



# Bluegrassin'

Volume 7, Issue 4

July – August 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.*

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## Bluegrass Calendar

- ♦ **July 4, 2005 Whiskeypuppy**  
Top Hat 134 West Front Street, Missoula, Mt
- ♦ **July 5, 2005 Whiskeypuppy**  
Paddle and Axe, 10 Central Street, Whitefish, Mt
- ♦ **July 8 – 10, 2005 – Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival**  
Ravalli County Fairgrounds, Donna Hughes Band, Randy Kohrs & The Lites, Special Consensus, Jim Hurst, Kane's River, New South Fork, Mike & Tari Conroy
- ♦ **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](mailto:planning@ci.lewistown.mt.us)
- ♦ **July 15 - 3rd Annual, Bluegrass At The Bay Festival**  
**Great Falls**
- ♦ **July 20, 2005 – Lost Highway Concert**  
page 4 for details
- ♦ **August 5-7, 2005 – MRBA Campout**  
On Hughes Creek,
- ♦ **August 26 –28, 2005 – Bannock County Bluegrass Festival**  
2nd Annual festival to be held at the Bannock County Fairgrounds,  
10560 N. Fairgrounds Rd. Pocatello, Idaho 83205
- ♦ **September – 9 – 10, 2005 Gibbonsville Bluegrass Campout –**  
Broken Arrow Restaurant, Gibbonsville, Idaho RoseMarie Ramey 208-865-2241  
Arlene Wolf 208-756-2766 or [awolf411@hotmail.com](mailto:awolf411@hotmail.com)
- ♦ **September 30 – October 2, 2005 Trumble Creek Bluegrass**  
**Campout**  
4260 Trumble Creek Road, Columbia Falls, Mt-Mary Jane Cunningham (406)892-3197

## 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 [vbodfish000@centurytel.net](mailto:vbodfish000@centurytel.net) for information.
- ♦ First & third Thursdays each month, Bluegrass Jam at Bert & Ernie's in Great Falls.  
7:00 P.m. - 10:00 p.m. 453-8003
- ♦ Every Tuesday night, – Moozoola Opry with Country Folk, Orchard Homes Country Life Club . . . 2537 South 3rd St. West, Missoula music & dinner 6-8 p.m.

## President's Notes

Well, we are off to a great start to the summer bluegrass season, Conroy's Memorial Weekend Campout drew a large crowd this year with many new faces. The music was outstanding and the weather was great. This was Pam's and my first trip to Garrison and we really enjoyed the weekend. The campground was very comfortable and there was plenty of

good music and good food. Maybe these trends will hold out for all out bluegrass outings this year. Check out the calendar for the upcoming events in our area.

The Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival is right around the corner – July 8 – 10. The festival has an outstanding program for this year with some great groups. Some are new to the area and some are old favorites. Don't miss this "picker friendly" festival.

The MRBA will have a table at the festival again this year. We

will be promoting the association and selling MRBA merchandise. Stop by the table and say hello. We will also need volunteers to staff the table.

The MRBA will host a campout August 5-7 at Hughes Creek up the West Fork Road. If you recall the campout was supposed to be held at Seeley Lake. Because of some unexpected difficulties, we had to find an alternate location. See the article later in this issue for more details.

Ben

### Notice

The Bluegrass band from Colorado, **Open Road** was scheduled to play The Other Side on Thursday July 28th. That date has been changed to Monday July 25th.....  
Open Road @ The Other Side Monday July 25th  
Doors 8pm / Show 9pm

### Martin Guitars For Sale

2000 HD28V	some player wear	\$2000.00
2003 D18V	excellent condition	\$1500.00
Jeff Trask 240-0540		

**Sunday mornings KLCY 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.

## 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)

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**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

**MRBA Campout**

The MRBA will host a campout August 5-7 at Hughes Creek. Because of some unexpected difficulties we had to move the campout from Seeley Lake. This location is excellent for a bluegrass campout. Plenty of shade, a creek right along side and lots of trails for hiking, biking and 4-wheeling. The camping is dry with no electricity or water available. The association plans to rent port-a-potties.

We will have potlucks Friday and Saturday night. Saturday night the MRBA will provide the meat course for the meal. Sunday morning the MRBA will provide sausage and gravy with biscuits. We will also have a free raffle for some surprise gifts.

**Please call (406-777-7028) or email (bgessary@msn.com) Ben or Pam if you plan to attend by August 1. We need the number attending to plan the meal.**

Don't miss this one. We had a great time last year at Forrest Flats and expect a repeat this year.

**Directions to the campout...**drive south from Darby, take the West Fork Road (just like you do to go to Conroy's Memorial Campout) but stay on the main road and follow the signs to Painted Rocks Reservoir, go around the lake (on the left side of the lake) and continue south for several miles until you reach Hughes Creek on the left, take that road (it will take you right past the old Alta Ranger Station... the first ranger station in Montana) Continue on the Hughes Creek road until you see the Thunder Mountain road (approx 3/4 mile) that takes off to the right and approximately 100 yards or so on that road you will turn left onto a big ponderosa pine covered flat. There is plenty of room for larger outfits. Signs will be posted to help you along the way.

**Bluegrass Journey**

According to word received, Bluegrass Journey, a documentary film about bluegrass music will be made available without cost to public broadcasting television stations beginning October 1, 2005. The documentary includes music by The Del McCoury Band, Tony Rice, Jerry Douglas, Nickel Creek and Dry Branch Fire Squad and many other bluegrass groups. More information about this documentary is available at [www.bluegrassjourney.com](http://www.bluegrassjourney.com). Now is the time to contact your local PBS station and let them know you would like them to broadcast this documentary. In Missoula, you may contact KUFM-TV by email at [kufm@montanapbs.org](mailto:kufm@montanapbs.org) and by phone at 406-243-4101. In Bozeman, you may contact KUSM-TV by email at [kusm@montanapbs.org](mailto:kusm@montanapbs.org) and by phone at 406-994-3437.

**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) \_\_\_\_\_

**Lost Highway in Concert**

*Wed. July 20th 5:30 PM* there will be a bluegrass concert sponsored by Raynae and John Redman featuring the **"Lost Highway Bluegrass Band"**

This will be an outdoor concert at the Redmans home located at 1325 Big Flat Road. It will include a catered steak and chicken BBQ dinner with all the trimmings. Cost for the evening is \$25 per person.

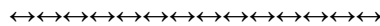
There is a limited number of tickets being sold to this special concert so if you are interested in attending please secure your tickets early as they are going fast.

Bring your lawn chair and a hearty appetite, as stated before this is an outdoor concert in the meadow beside the Redmans home.

The Lost Highway Band will be spending the night at the Redmans' and will be staying on after the concert to jam with anyone interested in pickin' right onto the wee hours of the morning. I do have space for a few campers if some of you would want to bring your RV and stay the night. Please let me know if you'd like to do this.

For more information or to obtain tickets contact Raynae Redman at 721-5205 or 370-0525

E-mail blugrsmom@aol.com Tickets also available at Greg Boyds House of Fine Instruments



*Finally Some Bluegrass Music You Can Really Wrap Your Fork Around....*

Come out and enjoy an evening at the **Moozoola Opry** where you'll enjoy an evening of good bluegrass with the Country Folk Bluegrass Band, (Raynae Redman, Phyllis Huber, Larry Huber and Randy Dollar) and a wonderful chuckwagon dinner catered by *Moose Creek Catering*, (John Redman). Every Tuesday 6 till 8 PM

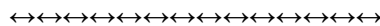
**Where You Say?** Orchard Homes Country Life Club.... 2537 South 3rd St. West, Missoula

Cost is only \$10 for the all you can eat dinner and show. Different menu each week.

Kids in Bluegrass joining Country Folk Each Week Sponsored in part by Morgenroth Music Centers

**Gibbonsville Campout - Sept 9th, 10th, and 11th.**

RoseMarie and the Broken Arrow again hosts this great campout near the end of the summer season. Everyone knows how much fun it is - - - so mark your calendars now! Here are the things to remember: it is the weekend after Labor Day, RVs who want plug-ins will want to get there early to get their space ( RoseMarie can't reserve spots - - it is first come-first serve), pets need to be on a leash, free camping for musicians who are not plugged in, there will be an ice-cream social at 1 PM Sat afternoon and a potluck at 6 PM, and there is also a Sunday morning breakfast potluck. Remember to bring your laughter, songs to sing, good jokes and stories, BS repellent, ice cream goodies, kids, and a good appetite. If you have any questions, contact RoseMarie Ramey at 208-865-2241 or Arlene Wolf at 208-756-2766 or awolf411@hotmail.com . See ya there!



**New this year at the Hamilton Bluegrass Festival - - -**

a "Kid's Stage" at 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon! Young bluegrass musicians are encouraged to sign up to perform 2-3 tunes/songs on stage with whoever they want as backup musicians. There will be a sign-up at the t-shirt table under the shed near the stage, and young musicians should be signed up by 2 PM Saturday. Get the word out! All adults who are teaching young people are encouraged to get these up-and-coming bluegrassers front and center. Participants will receive a button and certificate from the Hamilton Bluegrass Festival Committee, and a \$3 coupon from the Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association to be used at any of the vendors. So have your video camera ready to record your favorite youngster performing your favorite kind of music! If you have any questions, contact Arlene Wolf at 208-756-2766 or awolf411@hotmail.com. Also check out the festival website for more info, www. bluegrassfestival.org

“Doc” Boom, groovin’ ↓



## Conroy’s Memorial Day Campout

Ben Essary

Conroy’s Memorial Day Campout was a real hit this year. For those of you who have not been able to attend this campout, now in its 9th year, you are missing a real treat. The Little West Fork Campground, off Nez Perce Road up the West Fork of the Bitterroot, provides a great setting for a bluegrass campout. Plenty of space, lots of shade and a creek running right by the campground. An additional treat for this year was great weather!

Mike Roesler, the guy that’s always there to do whatever needs to be done ↓



We had a great crowd of people with many new faces. Sandy and John Campbell made it down all the way from Marion, Montana. John’s dobro and Sandy’s autoharp were welcome treats. Great Falls provided a large and lively group with several new people bringing new sounds to the camp. Of course, we had a large number of people who have been regulars over the years.

It was a special treat to celebrate Elora Wolf’s 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. She attended her first Conroy campout when she was three. The Wolf’s are regular attendees at many bluegrass functions over the years. So Elora and Elias have grown up on the bluegrass trail.

The jams were outstanding. Everyone seemed to find music to their liking and some jams went on to all hours of the night. We enjoyed some comfortable accommodations for jamming. The Silchers provided two large jam tents and we also used a tent previously donated to the MRBA by the Voses.

Food was excellent. Thanks to everyone for their contributions to the potlucks. As always Tari’s biscuits with sausage gravy was a real treat on Monday morning.

With all these good things happening folks were taking their time leaving Monday. I suppose they were trying to hold on to the weekend. Thanks Tari and Mike for hosting this wonderful event.



After dinner visiting ↑

Fiddlin’ Jim Widner showin’ his stuff →



Just one more stick and it’ll be perfect ↓



James Dodd & Sue Richards playing it pretty

←



### Garrison Junction Campout

By Debbie Kerns

Once again the Deerlodge Bluegrass Association (all four of them) hosted the Breakout Bluegrass Campout 2005 at the Riverfront Campground in Garrison Montana. If you missed it you sure missed out on a great campout. Bill and Charlene Anderson and Mike and Judy Roesler outdid themselves again. Even though the Festivities officially started on Friday June 24, people were already there and jammin' on Thursday afternoon. On Friday evening Bill, Charlene, Mike and Judy provided a great steak and shrimp feed. Musicians there for the campout brought the side dishes and everyone feasted on a fantastic meal. The weather was great on Friday and there was lots of good music to be enjoyed. We had a great audience with quite a few regular campground guests wandering over with their chairs to enjoy the music. Mike Roesler provided two tents again this year for nighttime and rainy day pickin' and they were

sure appreciated by all the musicians. There were breakfast potlucks on both Saturday and Sunday mornings for anyone wishing to participate and on Saturday afternoon Charlene and Judy hosted a High Tea, Montana Style. All the ladies attending brought their favorite interpretation of a crumpet and all of the entries were evaluated by a secret judge. Prizes were awarded to the top three entries. Tari Conroy from Conner took first place with her sinfully good Chocolate Nut Carmel Crumpets; Pam Essary from Stevensville came in second with her Strawberry Mascarpone Tartlet Crumpets; and Judy Owings from Hamilton came in third with her Poppysseed Crumpets topped with Strawberries, whipped cream and served with Swiss cheese. Congratulations to all three winners. They received great prizes and after the judging everyone got to enjoy the delightful goodies. If you're wondering what a High Tea, Montana Style is like be sure to come to the next one. It's all in the details. If there had been a prize for the funniest hat I'm

sure it would have gone, hands-down, to MaryJane Cunningham from Columbia Falls. Even though the weather wasn't as cooperative on Saturday everyone enjoyed themselves. There were tents for jamming, it cleared up in time for the Saturday night potluck where everyone enjoyed more great food and lot's of great visiting. After supper the music started up again with both tents filled to overflowing with lot's of hot pickin' till the wee hours of the morning. Sunday mornings potluck featured biscuits and gravy and lot's of good side dishes. All too soon people were breaking up camp and saying their good-byes to all the great friends and fans. Another great campout that we are all eagerly awaiting to come around again next year.

**Editors note:** *On Sunday it was everyone's pleasure to sign a card and sing Happy Birthday to the author of this article...how old are we now Deb?*



Tent jammin' ↑



High Tea, Montana Style – Audry Babb, Judy Owings, Judy Roesler, MaryJane Cunningham, Tari Conroy, Charlene Anderson, Pam Essary, Lori Silcher, Shirley Rushing, Debbie Kerns, Lucille Benson



MaryJane Cunningham



Lori Silcher



**Newport Report**

Hi everyone, we missed going to Garrison and seeing everybody but the folks in Newport, Washington really did us proud. Vel & Ralph Billbe are great hosts! We freeloaded a bed and showers from them and Larry Sweeny. Lou & Nancy, Dale & Dorothy Berg and others fed us well.

Ralph Billbe & Bill started a new tradition of serenading whoever happens to be in the outhouse. They got mixed reviews. A rodeo happens at the same time, Bill and I sang "I Want to be a Cowboys's Sweetheart" to some little gal. We were long gone when she came out. I don't know if she called Nashville or not.

Vel said Knoxville Girl was morbid, so I showed her a new way to do it. They had a parade for the rodeo and pickers had a float in it. Vel pretty much crocheted the float with red, white and blue flowers, wow! We must have had fun cause we came home looking like our drivers license pictures. Hope to see you all soon in Hamilton.  
Verna & Bill Molenda

**Thank You from the Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival**

The Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival Board of Directors would like to express our most sincere thanks to the MRBA Board of Directors and members for once again supporting the Festival with such a generous sponsorship. Each year the festival tries to increase the amount of funds allocated to hiring bands and advertising the festival. Sponsorships are a very important aspect of this effort since they provide operating funds that help cover the many expenses that must be paid in advance of the festival taking place. Without the support of sponsorships it would be very difficult to present the festival each year. Our most sincere thanks go out to each and every member of the MRBA for helping to continue the tradition of having the Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival here in Hamilton, Montana each year.  
Thanks, Perry Vose

**A few more photos from Memorial Weekend**



Jason from Kentucky



Bruce & Jeff... Hey that's the way we play it in Great Falls.



Brother Gary Moore & Debby Carlson from Idaho



← Sue Downey in the thick of the jamming. Flanked by Roger Underwood & Rich Gregg Memorial Weekend

**Thank You**

Hi there, just wanted to let you know that I am doing great and that I appreciate all the people that have come by to visit me or have called to check up on me and keep me cheered up. I am suppose to be here at the St. Pats house until about mid August to finish out my treatments. I can't wait to get back to do some more pickin' and grinnin'! I feel truly blessed for all you wonderful people that have touched my life.

Thanks Sue Downey

**Who Will Sing for Me**

*...by Caroline Keys*

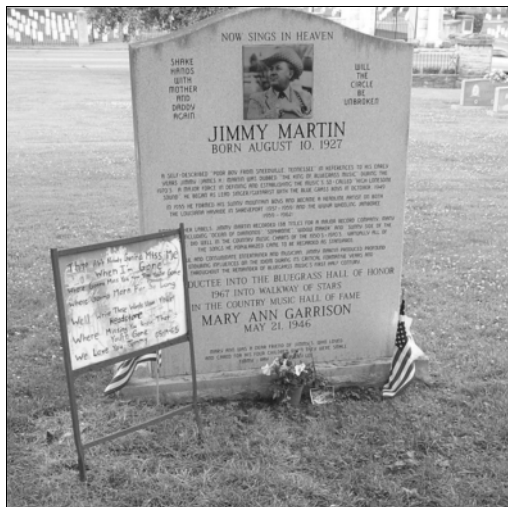
So many folks have priceless Jimmy Martin stories to tell. Mine starts after his life was over. I graduated from college on Saturday, May 14, 2005. My parents, who introduced me to Jimmy Martin's music long before I could drop the needle on a record player, were in Missoula to celebrate. After the ceremony, I had the great fortune to pick with my father, my band leader (Nate Biehl), and my fiancé (Brian Herbel) all at once. I couldn't think of three more inspiring, influential men in my life. Except maybe Jimmy Martin. It was hearing Jimmy's "20/20 Vision" on a tape that my Dad made for me ten years ago that flipped my bluegrass switch. I had grown up in the Appalachians, surrounded by great music but opted to listen to the commercial junk that got piped in on K92FM. K92's slogan was "Playing the hits for Roanoke, Lynchburg, and the New River Valley." 50 years earlier, that would have been the description of a killer radio station, but in 1980s, it was mostly Madonna. Jimmy Buffet was about as far from the mainstream as I ventured until I heard Jimmy Martin. That tape of "20/20 Vision" was recorded from my Dad's vinyl and

there was so much soul to Jimmy Martin's voice, lyrics, and the whirring of the record's scratches that I just wasn't getting from top 40 radio. I asked Dad to make me more tapes of this kind of music. He did, and I took them traveling with me as kind of a security blanket.

My first week in Missoula, I went down to the TopHat guitarless on a Tuesday to check out the jam. I didn't even own a capo. I was so excited to hear "Sunny Side of the Mountain" and other songs from my Dad's tapes that I bought a capo and joined in the jam the next week. From then on I got to participate in singing songs like "Hold Whatcha Got," "Sophronie," and "Hit Parade of Love."

These days, my band owns a couple of copies of the fantastic documentary DVD on Jimmy called "King of Bluegrass: The Life and Times of Jimmy Martin." If you haven't seen the movie, go buy it—I think its less than \$20. Broken Valley Roadshow has picked up several Jimmy-isms from the footage to yell at one another during practice. But back to the graduation party...after Mom and Dad went to bed, a group of us continued to pick up at Steve Reilly's cabin in Pattee Canyon. At one point I took a breather by the bonfire and

Ellen Buchanan informed me that Jimmy had died that day. After hearing this, Ted Lowe, Damian Mast, John Long, Nate Baker, Matt Cornette, Nate Biehl, Brian Herbel, and I played every Jimmy Martin tune we could come up with. It was getting chilly up there in Pattee Canyon, and kind of lonesome, knowing that the King of Bluegrass had passed on. And then something funny happened. Greenish beams appeared in the sky as if announcing some kind of grand opening or celebrity arrival in heaven. Soon the beams faded and the entire sky burst into a pulsing, fiery explosion that I'm sure was brought on by Jimmy's soul banging at the Pearly Gates. None of us could go to bed with the Northern Lights dancing the way they did, so we did the right thing and picked on into the night. After that amazing experience, Brian and I went to Tennessee to visit family. We couldn't help but seek out Jimmy's grave a little northeast of Nashville. I took a moment next to Jimmy's famous gravestone that reads "Now Sings in Heaven" to thank him for all the songs he gave us to sing down here on earth.







# IDAHO'S 2nd ANNUAL BANNOCK COUNTY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

AUGUST 26, 27, 28, 2005

### FEATURING

BAND  
CONTEST



- 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
- SILVER CITY, IDAHO
- RIDIN THE FAULT LINE, FROM UTAH
- MIKE & TARI CONROY BAND, FROM MONTANA

MUSIC  
WORKSHOPS



### TICKETS

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

NO REFUNDS

CHILDREN 14 AND UNDER FREE

GATES OPEN THURS. AUG. 26TH AT 12:00PM

### CAMPING

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

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10560 N. FAIRGROUNDS RD.  
POCATELLO, IDAHO 83205

INFORMATION 360-436-1179 OR 208-234-0200  
WEBSITE [www.bannockcountybluegrassfestival.com](http://www.bannockcountybluegrassfestival.com)

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Editors note:

Thank you to Roger Underwood, Debbie Kerns, Caroline Keys & Verna Molenda for the use of their pictures in this issue.

Remember that this newsletter needs your input to stay interesting, so feel free to send your pictures or stories to be included.

Thanks Tari

**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

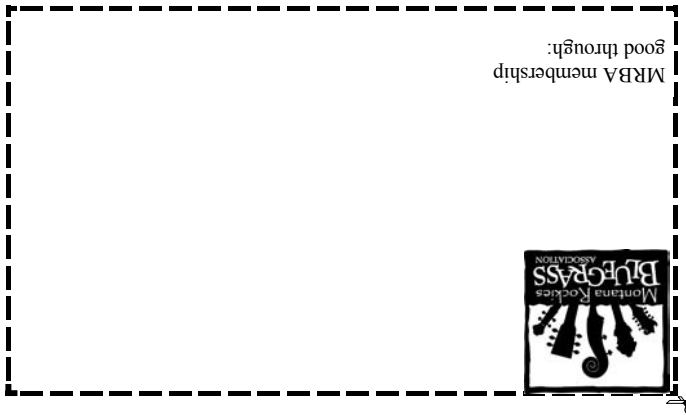
\* If paid by credit card - \$14.95 if not by paid by credit card.

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- 10M PERSONAL WEB SPACE
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Hey  
visite  
here  
Gone