



# Bluegrassin'

Volume 8, Issue 4

July-August 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.*

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## Bluegrass Calendar

- ♦ **July 7, 8, & 9, 2006 – Bitterroot Bluegrass Festival** – Hamilton Fairgrounds. Featuring Kane's River, Hit & Run, Tennessee Gentlemen, Buncombe Turnpike, Leftover Biscuits, and John Reischman & the Jaybirds
- ♦ **July 14 – Bluegrass on the Bay** – Great Falls – Featuring Mike&Tari Conroy, Broken Valley Roadshow, and the Wilders
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **August 4-6 – Yellowstone Bluegrass Festival** – Billings, Montana. Featuring John Reischman & the Jaybirds, Slipstream, Growling Old Men, and Kostas
- ♦ **August 9-11 – Grand Targhee Bluegrass Camp** – Alta, Wyoming. See page 7 for details.
- ♦ **August 11-13 – Bluewaters Bluegrass Festival** – Medical Lake, Washington. Featuring The Biscuit Burners, The Wilders, Jackstraw, Broken Valley Roadshow, Anne&Pete Sibley, Big Red Barn, the Panhandle Polecats, and Bluegrass Conspiracy
- ♦ **August 11-13 – Grand Targhee Bluegrass Festival** – Alta, Wyoming. Featuring Uncle Earl, Darrel Scott, Blue Highway, Shawn Camp, and Tim O'Brien, Kane's River, and Pete Rowan.
- ♦ **August 25-27 – Bannock County Bluegrass Festival** – Pocatello, Idaho. Featuring Cold Creek, Heaven Bound, New South Fork, Buckhorn Mountain Boys, Deadline Ridge, Drew Williams & Ryan Tilby, and the Wild Coyotes
- ♦ **August 26-27 – Red Lodge Bluegrass Festival** – Red Lodge, Montana
- ♦ **September 1 – Flat Mountain Girls** – Top Hat, Missoula. Fabulous all-girl string band from Portland makes their Montana debut.
- ♦ **September 16 – River City Rhythm & Roots Festival** – Missoula. Featuring The John Cowan Band, Martha Scanlan, and Broken Valley Roadshow

## 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
- ♦ GREAT FALLS – 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Bert & Ernie's(300 1st Ave South) 7pm. Call 453-8003 for info.
- ♦ MISSOULA – Tuesdays, Wheat Montana – Moozoola Opry 6PM till 8PM the Cuzin Ray band plays. Admission is free we just ask that you buy a sandwich or soup from the fine folks at Wheat Montana as you sit back and enjoy an evening of music.
- ♦ HAMILTON – Saturdays, Charlos Heights Clubhouse – Bluegrass jam.
- ♦ CHINOOK– first and third Tuesdays, Past Time Bar -- Bluegrass, Old Time, and Old Country

## President's Notes

When the last issue of the newsletter came out the end of April, Pam and I were in Tennessee. Two months later we are still here. We have been helping Mom as she recovers from some medical problems. The temperature has been in the mid '90s with the humidity almost as high. It's like living in a sauna so that mild Montana climate looks pretty good right now. We are heading north on June 24th and will be home for the Hamilton festival. Our extended stay has allowed us to take advantage of some local bluegrass music opportunities. Last weekend we went to a local festival in Selmer, Tennessee. Four local bands were performing and there were some good jams.

Good music with some friendly folks.

We have also been going to a weekly jam hosted by the Jackson Area Plectral Society at the Casey Jones Center and Old Country Store. The center has the Casey Jones

Museum and the Jones home. It also has an old country store which serves some good southern food. On Thursday evenings there can be as many as 100 musicians in various jams on the grounds of the center.

Bluegrass is not the only fare. There is also some good old time string

band players and lots of early "hillbilly" music. It is thoroughly enjoyable with the regulars welcoming newcomers to the jams. It is also a family affair with lots of both young and old and every age in between.

Hope to see a good turnout at the Hamilton festival.

Mark Dickerson,

Perry Vose and crew have put together some good bands. I'm sure they are looking for volunteers to help out. If you have some hours to spare give them a call.

See you soon in Montana.

Ben

## Bluegrass Festival Must-Have List

◇ Tuner	◇ Sun hat	◇ Flashlight
◇ List of jam songs w/ keys	◇ Sunscreen	◇ Fanny pack
◇ Water	◇ Dental floss	◇ Ear plugs
◇ Capo	◇ Strap for instrument	◇ Rain gear
◇ Extra picks	◇ Flask of Knob Creek	◇ Extra strings
◇ Business cards	◇ Chair	◇ Toilet paper
◇ Shade structure	◇ Bug repellent	◇ Duct tape
◇ Candle	◇ Wet Ones	◇ Trash bag

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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

***Just for Fun: Butchered Song Titles***

1. Your Shellfish Heart (the bluegrass mermaid song)
2. I'm Just a Used T.V. to You
3. Drifting too Far from the Chord
4. Is it True that I Flossed You? (the bluegrass dentistry song)
5. I'm Working on a Blister ... on my Lip, on my Lip



**Wedding Invitation**

All MRBA pals are invited to join Brian Herbel and Caroline Keys in celebrating their wedding at Marshall Mountain (just east of Missoula) on July 22! The ceremony will take place at 5pm, there's a potluck reception at 6pm, and music will start at 7pm. Feel free to come for all or just part of the festivities! There will be an open condenser mic set up, and plenty of space for jamming. Find more information at [www.briansaidyes.com](http://www.briansaidyes.com). See you there!

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

*Bluegrass Weather Report  
from East of the Divide*

**PROFILE:**

**The Missouri Breaks**

**By Aaron Parrett**

The Electric City of Great Falls has a hot new bluegrass band with veteran flatpicker Pat Davis at the helm. Actually, they've been around for a year now—last summer they opened the show at the Bluegrass on the Bay—the Norma Ashby production that has become one of the nicest and most professional small festivals in the state. Joining Davis in the rhythm section is his wife Sue Richards on Doghouse Bass, who also supplies the band with incredible authentic Italian food whenever Pat and Sue host a pick at their place on Sixth Ave. The legendary David Letterman-lookalike Richard Baker has been performing banjo duty for the band, though occasionally he's otherwise preoccupied and the band has to resort to getting a local English teacher to roll a few chords. The mysterious Mister Baker is plenty busy with his day job as one half of The Rivertown Rounders, which must be the steadiest-working outfit in Montana folk music: they play the KOA Campground in Great Falls seven days a week, 8-10 PM from Mem-



orial Day to Labor Day. If ever you're passing through Great Falls in the summer, don't miss one of their entertaining performances.

Bruce "Curly" Auchly is featured on the Dobro, sliding in his sweet and tasteful licks that make you want to go home and listen to Hank Williams a little more closely. Though he doesn't sing much, Auchly has no fear of the microphone, and his witty banter between songs adds a key element to their stage show. Finally, the hot-lick whiz kid Alex Ruiz rounds out the sound, both on vocal harmony and instrumentally. He saws a mean fiddle, and isn't ashamed to take a ride on the Orange Blossom Special that you won't soon forget. Together these cats put out a bluegrass sound that has a special note of Missouri River funkiness you just can't get

on the other side of the Divide. They have an interesting repertoire—old standards like "Banks of the Ohio" and country faves like "Long Black Veil," but they also enjoy fooling around with the occasional Led Zeppelin tune. And speaking of funk, when you're in Great Falls on a Thursday night, be sure to swing by Bert and Ernie's Saloon, where The Missouri Breaks host an informal bluegrass and old time jam under the moniker of "Uncle Funky's Bluegrass Jambo-ree." Everyone is welcome, and the new stage at the bar is great.

Keep your eyes open and your ears out for The Missouri Breaks. Chances are they'll be on the festival circuit before long, and rumor has it there's a CD in the works. Support your local musicians, even if they play bluegrass. □





*Missoula picker Matt Cornette makes playing banjo look easy...but could use a fashion consultant*

## New Instructional Banjo Book Hits the Shelves

The Banjo Encyclopedia: Bluegrass Banjo from A to Z

by Ross Nickerson

Review by Kate McMahon

There are some music books that every banjo player should own. Earl Scruggs and Five String Banjo and Pete Wernick's Bluegrass Banjo are two classics that come to mind. Now there is another one to add to your collection. The Banjo Encyclopedia: Bluegrass Banjo from A to Z by Ross Nickerson is a fantastic resource for banjo players of all levels. The book is available at [www.melbay.com](http://www.melbay.com).

Ross Nickerson has been performing and teaching banjo for 25 years. He has played with bands at venues such as the Telluride Bluegrass Festival and at Opryland, just to name a few. He operates a banjo school in Baltimore. He wrote this book based on observing the stumbling blocks that students often encounter on their quest to become better banjo players.

One of the primary goals of the book is, "...to help you avoid learning everything the hard way." As a banjo player who is still struggling to master the instrument, I wish I had found this book years ago. It would have advanced my playing much faster. The

book covers topics from rolls to practice habits, from improvising to jamming. It covers the Earl Scruggs, melodic, and single string styles. It has tips to develop speed, improve left hand techniques and play back-up. Although there is tabulature for many standard bluegrass songs, the book encourages you to develop your own style.

As noted in the book, nothing can take the place of practice, practice, practice. A CD comes with the book to make that practicing easier. There are also additional instructional tips at Nickerson's web site, [www.banjoteacher.com](http://www.banjoteacher.com). Buying this book will bring you hours of enjoyment. □

## TRUMBLE CREEK BLUEGRASS CAMPOUT

September 30 – October 1

4260 Trumble Creek Road

Columbia Falls, Montana

Directions: **WATCH FOR SIGNS ON HIGHWAY 40.**

- 1 From Highway 2: Go east on Highway 40 at the Blue Moon intersection.
- 2 From Highway 93: Go east on Highway 40 a bit over 3 miles.
- 3 On Highway 40, go south in Trumble Creek Road. Go about ½ mile.

There will be more signs.

Saturday Night Potluck And Sunday Morning Biscuits & Gravy Potluck

Bring friends and family!!!

Conroy's 10th Annual Memorial Weekend Campout

It was another great campout with lots of pickin' and grinnin', good food and good friends and even though we had a surprise 2 inches of snow on Sunday morning we had 3 big wall tents and good heaters so that everyone still had a great time.

Thanks for coming! Mike & Tari



Phyllis sports a cool hat and Curtis does too



Wintry wall tent



Donation jar and proof that tents are needed!



Little Foot-prints in the snow?



Boys Behaving? Late night pick with Bruce, Ted, Fred, Mike, and Alex

**FIRST ANNUAL GRAND TARGHEE BLUEGRASS CAMP**

The First Annual Grand Targhee Bluegrass Camp will take place August 9-11, three days preceding the Targhee Bluegrass Festival. The camp will feature first rate instruction and jamming for bluegrass musicians and students of all ages. With lodging and meals provided right at the resort, the three day intensive session will be all about picking and singing in the mountains

The faculty are all top shelf musicians and teachers

who will be performing at this year's Targhee Bluegrass Festival. They include Tim Stafford (guitar), Matt Flinner (banjo), Brian Wicklund (fiddle), Ben Winship (mandolin), Eric Thorin (bass) and John Lowell (songwriting).

Using bluegrass music as the common language, the camp will focus on teaching individual instrumental skills and on group playing and jamming. Each day will feature morning and afternoon classes, elective workshops, jam sessions and evening performances.

Camp Coordinator Ben Winship says, "We're really excited about putting this idea into action. Tom Garnsey of Vootie Productions and I have been planning this for a few years and we think we have the perfect setup. I'm particularly excited about our lineup of teachers - not only are they great players, but they all have amazing teaching chops. The opportunity for any aspiring musician to spend three days up in mountains with one of these guys without the distractions of the daily grind should be fully rewarding. In addition to all the instruction, I also expect a lot of impromptu jamming and a ton of laughs."

Winship added that "seeing this is the first year, we're trying everything we can do to get the word out and make this a success. For starters, we wanted to keep the price as low as possible. One of the great things about this setup is our association with the bluegrass festival. There are already a bunch of aspiring musicians coming this way for the festival and we can provide a way for them to study and jam with some of the best pickers in the business. We're looking forward to making this an annual event and we aim to see our program grow in anticipation of the 20th Annual Targhee Bluegrass festival next year."



*Photo by Brian Herbel*

The registration fee includes 3 days of meals and lodging. Arrival time is Tuesday, August 8th, with classes beginning Wednesday morning and concluding Friday afternoon. Grand Targhee Bluegrass Camp welcomes students of all ages, however students 17 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

MORE INFO AT :

<http://216.71.99.142/gtbc06.pdf>

Additional Press info

Please Contact

((Anne Sibley, Publicity Assistant (307) 732-0005 [asibley@wyoming.com](mailto:asibley@wyoming.com)))

Ben Winship, Camp Coordinator (208) 787 2824

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Tom Garnsey, Vootie Productions (406) 586-1922

[tom@vootie.com](mailto:tom@vootie.com)

Jeff Naylor, Targhee Resort, 353-2300 ext. 1311

[jnaylor@grandtarghee.com](mailto:jnaylor@grandtarghee.com)



## Ivan Rosenberg: Clawhammer and Dobro

Review by Caroline Keys

Lucky for us, former Missoulian Ivan Rosenberg had the guts to meddle with the age-old pairing of fiddle and banjo by removing the fiddle and inserting his own delicate Dobro. On his latest release he couples the seemedly strange stringed bedfellows and the outcome is a tear-jerking and exquisite set of original and traditional compositions.

Rosenberg's arrangements and delivery on this album are so strong that it wouldn't be surprising if clawhammer-Dobro duos catch on and Ivan's record sets the precedent for a new style of acoustic music.

Some of the beauty of this album comes from the subdued musical contributions of Mason Tuttle, David Keenan, Chad Manning, Mary Lucey, and Jon Stickley. The listener even gets treated to Ivan's lovely singing voice on "Poor Ellen Smith"- a rare thing to behold indeed! Mary Lucey's harmony vocals make that sole singin' song a haunting treat to listeners' ears. If you've ever seen Ivan play, you know what an innovative musician he is, but hearing this steady-moving and unusual album will convince you that Rosenberg was, indeed, beamed to this planet by someone or something that had a higher place in mind for the resonator guitar and the banjo.

**Clawhammer and Dobro is available at Ivan's website: [www.ivanrosenberg.com](http://www.ivanrosenberg.com). Get it! All 10 tracks are complete bliss to listen to, it won't leave your CD player alone!**



Montana pickers  
Aaron Parrett and  
Carrie Stensrud jam  
as the sun sets on  
the National Fiddle  
Championships in  
Weiser, Idaho

*Photo taken by  
Katherine Jones of  
the Idaho States-  
man*

**Have  
a safe  
festival  
season!**





The Fourth Annual **Bluegrass on the Bay** will be Friday, July 14, 2006 from 5-10:30 pm at Odd Fellows Park in Great Falls, Montana. A benefit for the Cascade County Historical Society's High Plains Heritage Center, the event promises to once again attract bluegrass enthusiasts from across the region and Canada. Last year more than 1,300 attended the festival. This year's bands include, **The Wilders, Broken Valley Roadshow, the Mike Conroy Band, and Caitlyn & Co.**

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$20 at the gate the day of the show. Children 12 and under are free when they are accompanied by a paying adult. Tickets are available at the High Plains Heritage Center, 422 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South, Kaufman's, County Market East, Planet Earth, and Penny's Gourmet to Go.

Featured again this year will be the Montana Handcrafted Show featuring fine handcraft at the south end of the festival site. This show features Montana artists and is sponsored by MSU-Great Falls College of Technology.

Food from Brian's Top Notch, Tropical Island, CJ's Express, and Meadow Gold will be complements with both domestic and microbrewed beers. There will be no reserved seating. Gates open at 5 pm. Festivalgoers are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets. No coolers will be allowed. No pets are permitted. Ticket stubs automatically enter you for a chance to win \$1000 gift certificate from Davidson Travel. While at the Festival, buy a raffle ticket to win a ring donated by Roy and Diane Volk, a Remington 30-06 donated in part by Scheels or pair of binoculars donated by Big Bear. Winners will be drawn that evening.

For more information call the High Plains Heritage Center at **406-452-3462** or check out the event's website at **[www.bluegrassonthebay.com](http://www.bluegrassonthebay.com)**. We'll see you there!





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*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*



West Fork Log Splitters

**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

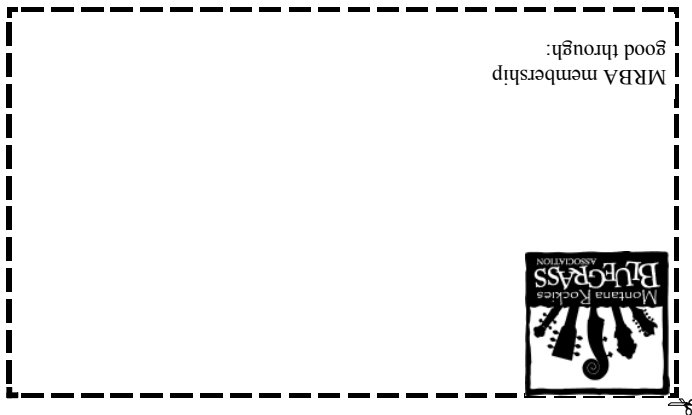
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