

Bluegrass Clippings

Yellowstone Bluegrass Association

Free "Growling Old Men" Poster in This Issue!

If the Christmas season came and went for you this year with slim pickin's in the bluegrass department, fear not! The Yellowstone Bluegrass Association and "Growling Old Men" would like to present the members in good standing and anyone else who can grab a copy of the "Grass Clippings" with a promotional poster suitable for display in your favorite tavern, automotive repair center, or doctor's office.

Created using only slightly dated computer software and printed on paper from the Pacific Northwest, your "Growling Old Men" poster is designed to last at least until the night of the concert.

Bring your "Growling Old Men" poster to the performance and have the dynamic duo of Lowell

and Winship autograph it on the spot. Nothing says real good music by really good musicians like an autographed "Growling Old Men" poster!

Growling Old Men

Cisel Hall MSU Billings

February 18, 2006

Lowell and Winship: Musicians in Demand

It is no surprise to the fans of the "Growling Old Men" that John Lowell and Ben Winship have other musical projects than just "Growling Old Men". Once you've heard them pick, you'll want them to play in your group but, both of them are already members, for example, of the group "Kane's River". If you have not heard, or at least "heard of", Kane's River, I can only say ...YOU SHOULD KEEP YOURSELF BETTER INFORMED!

A Tale of 2 M's: Meatballs & Molt

Once again the time is nearing when the giant meatballs and pickin' invade the Molt Hall to raise some money for the Yellowstone Bluegrass Association. This year's event will happen on February 26, 2006 at 2:00 pm. Unlike most things in modern times, the cost of the meal

remains as it was last year. Members eat for \$10.00, non-members for \$12.00, all children for \$5.00. **Please call any Board member by 2/20/2006 to reserve your places at the dinner.**

The auction will follow dinner. Proceeds from the auction will go to benefit the Yellowstone Blue-

grass Association. In past years, crafts and artwork have been donated and have brought the most cash to our humble organization. CDs are big money makers also. Items to auction are important, but folks to bid on them are even more important. **What's in your wallet?**

Yellowstone
Bluegrass Association
January/February
2006

Membership Dues

are now being accepted. You must be a paid member for 2006 to receive discounts at upcoming events.

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"biggest meatballs I've ever seen! Could I take the leftovers home for my lunch tomorrow? They are just great." Bluegrass Clippings

Message from the Prez

Greetings and Happy New Year to all. Well, 2005 in now history, and what an interesting year it has been. Our 3rd Annual Bluegrass Festival, held in Red Lodge last August was once again a financial success. However, for these past three years, most of the attendees at the festival have been people from the Billings & surrounding area traveling to Red Lodge, and not the Red Lodge folks. We took notice of this the first festival, but felt that we would gain the support of the Red Lodge community in following years. But to date, this has not proven to be the case. As a consequence, at our last board meeting in December, the board voted unanimously to withdraw the festival site from Red Lodge, and seek out a more productive festival venue. We are presently talking to the folks at Zoo Montana and they are quite excited about the prospects of hosting our 4th Annual Bluegrass Festival. We would welcome your input, and are looking forward to an even greater festival this year.

Also in 2005, we've had a number of top flight professional bands to fill our pallets at Cisel Hall at MSU-B. In December, we sent each of you a CD with a sampling of the bands that played Cisel this year. If you have not listened to this CD yet, you need to. I have had a number of people tell me that this is now their favorite CD.

For Cisel 2006, Trent has already lined up "Growling Old Men", Feb 18th; "Hit and Run", March 28th; "Anne & Pete Sibley", May 20th; and tentatively, "Packway Handle" the week of Feb. 20th. Great job Trent.

The CD Addict

Thirty Years and Counting by Mike and Terri Conroy

Great sounds are coming from the pine covered mountains of western Montana. This disc is all the proof one needs of that.

"Thirty Years and Counting" is full of wonderful vocal harmony, rock solid rhythm, and hot picking. It is hard to believe, when one listens to this CD, that there are only two people playing and singing.

Tari plays a Martin D-42 guitar. Mike plays

We changed our Friday night "after the Lincoln jam" from once a month at Pizza Hut on Grand Ave. to every Friday night, and we no longer jam at Hardie's. This arrangement seems to be working quite well.

I would like to thank the 2005 YBA Board for their efforts in making 2005 the success that it was. Kudos to Rolland Berry, Mark Harmala, Terry Indreland, Trent Indreland, Jim Smith, and Stan Moser.

I also want to welcome to the 2006 YBA Board, Chuck Bishop and Barry Gum. Looking forward to another GREAT YBA year in 2006.

**Beginner at Guitar Refretting
\$400 Investment in Equipment**

Prices Negotiable

Dave Eberts

(406) 252-4717

"We would welcome your input, and are looking forward to an even greater festival this year."

President, Mike Rolison

Organization VIPs & Contacts

President
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Mike Rolison
608 Date Ave
Laurel, MT 59044

Vice-President
(248-3645)

Chuck Bishop
592 Constitution
Billings, MT 59105

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Terry Indreland
2811 Gregory Drive S
Billings, MT 59102

Board

Trent Indreland
Stan Moser
Chuck Bishop
Barry Gum

mandolins by Monteleone and Collings (vintages of the instruments are not given in the liner notes).

My favorite piece on this CD is a version of a tune I remember from an old Red Foley record called "This Old House".

If you want to treat yourself to some of Montana's best bluegrass on CD, contact the Conroys on the web at: Tariconroy@webtv.net.

One Shoe Left by Ben Winship

This is a solo project by one of the members of "Growling Old Men" and "Kane's River". If you are a fan of those bands, you might be surprised at how different this project is. Sure, it has a banjo, mandolin, and fiddle, but "One Shoe Left" (in my humble opinion) isn't really THAT kind of music.

Listen to "Only the River Knows" first.

Get a copy at: Snake River Records, PO Box 215, Victor, ID 83455

Prairie Winds Café, Molt

Southbound 1/7
 Spur of the Moment 1/14
 Lonesome Dogs 1/21
 Ferches 1/28
 Spur of the Moment 2/4
 Cash and Friends 2/11
 Snowcreek 2/18
 Rambling Laurels 2/25

Yellowstone Bluegrass Festival

The YBA will be sponsoring the Yellowstone Bluegrass Festival on the weekend of August 5, 2006. We are awaiting approval from the ZooMontana Board to allow us to hold it at the Zoo.

If your band is interested in appearing at the festival, please contact any YBA Board member. Also, please consider volunteering to help with organizing the Festival.

This is a very exiting opportunity for the YBA, ZooMontana and anyone interested in bluegrass and old time music. In the absence of the Fiddlers Picnic at Livingston this year, we hope that everyone will join us at the Zoo.

Pete Michelotti: An Interview by Dave Webinger

I remember when Pete first came to the Lincoln Center. He sat in the back, like all of us beginners, trying to figure out the chords and struggling to **keep** up with the group. Today, he is a great musician and good friend.

DW: Pete, how long have you been playing the mandolin?

PM: I've been playing about 7 years. It didn't come easy for me. I took weekly lessons from Ed Pierson for about 2 years, and Will Self spent a lot of time helping me. I practice at least an hour every day. My favorite tunes to practice are fiddle tunes, jigs and reels. The hardest thing to learn was the four finger chop chords. It took many hours as well as many days. The hardest thing I practice now is picking technique.

DW: Do you read music?

PM: I read mostly tablature. I need to hear the tune on a CD and then I can figure it out.

DW: Tell me about your mandolins.

PM: My first mandolin was an unknown my daughter, Danielle gave me. I picked up a 1929 Martin which I played for a few years.

DW: How did you get your Weber?

PM: Ed Pierson, Ralph Murphrey, and I went to the factory in Belgrade, Montana, took a tour and I decided to order their mandolin called the

"Yellowstone". It has basic inlays, a lacquer finish and gold tuners. It took about two months to finish. I use GHS medium strings.

DW: Do you like to sing?

PM: Yes I do, but I don't think I have a great voice. I have a strong voice though, so it is best not to get to close to the mike.

DW: What bands do you belong

PM: "Cold Frosty Morning", "Old Time Lonesome Dogs", and the "Billings Ceildh Fiddlers". When I play with the last group, I play Bodhran (Irish drum).

DW: Pete, thank you for this interview.

I have played a lot of music with Pete. When he gets into the Blues or a Tremelo, it puts a grin on my face.

By Dave Webinger

"I practice at least an hour every day". -Pete Michelotti

HELP! We need graphics and photos!

I would like to have more images, ie photos and music related graphics in future publications. If any members of the YBA has photos or graphics, I have access to a scanner and could, in theory, put them on a disc. -Ed

P.S. Watch for future adds like this one looking for help using a scanner!

Jam in Laurel

Every Tuesday - River of Life Church...7pm

Last Tuesday of the Month - Laurel Pizza Hut

Yellowstone Bluegrass Association

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Mark Your Calendars

| | |
|------------|--|
| Feb. 18th | Growling Old Men-Cisel |
| Feb. 25th? | Packway Handle-Cisel? |
| Mar. 28th | Hit & Run-Cisel |
| April 6th | YBA Spring Showcase |
| May 20th | Anne & Pete Sibley-Cisel |
| Aug 5th | Yellowstone Bluegrass Festival-- ZooMontana? |
| Oct. 27th | YBA Fall Showcase |

Check us out on the web at:
www.yellowstonebluegrass.org

Membership Application

Yellowstone Bluegrass Association
P.O. Box 23143 - Billings, MT 59104

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Check One: Individual (\$15.00) _____

Family (\$25.00) _____

Instruments played _____

Dates of Interest for Calendar _____

Ricky Skaggs by Pete Michelotti

Of all the bluegrass music I've listened to the past eight years (I'm fairly new to this genre) my favorite group is Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder. I've had the privilege of hearing them in person, twice, once at MSU B in 1998 and a few years later at Big Sky. The reason I now play the mandolin is because of hearing Ricky play in 1998. That night I fell in love with the music and the mandolin. I was able to obtain his autograph the second time I saw him perform. He was a true gentleman as he signed CDs and graciously visited with fans.

Ricky was born in Cordell, Kentucky on July 18th, 1954. He learned to play the mandolin at age 5. By the time he was 7, he had performed with Bill Monroe and Flatt & Scruggs. When he was 15, he and Keith Whitely were part of the Clinch Mountain Boys, playing with Ralph

Stanley. From 1971 to 1973, he played fiddle for the Country Gentlemen. In 1974, he played fiddle and mandolin for J.D. Crowe and The New South. In 1975, he formed his own band called, Boone Creek. In 1978, he left Boone Creek to join EmmyLou Harris, singing background vocals and playing fiddle, mandolin, and guitar. The "Sweet Temptations" album launched his career in country music where he won CMA Male Vocalist and Entertainer of the Year awards. In 1996, he made a deathbed promise to Bill Monroe. "I promise you that I will play this music (bluegrass) as long as I live. Don't worry about it. It is in good hands."

Ricky has been true to his promise. In the ten years since he made that promise to Mr. Monroe, Ricky and Kentucky Thunder have taken bluegrass music to new heights of popu-

larity. More and more people are falling in love with bluegrass music, as I did, because of Ricky Skaggs. I had the opportunity to express my gratitude to Ricky and what he has meant to me personally, when I told him, "Ricky, you're my Bill Monroe."

