



Bluegrassin'

Volume 10, Issue 3

May-June 2008

The Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association is a non-profit association dedicated to promoting preserving and sharing our love of bluegrass music in a spirit of family and friendship.

Inside this issue:

Page 1 Stevensville Festival photos, Recurring Shows and Jams

Page 2 President's Notes, call for bands

Page 3 Stevensville Festival info and thank yous

Page 4 Upcoming event details

Page 5 More photos from the Stevensville Festival

Page 6 May Bluegrass Calendar to hang on your refrigerator

Page 7 June Bluegrass Calendar for your fridge

Page 8 Essary & Kerns' Notes From the Road

Page 9 Notes From the Road continued, Top 10 List, stay tuned

9th Annual MRBA Festival April 12, 2008



A one and a two, you know what to do...

New member and great picker Bruce Threlkeld



Photos from Phyllis Erck and Brian Herbel

The weather was so nice that it was hard to pick indoors!



Bill & Ted & Larry's Excellent Adventure



Dulcet Dobro-picking at the hands of Phyllis Erck

The Acousticals play some mighty fine originals on stage



Mmmm, don't we wish we could bring Lois and John home to work their magic in our own kitchens?



More photos on page 5...

Recurring Show and Jams

- ◆ MISSOULA – Tuesdays, TopHat (134 W. Front St) - Bluegrass jam. 7pm.
- ◆ MISSOULA – Tuesdays, TopHat – Pinegrass plays around 10pm.
- ◆ GREAT FALLS – 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Bert&Ernie's (300 1st Ave South) 7pm. Call 453-8003 for info.
- ◆ MISSOULA – Tuesdays, WheatMontana – Moozoola Opry 6pm 'til 8pm the Black Mountain Boys play. Admission is free, we just ask that you buy a sandwich or soup from the fine folks at WheatMontana as you sit back and enjoy an evening of music.
- ◆ NORRIS HOT SPRINGS – Sunday evenings 7-10pm, Thermalgrass plays, The band includes Tom Murphy, Quentin King, and Ian Fleming (MRBA Member)



President's Notes

I want to thank everyone who helped, in any way, at our Stevensville festival, the folks who worked the tables, the kitchen, the front desk, the sound folks, the bands, the people who MCed, etc. This could not be the success it is and has been without you.

Check out www.myspace.com/mtbluegrass to see our MySpace page, & hear

some of the bands that have played in festivals past. I would like some ideas & suggestions from folks on how we can spend the weekend usually reserved for the BVBF, if anyone has any, please, let us know. We will still have our annual party, most likely in Sept, but that's for another newsletter. Let's have a summer full of bluegrass pickin' & good times. We deserve it!!!!

-Curtis

Bluegrass Bands Wanted

My name is Frank Reed and I am the promoter of the "Rockin' Bluegrass". A Monday night Bluegrass event that is just now starting up. It is from June 2nd through September 29. This is a Bluegrass venue, every Monday night 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. We will be featuring 3 bands per night. A preshow band, an opener band, and a headliner band. Bands will receive pay for their performance by a percentage of the nights admissions. Preshow get's five percent, up to \$150.00. Opener gets, 20 percent up to \$600.00. Headliner gets, 40 percent up to \$1,200.00. This event is held at the Rocking B Ranch in Liberty Lake, Washington on the Idaho/Washington border. We are trying to find bands to play on any of these play dates.

Frank Reed 208-704-6094 rockinbluegrass@yahoo.com

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

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Got Something to sell? Advertise in *Bluegrassin'*!

Full Page – \$25.00, 1/2 Page – \$15.00, 1/4 Page – \$10.00 Classified – \$5.00

A Note From the Secretary-Treasurer

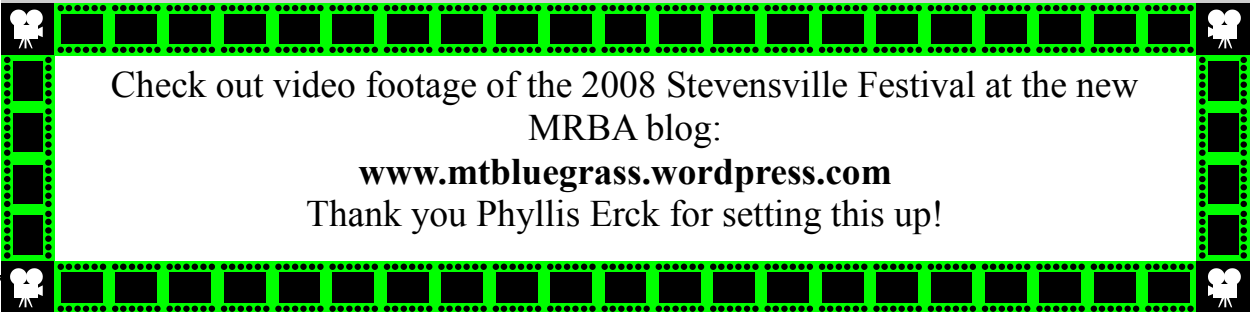
Thank you to all who made the Stevensville Festival such a success. We made a little over \$2400 in all and had a great time. Appreciated all the help in the kitchen and all the donations of food. It's the teamwork that makes these things work so well. We had so many wonderful desserts that it was hard to decide which one to try. The bands were all very good and had a nice variety of music. Now we can look forward to a fun summer of campouts and jams. The next one will be at the Conroy's campout near Darby on Memorial weekend. Have a fun summer. —Lois

Financial Report From the 9th Annual MRBA Festival

Merchandise sales: \$567.00 including \$119 in CDs sold at the Music Box in Hamilton
Food sales: \$790.00
Admissions: \$889.00
Dues and renewals: \$195.00
Total: \$2441.00

To all the Bands who Performed at the 2008 MRBA Festival:

Tari and Mike Conroy would like to thank you for donating your time and talents to make the festival such a success. You guys are the best! All bands that performed have received their complimentary performance CD. It was sent to the band member that signed up to receive it. *If you would like to donate a song to the upcoming MRBA festival CD, let Mike know the song title and number it is on your CD right away.* We need the CD done by the memorial weekend campout.



Check out video footage of the 2008 Stevensville Festival at the new MRBA blog:
www.mtbluegrass.wordpress.com
Thank you Phyllis Erck for setting this up!

**Membership Application
MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 1306, Missoula, MT 59806**

Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone No. _____
 E-mail _____ Individual (\$10.00) _____ Family (\$15.00) _____

Ready, Set, Mark Your Calendars!

The Second Annual Chinook Picker's Rendezvous May 2-4

This event will take place at Zurich Park the weekend of May 2, 3, and 4. Last year about 30 pickers came and probably twice that many arrived to listen, dance, etc. Zurich Park is about 10 miles east of Chinook. There's plenty of room for campers, etc. available in Zurich Park all weekend and there is a large pavilion to use if the weather is cool. Last year it was beautiful, but folks moved inside in the evenings. For those not wanting to camp there is The Bear Paw Court in Chinook, which is recently remodeled, also the Chinook Motor Inn. For more info contact Steve Hughs at 406-353-2655 .

The Conroys' Annual Memorial Day Weekend Campout May 23-26

The 2008 Memorial Day Campout is scheduled for May 23rd- 26th. As always there will be heated wall tents for late night jamming. It takes place at the Little Westfork campground, a free State campground. It is a beautiful spot with an outhouse and creek next to it. Dry camping. There's lots of room for big campers and it's right on the edge of the Selway Bitterroot wilderness. Great hiking, biking, and 4-wheeling there. On Sat and Sunday night there will be a potluck dinner at 6pm. On Monday morning Tari will do a biscuits and gravy breakfast at 10 am.. ALL BLUEGRASS LOVERS WELCOME For more info call mike or tari at 1-406-821-3777 or emailtariconroy@hotmail.com Ya'll Come!

DIRECTIONS: 1. Head south on Darby and turn at the Conner Cutoff Road 2. Continue past Conner to the Westfork highway (aprox 1 mile). 3. Turn left (SOUTH) and continue up the West Fork Highway. 4. turn right just past the 14 mile marker, and go 4 miles 5. campground is on the right (the pavement ends there)

The Annual Garrison Junction Campout June 27- 29

The 2008 event will take place at Riverfront RV Park in beautiful Garrison, Montana. We will have pot luck breakfast (Sat & Sun) & dinner Saturday. We'll do burgers for everyone who comes in on Friday evening around 6:00. We will have our usual afternoon "tea party" Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Ladies cook up your best "crumpet" to bring to the contest. Prizes will be awarded. **Introducing the First Annual Flat Pick Guitar Contest.** At 12:00 noon, Saturday at Anderson's trailer. No mics, one song and up to two accompanists. 1st prize will be \$25.00. Sign up by emailing wildbillanderson@msn.com or show up by 11:45. For your reservation at the Riverfront RV Park contact Charlene or Bill Anderson at the above email address or by calling 406-846-1843 or email wildbillanderson@msn.com. Reservations must be made through Charlene or Bill to receive the Bluegrass Rate of \$15.00 per night for full hook ups and \$10.00 per night for dry camping. We will be at Mike & Tari's campout over Memorial Day weekend and will have a sign up list for reservations.



Forrest sneaks off!

More photos from the Stevensville Festival

By Bill Anderson and Brian Herbel



The Darby Sireens!

The Wheelrights warm up in the sunshine



Brand new MRBA merchandise debuted at the Stevensville festival!



T-R-O-U-B-L-E

The food was especially good this year!



Pinegrass



Pickers and Grinners enjoying the performances



Who could ask for a more beautiful place to pick?



See you next year!!!

May 2008 Bluegrass Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Pickers Rendezvous Zurich Park Chinook	3 Pickers Rendezvous Zurich Park Chinook
4 Pickers Rendezvous Zurich Park Chinook	5	6 Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat	7	8	9 Daddy Claxton Norris Hotsprings	10
11	12	13 Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat	14	15	16 The Acousticals Lake Missoula Wine Cellars	17
18	19	20 Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat	21	22	23 Conroy Annual Campout Little Westfork Camp- ground	24 Conroy Annual Campout Little Westfork Camp- ground
25 Conroy Annual Campout Little Westfork Camp- ground	26 Conroy Annual Campout Little Westfork Camp- ground	27 Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass TopHat	28	29	30	31

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Bluegrass with Bill & Chad Redbird, Missoula	3 Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Tophat	4	5	6 AM String Band Bert & Ernie's Great Falls	7
8	9	10 Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Tophat	11	12 AM String Band Norris Hotsprings	13 Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival Pasco, Washington	14 Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival Pasco, Washington
15 Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival Pasco, Washington	16 Spring Creek Myrna Loy Helena	17 Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Tophat	18	19	20 Daddy Claxton Trio Grouse Mountain Lodge Whitefish	21
22	23	24 Black Mountain Boys Wheat Montana Pinegrass Tophat	25	26 The Acousticals Bitterroot Brewery Hamilton	27 Garrison Junction Campout Garrison, Montana	28 Garrison Junction Campout Garrison, Montana
29 Garrison Junction Campout Garrison Montana	30					

On The Road with Debbie and Dale Kerns, Pam and Ben Essary

We were cooling our heels in Benson, Arizona in our last article. That was many miles and quite a few jams ago. Presently, we are camped at the VFW campground in Wilkesboro, NC waiting for Merlefest to kick off. We managed to work our way across the country trying, with limited success, to stay in warm weather and out of rain. We saw lots of sights, visited with many family and friends and played some music. Here are a few highlights.

In Grove, Oklahoma we hooked up with Garland and Jennifer Blocker. They are friends of Deb and Dale from their days of living in Oklahoma. Jennifer is a great bass player. Garland is the complete bluegrass package. He picks a mean banjo at warp speed and has a great high tenor bluegrass voice.



In Jackson, Tennessee, we jammed with the Jackson Plectral Society, a group dedicated to bluegrass and old time music. There were four jams going at their weekly picking. Ben is a member of the society and he and Dale managed to fit right in and got to play with a great bluegrass fiddler. Ben found out that two of the pickers were distant relatives. We also managed to eat some great southern food at the Casey Jones Village Old Country Store. In Clinton, Tennessee we visited the Museum of Appalachia which preserves life as it was in years

gone by. The museum includes a collection of log homes, barns, blacksmith shops, mills and even a moonshine still (no free samples but the technology was interesting to some in our group). Old time musicians play everyday in one of the cabins and we were invited to sit in. Great fun!

The music highlight of our trip is the Crooked Road Music Trail in southwestern



Virginia. You can check it out at www.thecrookedroad.org. We spent over a week visiting most of the major venues including the Birthplace of Country Music in Bristol



and the Carter Fold, home of the Carter family, outside Hiltons, Virginia. The Carter Fold, run by A.P. and Sara Carter's granddaughter, is a big music hall that hosts a weekly bluegrass or old time band. We saw the Dollar Brothers, a

On The Road continued...

good traditional bluegrass band from North Carolina, the night we were there. We also saw a show at the Floyd Country Store in Floyd, Virginia.

They had three old time groups playing and the place was packed.



Both

places had dance areas and they were packed with folks from 1 to 90 clogging, flatfootin' and backstepping.'

There are so many jams that some nights we had to make a choice of which one to attend. All had good musicians playing traditional styles. The jam highlight was at Mt. Rogers school in Whitetop, Virginia. We jammed with the Whitetop Mountain Band, an old time band that has been around for over 30 years. This band was part of the Crooked Road Tour group that played at the Motherlode Theater in Butte in December. They were a friendly bunch and great musicians. You can check them out at

www.whitetopmountainband.com.

We plan to head west right after Merlefest and be back in Montana in time for the Memorial Day campout. Hope to see you there. ♦♦♦

Top Ten Things Learned While Touring in a Bluegrass Band

By Lorenzo Gangi Jr.

- 10) The soundman is always right.
- 9) Everyone thinks they are a soundman
- 8) After the soundman the band owner is always right
- 7) Super 8 isn't all that super
- 6) The best part of being in a bluegrass band is the 401k plan
- 5) The monitors are never "right," learn to go without
- 4) This is not as much fun as I thought it'd be
- 3) Anything can be deep-fried
- 2) There is such a thing as "Too Much Bluegrass"
- 1) Being in a band is the most effective way to make a woman mad.

Farther on Down the Road...

- **Kootenai River Festival July 18-20:** Jackstraw, True North, Big Red Barn, The Panhandle Polecats, Prairie Flyer, The Billy Pilgrims, The Mike Conroy band, Sheldon Mt Boys and Bryan Bowers will be the MC for the 3 days. In Troy, Montana.
- Stay tuned for details about a Festival to honor the memory of Billy Poole at Kozy Korner in the Seeley/Swan Valley. Dates to be announced.



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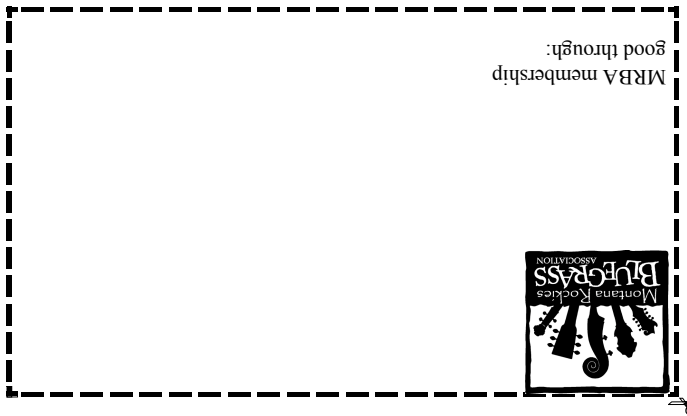
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