



# Bluegrassin'

Volume 7, Issue 1

January – February 2005

*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:

Bluegrass Calendar . . . page 1

Recurring Shows . . . page 1  
and Jams

Prez's Notes . . . page 2

Upcoming picks . . . page 3

Sonny Osborne quote . . . page 3

Pics of MRBA meeting . . . page 4

More pics . . . page 5

Minutes from MRBA annual meeting, financial report . . . page 6

Mandolin tabulature . . . page 7

Pine Mtn. RR holiday greetings, ads and BVBF band lineup, something to think about . . . page 9

So, are ya learnin' any new tunes?



## Bluegrass Calendar

- ♦ January 15, 2005 – MRBA monthly jam – Florence I00F Hall 2:00 – ?
- ♦ January 22, 2005 – Deer Lodge winter jam – 511 main, noon – ?
- ♦ February 19, 2005 – MRBA monthly jam – Florence I00F Hall 2:00 – ?
- ♦ March 19, 2005 – MRBA monthly jam – Florence I00F Hall 2:00 – ?
- ♦ April 16, 2005 – MRBA Oldtime Bluegrass Festival – Stevensville
- ♦ May 27–30, 2005 – Conroy's Memorial Weekend Bluegrass Campout
- ♦ July 8-10, 2005 – Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival – Hamilton

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## 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.
- ♦ 2nd Friday Each Month – Bluegrass jam at the Avalanche Creek Coffeehouse, 1st Avenue East, Kalispell. Contact Vicki at 257-3935 or [ybodfish@digisys.net](mailto:ybodfish@digisys.net) for information.
- ♦ MRBA Monthly Jam, Jan. 15 – Feb. 19 – Mar. 19 I00F Hall, Florence 2:00 p. m. – ?

## President's Notes

For those members fortunate enough to attend, we had a good time at the annual meeting at Ruby's Inn on Saturday, December 4th. Meeting minutes are included later in this issue. An excellent supper of pot roast and all the trimmings followed the meeting. After supper there were some hot jams with some hardy souls staying up 'til all hours.

I feel good about where the association is at as we come to the end of the year. Several important things happened during the year which I talked about at the meeting.

- Slow but steady growth in membership

- Starting on monthly jams during the winter months
- Holding association sponsored campout
- Moving the Oldtime Bluegrass Festival from Victor to Stevensville
- Holding two workshops on bluegrass harmony singing and beginning bluegrass guitar
- Sponsoring five bluegrass concerts
- Becoming a gold sponsor of the Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival.

Pulling all this off requires the contribution of lots of people. I want to thank everyone for their efforts. This includes the officers and board members for their support and guidance and all the members

who help set up for events, sell tickets and merchandise, contribute to the newsletter, maintain the website, and help out at the annual festival. Last and importantly, I want to thank all the musicians for performing at the spring festival.

I ask all of you to continue to contribute your time and effort to support association activities. As I said earlier, having all these activities requires a lot of time and effort. I also ask that you continue to provide me and the board your input on what you want to see from the association.

In closing, I want to wish you a happy Holiday season and hope the best for the new year. Ben

## Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

333 Pine Hollow Road, Stevensville, MT 59870  
(406) 777-7028

Website: [www.mtbluegrass.com](http://www.mtbluegrass.com)

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

**President** – Ben Essary (406) 777-7028  
[bguessary@msn.com](mailto:bguessary@msn.com)

**Vice President** – Mike Conroy (406) 821-3777  
[tariconroy@webtv.net](mailto:tariconroy@webtv.net)

**Secretary/Treasurer** – Pam Essary (406) 777-7028 [pamessary@msn.com](mailto:pamessary@msn.com)

**Board Members** – Jeff Campfield, Tari Conroy, Raynae Redman, Houston Rushing, Arlene Wolf

**Newsletter Editor** – Tari Conroy 821-3777 [tariconroy@hotmail.com](mailto:tariconroy@hotmail.com)

**Bluegrassin'** is a bi-monthly publication of the **Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association**

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

# upcoming pickin' events

## MRBA TO HOLD MONTHLY JAM SESSIONS

The MRBA will hold monthly jam sessions and potluck dinners at the IOOF Hall in Florence, Montana during the winter months. The hall is the white two-story building on the west side of Highway 93 just south of the stoplight in Florence. Jamming will start at 2:00 p.m. We will have the potluck dinner at 5:00 p.m. and then jam 'til the cows come home. January 15th, February 19th, and March 19th are the dates. Mark your calendar now and don't miss some great pickin' and singing. Call Ben Essary at (406) 777-7028 for more information.

### Deer Lodge Jam – January 22, 2005

There will be a jam in Deer Lodge on January 22, 2005 from 12:00 noon until ??????. We will have the jam at the same place as last year - 511 Main. This is right across the street from the Post Office. It is an office building where there will be room for three or four jams. Please park around back along side of the bowling alley. There is an alley entrance to the building and we will have a sign on the door. We will provide a dinner meal for a nominal fee. Motel rooms are available at Scharf's Motor Inn for \$42.95. For a reservation call 846-2810. Hope the roads are good and everyone can make it. If you have questions, call Bill Anderson at 846-1843 or email to [billanderson@bresnan.net](mailto:billanderson@bresnan.net).

In the summertime I'd work – I would have to plow and disc and stuff like that because Dad was still working at the National Cash Register Company...At night I'd get the banjo and go out on the back porch and just play until 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning. Then I'd run upstairs and jump into bed 'cause when Dad came in he'd always open the door and there I'd be just a-sleeping, so he didn't know I'd been playing the banjo all night. I was only getting two hours of sleep a night but I was learning to pick that banjo.

Sonny Osborne in an interview

### 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) \_\_\_\_\_

**Dec. 4, 2004**

Ben Essary, the president of this fine organization, started out with a very well planned meeting in one of the meeting rooms that Ruby's made available to us. We had slides to look at along with all the information Ben provided at the meeting. Business was taken care of in an orderly fashion.

Shortly after the meeting, we were led into another meeting room where the tables were set and cheesecake waiting at each place setting. Now for this editor... this would have been a sufficient meal, but they also brought out pot roast, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetable, salad and a roll. If you weren't there for the meal ( and a whole lot of you weren't!) you missed out on a fantastic spread! Ruby's out did themselves.



There was pickin' and grinnin' everywhere.

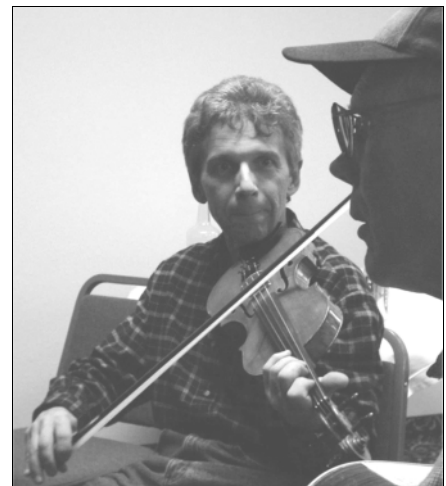


Brian & Caroline



Banjer  
Pickin'  
Steve  
Gleason

Fiddlin'  
George  
Reagen  
&  
"Wild"  
Bill  
Molenda





Why yes Ben, I DO think you need another guitar!



Hey, is that a bug on the floor?



Smilin' Arlene  
&  
Frettin' Forrest



Heck, anyone can hold one of these things .

Suzanne, Houston & Verna...  
Hey, this music is serious stuff!



Four of the last five standing at 3 a.m. , (and proud of it!)

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association  
**2004 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes**

The Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association 2004 Annual Membership Meeting was held on December 4, 2004, at Ruby's Inn, Missoula Montana. Ben Essary, President, chaired the meeting.

**Association Update**

Ben Essary provided an update on association activities for 2004.

**Financial Statement**

MRBA started the year with \$2,285.63. There was income of \$5,795.40 and expenses of \$5,266.37. Current bank balance is \$2,814.66. A copy of the statement is included as Attachment 1.

**Old Business**

The summer association sponsored campout was discussed. Everyone agreed to continue the annual campout.

The MRBA website is up and functioning. It can be accessed at [www.mtbluegrass.com](http://www.mtbluegrass.com). Larry Gangi has done an excellent job administering the website for the past year.

**New Business**

A draft update of the MRBA by-laws was discussed. A vote was taken and the new by-laws were approved as drafted.

The subject of MRBA support to bluegrass educational activities was discussed. Bill Anderson, Houston Rushing and Arlene Wolf volunteered to explore alternatives and provide a report to the board by the end of January 2005.

The subject of the MRBA purchasing a tent to be used at bluegrass related functions was discussed. Rudy Urban volunteered to explore options and costs and will provide information back to the board.

The subject of whether the association should cease mailing copies of the newsletter to members who opt to read the newsletter on line at the MRBA website. Ben Essary will explore whether there would be enough savings to justify the additional effort needed to support this administrative change.

**Election of Officers**

The membership elected the following members to the positions indicated. The officers will assume their positions on January 1, 2005.

President: Ben Essary  
Vice President: Mike Conroy  
Secretary/Treasurer: Pam Essary

Board Members: Jeff Campfield  
Tari Conroy  
Raynae Redman  
Arlene Wolf

<b>STARTING BALANCE</b>		<b>\$ 2,285.63</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>\$ 5,795.40</b>
Admissions	\$ 1,090.00	
Advertising	\$ 345.00	
Concessions	\$ 515.63	
Merchandise	\$ 1,708.12	
New Member Dues	\$ 895.00	
Bank Interest	\$ 1.34	
Other	\$ 60.31	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 5,266.37</b>
Postage	\$ 481.00	
Printing	\$ 760.78	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 265.52	
IBMA Membership	\$ 150.00	
Venue Rental	\$ 745.00	
Band Costs	\$ 236.00	
Merchandise	\$ 492.00	
MRBA Festival CD	\$ 620.57	
Wintergrass Expenses	\$ 100.00	
Food	\$ 541.85	
Picnic Expenses	\$ 220.00	
Bluegrass Festival Sponsorship	\$ 534.85	
Website	\$ 49.75	
Bank Charges	\$ 3.90	
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>		<b>\$ 2,814.66</b>

<b>MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION 2004 FINANCIAL STATEMENT</b>
---

# Whiskey Before Breakfast

By Richie Reinholdt

Hi all, just a few words about the tune. First off, let me say that this is the version that I play. These tunes, because they are “oral tradition” are always interpretive in that everyone plays a little different variation. So, this is ONE way to play this.

Those of you that already are familiar with tablature need not read the rest. However, let me explain for those that are not familiar. The lines represent the strings on your mandolin and the numbers represent the fret to be played. If you look carefully, there are numbers at the beginning of each row to tell the string position. Also, the “slash with dots” symbol on the chord part, means “same as previous measure” So, have fun and good pickin’

(Ed. note: This is our first tune in tablature in the newsletter. We hope this is helpful to players to build their skills and broaden their repertoire. If you would like to see other tunes in tablature for mandolin and other instruments let me know. Thanks to Richie for this first tune. Tari.)

## WHISKEY BEFORE BREAKFAST

2/4

1 2 3 4

D / G D A

1 2 3 4

D / G D A D

1 2 3 4

D / E<sup>m</sup> A

1 2 3 4

D A G D G D A D

Hi friends, just in case your wondering, the meal and jammin' at the annual meeting was great. Bill and I shared a room with Conroy's, they were out after curfew and just had time for a nap before breakfast. We went to the potluck at Florence, there was good food, great visiting and a fun jam. We saw some new faces so word is getting out. I had a great learning experience, the people in this organization are great to help a "special needs" old lady like myself along. Here's hoping to see a lot of ya'll as winter progresses. Stay well and keep pickin' and grinnin'!

Verna Molenda.



Full bellies....lots to talk over.

\*sorry we didn't get any pictures of the downstairs jam!

The upstairs jam. Monthly MRBA jam held Dec. 18 in Florence





...from Pine Mountain Railroad...

**Greetings:**

From each of us at Pine Mountain Railroad, we want to extend to you and your families our very best wishes for a joyous and blessed Christmas season.

And continued success in growing the MRBA in 2005. This is an outstanding Association and we are proud to call you our friends.



Bill McBee	Matt Flake	Cody Shuler	Matt DeSpain	Terry Butler	Kipper Stitt
bass	fiddle	mandolin	reso gitar	guitar	banjo

[www.PineMountainRailroad.com](http://www.PineMountainRailroad.com)

...look for our newest CMH Records project in mid-2005



ghs strings



RECORDS



### Something to think about...

Although we aren't taking names yet...you might start thinking of putting your band together for the MRBA Oldtime Bluegrass Festival which will be April 16, 2005 in Stevensville.

I can see fiddling around with a banjo, but how do you banjo around with a fiddle?

"Music that don't come out and get a hold of you ain't no damn good."

-Bill Lowe

### Bands that are scheduled for the Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival, 2005

Donna Hughes Band, Randy Kohrs & The Lites, New South Fork, King Wilkie, Jim Hurst, Special Consensus, and Mike & Tari Conroy. More info next newsletter



## January Special!

**10% off on all recording** done at our studio in the month of January  
Yes, that 10% off our already low prices.

Each and every recording is handled with special care and attention.

If needed, we offer rhythm guitar, stand up bass, harmony vocals, mandolin & fiddle at no extra cost, just the studio time it takes to record them.

### Conroy Digital Sound Studio

Mike & Tari Conroy  
821-3777 [tariconroy@webtv.net](mailto:tariconroy@webtv.net)



Contact us now to take advantage of the *slow* time of year and get your recording made.



**PROUD SPONSOR  
BITTERROOT VALLEY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL**

**If you are not browsing OUR website,  
you are not shopping!**

**Roy Noble / Bourgeois / Collings  
Weber / National / Vintage Martin / Beard  
Prucha / "Pro" Banjo Parts**

**Best inventory of bluegrass instruments and pro  
accessories in the entire Northwest**

**CENTRALLY located in Missoula, Montana**

**( Just one block down from Boyce Lumber off Russell on Knowles St.)**

**HOUSE of FINE INSTRUMENTS**

**HOURS:**

**2:00pm til 6:00pm Tue thru Fri**

**All other times by appointment**

**(406) 327 - 9925**

**[www.gregboyd.com](http://www.gregboyd.com)**

**SECURE Online ordering**



**Ruby's Inn**  
&  
Convention  
Center

4825 N. Reserve Street  
Missoula, MT 59808  
406-721-0990  
800-221-2057

During your next stay in Missoula  
or  
When planning your next event

**THE MOST BLUEGRASS FRIENDLY  
HOTEL IN MONTANA**

*Free hot breakfast buffet daily 6 – 10am*

*Free soup/dessert 5:30 – 8:30pm*

*Free airport shuttle*

*Close to major shopping district*

*Quiet picnic area on Grant Creek*

*Outdoor pool/hot tub*

*Guest laundry*

*Full-service catering*

*6 meeting rooms*

*Free local calls*

*Located off I-90 exit 96, 1/4 mile on right*

One day a salesman for RCA walked into a record store in Harlan, Kentucky with his supervisor. The salesman asked who the biggest selling artist was, thinking the answer would be Eddy Arnold. When the dealer said it was the Stanley Brothers, the supervisor rared back like a judge and said, "Who are the Stanley Brothers?" The reply was that they were the hottest thing in the country.

-Carl Sauceman from notes on the Stanley Brothers 1949-1952

**ATTENTION:**

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

MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

# FIRST MONTH FREE!

# \$12.95\*

PER MONTH

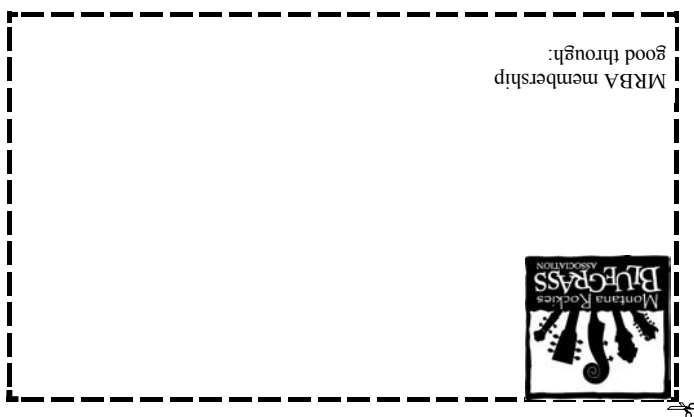
\* If paid by credit card - \$14.95 if not by paid by credit card.

## DIAL-UP ACCESS

- 9400 LOCAL U.S. DIAL-UP ACCESS NUMBERS
- LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
- WEB-BASED EMAIL ACCESS
- TWO EMAIL ACCOUNTS PROVIDED
- 10M PERSONAL WEB SPACE
- FREE TECHNICAL PHONE SUPPORT



1410 SOUTH RESERVE MISSOULA, MT 59801  
PHONE: 406.549.3337 FAX: 406.549.9337  
WWW.CENTRIC.NET



MRBA membership  
good through:

333 Pine Hollow Road  
Stevensville, MT 59870

