



# Bluegrassin'

Volume 6, Issue 2

March – April 2004

*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.*

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Thank You for sponsorship



## Bluegrass Calendar

- ♦ **Mar 6, 2004** – Harmony workshop by Mike & Tari Conroy. See page 5 for details.
- ♦ **Mar 13, 2004** – MRBA will sponsor a jam and potluck at the VFW/IOOF Hall, Hiway 93 South, Florence, MT. Jamming starts at 12:00 noon with potluck at 5:00 p.m.
- ♦ **April 17, 2004** – MRBA Annual Oldtime Bluegrass Festival, Stevensville, MT Stevensville High School Multi-purpose room. See inside story on page 3.
- ♦ **May 29 – 30, 2004** – Conroy's Memorial Weekend Campout. More info in the next issue.
- ♦ **May 30 – June 6, 2004** – Pasture Pickin' Libby MT. More info in the next issue.

A man and wife go into a restaurant and he says, "Give me the biggest, juiciest steak you have in the place. The waitress asks "But what about mad cow?" He says, "Yeah she'll have one too".

## Recurring Show and Jams

- ♦ Every Tuesday night, 7 p.m. – Open bluegrass jam at the Top Hat, 134 W. Front Street, Missoula followed by Pinegrass around 10 p.m.
- ♦ Every Thursday night, 6-8 p.m. – Live bluegrass with Mountain Groan and Friends at the Golden Corral, Hwy 93S, Missoula. Call Raynae at 721-5205 for information.
- ♦ 3d Friday Each Month – Bluegrass jam at the Avalanche Creek Coffeehouse, 1st Avenue East, Kalispell. Contact Vicki at 257-3935 or [vbodfish@digisys.net](mailto:vbodfish@digisys.net) for information.

## President's Notes

This issue of the newsletter is packed with information on upcoming MRBA sponsored bluegrass events. Things kick off with the bluegrass harmony workshop on March 6<sup>th</sup> and followed by a jam and potluck on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Our annual Oldtime Bluegrass Festival follows on April 17<sup>th</sup>. We are fortunate to be holding the festival this year in the Stevensville High School Multipurpose Room. I believe everyone will be very happy with the change in location. Acoustics are very good and there's plenty of space for bands to warm up and for

jams. The Stevensville school administration has gone out of their way to help us plan this event. In addition, the Stevensville Main Street Association is working with us to make sure festival attendees have a good time during their time in Stevensville. Mike and Tari Conroy have once again lined up excellent talent for the festival.

Regarding the festival, we really need volunteers help to make this an enjoyable event for everyone. It takes quite a few folks to take tickets, sign up new members, renew existing memberships, sell merchandise and CDs and help out with the food. We are trying to limit the time any one member spends on these duties to a couple of hours. So, please

volunteer your time to help out. See more details on how to volunteer in Mike and Tari's article on the Festival.

Our MRBA website is up and functioning. Check it out at [www.mtbluegrass.com](http://www.mtbluegrass.com). Larry Gangi has put a lot of work into the site and his efforts are paying off. We are adding information weekly and want to keep the site up-to-date about association and other bluegrass related events happening in the area.

Please contact me at (406) 777-7028 or email me at [mrba@mtbluegrass.com](mailto:mrba@mtbluegrass.com) if you have suggestions or comments regarding the association.

### Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

333 Pine Hollow Road, Stevensville, MT 59870

(406) 777-7028

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email: [mrba@mtbluegrass.com](mailto:mrba@mtbluegrass.com)

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Information printed in **Bluegrassin'** is at the discretion of the **Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association**

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

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

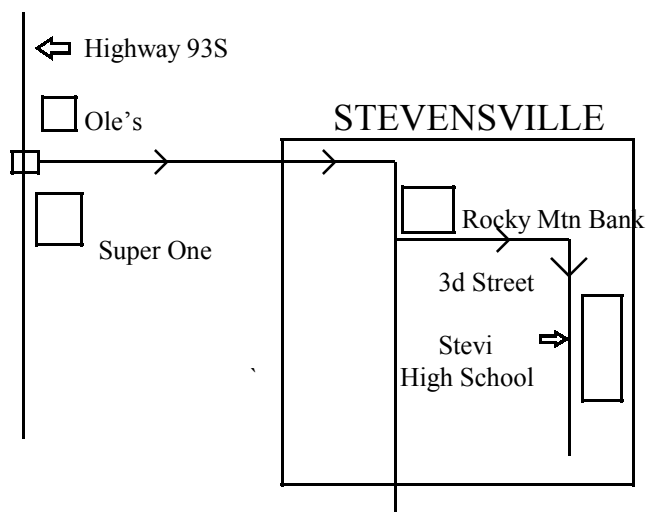
## Roster filled for MRBA's 5th Annual Oldtime Bluegrass Festival

This is the order for the performances for the **Stevensville** festival, **April 17th, 2004**

12:00 – 12:30	Broken Valley Road Show, Missoula
12:35 – 1:05	Three Rivers Bluegrass, Great Falls
1:10 – 1:40	Clearwater, Lenore, ID
1:45 – 2:15	Salt Creek, Missoula
2:20 – 2:50	Pilcher Creek, Missoula
2:55 – 3:25	Blue Train, Deerlodge
3:30 – 4:00	Lang Creek, Kalispell
4:05 – 4:35	Pinegrass, Missoula
4:40 – 5:10	New South Fork, Idaho Falls, ID
5:15 – 5:45	Leftover Biscuits, Bigfork
5:50 – 6:20	Cabin Creek, Darby
6:25 – 6:55	Mtn. Groan, Missoula
7:00 – 7:30	Just Having Fun, Billings
7:35 – 8:05	Salmon Valley String Band, Salmon, ID
8:10 – 8:40	Prairie Flyer, Spokane
8:45 – 9:15	Gravelly Mtn. Boys, Missoula
9:20 – 9:50	Too Hot To Handle, Newport, WA
9:55 – 10:25	Wild By Nature, Missoula
10:30 – 11:00	Larry Joe, Missoula
11:05 – 11:35	Mike & Tari Conroy, Conner

It's hard to believe that it's time again for our annual MRBA Oldtime Bluegrass Festival, the association's one and only fund raiser. This year it will be taking place at the Stevensville High School Multi-purpose room. (NOT VICTOR) As in the past the festival will be recorded by Conroy Digital Sound Studio, a CD of each bands performance will be mailed to one of the band members so that they can listen to it and decide if they would like to choose a tune to donate to the association to use on the yearly festival CD that is then sold by the MRBA as part of the fund raiser. We are very pleased to have so many musicians willing to participate in the festival! The support of each and every one of them is essential for this to be successful and we don't take that for granted! This year we have 20 bands lined up with a couple on a waiting list so that makes this festival the biggest to date. We anticipate having a lot of fun again! Along with the musicians making this festival work, we also give credit where it is due with all the volunteers that work throughout the day to make it all happen. If you are interested in helping with some of the duties that need attention please contact either the Conroy's or the Essary's to get your name

MRBA OLDTIME BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL MAP



From Highway 93 South, proceed into Stevensville, turn left on 3rd Street. Follow 3rd Street until you come to the Stevensville High School on the left side of the street.

### Hotel Accommodations

Hotel accommodations are available at the historic Stevi Hotel, 107 East Third Street, Stevensville, phone (406) 777-3087 or (406) 550-2009.

Identify yourself as attending the bluegrass festival to receive special rates. Rooms with one bed will be \$45.00 and rooms with two beds will be \$55.00. These rates include a \$5.00 off coupon which attendees will receive at the festival.

Submitted by Dale & Debbie Kerns



### Okie Sues Ponderins..... bout Noodlin'

I've been a readin all this hullabalu boutnoodlin' in the past couply newsletters and I have to tell yall I jest caint figer what evryones in setch a fizz about. I'm here to tell yous that where I come from not onlys

noodlin' ceptable but its enkuraged. I mean its passed down from the ol' kinfolks to the yunguns. Theys even got contests and gives out prizes fer the best uns.

I've been a ponderin over it and I spose it mus jest come more natrely for us southern folks. Must be in are blood. Them gene etiks mabe. I spose weve had more years a practin at it then you northners.

Coarsun evryone has thar diffrent methods a doin it. Thars sum that jest sidle into it smooth like and then thars them that jumps into it hard n fast with both feet a jest a hoopin an a hollerin.

I likes to jest strum em nice n soft. Kindly puts em to sleep, but I node others that dived in over thar heads an was playin them rascles up to thar elbows. Why not to long ago I even seen com-pitishin on the TV of sum good ol boys a noodlin' at a big ol lake in Texas.

I's gots to tell you tho that if you'all's new at it ya really needs ta be careful cause it can be dangrous. Thars nasty criters out thar that dont likes people 'vadin thar territory. Why I've node noodlers thats got bit real bad cause they didnt check out the place they started a noodlin in.

My advice is to pic you a good spot. Sidle into it bout up to yore waste an gets you a feel of the water. Make surin you keeps an eye out fer them mocasons an cottinmouths. Start a feelin aroun the banks fer them little hidey holes them catfish likes to be in and start noodlin'. When yous found one jest tickle its belly till yous got it a sleepin then grabs it for all yous got an pitch it up on the bank

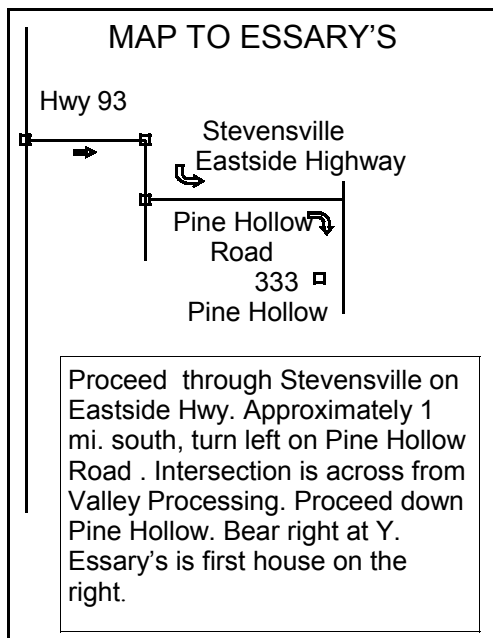
In no time a'tall you'uns 'll be noodlin with the best of um.



I'm not 50...I'm 49.95  
Our own Judy Roesler on her big day.

## Bluegrass Harmony Workshop 1:00 p.m., Saturday, March 6, 2004

Mike and Tari Conroy will host a bluegrass harmony workshop at Pam and Ben Essary's home, 333 Pine Hollow Road, Stevensville, MT. The workshop will be Saturday, March 6th beginning at 1:00 p.m. Admission is free. Bring your tape recorders. ***Please contact Mike or Tari*** at 821-3777 or on email for Mike at Tariconroy@webtv.net or Tari at tariconroy@hotmail.com ***if you plan on attending the workshop.***



### **Volunteers needed:**

All you cooks out there that enjoy sharing your culinary talents with many that would appreciate them...have we got a deal for you!!!!

The MRBA Oldtime Bluegrass Festival on April 17, 2004 needs volunteers to bring crock pots of soup, chili or what have you to sell for lunches and dinner. In the most recent past John Redman has handled the food and all the work that goes into it but this year due to an illness in his family will not be able to help out. We're sorry that John will be missing the festival as we know how much he enjoyed listening all day to the music while working to keep everyone well fed. We'll miss him and keep good thoughts for him and his family. Meanwhile, if you are interested in helping out with a donation of some sort of food item, please contact Ben & Pam 777- 7028, and they will get you signed up.

### Undoing the Winter Blues

By Debbie Kerns

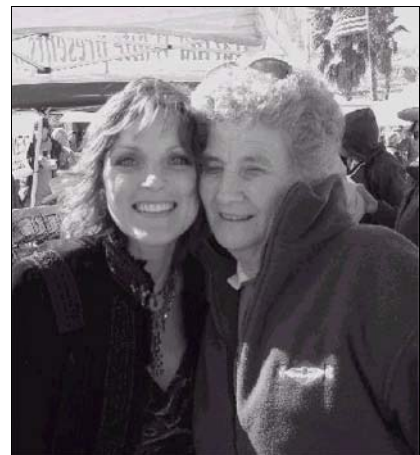
In the almost warm Arizona desert on February 6, 7 & 8 a few MRBA members enjoyed the music of some phenomenal Bluegrass bands. The lineup included Rhonda Vincent & The Rage, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, Cherryholmes Family, Karl Shiflett & Big Country, Lost & Found, James King, The Chapmans, and Open Road among others.

Dale & Debbie Kerns and Mike & Tari Conroy drove the 950 mile (one way) trip in two days. Yep, it's a long ways down to Bullhead City and because Debbie fell asleep, a longer way home, but the sun was shining

and if you didn't mind a little wind the weather was perfect. Marion & Mary Moore were there in their RV. Steve Ralston drove up from the Phoenix area on Saturday to enjoy the music and jam with some of his old friends. Winston & Lil Wanstrath were already in the area enjoying Laughlin's extra-curricular activities and came to the show on Sunday. Debbie snapped this cool picture of Lil & Rhonda Vincent.

Mike, Tari & Dale partook in a few jams but wished there were more. They weren't sure if it was the cool nights, the wind or just the nature of the festival that cut back on the number of jams but it was surprising how few there were in relation to how many people were camped there. In

spite of that it was a great event and everyone enjoyed some awesome music in the beautiful Arizona desert on the Colorado River.



Rhonda Vincent & Lil Wantstrath

If you missed the Deerlodge jam, you missed some mighty fine pickin and a real good feed. It was hosted by the Deerlodge Bluegrass Association (all four of them), Bill and Charlene Anderson and Mike and Judy Roesler. The weather was an issue for our friends northeast of us. We missed their smilin' faces and musical input. A vote was taken and it was decided that a car would be sent up for them next year if the weather's nasty. In spite of the cold and snow, there was a real good turnout, enough for a couple of good jams. Everyone enjoyed the new site (thanks Charlene). It was better suited for separate jams and just mighty cumfy. Among those in attendance were Fred & Emily Frank - Idaho Falls, Arlene Wolf - Salmon, Rudy Urban - Big Fork, Chad Fadely - Kalispell, John, Lydia & Ian Felming - St Ignatious, James Dodd & Bruce Lee from the Billing area, Gary Moore - Gibbonsville, Forrest Clark - Clinton, Mike & Tari Conroy - Conner, Ben & Pam Essary - Stevensville, Dale & Debbie Kerns - Hamilton, Larry Wade, Jeff

Trask, Damien Mast, Adam Sherba, Ted Lowe, Tabatha Graves, Jeff Campfield & Phyllis Erck all from Missoula. If I've left anyone out it was unintentional.



At 5:00 we all stopped and partook of a great meal provided by Charlene, Bill, Mike and Judy. We had fried chicken, pasta, salad, rolls carrot cake and Tari's fine "better than about anything" cake. After eatin' and visitin' it was back to playing music. As the evening wore on things got entertaining as usual. Several people noticed Chad Fadely's tricked out mandolin. With back rest, arm rest, rubber string grommets, & fancy strap. (Advantages of working in Greg Boyd's music store) Dale said he

thought he saw a camp fire grill hooked on the back of Chad's mandolin. The highlight of the evening had to be Ben's rendition of Mt. Dew with a special verse he wrote for Dale. Charlene laughed till she cried. We're not sure Ben remembers it so we'll have to have him do it again sometime. All in all, a good time was had by all. Next morning everyone was treated to breakfast at Mike & Judy's house. We had biscuits & gravy, fresh fruit, eggs and salsa and orange juice. What a way to start the day! Ben tried to have a quick association meeting but it was cut short when it was announced the free breakfast was ready. After the meal Mike led us in a Gospel hour. It was a perfect end to an incredible weekend.

Thanks again to Bill, Charlene, Mike & Judy for the opportunity to get together and play the music we love, Thanks for your hard work, good food and your fine hospitality and for renting that extra house for pickers to sleep in. You're the best! Debbie Kerns

#### AN INVITE:

JAMES AND BEVERLY DODD, INVITE ALL OUR PICKING AND NON PICKING, BLUEGRASS OR ANY KIND OF MUSIC, FRIENDS TO OUR HOME THE WEEK END OF MAY 21 - 23, FOR A WEEK END OF MUSIC AND FUN TO HELP US CELEBRATE THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION OF OUR DAUGHTER, BRITTANEY, ON MAY 23 AT 2:00 IN LAVINA HIGH. BRING TENTS, MOTOR HOMES, CARS, TRUCKS, LAWN FURNITURE WE DON'T CARE THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM, EVERYONE IS WELCOME. POT LUCK BREAKFAST AND DINNERS DAILY, MUSIC WHENEVER A CIRCLE FORMS. HOPE TO SEE Y'ALL HERE. QUESTIONS CALL OUR HOME AT 406-575-4266

#### This Ain't No Sad Bluegrass Song

This ain't no sad bluegrass song  
Everybody in it gets along.  
Willy's lost his knife, and Katie is his wife,  
Cause this ain't no sad bluegrass song.

Now Cory's got her still,  
And a mansion on the hill,  
Her jugs are never dry, she keeps smiles on all the guys  
Cause this ain't no sad bluegrass song.

I've got a bluetick hound,  
And a truck to drive around.  
A banjo that's almost in tune  
Blue birds sing in may, we pick tunes all the day  
but we don't play no sad bluegrass songs.

Repeat the first verse:

*Written by Verna Molenda....she invites anyone interested to come up with a tune to go with the words.*



Congratulations to MRBA member Ian Fleming on the release of his new CD entitled "Flat-picker". It features 11 tunes that Ian skillfully picks with is wonderfully clear-toned Collings guitar. The tunes range from old instrumental bluegrass standards like Roanoke and The Goldrush...to fiddle tunes like Red Haired Boy, Angeline The Baker/Whiskey Before Breakfast. It also features more modern compositions like Plastic Banana and Dawgola.

Ian is backed up by MRBA member and multi-talented picker, Richie Reinholdt, playing rhythm guitar, bass and rhythm mandolin throughout the recording (except on David Grisman's Dawgola where his mandolin plays a very cool duel

melody with Ian's guitar.). This CD features many flat picking variations on each tune, starting with straight forward melody the first time through and with more complicated variations to follow. The project was recorded at Richie's *animal-town studios* in Missoula. The sound is clear and well balanced.

In summary, this is a fine recording for folks that love good flat picking and for music lovers that would like to support our young Ian for the countless hours of dedication he has paid to the music he loves. Very impressive job!

Mike Conroy

### **Ian Fleming** *Flat-picker*

1. Goodbye Liza Jane
  2. Roanoke
  3. Lonesome Fiddle Blues
  4. Lady Be Good
  5. Dawgola
  6. Red Haired Boy
  7. Engagement Waltz
  8. The Goldrush
  9. Plastic Banana
  10. Old Dangerfield
  11. Angeline The Baker/Whiskey Before Breakfast
- Contact Ian Fleming at:  
406-745-4161 or



On behalf of the Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival committee, I would like to extend our most sincere appreciation to the officers, board of directors and members of the MRBA for supporting the 2004 festival with a \$300.00 Silver Sponsorship. Sponsors are a very important aspect of the Festival fund raising program and are a major factor in helping to improve and advance the festival each year. The long range goal of the Festival is to make it a nationally recognized event, and the MRBA sponsorship will help make this happen.

Thank You,  
Perry Vose  
General Manager,  
Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival

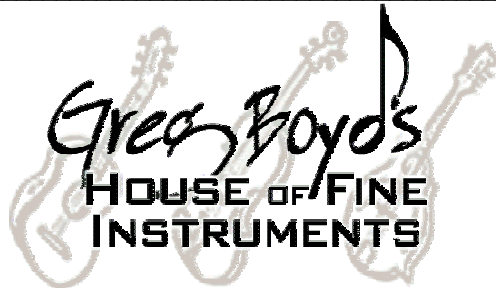
### **Membership Application** **MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION** 333 Pine Hollow Road, Stevensville, MT 59870

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$15.00) \_\_\_\_\_



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 Bitterroot bass/guitar player looking to  
 form a "working" bluegrass band. I have  
 the gigs, but no band. Good vocals a must!  
 If interested Call JoAnne at 363-4081

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