

“Bluegrass Clippings”

March—April 2004

“BI-Monthly publication of the “YELLOWSTONE BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION”

President—Mike Rolison
Vice President—Mark Harmila
Sec.-Treas.—Terry Indreland
Board Members—Trent Indreland, Steve Smith, W. James Smith, Stan Moser
Newsletter Editor—Rick Wingerter

YBA Member Survey
The Board is discussing ways to improve the YBA and particularly the Friday night jams. We hope that each of you will take the time to complete and return the enclosed questionnaire.

2004 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE YBA Scrapbook!
Please send any new or old YBA related photos, news clippings and other items to Mike Rolison for inclusion in a YBA scrapbook.

If your group is going to be playing anywhere, please let Rick Wingerter know and he’ll get it in the newsletter. He’s looking for any kind of news related to Bluegrass and Bluegrass Artists.

Grammy Shines on Bluegrass

The spotlight was white hot on bluegrass music on February 8 as the awards were unveiled at the 46th Annual Grammy Awards broadcast.

The night belonged to Alison Krauss + Union Station, reigning IBMA Album of the Year winners, who were recognized in four categories. Union Station received two awards, including Best Bluegrass Album (Vocal or Instrumental) for LIVE (Rounder), recorded at The Louisville Palace in Louisville, KY, as well as Best Country Instrumental Performance for "Cluck Old Hen" from the same album.

The Best Country Album statue went to *Living, Lovin', Losin' - Songs of the Louvin Brothers*, produced by bluegrass stalwart Carl Jackson. The album paid tribute to Ira and Charlie Louvin, the talented brother team that made an indelible mark on country music history with their trademark duet harmonies and song-writing skills. Their powerful influence on bluegrass music also is indisputable, earning the duo an IBMA Distinguished Achievement Award in 1992. This important album showcased 16 songs by the Louvin Brothers and garnered an impressive list of contributing artists with bluegrass connections, including Rhonda Vincent, Alison Krauss, Del McCoury, Dolly Parton, Larry Cordle, Carl Jackson, Sonya Isaacs, Emmylou Harris, Vince Gill, Patty Loveless, Jon Randall, Harley Allen, Dierks Bentley, Jerry Salley, Marty Stuart and more.

American treasure and guitar master, Doc Watson was also the recipient of the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from NARAS. The award was established in 1965, and is presented by the Recording Academy's National Trustees to performers who, during their lifetimes, have made creative contributions of outstanding artistic significance to the field of recording.

From The President, Mike Rolison

Why I Belong

When I first joined the Yellowstone Bluegrass Association back in 1996, I knew nothing about bluegrass music. I had no previous background history with this style of music, nor was I inclined to devote a lot of time into the learning and mastering of it's music and techniques. My total musical repertoire at the time was folk music and contemporary Christian gospel. My ability level in playing guitar was confined exclusively to strumming chords, and I was afraid to sing or play with any amount of volume, for fear of embarrassing myself in front of others.

So, why did I join the Yellowstone Bluegrass Association and continue to stick with it? Because it looked like it could be a lot of "FUN!!"

Rather than sitting at home in my little office, playing guitar for myself, I could be jamming with friends and developing my skills on my instrument. Note; It has been my experience that jamming with others has done more to help in developing my musical abilities than any other single effort, especially when jamming with someone beyond my personal ability level, and what's more, it's fun.

What did I find the Yellowstone Bluegrass Association? At first I found it to be a little threatening to jam with others whom I knew to be more musically proficient than myself, especially when I knew next to nothing about bluegrass music. But, what I found out was not only was I accepted by the group for where I was in my musical journey, I was encouraged by the time and attention afforded me. So, I stuck with it and little by little, I developed a talent and appreciation for bluegrass music, and doing it was "Great Fun! ! !"

I have also found the Yellowstone Bluegrass Association to be a very family oriented organization and have developed many life-long friendships with fellow members who are "Great Fun" to be with.

There are many other reasons I could list explaining why I belong to the Yellowstone Bluegrass Association, but suffice it to say, more than anything else, "It's Flat-Out Fun!!!"

Mike Rolison: A Fun Loving Guy

Smokey River Boys Recent News

The legendary Smokey River Boys, on MCA Universal for three generations have been nominated to the "Legends Hall Of Fame" in Branson, Missouri as announced by Hall Of Fame curators in Branson. The legendary group celebrates their 40th anniversary on the label in the year of 2003. The current album out in stores, sponsored by Wal-Mart stores everywhere is entitled, "O Brother." It is the #17 album in the Billboard Bluegrass charts and the #1 album in the Euro-bluegrass charts this week worldwide.

Year end, the Smokey River Boys have two albums in Top-40 Billboard bluegrass charts and have been in Top-40 Billboard for the past 12 weeks.

The Smokey River Boys are the proud sponsors of the Grand Ole Opry warm up show every Friday night from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. "live" from the stage of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville on WSM 650 AM Radio with host Hairl Hensley. You can get further information on the group by going to www.smokeyriverboys.com or by calling 800-767-4984 (toll free).

Hansen Music **1819 Grand Avenue**

Stop in and see the field of guitars waiting to be harvested by bluegrass musicians. Also in stock, things to chase away winter blues—(and most sane people)—banjos, Mandolins, harmonicas, and even cool picks!

Check out the new web site for the store:

<http://www.hansenmusic.net/>

Prairie Winds Café

**A little bluegrass with your eggs
Bacon and hot coffee**

**Every Saturday morning
From 9am 'til Noon**

Capo Chord Converter

Open	Capo Fret 1	Capo Fret 2	Capo Fret 3	Capo Fret 4	Capo Fret 5	Capo Fret 6	Capo Fret 7
A	Bb	B	C	C#	D	Eb	E
B	C	C#	D	Eb	E	F	F#
C	C#	D	Eb	E	F	F#	G
D	Eb	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	Bb	B
F	F#	G	G#	A	Bb	B	C
G	G#	A	Bb	B	C	C#	D

DOES YOUR GUITAR HAVE A BUZZ?

There are many things that can cause buzzing and you can't always clearly tell where it's coming from

1. Check tuner hardware and truss rod cover plate if there is one. Slightly tighten the top nuts of the tuners and all screws.
2. Make sure your strings are installed correctly. Make sure the ball ends of the strings are pulled up tightly against the bridge and the excess string on the tuner end is trimmed off. Leave about 1/8".
3. Make sure your truss rod is not loose. Don't adjust it but make sure it's snugged up a little. Rap on the back of the neck. If it still rattles, take it to a repairman. They know how to inject stuff into the neck to fix it.
4. There's even a possibility that the pick guard could cause buzzing. Make sure it's secure and not lifting up.

More serious problems...

1. Cracks in the body.
2. Loose inside braces.
3. Loose bridge plate.
4. Loose top or back.
5. A split in a laminated body part, especially the top under the bridge.
6. Any electronics installed? Good luck, you may never find it.

These more serious problems should be repaired by a competent repairman.

Artist Spotlight

RICK WINGERTER (Carpenter, Songwriter, & Webmaster)

Rick isn't exactly a household name (except around his house) but he's getting better known around some music circles. He started writing country music in the early 80's. At first he couldn't believe all those publishers and artists passing up all those hit songs he was writing. Then Rick was fortunate enough to hook-up with some seasoned writers like John Covert of Jackson, CA, Ann Leisten of Chicago, IL and Jim Cox of Muncie, IN. He credits those three for teaching him how to write a better song, and looking back, is kind of embarrassed about the songs he'd sent out earlier in his career. With a lot of help from his friends he started to get some songs cut and even a couple songs that hit the national charts in Cashbox and Billboard Magazine.

In the mid 80's life took a different turn for Rick. One day there was a knock at the door of Rick's heart, when he opened it Jesus Christ came into his life. From that day forward the country music took on a whole new message and a whole new meaning for Rick (and anyone that ever knew him).

Rick has had between fifty and sixty songs, Country, Bluegrass and Country Gospel recorded by various artists and groups from all over the United States and Canada, even a few old 45's. His song "Smile If You Love Jesus" co-written with his friend John Covert and recorded by another friend W.C. Taylor Jr. went to # 1 in the Country Gospel Music Guilds top 80 charts for February 1999, in the U.S. Gospel News Magazine, and "Preach The Cross" by the Marksmen and 2 other # 1 songs and several in the top 50 since then. Rick says it's been a long ole road but enjoyable and well worth it, especially Spiritually with all his new friends and getting the Word of God out to the radio fans. He would like to say thank you to folks like W.C. Taylor, Scott Brown, The Marksmen, Ernie Ashworth, The McGregorys and David Johnson for recording his songs. He has release a couple of songs as an artist lately and has had some success with them in radio air-play and in the charts. He said he's looking for that next hit any day now. Rick and his wife Lora, own Lora Lea Records and Wingerter Music Publ. Co. BMI. He also enjoys working at his carpenter job and also makes a lot of web pages for different people in the music business. You can see some of his handi-work on his web site at: www.wingnut.net/graphics.htm If your looking for a great song to record (Country, Bluegrass or Country Gospel) or you need some web pages built with some exposure, give Rick a call at (406) 259-1291 or you can write him at: Rick Wingerter 416 Hillview Lane, Billings, Montana 59101 or email him at, rwingerter@montana.net.

Rick's song "Noah" recorded by the Jeff Treece Band is # 1 for March 2004, in the US Gospel News magazine's top 80 Country Gospel Charts.

Send your story to Rick Wingerter and we'll try to get it into the newsletter.

What's With The Band Name?

Due to an inordinate amount of interest in the name of this band, we've decided to keep this post a permanent fixture on the news page. Up until the year 2000, the band was called "Deep River" but in order to prevent further legal difficulties we'd suddenly encountered, we had to change the name of the band. Having about 48 hours to agree on a new name and after much deliberation, we decided on "Kane's River." Many people have asked us how in the world we came up with that name so allow us to explain... Wanting to keep something of the old name, we kept the "River" part. "Kane" is the first name of a somewhat eccentric mountain man who lives in the Bozeman area. His name is Kane Fisher, we thought it was a cool name and therefore, ripped it off. Hence, the band is and will forever be known as...Kane's River.

3rd Annual Whoop n' Holler St. Regis, Montana, MT

Sat, May 29, 2004 through Sun, May 30, 2004

Bluegrass Festival Memorial Day Weekend in beautiful western Montana. Also, the largest flea market in Montana will be taking place in the city park. Two RV parks in area, four motels, and four restaurants. Bands have yet to be decided. At least four professional bands from Washington, Idaho and Montana.

For Information, contact: Name Ramblin Bob McCallum
Email: fender@gwest.net Phone 509-466-6777

FUN!!! FUN!!! FUN!!!
Open Jam at the Laurel Pizza Hut
Last Tuesday of every Month 7PM - ?

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOSPEL

12 Bluegrass Gospel songs written and produced by Rick Wingerter

Featuring artists from all over the U.S. and Canada
Including; The Marksmen, The Staffords, Chris Wetch
Russ and Becky Jeffers, DJ Manason and Nick Alberty

CD's \$10.00 each plus \$2.00 S&H

Mail check or money order to:

Rick Wingerter 416 Hillview Lane Billings, MT 59101

www.wingnut.net/loralea/htm

Bluegrass Music & Old--Time Music:

What's the difference? by Wayne Erbsen

Native Ground Music -Historic American Music & Folklore-

<http://www.nativeground.com>

Since the movie *O Brother* came out in 2000, bluegrass music has had a new burst of popularity. This is a strange phenomenon because by its truest definition, there was very little music in the film that could be honestly be called "bluegrass." To try to clear this up, let's back up and explain what bluegrass is and isn't.

Bluegrass music evolved from an earlier type of country music we now call old-time music. As it's commonly played, old-time music is a mostly instrumental string band style with a beat that's designed for square dancing. As such, the music is spirited and upbeat. The main lead instrument in old-time music is the fiddle. The fiddler normally chooses the tunes, sets the rhythm, begins the tune, and signals to the other musicians when the tune will end. Another key ingredient in old-time music is the banjo, which is played in what is called "claw hammer style." This is a rhythmic style with the right hand striking or brushing down on the strings. An old-time band would also feature a guitar player who keeps the rhythm and plays a few runs, but does not play the melody. Additional instruments in an old-time band often include a string bass, which keeps the rhythm and occasionally a mandolin player, who plays chords and also helps keep the rhythm. In old-time style, the instruments generally all play together all the time, with no breaks or solos. The melodies used in old-time music tend toward the traditional tunes brought over from the British Isles by Scots Irish immigrants in the mid to late 19th century. Newly composed tunes are rare in old-time music.

Although bluegrass evolved from old-time music, it is now quite different. In contrast to the happy, danceable sounds of an old-time string band, bluegrass music is often sad music based on themes of hard times. One tongue-in-cheek writer called it "A celebration of pain." Bluegrass music is mainly a vocal style, where the instruments support the voices. The typical bluegrass singer sings at the top of his or her vocal range, and often there are two, three, or four part harmonies. The songs themselves often dwell on themes of loneliness, heartbreak and nostalgia. In contrast to old-time music which is strongly fiddle-influenced, in bluegrass no single instrument dominates. Instead, the banjo, fiddle, mandolin or guitar take turns playing breaks or solos, while the other instruments play back-up. In bluegrass style, the banjo is played with finger picks in a three-finger style as developed by Earl Scruggs, from Boiling Springs, North Carolina. In some ways, bluegrass is akin to jazz or dixieland, because the instruments taking solos or breaks freely improvise off the main melody, while the rest of the band lays down a solid rhythmic foundation. In addition to influences from jazz and dixieland, bluegrass also draws heavily on the blues. This is expressed most often in notes played by the fiddle and sometimes the mandolin and the guitar. Some bluegrass singers also sing an occasional "blue note."

So to put this in a nutshell, old-time music is mainly an upbeat instrumental dance music while bluegrass is a vocal style where the instruments freely improvise. In old-time, the fiddle is boss, and in bluegrass, most often the singer takes the lead.