

# Missoula musician doubles as a disc jockey

By Jim Tracy  
Standard Staff Writer  
Don't expect any Top 40 tunes out of Cattfish John Tisdell.

Tisdell, who taught himself to play music on a \$12 guitar, will be at the Silver Dollar Saloon, 133 S. Main, Saturday, 9:30-1:30.

A West Virginian by birth, the 31-year-old musician recently settled in Missoula, where he stubbornly refuses to give up the style he has polished over 15 years.

That means he doesn't play commercial music — not now, not ever.

"I don't like to play what the market demands," he said Wednesday in a telephone interview.

What he likes to play is what a lot of people like to hear: country, blues, swing, blue grass and old jazz tunes. Some of it you may have heard before. Some of it is of his own creation.

He plays music people can listen to or dance to.

"For a solo act it's not very easy to get people to dance," he said. "But I've got people dancing even in the stuffy sort of clubs."

All of Tisdell's music is acoustic. He has an electric guitar, but that won't be part of the show Saturday. Instead, he'll be busy switching between 12-string and six-string acoustic guitars, fiddle, banjo and harmonica.

Like a lot of other musicians who graduated from the '60s school of hard



**John Tisdell**

rock and roll, Tisdell now enjoys a tamer, more

refined style of music that ranges from pre-blue grass folk to modern country swing.

He's played in duos, with a band and just for friends around a campfire or at the kitchen table. He brings a little of each of those experiences to his performances.

By the way, he got the name Cattfish while living in North Carolina. "I was living in a cabin there and I used to swim in a pond behind it," he said.

His own music on the Tuesday afternoon "Folk Program."

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**It's an Irish coffeehouse**

A wee bit of Ireland will be transplanted to the Frozen Logger Coffeehouse Friday at 8 p.m. when the group Swallowtail performs.

The group specializes in music of Celtic origin including Irish reels.

The band includes John Tisdell, Shasta Hegiver, and Tom Robison.

John, whose grandparents came from Scotland, has played in various bands along with soloing and performing in folk festivals around North Carolina. He plays many instruments including guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo and harmonica.

Shast plays flute, penny whistle and guitar. She has been involved with folk festivals in Ireland and on the East Coast.

Tom plays fiddle and guitar. He is a storyteller and is training to teach dramatic arts and literature to youngsters. He's been a storyteller on KUFM's Pea Green Boat. Robison plays with Finley Creek Band.

Besides Swallowtail's performance, the coffeehouse will have its first "open stage." Organizer Chip Jasmine said eight entries have signed up — from singers to dancers to readings.

The offer, which McDermott said he will accept, will mean a savings per-  
formance in the last 20 years that will help.  
He said he plans no major changes for the future.

