



Bluegrassin'

Volume 12, Issue 2

March—April 2010

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:

President's Notes	2
New Editor's Note	3
January MRBA jam	4
MRBS Spring Festival	5
Hardtimes Festival	6
Deer Lodge Jam	7
1st MRBA Concert	8
CD Review	9
Book Review	10

Upcoming Bluegrass Events

March 13, 2010 - MRBA Bluegrass Jam, Ruby's Inn, Missoula. Jamming starts at 2 pm and continues in the evening. Bring a potluck dish for supper at about 6 pm.

March 20th, 2010 - Baba Ganoush and The Bluegrass Coalition, at the Downtown Dance Collective, Main Street, Missoula , 8pm.

April 17, 2010 - MRBA Spring Festival. Stevensville School Multi-purpose Room. See more info on page 5.

April 24th, 2010 - Glacier Fiddle Festival, Elks Club, 2451 Hwy 93 South, Kalispell starting at 8am. Contact Leah at 756-9051. Contest forms are available at <http://www.facebook.com/l/1ba62;glacierfiddlefestival.blogspot.com> .

May 14 - 16, 2010 - Idaho Sawtooth Bluegrass Association, 5th Annual Spring Jam, Lewis-Clark Resort in Kamiah, Idaho, for information contact Carolyn Johnson - cthorse@gmail.com or www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org .

June 26, 2010 - Bluegrass on the Greenbelt, Idaho Falls , ID.

July 16 - 18, 2010 - Kootenai River Bluegrass Festival, Troy, MT .

July 23 - 25, 2010 - Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival. See more info on page 6.

Recurring Shows and Jams

- ♦ **MISSOULA** – Tuesdays, Wheat Montana – Moozoola Opry 6pm 'til 8pm the Black Mountain Boys play. Admission is free, the band asks that you buy a sandwich or soup from the fine folks at Wheat Montana as you sit back and enjoy an evening of music.
- ♦ **KALISPELL** – Thursdays, Colter's Coffee, 424 S. Main, 6 - 8pm. Call 755-1319 for info.

(If you know of corrections to the shows and jams or new events that need to be added contact the MRBA at mrba@mtbluegrass.com)

President's Corner

By Dallas Olson

We have been really busy recently with MRBA bluegrass activities. We had really good crowds at both our bluegrass jams in January and February. Some new pickers are showing up so that is adding flavors to the jams. Of course, we don't want to forget our stalwart supporters who make most, if not all, of our jams. We also want to welcome Ted Lowe back to Missoula and to our association events. Our thanks always go out to Ruby Erck for allowing us to have these events. Both the jam spaces and the hospitality from Ruby's are great. March 13th will be our last monthly jam for the year.

The association is off and running on our first concert series. We held our first show on Friday, February 12th, at the Downtown Dance Collective in Missoula. It was a real treat. We had a good crowd and our MRBA volunteers carried off the event without a hitch. We couldn't have asked for better music. The Lil' Smokies and Pinegrass played the show and both were a hit with the audience. Our second show is set for Saturday, March 20th. It will feature Baba Ganoush, a young band from Missoula, and the Bluegrass Coalition. The Bluegrass Coalition blends the musical styles and skills of Mike and Tari Conroy and Fred and Emily Frank. Look for some great vocals, great harmonies and great instrumentals from this group.

When we put out the call for local bands interested in playing this series, eight bands voiced an interest in playing. Four of the bands are featured in the first two shows. We are waiting until after the MRBA annual festival to schedule more shows. We encourage you to attend these concerts. The music is top notch, the price is reasonable, and the setting is great. While you are at it, talk with friends and neighbors and encourage them to also attend.

Our annual festival will be held Saturday, April 17th, at the Stevensville High School. More information is available later in the newsletter. We ask you to do your best to get us a good crowd. As you know, this is the main fundraiser for the MRBA and its proceeds support all of our other activities throughout the year. Mike and Tari Conroy have once again put together a slate of bands that is sure to satisfy your bluegrass tastes. We need volunteers to help out with admissions, food and merchandise so sign up to help.

Thanks for your support and we hope to see you at these upcoming events.

Dallas

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

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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

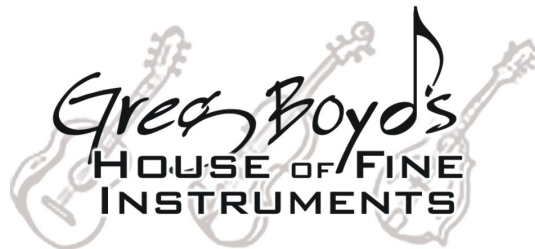
From the Editors's Desk:

Well here it is, our first addition of the newsletter. We'd like to thank Ben Essary for his help in getting us started. Please let us know what you want to see in the future and share articles/photos that you'd like us to publish.

Thanks!
Vicki & Chad

Thank You!

Mike and Tari Conroy would like to thank the MRBA for their generous donation to help with the Hardtimes Festival ... it is appreciated very much!



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

Membership Application**MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 1306, Missoula, MT 59806

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone No. _____

E-mail _____ Individual (\$10.00) _____ Family (\$15.00) _____

January MRBA Jam

By Ben Essary

The first MRBA jam of 2010 was held at Ruby's Inn on Saturday, January 9th. The jam was well attended both in the afternoon and evening. We had three good jam circles going for quite a while. Quite a few new people attended and it was good to have some new musical influences added to the day. Here are some photos



MRBA Spring Festival

Stevensville Junior High School

April 17, 2010

The 11th Annual Oldtime Bluegrass Festival will be held Saturday April 17th at the Stevensville Junior High multi-purpose room. We have a full slate of great bands. So come on out and hear lots of good bluegrass music. There will be space for lots of jams. The festival starts at noon and goes until 11 pm. Food will be available at the festival and MRBA merchandise will be on sale. Admission: \$5 for the general public, \$4 for an MRBA member, children 12 and under are free with a paying adult.

There will be extra parking behind (and north) of the school. As in years past, people who would like to help by bringing food should bring desserts. Anyone who would like to help at the festival should call Dallas at 406-642-3760 or Lois at 406-549-2444, or volunteer to help out when you get there. This year the MRBA has again rented the American Legion Hall for folks who would like to park over night and/or jam and visit after the festival (late Sat. night).

Sunday morning we will do a free biscuits and gravy breakfast at the American Legion Hall at 10am, before folks head home. To get to the American Legion, drive south from the front of the Junior High School. At the FIRST stop sign, turn LEFT on Middle Burnt Fork Road. Proceed up Middle Burnt Fork Road, 3 miles. The American Legion is on the Left. Many big flags will be flying.... Mike and Tari

Band Schedule

12:00 - 12:30	Kids in Bluegrass	5:15 - 5:45	Porter Creek
12:35 - 1:05	Bonnie Bliss Group	5:50 - 6:20	Will Williams & Gravel Road
1:10 - 1:40	Ken Benson & Friends	6:25 - 6:55	Black Mtn. Boys
1:45 - 2:15	Darby Sireens	7:00 - 7:30	Salmon Valley String Band
2:20 - 2:50	Three Rivers Bluegrass	7:35 - 8:05	JD Webb & The Downstate Ramblers
2:55 - 3:25	Uncle Bacca Juice	8:10 - 8:40	Ramblin' Rose
3:30 - 4:00	Mike & Tari Conroy & Friends	8:45 - 9:15	Pinegrass
4:05 - 4:35	Gravelly Mtn	9:20 - 9:50	Wise River Mercantile
4:40 - 5:10	New South Fork	9:55 - 10:25	Hard Luck & Trouble
		10:35 - 11:00	Spring Thaw



Photo by
John Cohen

Shook Mountain Productions, LLC (Mike & Tari Conroy) Present:

2ND ANNUAL HARDTIMES BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

July 23-24-25, 2010

Featuring:

New South Fork- Idaho Falls, ID
 Will Williams & Gravel Road- Grangeville, ID
 Pinegrass- Missoula, MT
 Darby Sireens- Darby, MT
 Blue To The Bone- Hamilton, MT
 Gravely Mtn.- Alberton, MT
 Kids In Bluegrass
 JD Webb & The Downstate Ramblers- Baker, OR
 Long Steel Rail- Mountain Home, ID
 Spring Thaw- Missoula, MT
 Mike & Tari Conroy & Friends- Conner, MT

**FOOD
&
VENDORS
ON
SITE**

Special Featured Bluegrass Pioneers from the Northwest

*Forrest Clark- Clinton, MT
 Ed Dobson- Pollock, ID
 Henry Counts- Livingston, MT
 Fiddlin' Jimmy Widner- Darby, MT
 Firp Redman- Hamilton, MT*

BRING	ALL	BLUEGRASS
YOUR	DOGS	GOSPEL
LAWN	ON	SUNDAY
CHAIRS	LEASH	MORNING

Location: 10 miles South of Hamilton, Mt. Highway 93-mile marker 37 163 Forest Hill Road.
 Festival site is on the Heiland & Thomas Ranches

Admission: Adults-\$10.00 for weekend, children under 12- \$5.00 for weekend

Dry camping only- \$10.00 for weekend

For more information: hardtimesbluegrass.com or call 1-406-821-3777

Y'ALL COME!

Pickin' in Deer Lodge

January 23, 2010



Arlene Wolf ... "This is fun!"



Pat Davis ... "Here comes my lead!"



Forrest's jammin'...



Mike Conroy ... "I'm walking the dog..."



Good grub!



Lining up for food!



Gary Moore ... "Is this a bluegrass chord?"



Jeff Trask & Grandpa Joe



Wild Bill Anderson ... Our Host!



James Dodd ... Picking on an old Martin



Roger Underwood ... "That was a good one!"



Sue Richards ... "This is so much fun!"



Ben Essary ...

MRBA First Concert Rousing Success

By Ben Essary

The first concert of the first MRBA concert series held Friday, February 12th, was a rousing success. The Downtown Dance Collective turned out to be a welcoming and fitting venue for a bluegrass show. Thanks to a lot of help from MRBA volunteers, especially Phyllis Erck, Greg Boyd, Lois and John Malikie, the evening went off without a hitch. We also want to say a big thanks to Curtis Rathburn for providing the sound for the evening. We had a good crowd but would have welcomed more. But most of all we want to say thanks to the two bands that made this such a successful evening. The Lil' Smokies lit the place up with their fast paced set. Their instrumentals, both old standards and new compositions from the band members, hit the mark. Pete Barrett has a voice made for bluegrass and he used it well that evening. Pinegrass was their usual consummate selves. All five members are folks who are at the top of their musical game. They can play with the best. The evening ended with both bands on stage for a few numbers. If you weren't there you missed a good show. Our next concert is Saturday, March 20th, at the Downtown Dance Collective and promises to be as good as our first show. Baba Ganoush and The Bluegrass Coalition are on the venue. Thanks again to all who made our first show a success.



Lil' Smokies
Cameron, Aaron, Ted, Pete, Andy, Matt



Pinegrass
Chad, Bill, Rick, John, Jack



John and Lois
Holding Down The Fort



Phyllis and Dallas face a perplexing merchandise question????



The Finale!!!!

CD REVIEW



iMando

Artist - Chad Fadely

Reviewed by Emily Frank

When Chad asked me via email, to review his new CD project titled “iMando” I was surprised to say the least, and honored at the same time. I have always enjoyed Chad’s style of playing and respect his talent for making the mandolin sound so easy, and at the same time just blow your mind. If you want to hear good straight bluegrass, or a more progressive style, Chad can accomplish that and put a smile on your face with his clean clear notes ringing pure on his Gilchrist mandolin.

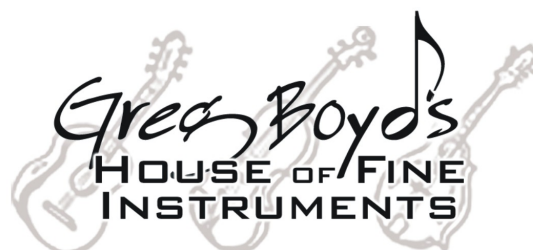
If you love good music that features great local musicians, you will not be disappointed. Chad surrounded himself with some of the top players in the area. Ivan Rosenberg on resophonic guitar, Steve Taft on banjo, Alex Hargreaves on fiddle, Bill Neaves on guitar, Rick Ryan on bass and Mary Sackmann on bass. Chad shows his multiple talents playing mandolin, mandola, bouzouki, mandocello, guitar, and bass. Chad also produced and engineered most of the tracks. Richie Reinholdt mixed and mastered the project.

“iMando” will capture your ear and lift your mood no matter how bad your mood may be. You will find your toe moving to the beat, and a smile pulling on the corners of your face. Most of the tunes on “iMando” are originals by Chad and of course are arranged extremely well. I am not known to be a “tune head” I prefer songs with words. I appreciate the tunes that Chad has come up with, and admire the talent it takes to make such tunes sound as smooth as these do. “iMando” ranges from a “new acoustic” sound to a traditional bluegrass flavor. I highly recommend “iMando” to anyone who enjoys good music even if you’re not a “tune head”.

You can purchase

iMando

at Greg Boyd’s
House of Fine Instruments
or online at
www.chadfadely.com



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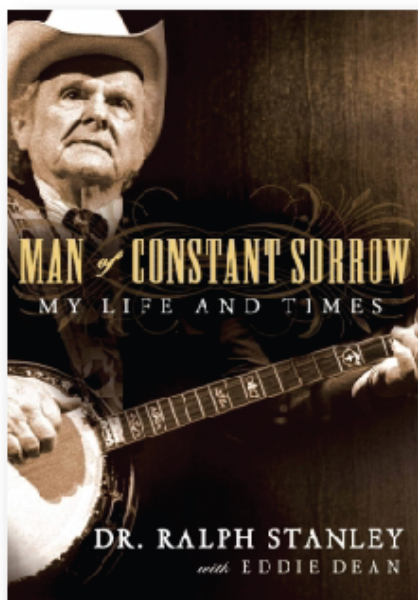
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Man of Constant Sorrow – My Life and Times

by Dr. Ralph Stanley

Reviewed by: Kate McMahon

Imagine you are sitting around a campfire at a bluegrass campout and some old timer is telling stories about the early days of bluegrass. That is what it's like to read the new autobiography by Ralph Stanley. My niece gave me the book for Christmas and I started reading it on the train ride back home and couldn't put it down.

As a female banjo picker, I was interested to find out that it was Ralph's mother who taught him how to play the banjo. He said there were quite a few women who played the banjo in the Clinch Mountains during the depression. She taught him clawhammer style and eventually he developed his own unique way of playing. His banjo picking even helped him advance in the military. He got promoted from private to mail clerk so the unit's Captain and Colonel could listen to his banjo playing.

After returning from his stint overseas, he formed the Stanley Brothers band with his older brother Carter. They started by playing gospel and old-time traditional songs that had been passed down from generation to generation. Carter was the song writer and started composing the occasional original song. After the group got in trouble covering Bill Monroe and Flatt & Scruggs compositions, however, they were more dedicated to developing their own material. The gospel song, "Let me Walk, Lord by Your Side" was inspired by the Big Sky Country on a road trip through Montana.

The book contains fascinating tidbits about the early music business. The Carter Brothers gained recognition by playing on the radio without getting paid. They didn't receive any royalties for their early recordings. They used the radio and records to build a fan base and made money through live performances and by selling songbooks. They logged a lot of miles traveling to various gigs and it was a grueling schedule.

Eventually they signed with Mercury and were making the best records of their career when an unknown singer named Elvis turned the record business upside down with his rendition of a bluegrass standard, "Blue Moon of Kentucky". Rock and roll was the rage and times were lean but the bluegrass festival circuit in the 1960's and 1970's kept the old-time music alive.

Carter Stanley died in 1966 but Ralph kept going. He resisted the trend to modernize his music and stuck to the traditional sound. In the 1990's he was rediscovered with the chart smashing soundtrack from the movie "O Brother Where Art Thou". He won a Grammy at age 77 for the song "O Death".

Throughout the book, Dr. Stanley explains his philosophy behind the music. It includes recommendations that any picker would be advised to follow. Here is a quote that would apply to many a jam:

"I believe most good pickers have fast fingers maybe, but the best players are the ones with the good ears. Listening's what makes a good musician over one who's just in it to hear themselves and show off."

Dr. Stanley is 82 years old and is still playing with no plans to retire. The stories from those 82 years make some of the best bluegrass reading you will find.



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&
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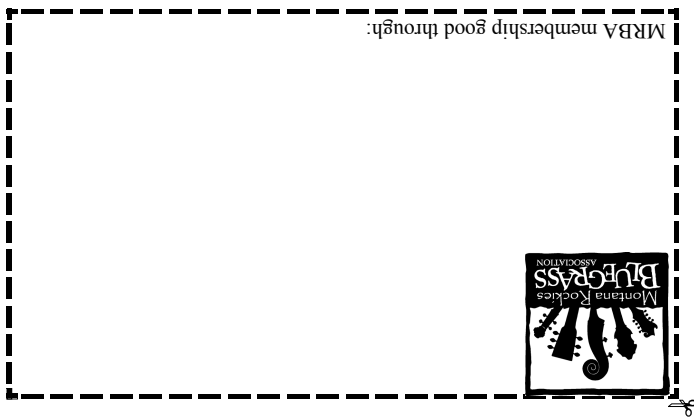
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ATTENTION:

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