



Bluegrassin'

Volume 8, Issue 2

March-April 2006

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

Musicians needed... page 2

Review of Sue Downey's CD – by Mike Conroy... page 3

Pat Davis' Birthday Jam... page 3

Bitterroot and Yellowstone Festival info ... page 4

Notes from the North by Tabitha Graves ... page 5

MRBA Stevi Festival Info....page 6

Montana Bluegrass Goes South by Brian Herbel... page 7

AGanji joins Hit and Run by Caroline Keys... page 8

CD Review: Bonnie Bliss – by Ben Essary ... page 8

Want Ads ... page 12



Bluegrass Calendar

- ◆ **March 11, 2006 – MRBA monthly jam** – I00F Hall, Florence. Quench your thirst for picking, grinning, and potato salad! Jamming starts at 2:00, potluck at 5:00.
- ◆ **March 31, 2006 – Hit and Run Bluegrass** – Crystal Theatre, Missoula. See page 9 for ticket info.
- ◆ **April 8, 2006 – MRBA Annual Oldtime Bluegrass Festival** Stevensville School Multipurpose Room, Stevensville, MT. Noon 'til 11:30. Nineteen bands! Please see the article on page 6 for time slots and details.
- ◆ **April 15, 2006 – Broken Valley Roadshow** – Crystal Theatre, Missoula. Opening band: Anne and Pete Sibley, a great husband and wife duo from Jackson, Wyoming .
- ◆ **May 6, 2006 – Pat Davis' 50th Birthday Jam** – In Great Falls at the Black Eagle Community Center. 10am-wee hours of the morning. See more details on page 3. Happy Birthday Pat!
- ◆ **June 26, 2006 – Pine Mountain Railroad** – 6:00pm at Raynae Redman's property on Big Flat Road in Missoula. Cost is a package deal that includes a BBQ steak dinner and concert. \$25. Get more details on page 9.
- ◆ **July 7,8, & 9, 2006 – Bitterroot Bluegrass Festival** – Hamilton Fairgrounds. Check for more info and volunteer opportunities inside on page 4.
- ◆ **July 27, 2006 – Lost Highway & 3rd Generation Bluegrass** – 6:30 at Fort Missoula on the lawn beside the museum. The cost will be \$18 for general public and \$15 for MRBA members. Find more info on this concert on page 9.

Recurring Shows and Jams

- ◆ MISSOULA– Tuesday s ,Top Hat(134 W. Front St) - Bluegrass jam. 7pm.
- ◆ MISSOULA– Tuesdays, Top Hat – Pinegrass plays around 10pm.
- ◆ KALISPELL – Saturdays, Pizza Hut – Bluegrass jam from 8-11pm. Contact Steve: 257-1597
- ◆ KALISPELL – every 2nd Friday, Avalanche Creek Coffeeshouse(1st Avenue East) - Bluegrass jam. Contact Vicki: 257-3935 or vbodfish000@centurytel.net
- ◆ GREAT FALLS – 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Bert & Ernie's(300 1st Ave South) 7pm. Call 453-8003 for info.
- ◆ MISSOULA – Tuesdays, Orchard Homes Country Life Club(2537 S. 3rd St West) - Moozoola Opry with Country Folk. Music and dinner 6-8pm.
- ◆ HAMILTON – Saturdays, Charlos Heights Clubhouse – Bluegrass jam.
- ◆ CHINOOK– first and third Tuesdays, Past Time Bar -- Bluegrass, Old Time, and Old Country jam at 7pm. Contact: Tim Whitney 357-3840.

President's Notes

Well, here we are in the depths of winter in Western Montana. As I write this we are facing forecasts of 20 below over the next couple of days. Of course folks east of the mountains are suffering even worse. The thoughts of being at a bluegrass campout on a warm summer weekend seem mighty appealing right now.

We have some important MRBA events on the horizon. On Friday, March 31st, the MRBA and the Missoula Folklore Society is jointly sponsoring a concert by Hit and Run Bluegrass at the Crystal Theater in

Missoula. This band is fast getting to be well known in bluegrass circles. They play bluegrass in the traditional style and their repertoire includes original compositions and traditional songs. Their talent has been recognized by winning several important awards. Lorenzo Gangi, one of MRBA's own, plays banjo for Hit and Run. See the calendar and related article for more details on the concert.

Planning is underway for the MRBA festival to be held at the Stevensville School multipurpose room on Saturday, April 8th. We had to change the date because of the conflict with Easter weekend. Mike and Tari Conroy have lined up a bunch

of talented folks to play so don't miss the festival. There is more information in the article later in this newsletter. Hope to see you there.

Saturday, March 11th, will be the final MRBA jam of the winter. The jam starts at 2 p.m., a potluck at about 5 p.m. and jamming until we throw in the towel. It will be held at the IOOF hall in Florence. The hall is the white two-story building one the west side of Highway 93 and just south of the stoplight in Florence. Come on out and enjoy some good jamming, good food, and good bluegrass friendship.

Hope to see you at these events.
Ben

Musicians Needed for Western Heritage Days

Musicians who are able to donate an hour of music have the chance to do so at this year's Western Heritage Days in Stevensville. Western Heritage Days is a yearly family event and will this year include an art/craft fair, an antique fair, historic homes tour, hay rides, good food, good music, and good all around fun. This year's celebration will be held June 16th and 17th, and most of the festivities will be at St Mary's Mission grounds. Musicians are needed for Saturday (17th) only between 12:30 and 4pm. We will have a stage and hookups available for musicians. Please contact Robin Blazer at 360-0109 or email robin@american-mtg.com. Thanks!

Arlene Wolf's Favorite 3 Bluegrass Albums

- 1) Blue Highway - Midnight Storm
- 2) Mike Conroy and Steve Ralston - Instrumental Favorites
- 3) Hot Rize

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

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

Website: www.mtbluegrass.com

email: mrba@mtbluegrass.com

President – Ben Essary (406) 777-7028
bgessary@msn.com

Vice President – Mike Conroy (406) 821-3777
tariconroy@webtv.net

Secretary/Treasurer – Pam Essary (406) 777-7028 pameessary@msn.com

Board Members –Phyllis Erck, Curtis Rathburn, Tari Conroy, Caroline Keys

Newsletter Editor – Caroline Keys, jymchaak@yahoo.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

Got Something to sell? Advertise in Bluegrassin'!

Full Page – \$25.00, 1/2 Page – \$15.00, 1/4 Page – \$10.00 Classified – \$5.00



**Review of Sue Downey's
New CD "Remember Me"**
By Mike Conroy

Sue Downey has a new CD out. It is entitled "Remember Me" and it features 14 of Sue's favorite bluegrass songs. She is accompanied on her recording by many of her friends, Verna Molenda-harmony vocal, Tari Conroy-harmony vocal and

rhythm guitar, Phyllis Erck-dobro, Fred Frank-banjo, Dale Kerns- lead guitar, Steve Ralston-lead guitar, Bill Molenda-rhythm guitar, and Mike Conroy- mandolin and upright bass. "Early in my life I learned to sing in an old church that didn't allow musical instruments. This started my love my love of

singing and listening to music on an old radio," she says "my introduction to live bluegrass music began in 2002 when the James King band came to Hamilton for a performance. Then the fun truly began when Bob and I were invited to stay and listen to the local musicians jam after the concert...when I heard the playing and singing from these stars I knew I had to memorize bluegrass songs and learn to play an

instrument. Special thanks to these wonderful friends who helped by doing such a fabulous job with their instruments."

Remember Me

- 1 Wildwood Flower
 - 2 Ashes of Love
 - 3 Precious Memories
 - 4 Thirty Years of Farming
 - 5 Ocean of Diamonds
 - 6 On the Old Kentucky Shore
 - 7 Pardon Me
 - 8 High Mountain Meadow
 - 9 Walk Softly on this Heart of Mine
 - 10 You'll Find her Name Written There
 - 11 Red Clay Halo
 - 12 Thirty- two Acres
 - 13 Remember Me
 - 14 I'd Rather Live by the Side of the Road
- Sue is staying with her son in Tacoma but CDs can be bought from Bill Molenda or from Firp Redman at the State Street Barber Shop in Hamilton or call Sue at 406-821-3496 or email suedowney@cybernet1.com.

Pat Davis' 50th Birthday Jam

Pat has been a member of the bluegrass community for a number of years and cherishes the friends he's made through music. To celebrate his 50th birthday, there will be a jam at the Black Eagle Community Center on Saturday May 6, 2006. There's overnight RV parking at the center, some room in Pat and Sue's home, and tent camping in the yard. Phyllis Erck's family owns the Hampton Inn in Great Falls which is also a wonderful place to stay. Sue will provide food, beer, soda, and breakfast the next day. Pat and Sue will be at the center at 10am, pickers and pals can arrive whenever, and the facility is available until the wee hours of the morning. Happy birthday Pat!

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) _____

Summer Festival Updates

Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival

- * The Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival will be (pre) selling the Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival tickets at the April 8 MRBA Festival to the MRBA members at a **reduced price** of 50% off the regular price. This special will be only for the MRBA members that are there **THAT DAY ONLY**.
- * The Bitterroot Festival is looking for **volunteers** that may be interested in helping the Festival throughout the year in one of several open positions. The Festival volunteer crew meets once a month for about 2.5 hours. We need:
 - 1) One or more sales person(s) to obtain sponsorships for the Festival and advertisers for the program
 - 2) a person to be the Event Coordinator setting up the stage and the backstage tents, etc. and maintaining the hospitality tent
 - 3) a Vendor Chairperson to handle the arts and crafts vendors
 - 4) a Sales Table person to oversee the Festival's sales tables (CDs, T shirts, etc.) and to order supplies for that table.
- * The Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival will be having a fund raiser **Pancake Breakfast** on March 25th, 2006 at the Hamilton Senior Citizens Center from 8:00 until noon. All are welcome. We may have some jamming going on during the breakfast, but we will have to be out by noon.

For 16 of the last 17 years, Mark Dickerson has been the Chairman of the Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival. Mark is now asking the bluegrass community that if there is anyone who would like to step up and take over the position of Chairman, he would be glad to spend time in training that person or persons. At the end of the 2006 Bitterroot Valley Bluegrass Festival, Mark will be resigning as Chairman.

If there is anyone that wants to help the Festival continue, they should contact Mark immediately at markd@bitterroot.com or call him at 363-1250 days. Mark has thoroughly enjoyed bringing the best in bluegrass music to western Montana and appreciates all the friends he has made through the music.

Yellowstone Bluegrass Festival

The Yellowstone Bluegrass Association is pleased to announce that it will sponsor the first annual **Yellowstone Bluegrass Festival** at ZooMontana & Botanical Gardens on the **weekend of August 5, 2006** in Billings, Montana. The headliner band will be **John Reischman and the Jaybirds** and we anticipate that about eight local bands will also perform.

This is a very exciting opportunity for the YBA, ZooMontana and anyone interested in bluegrass and old time music. The site offers ample space for performing, jamming, picnicking and camping and the ZooMontana & Botanical Gardens provide additional entertainment for this family event.

We will try to provide facilities for everyone to enjoy playing and listening to their favorite old time music. In the absence of the Fiddler's Picnic at Livingston this year, we hope that you will join us at the Zoo.

For information as it develops, please visit our website at www.yellowstonebluegrass.org. The Yellowstone Bluegrass Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the education and enjoyment of bluegrass music and old time music. All profits from the festival will be donated to ZooMontana.

Notes from the North

By Tabitha Graves

It was a dark and stormy night.... Nope. Actually it was sunny and beautiful as I headed north last weekend (February 10th) to a workshop sponsored by the Foothills Bluegrass Music Society (<http://www.foothillsbluegrass.com>) in Calgary, Alberta. They offered 2 days of instruction (5 hours/ day) plus an 'instructor's concert' for \$75 – and that's Canadian folks. The lineup was top-notch. Instructors included Bill Evans (banjo), John Reischman (mandolin), Jimmy Heffernan (dobro), Eric Thompson (flatpick guitar), Trisha Gagnon (bass), and Suzy Thompson (fiddle) and all classes were targeted towards intermediate – advanced levels. I heard good reports on all classes, but can personally attest to the excellence of the mandolin class. I first met John Reischman at the Bitterroot Festival in 2005 and marveled at his clear tone. On one song he played a consistent, drivingly sweet tremolo throughout his entire solo, so I

asked him for some tips. He spent 15 minutes or so showing me some tremolo building techniques with great clarity and patience. I was impressed with his teaching skills and have been waiting to take a workshop with him ever since. I was not disappointed. John was well-prepared and the class was very productive. He began by discussing man-



dolins, picks, and tone guards, but quickly focused on intermediate and advanced skills. John talked about a technique—such as playing double stops in open A then demonstrated it with a song, before we all gave it a shot. He provided cheat sheets with notes (pun intended) on the technique as well as musical notation and tablature for the song, so there was something for everyone. Anecdotes about playing with Monroe, Compton, and Thile helped to keep everyone in good spirits, even af-

ter Saturday's late-night jam sessions. Sunday afternoon all the instructors co-taught a short 'playing well with others' session, where each instructor talked about how they supported the group with their instrument- backing off on the volume during the guitar solo, taking turns doing fills, and such. They also demonstrated several versions of the 'wrong' way to play with others, which had the audience rolling. The weekend was finished up with a concert from these fantastic musicians, playing songs the 'right' way this time and of course more jamming. The workshop was well organized and of course the people were fun, eh? Many thanks to our neighbors to the north!

There will be several opportunities this summer to take a workshop with John—he'll be at the Fiddler's Camp in Monarch, MT (week 1), Steve Kaufmann's camp, and at Sorrento (week 2). They have an instructional cruise to Alaska in July and he and the Jaybirds will also be at the Bitterroot Festival this summer. Check it out! www.johnreischman.com

Arlene Wolf's Favorite 3 Bluegrass Albums

- 1) Blue Highway - Midnight Storm
- 2) Mike Conroy and Steve Ralston - Instrumental Favorites
- 3) Hot Rize

Sue Richards' Favorite 3 Bluegrass Albums

- 1) Old and In the Way
- 2) Tony Rice – Manzanita
- 3) Nitty Gritty Dirt Band – Will the Circle Be Unbroken

MRBA Spring Festival

The MRBA will sponsor the seventh annual Spring Bluegrass Festival at the Stevensville School Multipurpose Room, Stevensville, MT on Saturday, April 8th. Bluegrass fans will be treated with non-stop music from noon until 11:30 p.m. You can't beat the admission – \$3.00 for MRBA and MFS members, \$5.00 for the general public and children under 12 get in free when accompanied by a paying adult.

As we all know, the MRBA promotes the preservation of bluegrass music. To that end we have added a real treat this year. The first set of the day will feature Kids in Bluegrass. There is no better way to preserve bluegrass than to get kids involved in the music early on. So, if you have a child, 18 or under, who is playing bluegrass

music and is interested in performing, contact Ben and Pam Essary at 406-777-7028 or by email at bgesary@msn.com and get on the schedule. The child may be accompanied by adults. The kids will have the opportunity to perform one or more songs depending on the number who sign up to play. No one is expecting polished performers here and the kids can expect an enthusiastic audience.

A delicious menu of food will be available. Anyone wishing to donate food should bring cakes, pies or cookies.

In addition to the great music on stage there will be lots of space open for jams so bring your instruments.

We need volunteers to help out at the admissions table, the kitchen and selling merchandise. Contact Ben or Pam if you are going to attend and can help.

There are a couple of options for out-of-towners needing accommodations. Hotel accommo-

dations are available at the historic Stevensville Hotel, 107 E. 3rd Street in Stevensville. The hotel has been renovated in the last year and is offering reduced rates for festival-goers. You can see the facilities on the internet at www.stevensvillehotel.com.

You can contact the hotel at 406-777-3087.

When making reservations ask for the bluegrass festival package. Motel accommodations are also available at the Arrow Inn, 3889 S. Highway 93, Stevensville. The Arrow Inn is located at the intersection of Highway 93 and the Stevensville Cutoff Road. For those with RVs, you can dry camp on school grounds. The Arrow Inn also has a campground with full hookups available.

Hold your breath for good weather and encourage your neighbors to come out and enjoy this wonderful musical event.

Contact Ben or Pam if you have any questions regarding the festival.

MRBA Festival Schedule



If there's a problem with your band's time slot, please try to find another band to switch with your band. Contact Mike and Tari Conroy if you have questions.

12:00-12:30 Kids in Bluegrass	5:50-6:20 Gravely Mountain Boys
12:35-1:05 Susanne Knauer and Trouble in Mind	6:25-6:55 Grangeville Bluegrass Band
1:10-1:40 Cabin Creek	7:00-7:30 Ramblin' Rose
1:45-2:15 Tabitha and Northern Contingent	7:35-8:05 Broken Valley Roadshow
2:20-2:50 Brenda Hanson and Shades of Bluegrass	8:10-8:40 Salmon Valley String Band
2:55-3:25 New South Fork	8:45-9:15 Dusty Miller
3:30-4:00 Left Over Biscuits	9:20-9:50 Ted Lowe and Friends
4:05-4:35 Country Folks	9:55-10:25 Brian & Caroline's Wise River Mercantile
4:40-5:10 Mike and Tari Conroy and Friends	10:30-11:00 Missouri Breaks
5:15-5:45 Too Hot To Handle	

Montana Bluegrasser Goes South By Brian Herbel

Last December, my fiancé Caroline and I flew out to St. Simons Island, Georgia to visit her parents. I was ready for a cultural and meteorological experience. We had visited Memphis and Nashville (I bought a new mandolin on that trip) and I was ready for more of the southern experience. As fortune would have it, we were able to attend the New Years Eve Bluegrass Festival (30th Annual) on nearby Jekyll Island! I was especially excited about this as I had never been to a festival east of Grand Targhee. Also, I was thrilled at getting a chance to see Jesse McReynolds, one of my favorite mandolin players, and a person that rarely ever, comes out West.

We attended the festival on Saturday and the lineup consisted of The Lewis Family, The Bluegrass Brothers, The Cherryholmes Family, Jesse McReynolds and the Virginia Boys, and Dr. Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mtn. Boys. The festival was held at a convention center right on the beach! My first impression of the festival was a total lack of hippies, lack of alcohol (it was a dry event), the BBQ trailer out front, the BIGGEST RV's that I have ever laid eyes on, absolutely nobody picking in the parking lot, and the completely packed festival hall where I felt like I was the youngest person by a good 30 years. The first band that we saw were the Bluegrass Brothers, a very tight group of portly brothers from Virginia. Really nice harmonies and just a good all around traditional bluegrass band, probably my favorite set of the festival.

The Cherryholmes Family was next. You know when you bungee jump off of an old railroad bridge and the first few seconds are gone from your

memory because the experience is so intense that you cannot process it? That was what the Cherryholmes Family are like, a visual and melodic onslaught of clogging, twin fiddles, twin guitar beaks, the banjo, Rhonda Vincent-like vocal madness, all held together on the low end by a ex-Navy seal with a long beard and a trench coat. I was so much (too much) at once I can't really remember what it was like, except that it was good.

After that we needed to stretch everything so we went to the merchandise room for a gander. Ralph Stanley held court at his merch table. Undaunted by the forming buffet line (BBQ) in front of his table, Ralph sat there ALL DAY shaking hands, signing pictures, and being photographed.

We went back to check out Jesse and the VA boys. I had been waiting since I first picked up a mandolin to see Jesse play. His set was kind of strange but there were some mandolin licks snuck in there that could have melted the strings. This was one of the first big shows that Jesse had played since the death of his brother Jim, the yang to the yin of Jim and Jesse. We heard folks say that Jesse's show had changed since Jim's death and everyone was proud to see him carrying on after what was a really hard experience for him. After this set we went back out to the merch area and I got a great picture of Jesse and I, his coat was fantastic and he perked up when I told him that we had come from Montana for the festival.. Ralph Stanley's set was diverse traditional, and was what you



Mando Men: Brian Herbel and Jesse McReynolds

could expect from the legend that is Dr Ralph. Ralph Jr. played a few tunes of his, and Dr. Ralph's grandson Nathan played a great mandolin original. The Clinch Mtn. Boys trade tunes with each member of the band showcasing their well honed talents. Jack Cooke, the long time bass player for the Clinch Mtn. Boys was unable to attend this festival so Victor Dowdy, the bass player from the Bluegrass Brothers stepped in, played the bass and also filled in on some amazing tenor harmonies. Victor even earned some attentive and approving looks from Dr. Ralph himself. Ralph, relatively fresh off of a double bypass sung quite a few and even played a couple clawhammer banjo on a couple of tunes including Little Maggie and Pretty Polly. Another highlight that day was the Lewis Family, not so much for their set, but for Little Roy Lewis who is a bona fide lunatic banjo player of the old vaudevillian tradition. At various points over the night Little Roy would storm out in the middle of peoples set in giant floppy shoes wigs, dresses (he tried to sneak into the Cherry Homes set dressed as one of the daughters), on a scooter playing the banjo.

Continued on page 9...

A Ganji Joins Hit and Run Bluegrass

By Caroline Keys

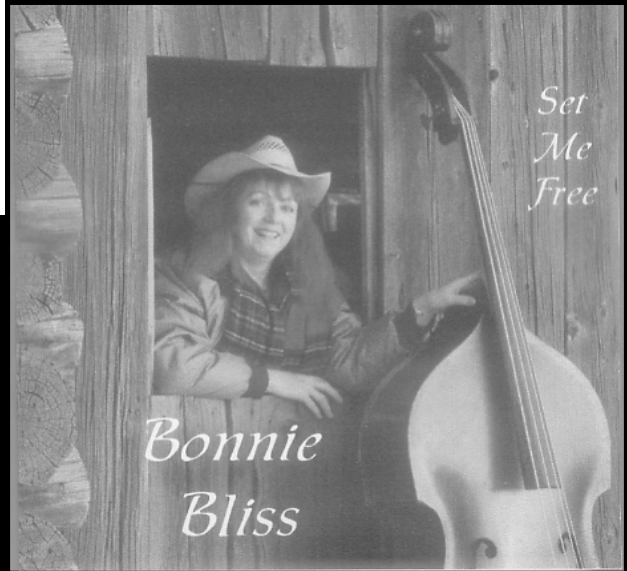
If you attend the Hit and Run show at the Crystal theatre on March 31, you're likely to recognize one of the band's new members. Missoula's own Larry Ganji Jr. is the band's new banjo player. "Yippee I love it," says Larry, "the band's great, the music's

great, the fans are great, Colorado is great." The young group of polished pickers is based out of the Boulder area of Colorado. Of Boulder Ganji says its "like Missoula on steroids." Larry isn't the first picker from our area to join the both authentic and contemporary Hit and Run—former Missoulian Ivan Rosenberg also joined the band for part of

their tour last summer. The band's current lineup also includes a new bass player and new Dobro player. Even if you've seen Hit and Run before, this will certainly be a show worth attending because their sound surely must have changed with the addition of new musicians. Welcome back to Montana, Larry, we can't wait to come see you play!

Debbie Kerns' Favorite 3 Bluegrass Albums
 1) Hand Picked – (compilation) Twenty Five Years of Bluegrass
 2) Longview – High Lonesome
 3) Larry Sparks – 40

<u>Bonnie Bliss Song List</u>	
1. Snowbird	9. Pardon Me
2. Are You Ashamed	10. I Can't Find Your Love Anymore
3. Blue Kentucky Girl	11. When I Get Home
4. With A Trace	12. Scars From An Old Love
5. Red Clay Halo	13. Set Me Free
6. Hundred Years from Now	14. Steel Rails
7. My Hearts Own Love	15. Cold Hearted Lover
8. I Still Miss Someone	16. Heart Strings



Featured CD

Anyone who likes great vocals backed by solid bluegrass accompanists will want to listen to this CD. Many of you know Bonnie Bliss from her appearances with the Washington bluegrass band *Too Hot To Handle* and from jams from around the Northwest.

Bonnie selected a mix songs from the bluegrass, country and pop musical genres for the CD. It includes a rich variety of songs made popular by a number of top named artists including Helen Dickens, Ann Murray, Gillian Welch and Johnny Cash. Three of the songs are old ones from the public domain. The song lineup also includes three original songs written by Bonnie herself. No matter what the songs origin, she puts her mark on the songs with her own original and enter-

taining voice.

The entire CD comes off with a clear bluegrass feeling. Bonnie's singing and talented bass playing are backed up with a group of accomplished bluegrass musicians including Tari Conroy on rhythm guitar and doing harmony vocals, Mike Conroy on mandolin and fiddle, Ivan Rosenberg on dobro, Fred Frank on banjo and Steve Ralston on lead guitar. With that lineup you can expect a solid musical product.

The CD was recorded and duplicated by Conroy Digital Studio, PO Box 144, Conner, MT 59827 and represents another fine technical job by the Conroys in the mastering and production of the album.

Copies of the CD can be obtained by contacting Bonnie by mail at 255 Paradox Road, Oldtown, ID 83822 or by telephone at 208-437-4514.

continued from p. 7

During his last set, Jesse McReynolds lived up to his mandolin icon stature in true form.

As the New Year approached those assembled on stage counted down with Ray Martin (son of Jimmy) leading the countdown.

3..2..1.2006 was officially upon us, I kissed Caroline and we took in the whole stage led by Mrs. Cherryholmes signing "Auld Lang Syne". This was followed by a fantastically fast Train 45.

So with the New Year rung in, it was time to pack, up, people were already sweeping the floor and Caroline and I

made our way out the 65 degree winter air of coastal Georgia. Something that struck me most about this festival was the fact that it was right on a beach and NOBODY was out there, not even during the day. We were also amazed at the lack of jams going on, none outside, no RV jams in the parking lot all day or at

night, and while there were a few small jams inside, none were what I have come to love about festivals in the West. At the end the night Caroline and I went out to the beach and in the darkness played a long medley of fiddle tunes to the waters of the Atlantic. Happy New Year everyone.



Caroline, Dr. Ralph Stanley, and Brian

Pine Mountain Railroad Concert

This show will be held at Raynae Redman's property on Big Flat Road in Missoula on **June 26, 2006** at 6pm. It will be a concert and BBQ steak dinner with all the trimmings outdoors in the beautiful pines of the Redman's property. Pine Mtn. RR is a traditional bluegrass band that has played most of the large festivals back East along with Grass Valley Calif, and the Darrington Festival out West. They were voted California's number one band by the CBA. www.Pinemountainrailroad.com.

Lost Highway Bluegrass band and 3rd Generation Bluegrass Band Concert

This concert will take place at Fort Missoula on the lawn beside the museum on **July 27th, 2006**. The show begins at 6:30. Tickets are \$18 for the general public and \$15 for MRBA members. This will be a fun outdoor concert held in the beautiful setting of Fort Missoula on their lush green lawn, where you can sit on a warm summer evening and enjoy the bluegrass sounds of these two fine bands. Lost Highway is a traditional bluegrass band out of Southern California, that features the lead vocals of the wonderful Ken Orrick. Lost Highway is one of the most traditional bluegrass bands in the country today so if you love the sound of traditional bluegrass you won't want to miss this concert. Bring your lawn chair or a blanket, sit back and relax, and enjoy a fun July evening. For more information contact Raynae Redman 721-5205 cell 370-0525 or by e-mail blugrasmom@aol.com

www.losthighwaybluegrass.com
www.thirdgenerationbluegrassband.com

Hit and Run Concert

The MRBA and Missoula Folklore Society will jointly sponsor a concert by Hit and Run Bluegrass at the Crystal Theater in Missoula on **March 31, 2006**. The show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10.00 advance and \$12.00 at the door for MRBA and MFS members and \$12.00 advance and \$14.00 at the door for the general public. Advance tickets will be on sale at Rockin' Rudy's in Missoula, the Bitterroot Market in Stevensville and the Music Box in Hamilton. See the article inside for more information on Hit and Run Bluegrass.

Chad Fadely's Favorite 3 Bluegrass Albums:

- 1) Bela Fleck – Drive
- 2) Del McCoury – Deeper Shade of Blue
- 3) Tony Rice Plays & Sings Bluegrass



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



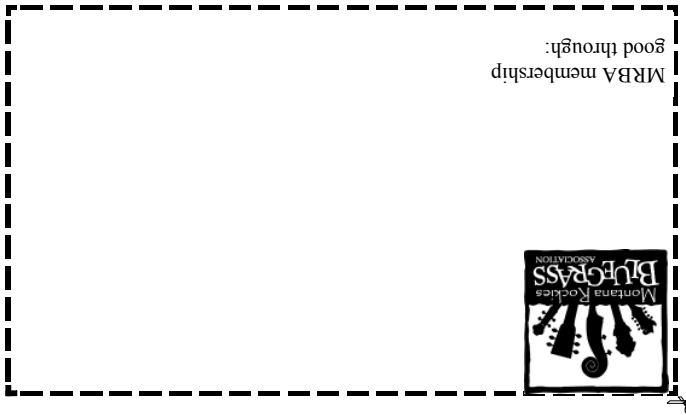
Pickers playin' hookie at Stevensville School



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



333 Pine Hollow Road
 Stevensville, MT 59870



