

# “Bluegrass Clippings”

May—June 2004

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

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## **PRAIRIE WINDS CAFE**

The bands playing on Saturday mornings at the Prairie Winds Café are scheduled to play from 9am-12 noon. It is not a jam session.

## **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.**

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## **ATTENTION**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

For those of you who would like to Jam Fri- I day Night at the Lincoln Center in smaller groups, we now have available to us the small room across from the music room and the room beyond the bathroom.

Both are available to us in addition to the Music Room

## **2003 Survey Shows Rise in Bluegrass Popularity**

The recently released Spring 2003 study by Simmons Market Research notes a continued increase in bluegrass consumers for 2003 with 8 million adults (18 or older) indicating they purchased a bluegrass recorded product in the last 12 months. Since the year 2000, bluegrass music has experienced a 104% increase in consumers and a growth in popularity unprecedented in recent genre history.

## **From The President, Mike Rolison**

### **What A Great Time**

The Meat-Ball dinner at Molt, Sunday afternoon, February 29th, was a huge success. We had somewhere between 55 and 65 folks in attendance. All of our expenses were covered, and we even made a little extra \$\$ to add to our YBA.

For the third year in a row, it snowed the evening before. However, the day of the dinner, the weather was mild and the roads to Molt were clear.

Upon arriving at Molt, the very first thing you noticed as you walked through the door of the community center was the aroma of the meatballs. It literally filled the air in the building. If you were not hungry before you walked in, you were starving once you got your first whiff of that indoor aroma.

The meat-balls, served with massed potatoes, gravy, corn, salad, dinner roll, dessert, and coffee, was not "just good", but "out of this world" excellent! ! !

After our meal, we auctioned some unique items that a few of the members brought. Once again, Larry Larson was our auctioneer. Though there were just a few items, Larry made an event out of it. Lots of laughs and good fun. Larry tried to auction Cherokee's mandolin, but Cherokee, almost fainting, put a stop to it. What a party pooper. Ha Ha!!.

With the auction finished, we got down to some serious jamming. We split up into two groups. One group at one end of the building, and the other group at the other end. We had what you might call dueling bands. One group would do a song while the other one listened and vice versa, back and forth for the balance of the afternoon. We broke up and said our good-by's around 5:00pm.

I would like to thank Mona Downs for her great patience with us on setting up this event; her staff, the ladies of Molt for their supper food and service; Terry Inderland for his indispensable leadership and help in pulling off this event; Larry Larson for his auctioneering abilities and gift of gab; and all of the attending members and their guests. You all made it happen. I'm already looking forward to next year's dinner.

Your Picking Partner,  
Mike Rolison

## **3rd Annual Whoop n' Holler**

St. Regis, Montana, MT Sat, May 29, 2004 Only

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: Ramblin Bob McCallum

Email: [fenderpicker2000@yahoo.com](mailto:fenderpicker2000@yahoo.com) Phone: 509-466-6777

## **Last Chance Bluegrass Festival**

Helena, MT Fri, June 25, 2004 through Sat, June 26, 2004

Website: <http://www.downtownhelena.com>

The 10<sup>th</sup> Last Chance Bluegrass Festival will be held the weeknd of June 25-26,2004 in beautiful and historic Downtown Helena. Enjoy two days of traditional to contemporary bluegrass in the comfortable surroundings of Pioneer-Heritage Park. Headlining this year's festival will be Kane's River along with five other bands. Ticket information, line-up and schedule will be available after January 1st.

For Information, contact: Jim McHugh Email: [jmchugh@mt.net](mailto:jmchugh@mt.net)

Phone 406-447-1535 Alternate Phone 406-447-1533

### *Hansen Music* **1819 Grand Avenue**

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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**

## **Kuddos to.....**

Cold Frosty Morning, YBA's most recently formed band, consisting of Rick Wingerter (Bass Fiddle), Dennis Anderson (Lead Guitar), Dave Webinger (Rhythm Guitar), Peter Michelotte (Mandolin), and their newest addition, Phil Fadley (Fiddle).

On Saturday morning February 28th, I went to the Prairie Winds Cafe in Molt for breakfast and bluegrass, and found as usual, a standing room only crowd enthusiastically applauding their approval of the musical skills and selections of the Cold Frosty Morning Band.

Although this is not their first ever gig, it was their first time at the Prairie Winds Cafe. Their songs were clear and their timing great. Their vocal duties were shared by all but Phil, who let his fiddle do the singing. All done a super job and I didn't even get tired of standing. Thanks guys for a great time.

P.S. They tell me that they would like to add a Banjo player to the mix, but for the life of me, I can't understand why?? Ha Ha!!

Your newest fan and groupie,  
Mike Rolison  
**D**

## **How Often Should You Replace Your Strings?**

**Question:** How often should I replace my strings?

**Answer:** It really does depend on the individual.

The best way to determine when you need to change strings is by examining them...

- a. When they turn dark and start to sound dead,
- b. When they get hard to tune and stay in tune,
- c. If one breaks after a long time, it's usually best to replace the whole set,
- d. If the intonation gets worse,
- e. Make sure you have a fresh set of strings installed before doing any type of adjustments for intonation or playability.

For anyone who notices that your strings wear out prematurely because maybe you have sweaty hands or if you just want your strings to last longer, try washing and drying your hands thoroughly before playing, it will lengthens the life of your strings Also, wipe off your strings when you're done. When you wipe your strings, pinch each string with two fingers while wiping to get off the gunk that builds up under the string as well.

## Artist Spotlight

**It's never to late,  
I started when I was 55!**

I owned an old Grammar guitar that I bought through an add in the paper. I tried and tried to play but just didn't get anywhere. I took a few lessons but they became frustrating. I read in a book that it comes easy or it doesn't. It was defiantly not easy for me. Around 1996 my friend Dave Kelleher asked me to go to the Lincoln Center on Friday evening. He said it was a program for learning guitar, banjo, mandolin, etc. The basics of it was bluegrass music. I showed up that Fri. and really got more confused. I couldn't even change chords, but I kept coming back, sitting in the Back row for about two years. After four months Dave said, I just realized why you're confused, you're watching the players change chords with capos on, you're not using a capo. We had a good laugh and the guitar did start to make sense. With a lot of practice I began to improve.

I became friends with Dennis Anderson and he helped me ton's. We would go over to Glenda Ramsey's house to jam. They would kind of force me to play. Being very shy I just couldn't play in front of people. One Summer night in 2000 they said the holiday Showcase is in Dec. what are you going to play? After a few weeks and a lot of ribbing I finally agreed to do a couple of fiddle tunes with them. That was the worst fear I can ever remember. I got through it thanks to Dennis, Glenda and Bonnie. One night in 2002, Glenda said you're going to sing! Dennis said tonight you're going to sing! Larry Larson said you're going to sing! We are the only ones here, SING! I soaked my shirt, shorts, socks, etc. from sweat, but managed to get through "Ride me down easy" I started singing a little on Fri. a couple months later.

That fall I got together with Dennis, Pete Michelotti and Will Self. Will helped me with my timing, he was very patient and kind. That Dec. we played the Showcase and I sang for the first time in public. I was full of fear but after I got into the first line I was OK and also hooked. I couldn't believe what fun and pleasure it was.

Will was doing a lot of traveling so Rick Wingerter became our Bass player in 2003. We kept the band name, "Cold Frosty Morning" out of respect for Will. We played the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Red Lodge Bluegrass Festival in August, 2003. We had the honor of Mike Blohm playing banjo with us, it was great.

Our band now consists of Dennis Anderson, lead guitar, Pete Michelotti, mandolin, Rick Wingerter, bass, Phil Fadely, fiddle, and myself, rhythm guitar. How lucky I am to have friends to make music with.

How do I learn a song? I listen to the record until I find the key, then I play along with it until I find all the chords. Then I get it on paper and write the chords in using the 1-4-5 system. The numbers work best for me.

I have a Martin HD28V and a Gibson J-30. As far as how many guitars have I bought, traded and sold from Hanson Music, I refuse to discuss it at this time.

I thank all of you "Pickers" for being in my life. God Bless,

Dave Webinger

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## **The Hickory Project**

What started as a routine experiment has turned into a revolutionary project, henceforth Known as The Hickory Project. The band features hard-driving traditional and original bluegrass music with the expert licks of Anthony Hannigan on mandolin, Sue Cunningham on fiddle, David Cavage on banjo, Danny Shipe on guitar, and Steve Belcher on bass.

Veteran musicians Anthony Hannigan and Sue Cunningham founded the Hickory Project four years ago to present new music the two were working on at the time. They enlisted the help of Steve Belcher on bass and the three convinced Dan Shipe and David Cavage, long time friends and former band mates, to round out the band's membership.

Anthony and Sue decided to move to the small North central Pennsylvania town of Wellsboro where Steve and Dan live to bring the band geographically (and musically) together. Since then, the Hickory Project has produced four CD's under their own label, Hickory Productions, LLC. Their most recent CD, Big Darby, was Just released in July 2003 and features a broad range of the band s eclectic mix of original material. Like their CD Polaris before it, Big Darby is a multi-media production that includes a music video.

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**Does your band want to play at the Red Lodge Bluegrass Festival August 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> ?**  
**Please contact w. James Smith or Terry Indreland**  
**For details as early as possible.**  
**Don't be left out and miss all the fun! ! !**

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

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### ***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](http://www.wingnut.net/loralea/htm)**

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## **Hey there Yellowstone Bluegrass type people! Thought I'd send a greeting from the Southland-sure do miss you guys!**

Lonny and I met *up* with the Atnips at a Bluegrass Festival here in Florida, then they came over to our place for a day and we had a great time showing them around and doing some fun things. They had good music at the festival, lots of interesting booths to look at, and a chance that the Atnip family couldn't pass up. Many people have heard of the 'Lewis Family' gospel group -Little Roy is the most well known of the family, mostly for his wild antics on stage -he's crazy! He plays banjo, guitar, mandolin, autoharp, bass, basically anything you give him, but with a wildness not seen often. Jim visited with him about the kids and Little Roy came to their bus for a couple hours and played with the kids. He gave them pointers, told stories, made us laugh, it was a great time. Some of the best was yet to come though when Little Roy agreed to go on stage with the Atnips. It was during the open mic part, so it was late and getting cold out (notice the kids are all in jackets ). They sounded great. Mom Atnip was playing bass as well, but for some reason stayed way over to the far side of the stage, and didn't get in most of my pictures, but Ben, Joseph and Kimberly were front and center.

We haven't got to go to as many festivals as we had hoped, or play as much music as I would like, but we re keeping busy with the kids and granddaughter. There are more festivals happening all the time, so will be trying to get to a few. Mike Dowling will be at a Folk Festival in St. Augustine-just 15 miles from where we're parked, and we do plan to get to that one.

I'm teaching watercolors at a couple Michael Stores and am represented at the Beaches Art Gallery in Jacksonville Beach. Was able to have a one artist show for an Art Walk in downtown Jacksonville last month that went well. Lonny fishes when he can and spends a lot of time "resting".

Hope all is well there, we plan on coming back the end of June and spending the summer and maybe early fall. Will be looking forward to seeing everyone, and getting to play bluegrass. Thanks to everyone that has kept in touch--it's nice to be thought of.

Keep those strings a ringin',  
Glenda Ramsey