

ROCKIN' DOCS – Billings, Montana KULR8.com
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BILLINGS - Some local doctors have been trading their stethoscopes and tongue depressors for guitars and drumsticks. At first glance the Mid-Life Chryslers appear to be a regular band. That is until you overhear a fan say the keyboardist delivered his baby.

That keyboardist is Obstetrician and founding member Doug Ezell. "I play piano organ and fiddle, and mandolin and autoharp and harmonica and bass that's all," he said. But does he practice as many different forms of medicine? "No, no, no, just one type," he said.

Fittingly Cardiac Surgeon Scott Millikan doesn't miss a beat, and said music is a nice break from his high-stress job. "I love that it's such a different thing than the job I do day to day," he said.

Vocalist Holly Hansen isn't sure how she got in the band, she's not an M.D. "I don't know, a good friend of mine was singing lead and she couldn't do it any longer," she said, "she called me and they called me and said you're a singer and I said okay, I will."

Holly said the union was a social and musical match. But she added she's not going to seek medical advice from the rest of the gang, "no, I'm not going to do it."

So, what's practice like for this crew? "Practice is like our bowling night, or poker night. It's a bunch of folks getting together and we play." said Ezell, "sometimes we'll get mad at each other but we work on tunes and have a lot of laughs." And there's a logical system to determine just which tunes to play. "It's pretty much whoever shouts the loudest and argues the best and whoever argues the worst doesn't get his song," said Ezell.

They all say they feed off the crowd and can feel when the crowd's enjoying itself. "You can tell it in their eyes. It's not hard at all when you're up there, look down to check out a few eyeballs and see smiles on the faces," said Millikan. Hopefully they see as many smiles in their offices.

The band only books about six gigs a year because of the doctors' busy schedules. Their next scheduled performance will be at the Eaglemount fundraiser in April.