



# Bluegrassin'

Volume 7, Issue 6

November – December 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

MRBA Annual Meeting info... page 3

Going Down The Road Feeling Babb... page 4

Tone Poets ... page 5

Special Consensus ... page 5

Dale Berg CD review ... page 6

Editor's note .... page 6

Broken Arrow article... page 7

## Bluegrass Calendar

- ♦ **November 12, 2005 – MRBA Annual meeting** – IOOF Hall Florence
- ♦ **November 13, 2005 – Special Consensus Concert** –  
MRBA is sponsoring this concert at the Chantilly Theater in Stevensville 7:00 p. m.
- ♦ **January 14, 2006 MRBA monthly jam** – IOOF Hall, Florence jamming at 2:00, potluck at 5:00 and jamming til?
- ♦ **February 11, 2006 – MRBA monthly jam** – IOOF Hall, Florence jamming at 2:00, potluck at 5:00 and jamming til?
- ♦ **March 11, 2006 – MRBA monthly jam** – IOOF Hall, Florence jamming at 2:00, potluck at 5:00 and jamming til?

## 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 for information.
- ♦ First & third Thursdays each month, Bluegrass Jam at Bert & Ernies 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.
- ♦ Every Saturday, noon – Bluegrass jam at the Charlos Heights Clubhouse, South of Hamilton



## President's Notes

As this newsletter goes to press Pam and I will be at the annual International Bluegrass Music Association convention in Nashville. We were visiting family in Tennessee so it was convenient to also take in the IBMA event. We are looking forward to attending the awards event at the Ryman and seeing all the bluegrass groups participating in the Fanfest. We will give you a full report in the next issue.

Well, summer is over and winter is coming. We have some events you will want to put on your calendar. First is the MRBA annual meeting.

This will be held Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Odd Fellows Hall in Florence. See the article later in this issue on the details of the meeting. I urge your attendance and participation at the meeting. This is the best opportunity you have for giving input into the functioning of the association. All of the leadership positions – president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer and four directors – are up for election.

Please think about what you can offer the association and run for one of these positions. As the MRBA sponsors more events and delivers more services to its members we really need some help!

Second, the MRBA is sponsoring a performance by

The Special Consensus on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Chantilly Theater in Stevensville. Once again, Greg Cahill has put together a great band so don't miss this exciting show. See the calendar for details on the performance.

Third, beginning in January, we will be holding monthly jams the second Saturday of the month during the winter at the Odd Fellows Hall in Florence. The dates are January 14<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup> and March 11<sup>th</sup>. We will start the jams at 2:00 p.m., have a pot luck supper at 5:00 p.m., then jam 'til who knows when.

Hope to see you at these events.

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

## MRBA ANNUAL MEETING

The MRBA annual meeting will be held on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Odd Fellows Hall in Florence, Montana. The hall is the white two-story building just south of the stoplight on Highway 93 in Florence. The business meeting will start at 2:00 p.m.

During the business meeting, an update on the state of the association will be provided and members will have the opportunity to discuss any association-related topics. We will also conduct an election for all the officers and directors of the association. The following positions will be open for election: president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and four directors.

Supper will be served at about 5:00 p.m. The supper menu consists of BBQ ribs, chicken, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw and desert. We will have a jam after supper.

The following hotels are nearby for those members needing accommodations:

- Arrow Inn, 3889 S. Highway 93, Stevensville 406-777-5577
- Stevensville Hotel, 107 East Third Street, Stevensville 406-777-3087
- Days Inn, Highway 93, Lolo 406-273-2121

Don't miss this meeting. ***The future health of the association and our goal of preserving and performing bluegrass music depend on your support and participation.*** The association needs good leadership so consider the role you can play. It is your chance to give your input on the functioning of the organization, eat some good food, socialize with other association members and play some good music.

**If you plan to attend this meeting email Ben Essary at [bgessary@msn.com](mailto:bgessary@msn.com) or call at 406-777-7028 by Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> so we can plan for the supper for the correct number of attendees.**

**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.

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

## Going Down the Road Feeling Babb by Caroline Keys

On the outskirts of Glacier Park, the town of Babb has caught the bluegrass bug in a big way. Boasting a population of 513 and no traffic lights, Babb is an unlikely destination for nationally known bands. So why are successful touring bluegrass acts willing to add two days of driving to hit this dusty, nearly forgotten town? Perhaps it is because a visit to Babb is like a trip back in time. Many fans who attend the shows in Babb live in places so remote that they lack electricity and running water—much less cable TV. Spirited music lovers will drive 80+ miles for a “Band Night” at Charlie’s in Babb. Camping is free in the fields surrounding the venue. The content and spirit of most bluegrass songs settles in easy with the concert-goers in Babb, where life

is not much faster than it was in the 1940s. Last summer, Colorado’s Open Road, Jackstraw from Oregon, veteran flatpicker Larry Keel and his band from Virginia, and Missoula’s own Velvet Lasso and Broken Valley Roadshow performed for the rambunctious ranks in Babb. Charlie’s books bands from other genres too, including looser “grass” bands like Austin-based band The Gourds, and The Buds of May from Oregon.

From the outside, Charlie’s looks like a 1980s era roller skating rink. Inside, the decor is hand painted (presumably by the bartenders) mountains, complete with life-sized tin Budweiser Girls yo-yodeling (or something) from the acrylic paint peaks. For ambience, the fluorescent lights are spray-painted red. Sounds pretty much like any old Western honky-tonk, right? Almost. See, Babb is different in that

there are not many rules in the town, and no one really regards the few that are established. Folks are known to ride their horses inside the bar. Brides get thrown in jail at their own wedding receptions. If the band at Charlie’s is grooving, the bartenders have more authority than the cops do in making “last call” decisions. Had Jimmy Martin been a Montana boy, he would have been the Mayor of Babb. The town seems to exist in another time, one that has “passed and gone” everywhere else— but a time that all us bluegrassers still have in our hearts.

*For summer booking in Babb, contact Ryan Braswell: [rcbmon@hotmail.com](mailto:rcbmon@hotmail.com)—or just show up on a night when there’s not already a band booked (check [www.jambase.com](http://www.jambase.com) for schedules) and pick your heart out. That’s how Open Road got their first gig at Charlie’s. They’ve been back every summer since.>>>*



Brad Folk and Keith Reed of Open Road take it slow in the “Babbmobile.” (photo from Open Road Website)



▲ Members of Broken Valley Roadshow digest a big breakfast feast after playing BabbFest. (photo by Kate Medley)

◀ Babb Press: Open Road eats breakfast with fans in Babb



*By Lydia Fleming*

**Tone Poets** was released in September, 2005. It was produced and recorded by David Grisman at Acoustic Disc. It is a 2 disc set that includes 16 solos on one disc and 15 duets on another disc. The “Tone Poets” include 42 different mandolin and guitar players. The performances “were recorded over a period of nearly 4 years using the same two instruments (David Grisman’s 1922 Gibson “Loar” F-5 and 1933 Martin OM-45), microphones (Neumann KM-84’s-mandolin; Neumann KM-84 & KM-85-guitar), recorded directly to the same ½” 2-track analog tape machine (Ampex ATR-100).” (quoted from the CD booklet accompanying the set)

MRBA member, Ian Fleming is one of the “Tone Poets”. He plays “Old Dangerfield” with Jacob Jolliff, a young mandolin player from Newburg, Oregon. The CD set is available locally at Rockin’ Rudy’s or directly from Acoustic Disc ([www.acousticdisc.com](http://www.acousticdisc.com)). Ian Fleming is a freshman at Montana State University in Bozeman.

## Special Consensus

November 13, 2005

The Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association will sponsor a performance by **The Special Consensus** on Sunday, November 13th at the Chantilly Theater, 319 Main Street, Stevensville, Montana. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the show starts at

7:00 p.m. Admission is \$12.00 for the general public and \$10.00 for MRBA and Missoula Folklore Society Members. Children under 12 are free when accompanied by a paying adult **THE SPECIAL CONSENSUS** is a four person acoustic bluegrass band that began performing in the Midwest in the spring of 1975. Lead by Greg Cahill, a nationally acclaimed banjo player, the band tours nationally and internationally and performs regularly at bluegrass festivals. **The Special Consensus** was recently featured on the cover of Bluegrass Unlimited magazine and has performed at the Grand Old Opry. For more information visit [www.specialc.com](http://www.specialc.com).

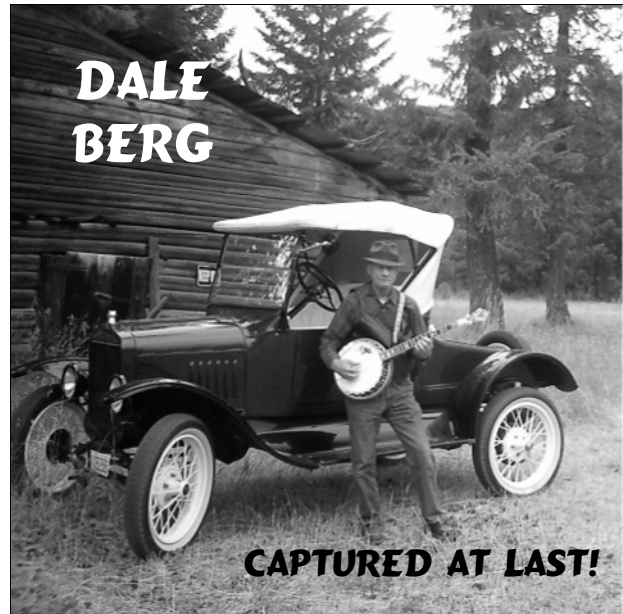


**Dale Berg – *Captured At Last!***

by Forrest Clark

My old buddy and MRBA member Dale Berg has just released a new recording entitled "Dale Berg - Captured At Last". Dale and his wife Dorothy are the two very generous hosts of the biannual Pasture Pickin' campout and jam held in Libby, Montana.

Dale's new recording features his distinctive bluegrass banjo playing on sixteen selections. He is accompanied on this recording by some fine pickers as well, Rod Snyder - lead guitar, Tari Conroy - rhythm guitar, Andre Vachon - dobro, Roy Brady - fiddle, Mike Conroy - mandolin & bass. Dale Kerns and Tari are also featured on lead guitar on a couple of tunes.



I first met Dale in 1972 when he was playing with Fred McFalls and two others at the Red Dog Saloon that is located up Pipe Creek (about a mile from where Pasture Pickin' is now held). In my book he is one of the pioneers of bluegrass here in Montana. Dale has always been kind of anti-recording, but his wife Dorothy finally brow beat him into getting "captured at last". I think you will find this to be a great addition to your collection and Dale has a great banjo sound.

1. Maggie 2. Remington Ride 3. Lady Of Spain 4. Redwing 5. Clinch Mountain Backstep 6. Follow The Leader 7. The Old Spinning Wheel 8. Dixie Breakdown 9. Grandfather's Clock 10. Nervous Breakdown 11. Using My Bible For A Road Map 12. Cumberland Gap 13. Silver Bells 14. Daybreak In Dixie 15. Bells Of St. Mary's 16. Down Yonder

Dale Berg 5502 Pipe Creek Road Libby, Mt 59923 406-293-6608

**Editor's note:**

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the following people that have helped out immensely with their input for this newsletter for 2005.

Roger Underwood....for always having some pictures for me to use.

Arlene Wolf, Caroline Keys, Debbie Kerns, Verna Molenda, Ben Essary, Mike Conroy, Forrest Clark, Nancy Ady, Tim Whitney, Phyllis Erck & Raynae Redman for articles written.

Richie Reinholdt for tabulature.

Also, I would like to extend an invitation to each of you, to submit pictures or articles for others to enjoy. Any and all help is greatly appreciated!

Thanks again, Tari

**Broken Arrow Campout**

by Arlene Wolf

Everyone enjoyed another great campout at the 11th annual Gibbonsville pick at the Broken Arrow on Sept 9th - 11th. It started as a smokey mess from wilderness fires on Friday afternoon, but the rain that night cleared the air, boosted our spirits, and of course it didn't interfere with the jamming! Lots of folks from lots of places joined the festivities. We had a good group from southern Idaho, too. It is always great to see old friends and to meet new ones.

Saturday afternoon was cool fresh and we started a camp-

fire to warm ourselves up for the ice cream social. I'll always have fun memories of people in jackets getting close to the campfire and eating ice cream and goodies piled high in their bowl. Yes, we live in the Rocky Mountain west! And I'll remember Eloras's ferret Roxy in her brightly colored halter and leash hopping around the ice cream eaters.

Saturday's jams were great, and of course the evening potluck filled everyone with energy to continue the jams into the night. New songs, old songs, classic tunes, and everything in between were heard throughout the night. There was a wonderful jam in the

Broken Arrow, and one of my favorite memories was singing the "Broken Arrow Cafe" song with Rose Marie. After we sang it, she was totally astounded when she realized that this was our 11th campout. The look on her face was priceless!

Sunday found everyone ready to jam again and slowly but surely everyone packed up and headed out. It was another great weekend to add to the memories that we all have. As soon as Santa brings you a new calendar for 2006, turn to September and mark the weekend after Labor Day for the 12th annual Gibbonsville campout. See you there!

## Coming Soon!

Bill Neaves is opening a music studio in Missoula, where he will be giving acoustic guitar and mandolin lessons.

Call today to schedule a lesson and start those *"winter wood-shedding"* months off with a bang!

(406) 239-0239

Studio address: 1207 Mount Avenue  
(directly behind the Ole's gas station on Russell/Mount).







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**ATTENTION:**  
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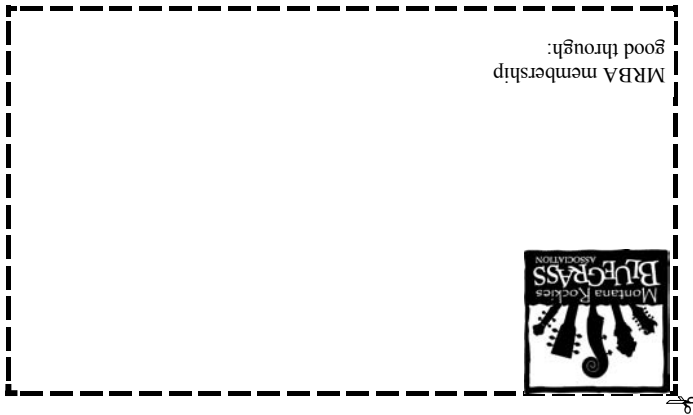
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