



Bluegrassin'

Volume 7, Issue 2

March – April 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

Tsunami benefit ... page 2

Thank you ... page 3

Bluegrass homeland security site ... page 3

More Missoula weekly music... page 3

Tim, Judy & Dolly ... page 4

Member web pages... page 4

Florence winter jam ... page 5

1st Annual Road To Reno Concert... page 5

Deer Lodge Jam pictures... page 6

More Deer Lodge pics ... page 7

CD review ... page 8

Hit & Run Concert ... page 8

2005 MRBA Festival info ... page 9



Bluegrass Calendar

- ♦ **March 19, 2005 – MRBA monthly jam** – Florence I00F Hall 2:00 – ?
potluck at 5:00 p.m.
- ♦ **April 16, 2005 – MRBA Oldtime Bluegrass Festival**,
Stevensville High School noon to 11:35
- ♦ **May 27-30, 2005 – Conroy's Memorial Weekend Bluegrass Campout**
Little West Fork Campground, South of Darby
- ♦ **May 29 – June 5, 2005 – Pasture Pickin'** Libby, Mt
- ♦ **June 20 – 26, 2005 - Rodeo Pickin'** - Newport, WA
corner of 1st & Garden Ave.
Ralph or Vel Biellbe 208-437-2044
Bob or Vicki Mollenkopf 208-437-3375
- ♦ **July 8 – 10, 2005 – Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival**
Ravalli County Fairgrounds
- ♦ **July 15 & 16, 2005 – Big Spring Creek Bluegrass Festival**,
Gazebo area, Fergus County Fairgrounds, Lewistown, Mt
Duane Ferdinand (406) 538-8854 (538-7127)
planning@ci.lewistown.mt.us

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 Tuesday night, 6 p m-8 p m – Country Folk at Freemo's Pizza 1801 Brooks Street, Missoula (1st Tuesday of every month is Kids in Bluegrass)
- ♦ 2nd Friday Each Month – Bluegrass jam at the Avalanche Creek Coffeehouse, 1st Avenue East, Kalispell. Contact Vicki at 257-3935 or vbodfish000@centurytel.net for information.
- ♦ MRBA Monthly Mar. 19 I00F Hall, Florence 2:00 p. m. – ?

President's Notes

Hopefully winter is on its last legs. We all know that spring brings on more bluegrass music happenings. However, this winter produced its' own share of bluegrass events. Our annual meeting in Missoula saw some good jams and the Deer Lodge jam was attended by a large group of outstanding pickers. In addition, the MRBA sponsored monthly jams at the hall in Florence has been well at-

tended. March will be our last jam of the winter.

Planning is well underway for the MRBA 2005 Old-time Bluegrass Festival. The festival will be held Saturday, April 16th in the Stevensville High School Multipurpose Room. Mike and Tari Conroy have once again filled the bill with outstanding groups from across the region. Please see other articles in this newsletter for more details.

Tari Conroy is doing an outstanding job as editor of the newsletter but we still

struggle with meaningful content. I know we have some bluegrass historians in our membership and we welcome any articles on our musical past. We also welcome articles on the accomplishments of our members, tabbed bluegrass tunes – such as the mandolin tune featured last issue by Richie Reinholdt, photos, or any other articles on subjects of interest by our members.

I hope to see you all at the festival.

Ben

Tsunami Benefit

Concert for the Tsunami Family will be held at the Crystal Theater, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 9. Hosted by Farmers' Market musician, David Bennett Stube, the acoustic concert will also feature **Long Overdue (with Bill Neaves and Candice Neaves)**, **Tom and the Tomatoes**, **Oriental Jazz Ensemble**, and **Dennis Nettiksimmons**. Suggested donation of \$5 will buy a night of **bluegrass**, cowboy music, rock, and oriental music.

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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



Perry & Edwina Vose posing with the wall tent that they donated to the MRBA to use at summer campouts. A very special **Thanks** to the two of them for such a generous act, there should be many happy hours of music coming from this tent in the near future.

Thank You!

Bluegrassers have not been left out of the call to help in **Home Land Security**. Those of you that are connected to the internet, please check this web site out and do your part for this great country. <http://www.whitetreeaz.com/vintage/drvrapp.htm>

More Bluegrass Music in Missoula

There's a new place to hear bluegrass music in Missoula on Tuesday nights. Country Folk is playing every Tuesday night from 6 – 8 PM and on the first Tuesday of the month they are featuring kids in bluegrass and extend an invitation to any children that are playing bluegrass to come on down and they will have you play. Cost for the music and the all you can eat Pizza, Spaghetti, and Salad Bar is \$3.99 even at dinnertime so it's a very reasonably priced place for people to bring their family in to eat and enjoy live music. They want everyone coming in to hear the music to pay for the buffet, which is a reasonable request, and a bargain for the music and the food.

Randy Dollar has started a Bluegrass Club for kids. He has about 7 kids involved at this time. They meet on Wednesday evening after school and all listen to a tune and then work at playing it as a group. If you know of any kids that would like to get involved with this, get a hold of Randy and he'll help you with all the details.

✂

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) ____



Tim & Judy meeting Dolly

They say a picture is worth a 1000 words..... Good thing because for once in my life I'm speechless. :)

It was pretty neat for sure. Only eight people had backstage passes to see her. The other 6 had won a radio contest of some sort there in Spokane. It was a lot of fun....she's tiny! I bet she doesn't weigh 90 lbs. soaking wet. She looks much bigger on stage than she

really is. She was very pleasant and kind. Judy told her, "Dolly, I've been playing second fiddle to you all my life" and Dolly replied, "Now Honey, I don't believe that for one minute". I had her autograph a book (her autobiography) and a CD for a friend and then we got some pictures.

She's not shy! She snuggled right up to me (I don't know if "they" are real or not, but who cares! The left one was right there against me :).

Yes, her band was great. I'd met her banjo player (David Talbot) when we were in Nashville a couple of years ago. He used to play for Larry Cordle and Lonesome Standard Time (They played at the

Station Inn when we were there). Actually, the lead singer/guitar player for the Grascals also played with Larry Cordle (he played bass then....I think his name is Terry Eldridge, but I'm not sure). The Grascals are just outstanding.....their fiddle player is phenomenal (Mattingly...can't remember his first name). They are coming out with their first CD in February, if I heard them right. The show was definitely worth the drive to Spokane. It started at 8:00 and we didn't get out of their until about 10:45. Dolly's energy is just unbelievable..... hard to believe she'll be 59 next month.

Tim Whitney

Sunday mornings KLYC at 930 AM on your dial is the Bluegrass Alive & Kickin segment of Sleeper;s Lost and Found Show. He invites all MRBA members to send him one of their recordings and he will give you play time on the show. Also for anyone on up the Bitterroot, he suggests you could call your local radio station and let them know that you would like to hear it in the southern end of the valley and they may extent the programming to the sister station located in Hamilton.

Member Web Pages

For MRBA members who have a musical group, duo, solo artist, and would like to have a web page on the official MRBA web site you are in luck. MRBA will make you a simple page and link it to the main site. If you already have a site, let us know so that we can put a link to it. The idea is to give members the opportunity of getting their music out there to the public, a place to advertise so to speak. If you are a group looking for bookings or have a CD for sale this is for you. Apologies, but we'd like to limit this offer to members who are

actively seeking bookings and performance venues and/or have CDs for sale

Basically what you will need is a picture and write-up, contact information, any pictures for CDs you may have, and optional sound files. MRBA will put the web page together but it is up to you to get all the material into digital format so that you can email it to us.

Because this is free, pages will be very basic and other than the individual information you supply all the pages will all look the same. In addition, any modifications will be limited to basic items,

like your contact information changes or you have a new CD out. So you'll want to make sure, up front, that your picture and other details are the way you want them.

Once your web page is put up on the MRBA site, the whole world will know about you. That means when anyone anywhere searches for say, your name, it will pop up. So anything you put on the page is out there.

For more details email lgangi@montanadsl.net

Winter Jams at Florence

The jams have been well attended this winter. There is only one left and that will be the March one before we head right on into the camping and festival season. For the most part the IOOF Hall has been a very good place for these jams, the location seems to work out pretty well for the pickers that like to

come from Missoula. There however, is a small problem with trying to keep the temperature comfortable...as the building is not heated when not in use. That means someone getting there early enough to get heat going in time to make it warm enough to do some picking. That for the most part has been Ben. He also came up with some blankets to hang from the ceiling in the downstairs to

help with some of the sound problems. The upstairs has better acoustics but is harder to regulate heat.

Potlucks are great as usual, if there is one thing bluegrassers know how to do about as well as pick, it's eat! If you haven't had a chance to get in on any of the jams so far, the last one will be March 19, 2:00 p m until ? Come on out and join in.

Winter is almost over and the music season is about to begin. YaHooo!! It's been a long winter and most of us are getting the usual cabin fever. We're making our plans and looking forward to all the fun we're gonna have this spring and summer. Most of you know that there is a group of Ol' BitterRoot Ladies that like to kick off their Spring Fling with a little trip to Reno to shake the cobwebs out of their hair and loosen up the rickety old joints. They always do this while their men are over at Hoots in Idaho having fun with the Idaho Fiddlers.

It takes a lot of planning, scrimping and saving to pull this not so little feat off. We always have our annual yardsale but we've got to tell you that after several years of doing this our pickin's are getting mighty slim. So this year we came up with an alternate plan to help us on our way. We're doing the Bluegrass thing! On April 2, 2005 we'd like to cordially invite all of you wonderful Bluegrass music lovers to our 1st Annual Road To Reno Bluegrass Show. It will be held at the Crystal Theater in Stevensville at 7:00 PM. The nights performers will be Mike & Tari Conroy, Bill & Verna Molenda, and Dale & Debbie Kerns. We'll have a good ol' time and you'll get to enjoy lots of great music. Refreshments will be served by Lilian Wanstrath and they will be yummy. We have a few surprises in store for you and the evening will be great fun for the whole family. So please come and join us. Have fun and help four old ladies out. -

Debbie Kerns

Admission: \$8.00 at door



Tari & Mike Conroy



Debbie & Dale Kerns



Verna & Bill Molenda



What happens
in
Deer Lodge
stays
in
Deer Lodge
↔



How am I doin' Mom?
Martin and mom, Charlene
←



Ben & Rachel discussing
something very important...



Rachel, willing to learn and not
afraid to try most any tune.
Keep it up Rach!

Deer Lodge Jam January 22, 2005

Chad & Ted showing their versatility.



Ya just got to make some time for visiting.

The Deer Lodge jam was exceptionally great, one of the best jams Tari & I have been to all year. Lots of pickers and everyone was really in the mood to get some good pickin' done. Tari and I added it up, and we figured we jammed about 13 hours on Saturday. Good music with good friends, what could be better than that? Mike



Is this here a bluegrass song? ↑
Larry Wade



Pickin' a little Gospel music Sunday morning before hitting the road.
Mike Blohm



A man with a mission! ↑
James Dodd



Let's see.... You're in Bb. ↑
On purpose??
Eddie Pierson

More Deer Lodge



Girl Power!

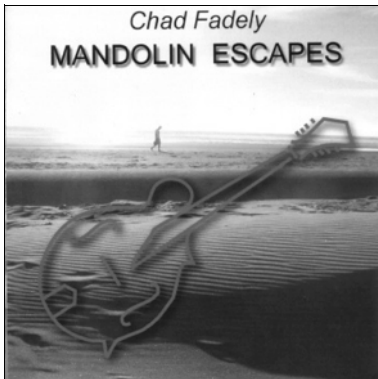
Arlene
Wolf
&
Vicki
Bodfish

←

→

Phyllis
Erck
&
Tabatha
Graves





Mandolin Escapes – Chad Fadely

Chad Fadely has a new CD out. It features his capable mandolin playing on 13 tunes, two of which are originals. His “Summer Of Regret” is a pretty waltz with a great lonesome sound, and his “Road To Rapid City” is an interesting jig with a distinct Irish sound.

This recording is plumb full of talented pickers and singers. It features Richie Reinholdt – guitar and vocals, John Joyner – fiddle, Jack Mauer – banjo & dobro, Rick Ryan – bass, vocals, Damian Mast – banjo, Vicki Fodfish – fiddle, Jeff Trask – bass, Ian Flemming – guitar, Ivan Rosenberg – dobro, Bill Neaves – guitar, Ellie Nuno – fiddle and Greg Boyd – guitar, banjo and vocals. Greg Boyd sings a wonderfully cheerful song called Jubilee Road. (I especially enjoyed hearing Greg singing and picking again!) The rest of the singing on this recording is done by Richie and Rick who trade off on singing lead and harmony. Richie sings lead on “Your Love Is Like A Flower” and Rick does the lead vocals on “Love of the Mountain” and “Walkin’ The Dog”.

The instrumentals are traditional Monroe, Stanley Brothers along with a Doyle Lawson tune.

In summary - I really like this recording, it features a whole bunch of fine musicians that I am proud to know and consider friends. Ol’ Chadly has come a long way since the old days when he was beatin’ rhythm guitar for them contest fiddle players. Way to go Chad.

Mike Conroy

1. Come Hither to Go Yonder 2. Your Love is Like a Flower 3. Summer of Regret 4. Pike County Breakdown 5. Love of the Mountains 6. Georgia Cracker 7. Daybreak in Dixie 8. Walkin’ the Dog 9. Big Sciota 10. Lonesome Moonlight Waltz 11. Jubilee Road 12. Road to Rapid City 13. Watson’s Blues

Hit and Run Bluegrass Concert

The Montana Rockies Bluegrass Assoc. will be sponsoring a Colorado band "Hit and Run Bluegrass" to play a concert at the Crystal theater on Friday, March 25th, 8:00 PM.

This band was the 2004 winner of the Teluride and Rocky Grass bluegrass band contests.

They are a five piece band who

play a driving bluegrass style. Tickets will be on sale for MRBA members at \$10 and for the general public at \$12.

The band formed in early 2002 with the mutual desire to play authentic-yet modern bluegrass. This band has shared the stage with the likes of Jimmy Martin, J.D.Crowe, Hot Rize, Rhonda Vincent, Jerry Douglas, Sam Bush, Del McCoury, David Grisman, Ricky Skaggs, and many other recognized musicians.

You won't want to miss this concert and at \$10 it's a bargain. So bring a friend and come join in the fun for a night of great bluegrass. Hope to see you there. Raynae



MRBA 2005 Oldtime Bluegrass Festival

Can you believe that it is festival time already? Once again the slots have been drawn and the line up looks pretty darn impressive! For bands that have a problem with the slot they have gotten, please try to find some other band that might be able to trade places with you, if this happens be sure to let us know ASAP for posters and advertising. For you new bands that have not played at this festival before, we strictly adhere to the time schedule, so please start and stop at your allotted time.

Mike & Tari

MRBA Stevensville Festival Schedule

12:00 – 12:30 Pine Holler/Out On A Limb
 12:35 – 1:05 Larry Joe band
 1:10 – 1:40 Three Rivers Bluegrass
 1:45 – 2:15 Wild By Nature
 2:20 – 2:50 Grangeville Bluegrass Company
 2:55 – 3:25 Pinegrass
 3:30 – 4:00 Cabin Creek
 4:05 – 4:35 Country Folk
 4:40 – 5:10 Greg Boyd & Who Else
 5:15 – 5:45 Franks 'N Bean
 5:50 – 6:20 No Stars Allowed
 6:25 – 6:55 LeftOver Biscuits
 7:00 – 7:30 Too Hot To Handle
 7:35 – 8:05 Mike & Tari Conroy band
 8:10 – 8:40 Grass Act
 8:45 – 9:15 Dusty Miller
 9:20 – 9:50 Ramblin' Rose
 9:55 – 10:25 Gravely Mtn. Boys
 10:30 – 11:00 Too Bad Ted & The Bald Knobbers
 11:05 – 11:35 Salmon Valley String Band

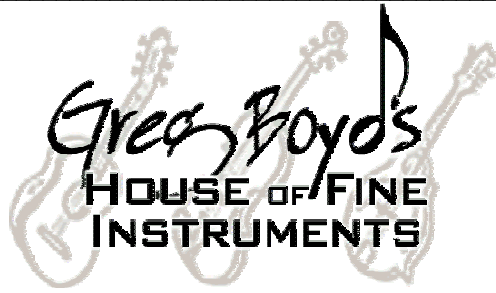
As always, volunteers are needed and greatly appreciated. If you have a bit of the day that you can help out, give Ben or Pam a call and sign up.

Food:

This year, we are taking a bit different approach to food at the festival. We really appreciate all the support we have had from members donating hot dishes but we had quite a problem last year with keeping all the various dishes hot because of electrical system limitations. This year we are asking members who wish to contribute food to be sold at the festival to donate either a pie or cookies. We will limit the number of hot dishes so we don't overload the system.

Accommodations:

Hotel and motel accommodations are available in Stevensville. The historic Stevensville Hotel is located in downtown Stevensville, less than 1/2 mile from the school. The hotel is offering \$10.00 off the room rate for festival attendees. More information about the hotel is available at www.stevensvillehotel.com. The telephone number for the hotel is (406) 777-3087. The Arrow Inn Motel is located about one mile west of Stevensville on Highway 93. Room rates vary from approximately \$40 to \$50 per night. Full service RV hookups are also available at the Arrow Inn for \$16 per night. The Arrow Inn telephone number is (406) 777-5577.



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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.

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PER MONTH

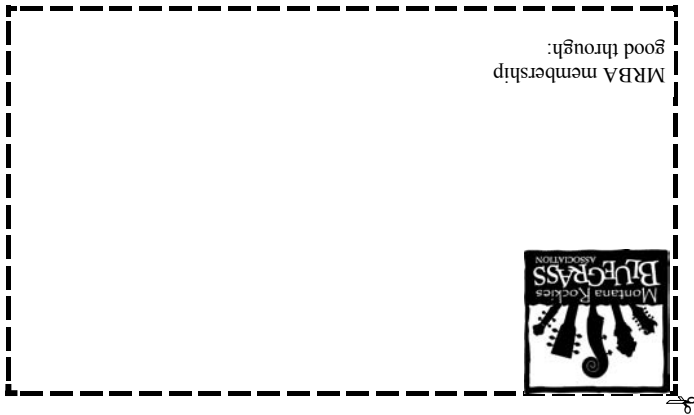
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