editor **Tom Brendgord**, 521 23rd Avenue NE, Great Falls, MT 59404 Fax 406-453-2599  
E-mail (newspaper): [t.brendgord@att.net](mailto:t.brendgord@att.net)  
E-mail (web site): [mbspa@bowlmontana.com](mailto:mbspa@bowlmontana.com)

Contributors **Laurel Walker, Ruth Sprankel, Arlene Ayers, Jim Watkins, Ginger Ward, Bertha Croghan, Curt Baca, Travis Jaynes, Greg McCannel, Rosalie Dedmore, all MT Big Sky Scribes & MUSBC board**

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Year. Ryan Redman and Teona McDonald received the Mickey Anderson \$1000.00 scholarships. *The Association awarded \$200.00 scholarships to the following winners of the Youth Championship Tournament. Boys: Scratch – Cody Fergen; Division A – Cordell Bird; Division B – Matt Colby; Division C – Jake Borowick; Division D – Daniel Kagarise. Girls: Scratch – Sarah Zimmerman; Division A – Sarah Zimmerman; Division B – Devan Welborn; Division C – Tara Welborn; Division D – Elly Hoover.*

## THOMPSON FALLS NEWS

By Ginger Ward

The first 3 winners of the Paul Workman Mixed Tournament on March 3-4, 10-11 at the Rim Rock Lanes were: Women Team: Lucky Ladies-2630, Cameron's-2386, Moore On's-2317. Men Team: Valley Bank-3081. Mixed Team: Drinkin' & Dreamin'-2247. Doubles Women: Bernice Robbins/Stephanie Pirker-1266, Jaki Peele/Linda Pavlik-1223, Mary Thomas/Sherron Peterson-1205. Doubles Men: Loy Williams/Bruce James-1278. Mixed Doubles: Lori Jo & Steve Franck-1223. Singles Women: Cindy Syrjala-667, Cheryl Guibert-662. Singles Men: Charlie Gardner-590. All Events Winners: Stephanie Pirker-1894, Bruce James-1985. Blind Doubles: Debbie Gaydos/Mary Thomas-1256, Juanita Wolff/Nancy Gressang-1214, Ann Engebretson/Beckie Reiter-1203. Twenty men and women entered the National Women's Bowling Writers Mail-O-Graphic Tournament held February 4-11, 2007. Winners were: Patti Hopkins-791, Cheryl Guibert-759, Betsy Taylor-746. A great showing from Thompson Falls. Ron Sharp was awarded the Hall of Fame at the annual spring meeting. Bowler of the Year was Debra Benton.

## MOOSE TOURNAMENT

By Jo Laughlin

The 2007 State Moose Bowling Tournament was held April 21 & 22 at Snowy Lanes in Lewistown. Bowlers from Cut Bank, Helena, Lewistown and Kalispell made up the 10 teams, 12 doubles and 20 singles who vied for prizes. The lucky winners were: Team: 1<sup>st</sup> Place-3 Bulls & a'ette-2677 - Lewistown; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place-Helena Moose-2614. Doubles: Michelle & Pat McGuire, Helena-1339; Shirley Degele/Rose Huston, Lewistown-1271. Singles: Jo Laughlin, Lewistown-740; Pat McGuire, Helena-684; Deb Kerouac, Cut Bank-662; Phil Zarek, Helena-656.

# 2007 Montana USBC Open State Tournament - Butte, Montana

## Unofficial Results - Top 5 Places per event per division

**VIEW ENTIRE RESULTS AT [BowlMontana.com](http://BowlMontana.com)**

<u>Team Event - A Division</u>		
1.	Bighorn Mgmt. Co. #2	Billings 3590
2.	Macon Supply Inc.	Kalispell 3552
3.	1st Interstate Bank	Billings 3526
4.	Lariat Motel	Hardin 3520
5.	Bighorn Mgmt. Co. #1	Billings 3508

<u>B Division</u>		
1.	Vandyke Trucking	Valier 3543
2.	Stockman Lanes #1	Circle 3501
3.	All Secure Inc. #3	Belgrade 3461
4.	Chubbies Bar & Grill	Helena 3459
5.	Biggs Appliance Service	Kalispell 3432

<u>C Division</u>		
1.	The Office	Livingston 3563
2.	Central Lock & Key	Great Falls 3539
3.	Grand Bar	Rudyard 3506
4.	Havre Ford #1	Havre 3505
5.	Curtiss Repair #2	Circle 3500

<u>D Division</u>		
1.	DePriestGMC/Pastime	Chinook 3436
2.	Yellowstone Truck Stop	Livingston 3420
3.	Commercial Bar	Toston 3414
4.	Frankie & John Again	Laurel 3407
5.	MT Bar	Culbertson 3371

<u>Singles - A Division</u>		
1.	Dan O'Connell	Butte 839
2.	Craig Muri	Miles City 824
3.	Mitch Burrington	Kalispell 806
4.	Tim Rooney	Libby 795
5.	Bernie Dickman	Great Falls 793

<u>B Division</u>		
1.	Henry Symington	Polson 799
2.	Everett Gobert	Browning 797
3.	Clint Portnell	Bozeman 796
4.	Joe Martinich	Butte 781
5.	Mike Levitt	Kalispell 771

<u>C Division</u>		
1.	Nevada Buckman	Choteau 818
2.	Tony Fayram	Butte 812
3.	Natham Faulconer	Columbia Falls 810
4.	Ed Sugg	Glasgow 780
5.	Norm Jensen	Great Falls 769

<u>D Division</u>		
1.	Justin Weisgerber	Livingston 782
2.	Pete Andre	Missoula 781
3.	Mike Harper	Laurel 762
4.	Jill Foran	Billings 761
5.	Travis Ronan	Billings 759

<u>Open Division</u>		
1.	Mark Hodges	Butte 780
2.	Craig Muri	Miles City 770
3.	Tim Rooney	Libby 744
4.	Stu Summers	Billings 739
5.	Keith VanSetten	Choteau 735

<u>All Events - A Division</u>		
1.	Jim Watkins	Dillon 2304
2.	Keith Loran	Billings 2294
3.	Craig Muri	Miles City 2278
4.	Jasyn Fox	Laurel 2242
5.	Doug Charlo	Florence 2237

<u>B Division</u>		
1.	Shane Ganz	Bigfork 2253
2.	Mike Levitt	Kalispell 2220
3.	Joe Martinich	Butte 2214
4.	Gerald Bender	Deer Lodge 2200
5.	Kelly Rooney	Libby 2186

<u>C Division</u>		
1.	Natham Faulconer	Columbia Falls 2422
2.	Brett Antley	Havre 2249
3.	Charlie Lindeman	Belt 2183
4.	Pat McLaughlin	Belgrade 2169
5.	Kent Williamson	Great Falls 2166

<u>Doubles - A Division</u>		
1.	Dick Newton	Dillon 1556
	Jim McBee	Dillon
2.	Corey Wagner	Kalispell 1504
	Ron Vandevanter	Kalispell
3.	John Worster	Helena 1490
	John Davis	Helena
4.	Les Comer	Dillon 1479
	Jim Watkins	Dillon
5.	Travis Peters	Missoula 1456
	Andrew Kost	Missoula

<u>B Division</u>		
1.	Brad Morrison	Florence 1513
	Ralph Henderson	Florence
2.	Larry Berg	Glasgow 1493
	Cecil Dalby	Glasgow
3.	Ray Cunningham	Troy 1450
	Bruce Cole	Troy
4.	Jake Moran	Park City 1439
	Brent Dinardi	Park City
5.	Gary Lehman	Hardin 1427
	Jason Link	Hardin

<u>C Division</u>		
1.	Chuck Lee	Baker 1499
	Dan Wedemeyer	Baker
2.	Pete Newton	Malta 1466
	Ross Hasler	Malta
3.	James Davisson	Livingston 1463
	Eric Barnett	Livingston
4.	Cody Kerr	Red Lodge 1458
	Wade Miller	Red Lodge
5.	Jim Carney	Columbus 1457
	Bill Kadon	Columbus

<u>D Division</u>		
1.	Jim Stiles	Circle 1462
	Jerry Curtiss	Circle
2.	John Scott	Choteau 1453
	Kami Bouma	Choteau
3.	Shannon Albert	Hardin 1435
	Kendal Chavez	Hardin
4.	Bob Hellwig	Whitehall 1427
	Curtis Smith	Whitehall
5.	Bobby Wolf	Havre 1416
	Jared Williams	Havre

<u>Open Division</u>		
1.	Corey Wagner	Kalispell 1387
	Ron Vandevanter	Kalispell
2.	Craig Muri	Miles City 1336
	Brad Muri	Miles City
3.	Jim Rasmussen	Lewistown 1320
	Rex Coleman	Lewistown
4.	Don White	Great Falls 1318
	Willie McGee	Great Falls
5.	Ronald Wingerter	Billings 1314
	Jeff Lewis	Billings

<u>All Events - D Division</u>		
1.	Jim Stiles	Circle 2271
2.	Bruce Foley	Livingston 2212
3.	Dave Dorr	Havre 2200
4.	Justin Weisgerber	Livingston 2200
5.	Travis Ronan	Billings 2181

<u>All Events - Open Division</u>		
1.	Josh Hale	Billings 2186
2.	Craig Muri	Miles City 2116
3.	Stu Summers	Billings 2110
4.	Brad Muri	Miles City 2108
5.	Keith Loran	Billings 2096

<u>Double Team</u>		
1.	Rory Craig	Deer Lodge 1548
2.	Bruce Foley	Livingston 1526
3.	Jerry Curtiss	Circle 1514
4.	Jim Stiles	Circle 1504
5.	Shane Ganz	Bigfork 1502

**2007 Montana Women's State Tournament-Missoula, MT  
Unofficial Results - Top 5 places per event per division**

**VIEW ENTIRE RESULTS at BowI Montana.com**

<u>Team Event - Division 1</u>			
1.	L.L.B.B.'S	Missoula	2789
2.	The Ridge	Bozeman	2736
3.	Imagine That/MT Tropics	Miles City	2713
4.	Westside Pro Shop #1	Missoula	2712
5.	1st Citizens Bank of Polson	Polson	2698
<u>Division 2</u>			
1.	Taylor's #1	Colstrip	2844
2.	Artistic Nails	Hamilton	2734
3.	Happy Hookers	Laurel	2720
4.	Crazy Canucks	Coutts	2701
5.	Dean's Girls	Polson	2693
<u>Division 3</u>			
1.	The Turtles	Florence	2781
2.	Rock Stars	Havre	2778
3.	The Mint	Townsend	2769
4.	Stockman Bank	Cut Bank	2757
5.	Mishaps	Cut Bank	2744
<u>Doubles - Division 1</u>			
1.	Dawn Hanninen/Francine Lerback	Missoula	1461
2.	Carrie McDougall/Donna Duffy	Missoula	1423
3.	Guyula Streit/Kristen Egan	Great Falls	1400
4.	Wanda Softich/Ranie Kelly	Anaconda	1392
5.	Vemedral Lovelady/ Patricia Logan	Florence	1388
<u>Division 2</u>			
1.	Nicolette Erickson/Jalynn Hemdon	Belgrade	1495
2.	Terri McFadden/Mary Ann White	Boulder	1439
3.	Sharon Nelson/Kelly M. Duncan	Stanford	1418
4.	Jeralee McCleary/Kari Hoefs	Miles City	1413
5.	Dana Robison/Jamie Kober	Kalispell	1399
<u>Division 3</u>			
1.	Genean Clairmont/Natasha Sinclair	Ronan	1483
2.	Dawn Keup/Denise Stanley	Missoula	1438
3.	Marie Hankins/Leslie Quinones	Townsend	1429
4.	Beverly James/Gail Hooks	Fort Shaw	1414
5.	Suzanne Slate/Betsy Watkins	Darby	1405
<u>Singles - Division 1</u>			
1.	Crystal Harris	Shepherd	801
2.	Cynthia Johnson	Conrad	796
3.	Linda Michel	Helena	774
4.	Jaimie Kunn	Billings	774
5.	Joni Brensdal	Plentywood	772
<u>Division 2</u>			
1.	Mona Paulas	Manhattan	779
2.	Leslie Quinones	Townsend	771
3.	Judy Strong	Troy	767
4.	Lorri Riffle	Thompson Falls	762
5.	Brenda Doney	Whitehall	752
<u>Division 3</u>			
1.	Dolly Pentecost	Helena	783
2.	Val Benson	Deer Lodge	777
3.	Dawn O'Shea	Florence	771
4.	Amy Knecht	East Helena	761
5.	Allyson Green	Polson	750
<u>All Events - 1st Place each division</u>			
Division 1, Hdcp	Crystal Harris	Shepherd	2257
Division 2, Hdcp	Mona Paulas	Manhattan	2170
Division 3, Hdcp	Barbara Bengtson	Boulder	2235
Division 1, Scratch	Mary Porter	Missoula	1870
Division 2, Scratch	Kari Hoefs	Miles City	1623
Division 3, Scratch	Natasha Sinclair	Ronan	1473

**2007 MT USBC Youth State Tournament - Division 7 (Bantams)**

<u>Team Event</u>			
1.	Pussycats	Helena	1855
2.	Cougar Kids	Columbus	1781
<u>Doubles Event</u>			
1.	Kyla Sprout/Cody Matlock	Helena	963
2.	Kayti Sim/Marci Sim	Helena	863
<u>Singles Event</u>			
1.	Mykaila Berry	Columbus	484
2.	Dani Hoover	Columbus	479

**2007 Montana USBC Youth State Tournament-Great Falls  
Unofficial Results - Top 3 places per event per division**

**VIEW ENTIRE RESULTS at greatfallsbowling.com**

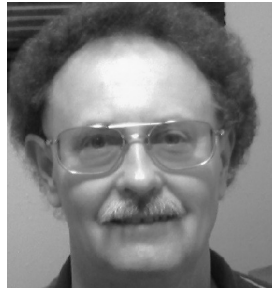
<u>Team Event - Division 1</u>			
1.	Pinheads #8	Livingston	2649
2.	Sunsetters	Billings	2612
3.	Team Cranium	Great Falls	2548
<u>Division 2</u>			
1.	Pinheads Livingston	Livingston	2753
2.	Liberty Lanes	Missoula/GF	2677
3.	Pinheads Havre	Havre	2624
<u>Division 3</u>			
1.	The Four Stooges	Bozeman	2652
2.	Center Lanes	Billings	2630
3.	Finley Electric	Chinook	2619
<u>Division 4</u>			
1.	Pin Reapers	Dillon/GF	2752
2.	Browning Jrs	Browning	2709
3.	Pin Demolishers	Missoula	2694
<u>Division 5</u>			
1.	Cougar Girls	Columbus	2719
2.	The Brats	Great Falls	2681
3.	Yamata	Columbia Falls	2670
<u>Division 6</u>			
1.	Jamieson Motors	Chinook	2825
2.	Bowling Bombs	Bozeman	2756
3.	Pin Blasters	Helena	2718
<u>Doubles - Division 1</u>			
1.	Sean Hill/Trent Reeve	Great Falls	1438
2.	Jordan Penney/Markie Reiten	Whitefish	1409
3.	Bridger Rosendahl, Anthony Piluso	Livingston	1403
<u>Division 2</u>			
1.	Jonathan Osborn/Mike Jones	Great Falls	1391
2.	Matt Jensen/J.T. Davis	Havre	1377
3.	Seth Jensen/Spencer Ivers	Havre	1353
<u>Division 3</u>			
1.	Mike Schweigert/Robb Schweigert	Billings	1485
2.	Jared Gress/Julian Butcher	Columbia Falls	1456
3.	Austin Schwarz/Derek Sente	Livingston	1420
<u>Division 4</u>			
1.	Eric Schaeffer/Devin Iverson	Columbia Falls	1421
2.	Michael Benson/Russell Jones	Columbia Falls	1390
3.	Colton Rohlf/Luke Sisko	Great Falls	1375
<u>Division 5</u>			
1.	Ryan Tschetter/Ty James	Great Falls	1468
2.	Tyrell Pierce/ryne Antley	Havre	1357
3.	James Murie/Matt Bennett	Livingston	1356
<u>Division 6</u>			
1.	Trevor Taylor/Christian Garcia	Livingston	1403
2.	Duncan Langenbach/Caid Vail	Bozeman	1375
3.	Tiffany Parsons/Joey Parsons	Livingston	1350
<u>Singles - Division 1</u>			
1.	Joshua Forbes	Helena	729
2.	Jordan Penney	Whitefish	726
3T.	Kyle Surber	Havre	716
3T.	Kasey Corneliusen	Billings	716
<u>Division 2</u>			
1.	Trevor Jellison	Laurel	742
2.	Roman Surber	Havre	737
3.	Tanner Trottier	Columbia Falls	731
<u>Division 3</u>			
1.	Parker Davis	Helena	818
2.	Jonathan Osborn	Great Falls	788
3.	Logan Bergeron	Chinook	769
<u>Division 4</u>			
1.	Devin Iverson	Columbia Falls	781
2.	Jonathan Buroker	Columbia Falls	745
3.	Tyler Martinez	Great Falls	715
<u>Division 5</u>			
1.	Austin Brown	Helena	790
2.	Sam Allen	Great Falls	782
3.	Elly Hoover	Columbus	735
<u>Division 6</u>			
1.	Tyler Murphy	Columbia Falls	746
2.	Jesse Dannels	Chinook	740
3.	Tiffany Parsons	Livingston	724
<u>All Events - 1st Place Winners</u>			
Division 1	Jordan Penney	Whitefish	2114
Division 2	Roman Surber	Havre	2103
Division 3	Mike Schweigert	Billings	2211
Division 4	Devin Iverson	Columbia Falls	2222
Division 5	Austin Brown	Helena	2137
Division 6	Jesse Dannels	Columbia Falls	2184
Division 7	Cody Matlock	Helena	1406

# On My Mind.....

## Where Have All The Centers Gone?

By Tom Brendgord

As the Executive Director for the Montana Bowling Proprietors Association, I am quite often one of the first to learn of bowling center changes in Montana. By changes I mean **major changes** like if they sell, if they close for good, if they are adding on, or if a new one is in the making. The last two years have rendered some real heart-stopping moments for me. It has gotten so bad that I am about to acquire my own personal cardiologist.



It all started roughly two years ago when Capital City Bowl in Helena announced (with no forewarning) that they were closing. Shortly thereafter Skyline Bowl in Kalispell burned down and never rebuilt. One year ago Country Lanes in Bozeman announced their sale and subsequent closure. And now in May 2007 two more centers have bit the dust - Center Lanes in Billings and Liberty Lanes in Missoula. That makes five centers totaling 88 lanes gone in two years. What is driving all of this madness!?

Except for Skyline Bowl, the others are closing because either their land or their liquor license or both was more valuable than could be justified as a bowling center. And I am afraid that the worst is yet to come.

When this bowling season started (2006-07), there were 71 bowling centers in Montana. Now at season's end we have 63. Besides Center and Liberty Lanes, the centers in Arlee, Belt, Broadus, Colstrip, Townsend and Wolf Point have closed as I have been told by fairly reliable sources. Many others are for sale including Copper City Bowl in Anaconda, Big Sandy, Browning, Columbus, Forsyth, Pin & Cue (Great Falls), Roundup and Shelby. Please don't hold me accountable to this list. Bowling centers in Montana are in and out of sale status faster than McDonald's can sell a million Big Macs. There are many more centers who will tell you that they are for sale if the price is right. And there is another list of centers over 30 years old that still have their original owner that in all likelihood will just drift off into the sunset because they are not saleable.

There are a couple of positives happening. Westside Lanes in Missoula just added 12 lanes this year and Sleeping Giant Lanes in Helena is seriously contemplating an eight or twelve lane expansion. But the bad news far outnumbers the good.

Why is this happening? Besides the aforementioned reasons about land and liquor license values, most centers cannot afford to upgrade, many elderly owners either don't have family to pass on the business to or their kids don't want it, good and trustworthy employees are hard to find or are unaffordable and many owners have reached retirement age and are just burned out. The list just goes on and on.

Bowling centers need to upgrade to attract today's customers. To do that they need to raise prices and diversify. Most owners are afraid that customers will not pay lineage rates in the \$3 to \$4 range that they need to have to service a new debt. This is understandable when one considers that the majority of Montana's bowling centers have owners over 50 years old.

Now, tournament problems are surfacing. The Pepsi Youth Bowling Championships, which is probably the most popular and successful youth tournament in the state is having to make a

major change to its format to accommodate the tournament on fewer lanes. The two major adult state tournaments can no longer bowl in Bozeman, Kalispell and Helena due to lack of enough lanes to house the tournaments. That is one reason why Helena is considering an expansion so that they can be eligible for state tournaments.

When will this madness end or will it ever end? In my opinion (and remember I am the bowling guru of Montana) I think that it will end when bowling proprietors realize that today's younger customers **will** pay a higher price as long as the perceived value is there. Westside Lanes in Missoula is already paving the way. They have a beautiful state-of-the-art center that is full with a waiting list most of the time and they are charging as much as \$4 per game at certain times **and getting it with no problem**. Why? Because they are offering a modern, clean, well maintained and managed facility that obviously is more appealing than the other recreations and movie theaters in Missoula. The American public has no problem with paying the price as long as the perceived value is there.

Bowling in general is not dying, but it is going through a rough transition. League numbers are down while open play numbers continue to soar. As new centers emerge (and believe it or not, there are some on the drawing board) and old centers acquire younger owners who are comfortable with modernization investments, the bowling climate in Montana will begin to change for the better. This is not something that will happen over night, but it will happen. Trust me - I know, **for I am the guru!!!**

### 2007 Pepsi YBC Finalists - Helena, Montana

PLACE	WINNER	CITY	SCHOLARSHIP
<b>BOYS 11 &amp; UNDER HDCP</b>			
1st	Jordan Mitchell	Helena	\$350.00
2nd	Zachary Merziak	Helena	\$225.00
3rd	Bryant Farnsworth	Billings	\$175.00
<b>GIRLS 11 &amp; UNDER HDCP</b>			
1st	Elly Hoover	Columbus	\$300.00
2nd	Eva Hooper	Gt. Falls	\$200.00
3rd	Dalas Duncan	Big Timber	\$125.00
<b>BOYS 12-21 HDCP</b>			
1st	Mike Grote	Bozeman	\$450.00
2nd	Colt Klemann	Anaconda	\$300.00
3rd	Jordan Hoof	Cut Bank	\$225.00
<b>GIRLS 12-21 HDCP</b>			
1st	Ashley Smigaj	Missoula	\$400.00
2nd	Lacey Wallace	Missoula	\$275.00
3rd	Krystal Ward	Col. Falls	\$200.00
<b>BOYS 12-21 SCRATCH</b>			
1st	Zac Wooten	Whitefish	\$250.00
2nd	Travis Bird	Billings	\$125.00
3rd	Colton Haeffner	Anaconda	\$ 75.00
<b>GIRLS 12-21 SCRATCH</b>			
1st	Erin Murphy	Clancy	\$250.00
2nd	Dezirae Bergstrom	Lewistown	\$200.00

## JUNIOR GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FEATURES FULL FIELD

If you are a boy with a 175 average or a girl with a 165 average, you might want to be aware of a scratch tournament for individuals that offers \$100,000 in scholarships plus a chance to win a spot on the USBC Junior Team USA. Unfortunately, if you don't already have your spot in the 2007 version of the USBC Junior Gold Championships, it is too late, for all 1,728 spots have been sold out.

The event, which will be held in three bowling centers in the Buffalo, New York area, was also sold out last year in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This year an extra day of qualifying was added to allow an additional 270 bowlers, yet it still sold out two months before the event scheduled for July 7-13. If that date looks familiar, it is because that is the same dates as the Pepsi YBC national championships also being contested in Buffalo. It also immediately precedes the newly established USBC Youth Open Championships, which runs July 13-21 also in Buffalo. For about two weeks, Buffalo will be the youth bowling capital of the world.

For those who don't know, the Junior Gold Championships is the destination for the scratch event winners of Montana's Pepsi YBC state championships. Unfortunately, there is a catch-22 that many aspiring young bowlers aren't aware of. If they don't meet the average requirements and/or are not willing to purchase a separate membership into the USBC Junior Gold program, they are not eligible to enter even though they will have won our state qualifier. Those wanting more information can go to Bowl.com or call 1-800-514-2695.

## WOMEN'S U.S. OPEN TOURNAMENT RETURNS TO THE SPOTLIGHT IN AUGUST

For the first time since 2003 the ladies will get a chance to shine in a major event other than the Queens tournament. That is because the USBC has recently and temporarily been given the rights (from the BPAA) to resurrect the Women's U.S. Open.

Actually, the women are getting two unique opportunities. Not only will they have the chance to compete in a major event, but they also will be able to use the same scores to qualify for the Professional Bowlers Association Women's Tour Trials, which is a stepping stone to a newly created PBA Women's Series that will feature four events with a total prize fund of \$50,000 for each event, including a top prize of \$10,000 and last cash of \$1,800. Only the top 16 players who exercise the option of competing in the Tour Trials will advance to the Women's Series.

This will all take place at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada from August 13-18, 2007. There is a catch to the entry fee, however. To enter the U.S. Women's Open the fee is \$250, a relatively small cost for such a prominent event. But to have your scores also apply to the Tour Trials costs an additional \$750. Those women also must join the PBA as well.

The U.S. Women's Open will feature a unique bracket elimination format in which the top 16 will compete on television. The first four rounds of the finals will be taped August 17-18 and then shown on ESPN on September 16, 23, 30 and October 7. The final four competitors will return to Reno for a live televised championship round on October 14.

Great Falls' Doris Kimmerle will be entered courtesy of winning the Montana Bowling Proprietor's Association U. S. Women's Open Qualifier at Sleeping Giant Lanes last February. Good luck, Doris. Inaugural events are always ones to cherish.

# Westside Lanes & Fun Center

Montana's Largest  
Bowling Center

### Featuring:

- ◆ **36 State-of-the-Art Lanes**
- ◆ **Full Service Café featuring Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Specials**
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- ◆ **Large Banquet/Meeting Room available**
- ◆ **Batting Cages**
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- **Happy Hour Monday - Sunday 4:30-6 PM**
- **Karaoke Thursdays and Saturdays**
- **Live Music most Fridays**



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