



# Sunriver Books & Music

## June 2015

### Newsletter

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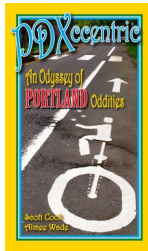


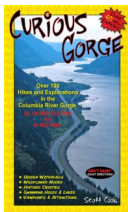
Every June we concentrate on a state, city, or region in the USA. Appreciating the regional diversity and rich cultural heritage of our country is a good lead up to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration coming next month. It is a way to see the USA as a country of many voices, many beliefs, and many people. As we move toward celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, it is good to reflect that this diversity is at the heart of our celebration. This year we focus on Montana. We are honored to be able to present Carrie La Seur as the key speaker for our Month of Montana at 5:00 PM Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> for a presentation on her elegantly written novel, **The Home Place**.

One of the joys of bookselling is to discover a new voice, the writing of an author who will be important, and be able to present this special story to the community. **The Home Place** is such a discovery. The power of Carrie La Seur's writing is moving and beautiful. She creates fully realized, interesting characters and captures perfectly the vast, windswept big sky landscape of Montana. The setting is so well rendered, the reader steps into the story and can feel the bitter cold, the mournful cry of the wind, the immense spaces and loneliness. She takes you to the heart of a ranching community letting the reader feel they are right there, present. Carrie La Seur does for Montana what Kent Haruf did for Colorado in his brilliant **Plainsong**, both novels illuminate the tough, kind hearted ranching communities, and the power a place has in the hearts of the people who live within its geography. The best writing has this power, to allow the reader to enter the story and feel for a little while they have been spending time in Montana.

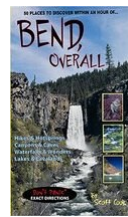
This is a great choice for book clubs; our book club will be discussing **The Home Place** on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The novel opens in the night with a woman walking out alone into the intense cold, leaving her daughter behind in a house filled with drug addled men. It is the last time Brittany sees her mother alive. Alma fled Montana, left behind the tragedies and secrets, made her way through law school, and achieved success as a high powered lawyer in Seattle. A phone call from the Billings police will challenge the careful life she constructed. Her niece Brittany is refusing to speak, her sister Vicky was discovered frozen to death not far from the house where her daughter awaited her return. When Alma arrives in Montana, she steps back into a landscape that speaks to her of home in bone deep ways. It will be coming home to a place that is in trouble, her sister's death is in question. Did she get drunk, fall, and freeze? Or was she killed? An abundance of secrets are held in her family, dangerous to the careful life Alma has so conscientiously created to keep her disciplined, high achieving self away from the past and the hurt she holds inside. This is a great story focusing on the role of place in a person's life, what you would do to protect family, and the dark secrets of the human heart.

Join us Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM for an event that is sure to be fun! Scott Cook, author of the ever popular **Bend Over-all**, **Curious Gorge**, and **NZ Frenzy**, and Aimee Wade have joined forces to write a guide to Oregon's largest city, **PDXcentric**. Portland is a beautiful city, bounded by two major rivers, the Willamette and the Columbia, with views toward majestic snowcapped Mt. Hood. Scott and Aimee take you on a different visit to the Rose City (knowing Scott it would have to be different!). For instance, Hung Far Low was a popular, inexpensive Chinese Restaurant on the corner of NW 3<sup>rd</sup> & Couch from 1929 to 2008. The real estate boom and rising prices persuaded Hung Far Low to relocate to 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave on the East side leaving behind their sign, a local landmark. When the Ping restaurant renovated the space, public outcry saved the sign. So outside the Ping restaurant is the sign for Hung Far Low. Classic Portland. The book is full of arcane Portland history, often with a new twist. For instance, on many sidewalks are rings originally used for tethering horses. In 2005 Scott Wayne had the idea to tether toy horses to the rings, the idea took off. So do some of the toy horses, as soon as they are tethered they are rustled. Do not be surprised to see horses, at least toy horses, tethered to rings on the sidewalks of Portland. Page 122 details the adventures of a Light Rail riding Coyote, I kid you not. Italy has Michelangelo and the David, Portland has Alexander Von Svoboda's Quest at 900 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Svoboda used the largest slab of white marble quarried in modern times (190 tons) for his nude statue. Let's not forget the rundown of films made in Portland, the appendix listing some major cool bike racks salted around the city, or the list of intersection murals. The book is packed with all sorts of Portlandia history, trivia, detail, and fun things to see and do.





Hiking season is underway, grab one of Scott Cook's guides and go hiking! **Curious Gorge** can get you started early in the season. While our high country in Central Oregon is often still covered in snow, the Columbia Gorge offers jaw dropping gorgeous scenery and very hike-able trails. Scott Cook is a guy who knows how to have a good time; he shares the best of the Gorge. Some of my all-time favorite hikes are in the Columbia Gorge. There are places it feels like you could see forever!



Scott Cook is also the go to guy for fun things to do out of doors in Central Oregon. **Bend Overall** by Scott Cook is a great guide for our area. I like that the drive time from Bend is included. Scott stays focused on sharing the places that will be the most fun. His guide is chock full of the best hikes, drives, and attractions like the High Desert Museum and The Sunriver Nature Center. He takes great care to make his book the best resource for local and tourist alike.

If you are planning a trip to New Zealand, Scott Cook has two great guides. **NZ Frenzy; New Zealand North Island** and **NZ Frenzy: New Zealand South Island**. Scott shares the non-touristy natural wonders and sights. He has hiked all the trails he recommends, visited all the places he highlights. This is a more intimate guide book for the adventurous who want a real experience of New Zealand emphasizing having a good time while enjoying the natural world.

Scott is an inventive, fun fellow so expect anything! Did I mention that Scott has a well-developed sense of fun?

Author events are free and include refreshments and drawing for door prizes. Stop by Sunriver Books & Music, e-mail [sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com) or phone 541-593-2525 to sign up to attend.

### Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday July 18, 2015 at 5:00 PM Jane Kirkpatrick, Phil Margolin, and Greg Nokes.

Saturday July 25, 2015 at 5:00 PM **The Given World** by Marian Palaia

Saturday August 1st 2015 at 5:30 PM **Crazy as a Quilt** by Arlene Sachitano

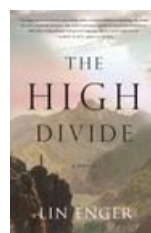
Thursday August 6 2015 at 5:30 PM **As Night Falls** by Jenny Milchman

Saturday August 8th 2015 at 5:00 **Language Arts** by Stephanie Kallos

Join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may be limited for some events. Check our web site, [Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com), for changes and additions.

Take part in our Month of Montana by reading a book set in Montana. Following are a few suggestions.

### Nancy Nelson Recommends.



**The High Divide**, by Lin Enger. Ulysses Pope lives with his wife, Greta and two sons, Eli and Danny, in a small prairie town of Minnesota. The year is 1886. Most of the Indians have been herded to reservations or killed. Ulysses participated in the Indian wars and the memory of it haunts him. The issues from that time are not easily resolved, affecting all aspects of his life. One day he just leaves. His wife and sons assume he is looking for desperately need work. When after a while no money is sent home, and the family concerns are at a desperate level, the eldest son, Eli, sets out to find him. As Eli slowly uncovers some of the ghosts of his dad's past, he also finds the man his father once was, a complete stranger. In the meantime Greta tries desperately to hold on to the family home, facing some very complicated issues of her own. This is an interesting story that also presents some historically relevant events that are well worth considering, even now.

### Deon Recommends.



**Crow Fair** by Thomas McGuane is set in Montana. McGuane's stories have a western heart while telling universal truths. The collection opens with a construction worker picking up his father after his mother issued an ultimatum requiring weight loss before she will allow him to return home. This is not a new or unusual circumstance to the man; his parents had been feuding over this and that all his life. He feels a detached affection and amusement for the pair; sure they have not caused him any harm with their dysfunctional antics. But the reader may come to a different conclusion as the solitary nature of the man's life is revealed. All of the stories touch on the foibles of human existence while firmly setting themselves in the glory of the Montana landscape.

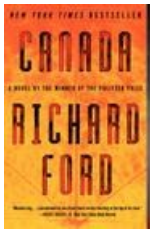


**Work Song** by Ivan Doig continues some of the characters from **Whistling Season**, another excellent choice. Morrie set out for parts unknown in **Whistling Season**. He is lured back by the promise of wealth in the "richest city in the world", Butte, Montana. What all that hype didn't include was the venal, brutal nature of the Copper Kings who ran Butte and held the purse strings. Nor was there any mention of the danger and despair of the miners sent down far into ground to bring forth riches for the town's masters. But, like a cat, Morrie tends to land on his feet. It is pure pleasure to see just how he goes about staying one step ahead. Finds an attractive damsel too. I did not want this book to end.

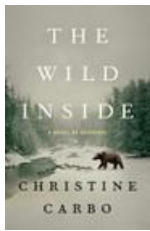


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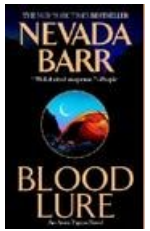
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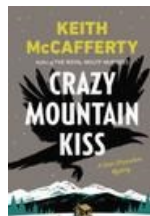
**Canada** by Richard Ford. Saskatchewan Canada and Great Falls Montana are a backdrops for this bleak and haunting story of a young boy coming of age as his family falls apart. Lives are built of a million quiet moments, but altered irrevocably by the one moment a line is crossed. Neeva and Bev's flirtation should never have progressed to marriage and children. Tall good looking Bev's southern manners, love of a good time, and gregarious storytelling nature didn't match with diminutive Neeva's quiet, intense, reserved, and intellectually arrogant personality. But marry they did, bearing a set of twins as different as their parents. Berner is wild, angry, and independent while Dell is studious, and eager to please. For a while it works, Bev is career Military and Neeva a school teacher, they lead rather normal lives as loving parents to their twins. Bev's Air Force career takes the family from base to base until they hit Great Falls Montana and a misstep lands Bev back in a civilian life he is ill prepared to navigate. Involved in a nefarious deal that goes awry, Bev decides the best option to protect his family is robbing a bank accompanied by his very reluctant wife. In a moment's foolish decision lives are ruined and the vulnerable teenagers set adrift. Berner runs away while Dell is spirited across the Canadian border by a family friend to hopefully find peace living under the protection of charismatic Arthur Remlinger in remote Saskatchewan. It is a hope that will be denied, Remlinger has darkness to his soul. Ford's writing is sublime; he tells his story with such exquisite craftsmanship it is a pleasure to read.



**The Wild Inside** by Christine Carbo is set in Montana's Glacier National Park, a place of incomparable beauty. Ted Systeard made an interesting career choice; he is a special agent for the Department of the Interior investigating crimes in National Parks. When Ted was 14, he went camping in Glacier National Park with his father, a forensic scientist. A Grizzly Bear attacked, killing Ted's father and leaving him haunted by that night. He didn't share with his boss the fate of his father; it is not something he talks about easily. Perhaps if he had, it might have kept him from an investigation that was sure to raise ghosts of that night from twenty years ago. A body has been found in Glacier National Park, a man was tied to a tree where he was partially eaten by a Grizzly Bear. Now it is Ted's job to figure out what happened, who tied the guy up, and why. The park superintendent is the same man who was so insensitive when Ted's father was mauled. He has not improved with time. Ted is assigned an assistant, Monty, who is too close to the superintendent for comfort. As the days go by and the victim's identity is uncovered, they interview family and friends; finding out the victim was far from either likeable or innocent. Suspicious characters with motive are plentiful, but finding out who committed the crime is taking a toll and proving not to be easy. Ted's career and the fate of the Grizzly bear hang in the balance.



**Blood Lure** by Nevada Barr is also set in Montana's Glacier National Park with Grizzly bears heavily involved. The title comes from lures used to attract the bears for research purposes. Anna Pigeon, Barr's sleuth, is a National Park ranger, a field the author knows well having worked as a park ranger. Anna is in Glacier National Park working with a biologist, Joan, studying Grizzly bears. Anna and Joan accompanied by a teen aged volunteer, Rory, head out into the back country to collect DNA samples from the bears. Anna and Joan survive a bear attack, but Rory is missing. Searchers comb the mountainous countryside discovering a mutilated body, Rory's stepmother. Suspects abound. If you are interested in these magnificent bears there will be much to enjoy. Barr was inspired to write **Blood Lure** after visiting the park while a similar research project was underway. Glacier National Park is awe inspiring, Barr takes the reader out onto the hiking trails. If you love the outdoors, this is a winner!



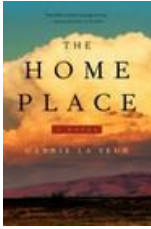
**Crazy Mountain Kiss** by Keith McCafferty is a mystery with a rather unusual plot. Cinderella was a rodeo princess, loads of talent and drive, fearless on horseback. The pretty young woman went missing along with a high school boy who worked on her parent's ranch, no leads to her whereabouts, until her body was found several months later in the chimney of a rental cabin perched in a remote part of the Crazy Mountains. The mountains lie at the western edge of the prairie in the northern Rockies, it is an isolated and lonely setting, in April still covered in patches of snow. Etta, the girl's mother, is a rodeo queen in her own right, and her stepfather Jasper, also a cowboy, works on movie sets. Sheriff Martha Ettinger has a puzzle on her hands, was the girl murdered, or did she wedge herself in the chimney getting stuck for some unknown reason? Is it murder or misadventure? And what happened to the ranch hand? Etta hires PI Sean Stranahan, she wants to discover what befell her daughter, she is not willing to move on without knowing how her daughter came to such a dreadful fate. Martha and Sean have a history, the story unfolds from both their perspectives, where that history will lead is anybody's guess. Martha is a strong female protagonist. A sheriff who is serious about her job, a mother nervous about her relationship with her sons, a single woman living on her own with a dog and cat, afraid to give her heart away again. Sean has many facets, in addition to solving mysteries he is a talented artist and an avid fisherman. Martha's deputies, Walter Hess and Harold Little Feather, are also interesting characters.



**Fool's Crow** by James Welch is a classic, we would be remiss in featuring a Month of Montana without this title. Set in 1870 in the Two Medicine Territory, the story focuses on a band of Pikuni (Blackfeet) living a way of life that will soon vanish. **Fool's Crow** has seen the influx of the white man in his visions, he knows they will punish resistance and that they are inevitable, so many of them, they are like a crowd of mosquitoes blackening the sky, impossible to defeat. **Fool's Crow** starts out life as White Man's Dog, earning his new name in battle. As the story opens White Man's Dog is taken along on a raid to steal horses from a Crow encampment. We see much of Native American culture through the story as it is clearly written from a Native American viewpoint, a refreshing and fascinating outlook. The story covers the way whites broke treaties, brought disease, and killed the Indians who were not their enemies. It also focuses on the friendships and loyalties with the tribe, their culture, and the wild landscape that will surely change once the settlers hold dominion. Pikuni names are used for animals, landscape, and household goods. James Welch was Native American, his father a member of the Blackfeet Tribe and his mother from the Gros Ventre Tribe. He grew up within these cultures and brings that sensitivity to his writing.

## June 2015 Book Clubs.

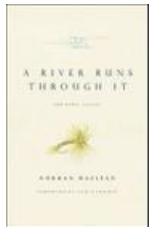
Book Clubs this June take part of our Month of Montana by discussing books set in Montana. Every June we concentrate on a state, city, or region in the USA to appreciate our country as we approach the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. It is good to reflect on the diversity, rich cultural heritage and natural grandeur of the USA, realizing that diversity is at the heart of our country.



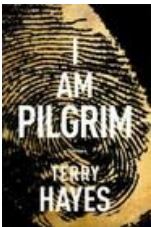
Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 the Mystery Book Club borrows a book from the fiction collection, ***The Home Place*** by Carrie La Seur. We are honored to be able to present Carrie Le Seur as the key speaker for our Month of Montana at 5:00 PM Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>, it will be interesting for the Book Club to hear her presentation after our discussion of the book, and it will add a new facet to the enjoyment. Carrie La Seur is a brave new voice in fiction, tremendously talented, able to evoke place in moving and poignant ways. ***The Home Place*** is a stark, haunting story set in a Montana ranching community, the vastness of the landscape ever present. Alma left Montana, made her way through law school, moved to Seattle and created a disciplined life for herself as a high powered attorney, keeping the family tragedies of her youth at bay. Her sister Vickey was not so successful. As the story opens, she heads out into the bitter, freezing cold of a Montana night, leaving her daughter Brittany behind in a house filled with drug addicted men. The next morning will bring a call to Seattle informing Alma of her sister's death, a call that will bring her back to ***The Home Place***.



Ivan Doig was one of the Northwest's most talented authors. He will be missed. Fiction Book Club discusses ***The Bartender's Tale*** by Ivan Doig on Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Rusty spends his first six years being tormented by his obnoxious cousins while living with his aunt in Arizona. Rusty's origins are a bit murky. His father is charismatic Tom Harry, a bar tender par excellent in Gros Vetre Montana. But the only thing Rusty knows about his Mom is that she is gone. Tom rescues Rusty from his spiteful cousins and he settles into a bachelor's life with his dad in a big old house behind the bar in the remote Montana town. It is a pretty good life, uncomplicated and harmonious, father and son looking out for each other. All goes swimmingly until Rusty turns twelve and Proxy, an old flame of Tom's, hits town with her teenage daughter. Is the daughter Rusty's sister? And what will happen now to Rusty's idyllic life with Tom? Ivan Doig's lyrical prose, wry humor, and rich storytelling are a treasure.



Book Clubs conclude a Month of Montana's discussions with the Classics Book Club's discussion of ***A River Runs Through It*** by Norman Maclean at 6:30 on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Maclean used his life experiences to craft this haunting novel about two brothers in Montana. He had a deep appreciation for the wild places, for the beauty of nature, and for rivers. If you are a fly fisherman, this novel is a must read because rivers and fishing haunt the pages. The story is not long, but it is tremendously powerful, it is a story that will stay with you. MacLean is also well known for his non-fiction, ***Young Men and Fire***.



Book Clubs are a great way to make friends with other readers in the community. Join us for a discussion of a book set in Montana this June. Everyone is welcome.

### Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM

July 13th 2015 ***I Am Pilgrim*** by Terry Hayes [Mystery Book Club](#)  
July 27th ***Middlemarch*** by George Eliot [Classics Book Club](#)

August 3rd 2015 ***Unbroken*** by Laura Hillenbrand [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)  
August 17th 2015 ***The Moonstone*** by Wilkie Collins [Mystery Book Club](#)  
August 31st 2015 ***Martin Chuzzlewit*** by Charles Dickens [Classics Book Club](#)

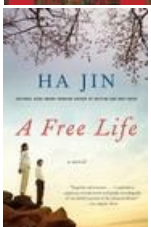
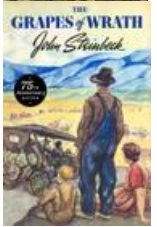
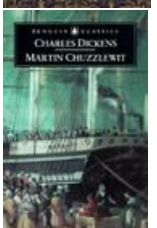
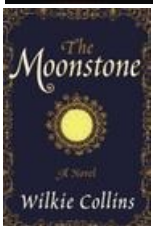
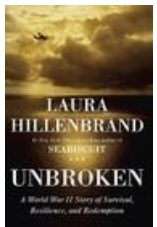
September 7th 2015 ***Ghost Hero*** by S.J. Rozan [Mystery Book Club](#)  
September 21st 2015 ***A Free Life*** by Ha Jin [Fiction Book Club](#)  
September 28th ***Grapes of Wrath*** by John Steinbeck [Classics Book Club](#) [Banned Book Selection](#)

October 12th 2015 ***Flower Net*** by Lisa See [Mystery Book Club Month of China](#)  
October 19th 2015 ***Waiting*** by Ha Jin [Fiction Book Club Month of China](#)

November 2nd 2015 ***The Enchanted*** by Rene Denfeld [Fiction Book Club](#)  
November 16th 2015 ***Natchez Burning*** by Greg Iles [Mystery Book Club](#)  
November 30 2015 ***Astoria*** by Peter Stark [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

December 14th 2015 ***The Ascendant*** by Drew Chapman [Mystery Book Club](#)  
December 21st 2015 ***The Steady Running of the Hour*** by Justin Go [Fiction Book Club](#)

Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at [Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)



If you are involved in a club or gathering that would enjoy space in Sunriver Village, please remember the Village owners have kindly provided space in the loft area above Sunriver Books & Music. The space is available for uses compatible with the bookstore during Sunriver Books & Music's hours of operation. To reserve the space for your group contact Deon at Sunriver Books & Music.

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