



Bluegrassin'

Volume 6, Issue 4

July – August 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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Bluegrass Calendar

- ♦ **July 9 – 11, 2004 – Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival**
Ravalli County Fairgrounds, Hamilton, Mt
- ♦ **July 17, 2004 – Ralph Stanley concert, Big Sky, Mt.**
A Concert by Ralph Stanley & Clinch Mtn. Boys, opening band will be Blue Highway Big Sky Community Part – Meadow Village Pavilion 7:00 PM
- ♦ **July 21, 2004 – Lost Highway concert, Fort Missoula**
- ♦ **July 24, 2004 – The 5th Annual Big Spring Creek Bluegrass Rendezvous** is scheduled for July 24, 2004 in Lewistown. It will be held in the Gazebo area at the Fergus County Fairgrounds. Camping Friday night and Saturday. Lots of jamming opportunities. Three great bands: Left Over Biscuits; Sagegrass Ramblers; & Spur Of The Moment. Bands begin at 2:00 pm. Open mic opportunities. Call 538-7127 or 538-8854 for further information.
- ♦ **July 31, 2004 – Wilderness Festival, Dirty Shame Saloon**
Broken Valley Road Show
- ♦ **July 31 – August 1, 2004 – MRBA – Association Campout**
- ♦ **August 27 – 29, 2004 – Bannock County Bluegrass Festival**
1st Annual festival to be held at the Bannock County Fair grounds, 10560 N. Fairgrounds Rd. Pocatello, Idaho 83205
info: 360-436-1179 or 208-234-0200
WEBSITE: www.bannockcountybluegrassfestival.com
performing...LeftOver Biscuits, New South Fork, & Mike & Tari Conroy
- ♦ **September 17 – 19, 2004 – 4th Annual Moses Lake Bluegrass Festival** call 509-765-6548 or email glmf58@qosi.net www.moseslakebluegrass.com
- ♦ **10th Annual Gibbonsville Bluegrass Campout**
call Rose Marie 208-865-2241 or Arlene at 208-756-2766 awof411@hotmail.com

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 for information.

President's Notes

Well, here we are in the height of the bluegrass music season in the Northwest. Check out the calendar for events in the area.

Tari and Mike Conroy had a great turnout for their Memorial Day campout at the West Fork. You had to be hardcore for bluegrass to survive the rain which came down throughout the weekend. However, the crowd never thinned and we enjoyed some fine music.

The Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival in Hamilton is right around the corner. The festival, now in its fifteenth year, promises to be the best yet. With bands like Open Road and John Reischman and the Jaybirds you can't go wrong. Along with other fine bands, local bands Mountain Groan and the Broken Valley Road Show will show their stuff. It all happens July 9th-11th. It is also important to note that with our donation of \$600.00 the MRBA is a Gold Sponsor of the festival.

MRBA will have a booth at the festival promoting the association, signing up new members and selling our merchandise. We will need volunteers to staff the booth so look up Pam, Mike, or me at the festival if you want to volunteer some time.

I urge each of you to check the address label each month for your membership status. I noticed this month that we had numerous members overdue. I'm sure this was an oversight so we will look forward to receiving your check. Membership dues are the fuel that keeps the association running so I appreciate your efforts in promptly paying your dues.

Ben

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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

Visit to Jerusalem Ridge

By Ben Essary

Last February, Pam and I took somewhat of a bluegrass odyssey. We visited the International Bluegrass Music Museum, traveled through the home country of the Stanley Brothers and the Carter Family and got to play music with family in Tennessee. Enroute, I also inherited a 1954 Martin D-18 from my uncle. One of the real highlights of the trip was a visit to Rosine, Kentucky and a tour of the Monroe home place on Jerusalem Ridge.

The Bill Monroe Foundation has a visionary plan to preserve the music, memorabilia associated with the Monroe Brothers, and the Jerusalem home place. The foundation has already restored the Monroe home and acquired Bill's F-5 mandolin.

We thought we were out of luck for the tour when we saw a sign on the entrance road that said tours were conducted from May through September. Disappointed, we went on to the Rosine store where the lady running the store said she could arrange a tour if we wanted. In short order we were at the home with a very friendly and informed personal tour guide.

ENTRANCE ROAD TO MONROE HOME PLACE



As you can see by the photograph, the home is completely restored and is filled with many of the family's possessions. Bill's bedroom is furnished with the furniture he used as a child. A mandolin similar to the one his mother played laid on the bed.

The house is set at the top of Jerusalem Ridge and is surrounded by treed and rolling hills. It was easy to envision a large and busy family going about their rural lives and a boy soaking in the knowledge to become the most important figure in bluegrass music. In

fact, it seemed you could almost hear the music – Uncle Pen and Birch's fiddles, Bill's mandolin and Charlie's guitar.

MONROE HOME



The foundation has aggressive plans. As I said they have already restored the home and acquired Bill's mandolin. Future plans include, among other things, constructing a museum to honor Bill and the Bluegrass Boys, the Monroe Family and the music; purchasing and restoring Uncle Pen's cabin; purchasing the entire Monroe farm and restoring Rosine to an authentic 1920's appearance. The cost of the entire plan is \$16 million.

BILL'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM



If you are interested in learning more about this important project visit www.billmonroefoundation.com or contact The Bill Monroe Foundation, PO Box 429, Rosine, KY 42370. The website offers extensive information about Bill Monroe, the Monroe family and the foundation. It also has many photographs of the Monroe home place.

If you are a lover of bluegrass music and a fan of Bill Monroe, you should not miss a trip to Jerusalem Ridge.



Conroy's Memorial Weekend Bluegrass Campout was a great success, despite the rain that fell off and on thru the weekend, or was that....fell several times each day thru the weekend...but real bluegrassers aren't delicate...they just pull out the coats, hats & heavy socks... put up tents, heaters and pick away!

◀ 1st 50 folks at the campout received one of these keep-sake pins. (next year we'll have more.)

▼ Jammin' with Wild Bob Stewart.



▲ It really could have been a G minor diminished chord.



▲ Sometimes there just ain't a whole lotta extra room in them thar tents.



▲ Perry Vose, Hal Babb & Sue Downey

Suzanne Knauer & daughter, Pat Davis & fiddlin' Eddie Peirson.
▼

Don't know about the rest of y'all, but I had a great time at Conroy's campout. I'm already looking forward to the Garrison event! Just a note: if Mike's gonna advertise dry camping at this event, I think he might want to look up the word dry in the dictionary. That weekend was anything but dry! See ya at the next one. Fred & Emily Frank



Wilderness Festival

On Saturday, July 31 The Broken Valley Roadshow will be the main act for the Wilderness Festival at the Dirty Shame Saloon in the heart of the Yaak Valley. The Festival will be a full day of local and organic foods for both carnivores and herbivores alike, music from 2 PM until the wee hours, raffles, auctions and games for adults as well as children. Come early! Camp for free with ticket purchase to the Festival! Several semi-primitive USFS campgrounds are in the area as well. For more information on the Festival, lodging options, and the Yaak Valley Forest Council, please call 406-295-4562, visit our website at www.yaakvalley.org, or email us at yaakwilderness@yahoo.com.



Cartoon submitted by banjo player Tim Whitney

NEWS FLASH

Rudy Urban sent this info along :

A DJ in Missoula is starting a bluegrass show Sunday mornings from 9 – 10 AM. He calls himself “Sleeper”, and it’s on KLCY 9:30 am station. He’s calling it :Bluegrass Is Alive and Kickin!” He encourages anyone who’d like to “bluegrass chat” to call in during the program at 1-800-568-5309.

Also there is a new FM station in Kalispell playing all blues, bluegrass, folk and classical music, at 101.9 FM. Bluegrass gets played about 25% of the time.

In Deer Lodge 96.9 FM has a bluegrass show from 10 – 12 Sunday mornings, he says that our own “Billy-Bob” Anderson has been featured on this program. Tune in if you can.

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) _____

MRBA and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula are proudly sponsoring a concert by the Lost Highway Bluegrass Band at 7:00 PM on July 21st. Lost Highway is a professional touring band from California, and is traveling through on their way to a festival they are playing up in Canada. We are very fortunate to be able to book this band.

This concert will be held outdoors on the lawn by the gazebo at Fort Missoula. Tickets will be available 10 days prior to the concert at Rockin Rudy's or by contacting Raynae Redman.

You will need to bring your own lawn chair as the concert will be outdoors on the lawn beside the museum.

Cost: \$15 General Admission at the gate \$12 MRBA members. In Advance \$13 General public, \$10 MRBA.

This is going to be a fun concert you won't want to miss. Raynae



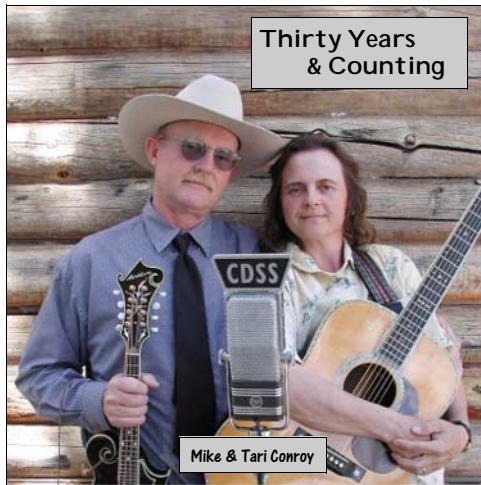
Lost Highway is built around the smooth lead singing and rhythm guitar of Ken Orrick. His rich, soulful voice and his fine original songs, written in the best traditional style, define the Lost Highway sound. He is a stylist in the tradition of his musical mentors: the Stanley Brothers, Larry Sparks, Lester Flatt and Melvin Goins. Ken has performed

often at festivals and shows with many of these bluegrass legends and more. He is also a top-notch banjo player and hails from Smithville, Tennessee. Eric Uglum, founding member of nationally-known bands Weary Hearts and Copperline, applies his powerful and heartfelt vocals as well as his expressive lead playing and insistent, clean rhythm on both mandolin and guitar. Dick Brown has played and recorded with notables such as Lynn Morris, Traditional Bluegrass and Pacific Crest. His banjo playing provides drive in the Lost Highway sound, yet his tasteful backup is always appropriate to any ballad. Fiddler Paul Shelasky plays in the style of his mentors Benny Martin and Scotty Stoneman. He has recorded on over twenty-five

albums and has played and toured with the Good Ol' Persons, Frank Wakefield, Tony Rice and David Grisman. Marshall Andrews has been performing traditional acoustic music all his life. His rock-solid timing and great tone on the bass are an integral part of the Lost Highway sound and he has twice performed as an International Bluegrass Music Association showcase artist with the band Copperline in 1997 and Lost Highway in 1998. The members of Lost Highway are united in their love and respect for traditional bluegrass and their commitment to ensemble-ship. With their unforgettable trio harmonies, instrumental prowess and relaxed, friendly stage manner, they are sure to be a hit at any festival or on any concert stage.

MRBA Association campout

The Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association is going to host it's own campout again this year. The location is on the old frontage road half-way between Turah, and Clinton.... (that's approx. 3 miles from Turah). Watch for signs. The MRBA plans to furnish meat for the Saturday night potluck, special drawings for prizes and just a plain good ol' time. Potlucks for breakfast (for those interested) at 10:00 a. m. and for supper at 6:00 p. m. . The camping is free and the dates are July 30– August 1, 2004. Bring your campers and lawn chairs. Dry camping (Mike's workin' on it Fred!). There will be water available (Forrest Clark will run a hose down the hill). All bluegrass lovers welcome!



CD Review:
Thirty Years and Counting
Mike and Tari Conroy
By Ted Lowe

Mike and Tari Conroy have a brand new CD out, titled *Thirty Years and Counting*. As the title suggests, this CD marks the Conroys' 30th year of marriage and making music together, and contains some of their finest playing and singing to date. This recording features the Conroys doing some of their favorite bluegrass songs that they've gathered and written through the years, singing in their distinctive "mother duet" style of vocal harmony, with instrumental accompaniment provided by Mike on mandolin and standup bass and Tari on guitar. Long-time fans will be pleased to hear Tari step into the lead and do some picking on the Bill Monroe's "Tombstone Junction".

Mike and Tari recorded and mastered *Thirty Years and Counting* in their very own Conroy Digital Sound Studio. The excellent quality of the recording reflects the hard work and talent that has gone into creating a studio tailored perfectly to the music that Mike and Tari make. This CD provides a well-balanced mixture of songs, featuring familiar gospel and bluegrass standards, as well as more obscure and original tunes that make this recording a good source of new ideas and material. The songs are:

1. Maple On The Hill
2. When The Roses Bloom Again
3. The Old Home
4. The Paper Boy
5. Camping In Canaan's Happy Land
6. Tombstone Junction
7. We Can't Be Darlings Anymore
8. Where The Soul Of Man Never Dies
9. This Old House
10. Make Him A Soldier
11. Christine LeRoy
12. Bells Of St. Mary's
13. Keeper Of The Door
14. Little Glass Of Wine
15. Montana Blue
16. The Bluebirds Are Singing For Me
17. Nobody Answered Me

If this lineup of great songs doesn't convince you to buy this CD, the pictures that Mike and Tari share in the liner notes surely will. Around 20 photos show some of the highlights of their first 30 years of marriage, with pictures of their family, friends and various bands that they have been part of. In them you will see Mike wearing (gasp!) a suit and tie, a ten gallon hat, and a very racy looking apron. My only complaint about the CD is that, while most pictures are provided with dates, a date is noticeably lacking in the photo of Mike in his "high school days".

You can contact Mike and Tari by calling (406)821-3777 or sending an e-mail to: tariconroy@webtv.net.

10th Annual Gibbonsville Bluegrass Campout

Sept. 10 – 12, 2004

Broken Arrow Restaurant & Campground

Camping will be first come, first served this year.

For more info call Rose Marie at 208-865-2241 or Arlene Wolf at 208-756-2766

Or email Arlene at awolf411@hotmail.com

Can you believe it'll be 10 years for this one?

There would normally be an article about the Lilly Mountaineer concert but due to many difficulties with band members and finally an illness that couldn't be overcome, the concert was cancelled. Word was sent out by all means available about the cancellation....as far as we know Chuck Rafferty was the only one left waiting at the door for it to open, sorry Chuck! It is good to see you back for the summer though.

Garrison Junction Campout

Many thanks go Bill & Charlene Anderson and Mike and Judy Roesler for another job well done with their campout again this year. The crowd was a little smaller with people traveling and having other plans. (seems like poor planning actually.) It was a little windy at times, pretty cold at times, the food was great, company even better, of course the music was great...and the tents again saved the day! (Thanks Mike Roesler !!!)



One of the master cooks
< with the steaks & shrimp they provided.

Peter Silcher and his
"RV" shorts. >



Houston Rushing pickin' and
singin'
<



^ Some of the free hat pins
given out at Garrison
Junction.




Chuck Rafferty
watching Jeff
Forbes from
Idaho Falls -
Now that's blue-
grass fiddlin'!
>



▲ Fred Frank & Dale Kerns
Idaho and Oklahoma mix it up

Most of the photos for Garrison Junction in this issue were taken by Debbie Kerns and the photos used for the Conroy Campout were taken by Roger Underwood. Thanks you two, it sure helps out with the newsletter.



IDAHO'S 1st ANNUAL BANNOCK COUNTY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

AUGUST 27, 28, 29 2004

FEATURING

BAND
CONTEST



MUSIC
WORKSHOPS

- STORMY MOUNTAIN BOYS, FROM UTAH
- THE BUCKHORN MOUNTAIN BOYS, FROM IDAHO
- DEADLINE RIDGE, FROM IDAHO
- NEW SOUTH FORK, FROM IDAHO
- AROUND THE BEND, FROM UTAH
- STRINGS ATTACHED, FROM IDAHO
- THE LOST CANYON RANGERS, FROM CALIFORNIA
- LEFT OVER BISCUITS, FROM MONTANA
- THE JONES FAMILY BAND, FROM OREGAN
- MIKE & TARI CONROY BAND, FROM MONTANA

TICKETS

ADVANCED WEEKEND PASS	\$30.00
AFTER AUGUST 1ST	\$35.00
FRIDAY	\$10.00
SATURDAY	\$15.00
SUNDAY	\$10.00

NO REFUNDS

CHILDREN 14 YEARS OLD AND UNDER ARE
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CAMPING

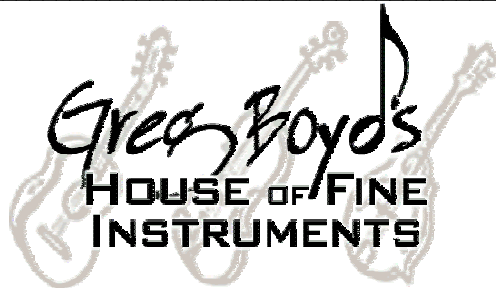
LIMITED ELECTRIC HOOKUPS	\$10.00 PER NIGHT
ROUGH CAMPING	\$5.00 PER NIGHT
TENTS	\$5.00 PER NIGHT

ALL CAMPING IS ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS. CAMPING FEES WILL BE COLLECTED BY THE BANNOCK COUNTY FAIR BOARD AT THE CAMPING AREA. DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH AND IN CAMP AREA ONLY. NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS OR FIREARMS

TO BE HELD AT
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10560 N. FAIRGROUNDS RD.
POCATELLO, IDAHO 83205

INFORMATION 360-436-1179 OR 208-234-0200
WEBSITE www.bannockcountybluegrassfestival.com

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And The Winners Are:

MRBA is now a sponsor to the Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival and in doing that we received 4 one day passes for the festival. Two were drawn for at each of the spring campouts and the lucky people that will spend a day at the festival courtesy of MRBA are:

**Dale Kerns
Arlene Wolf
Suzanne Knauer
Peter Silcher**

Congratulations to these folks and have a great time at the festival!

ATTENTION:

We have set up the address label on your newsletter to be your membership card, please clip it out and use it for proof of your membership to the MRBA.

MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
FIRST MONTH FREE!

\$12.95*
PER MONTH

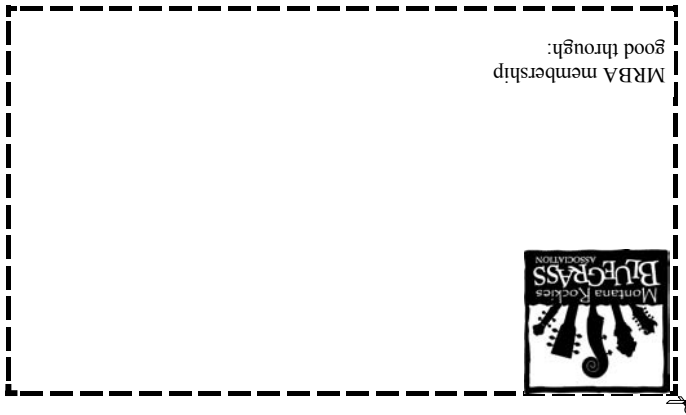
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