

Comin' Down the Road

Important dates for MABA members

May 6th and 7th

Pickin' Picnic Bluegrass Festival
BPACC

May 7th

*Rhonda Vincent and The Rage
Festival Finale*
BPACC

June 11th

Apple, Kirby, and Rounds
BPACC

July 10th, 2 pm

The Lewis Family
BPACC

August 6th

Claire Lynch
BPACC

September 24th

Blue Highway
BPACC

November 5th

Karl Shiflett and Big Country
BPACC

December 3rd

The Chapmans
BPACC

The Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center

*With The Lucy Opry
Present*

The Bartlett Pickin' Picnic Bluegrass Festival



*Friday, May 6 2005 – 6-10 pm
and Saturday, May 7 – 11 am-5 pm*

Also Hosted by: the Memphis Area Bluegrass Association and The Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce. Festival Sponsored by: Trustmark National Bank, Sam's Club of Bartlett, Saturn of Memphis, Rose Integrated Services, and PAX50 WPXX-TV Memphis.

The third annual two-day spring festival celebrates the great traditions of bluegrass and pays tribute to the musical heritage of our own Lucy Opry. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for the FREE OUT-DOOR performances by regional bands before moving indoors for the ticketed grand finale featuring International Bluegrass Music Association's (IBMA) Entertainer of the Year, Rhonda Vincent and The Rage, Saturday, May 7 2005 8:00 pm. The grand finale performer of our Pickin' Picnic Bluegrass Festival was named IBMA's Entertainer of the Year in 2001 and Female Vocalist of the Year four years running. With her golden soprano voice and smokin' mandolin, Vincent is fast becoming "the"

international bluegrass ambassador of the new millennium. \$15 admission to the grand finale - Box Office 901-385-6440.

Festival Schedule: Friday, May 6, 2005 (6-10 pm)

Tennessee Boltsmokers	6:15 - 7:15 pm
2 Mule Plow	7:30 - 8:30 pm
Roland White Band	8:45-10:00 pm

Festival Schedule: Saturday, May 7, 2005 (11 am - 5 pm)

Loosahatchie Grass	11:00 - 11:45 am
Metro Grass	11:50 am - 12:30 pm
Grassfire	12:40 - 1:20 pm
Gone South	1:30 - 2:15 pm
Cypress Creek	2:20 - 3:00 pm
Memphis All Stars	3:10 - 4:00 pm
Hard Drive	4:10 - 5:00 pm

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MEMBER PROFILE:

Pat Farrar - Bluegrass Vet

By Mark Winborn

This month I'm profiling Pat Farrar. She is actually a veterinarian who plays bluegrass. Pat is originally from Salem, Missouri where everybody is related to everyone else. In fact, Pat is distant cousins with the Dillardards who also hail from that area. Pat currently splits her time between Memphis where she has a cat, a dog, and two birds, and Columbia, Missouri where she lives on a farm with horses (this whole animal thing is quite a

theme in Pat's life). Pat is employed by the University of Tennessee where she oversees the care of all of the animals used in the various research programs at UT. When in Missouri she is on the board of a therapeutic riding center and also makes small animal veterinary house-calls. In addition, to her fondness for animals, Pat also enjoys time spending with her two children and three grandchildren who reside in Columbia as well.

Pat has been playing the

Dobro for about 1 ? years now. She first heard about MABA while listening to the Shelby County Farm and Poultry Show. Pat has always enjoyed the sound of slide guitar so she figured Dobro would be pretty darn close. Without missing a beat, she bought a Dobro and started showing up at the LOL jam as well as Yarbroughs. Cliff Albright showed her some of the basic chords and she took off from there. In early January 2005 she was invited to join the Wolf River Travelers, stepping onstage with them for the first time at the Gary Williams Dinner, just weeks after beginning with the group. When she is in Missouri she performs in a folk duet with her boyfriend, who plays guitar, doing all original music. Just 6 months after Pat took up the Dobro, they had one of their songs aired on several radio stations in the area. They also perform at a variety of open mic nights around Memphis when he's in town visiting.

Now just because Pat is a vet, that doesn't mean you can show up at the jam with your three legged dog and ask Pat for an opinion. She needs to concentrate on getting all those Jerry Douglas licks down so she can make the Wolf River Travelers sound good.



Apple, Kirby & Rounds, a fine trio of bluegrass musicians, will be performing at the Lucy Opry on Saturday June 11th. Apple, Kirby & Rounds (AKR) features the talents of Brad Apple, Pam Kirby, and Gary Rounds. They've been performing together since the spring of 2000, and always receive great reviews for their distinctive vocals and strong instrumental abilities wherever they play. At the Lucy Opry they will be accompanied by Brandon Apple, Brad's brother, on fiddle, and Doug Deforest on bass. While many of the readers may not have heard of Apple, Kirby & Rounds until now, most MABA members have witnessed and been very impressed by the talents both Brad and Brandon have displayed at various MABA functions, including the Memphis All-Stars performance at RiverFest.



In Apple, Kirby & Rounds,

Brad Apple plays guitar and mandolin and sings lead and harmony vocals. Brad has been involved with music his whole life in some form or fashion. He performed for many years with his father and brother in their family band. He also loves songwriting and his songs have been recorded by Aldridge, Bennett, and Gaudreau, Richard Bennett, and Michelle Nixon and Drive. His music has also been featured by the A&E Network Television in their *Biography* series. Aside from his other music interests, Brad has always been interested in the recording process, and has amassed some of the most current state of the art equipment at his own Acoustic Spectrum Studio (acousticspectrum.com) in Batesville, Arkansas where the Apple, Kirby & Rounds CD was recorded. In addition to the 2004 Apple, Kirby & Rounds release, Brad has also recorded a solo project called *Mandolin Fiesta*, which includes the mandolin and vocal talents of Larry Rice, brother of Tony Rice. Recently, Brad has also been offering guitar lessons in Memphis.

Pam Kirby sings and plays dulcimer for the band. Pam has one of the prettiest voices in the business. She has also been involved with music since her early childhood and has performed around the Mountain View area and nationally for many years. In the early to mid 1990s Pam was a member of the popular nationally syndicated radio program called *At Home In The Country* where she was a featured performer along with Gary Rounds, James Cornwell, Tim and Dennis Crouch, and Johnny Gimble among others. Pam's talents are very much in demand not only



with the groups she performs with, but also in the recording studio where she adds her voice to many projects.

Gary Rounds sings and plays guitar. He is one of the finest male vocalists around. He began playing the guitar at the age of nine and was determined to make his mark in music. He did just that, and in 1983 he won the Arkansas State Guitar championship. Gary was also a member of the *At Home In the Country* radio program where his many fans tuned in to hear him each week. Whether singing a traditional standard or James Taylor song, he has the ability to make a tune his own.

AKR's first self-titled CD has met with a lot of critical acclaim from their fans and fellow musicians alike. Just read what bluegrass recording artist Kathy Chiavola has to say about Apple, Kirby & Rounds: "I have loved Gary Rounds and Pam Kirby's voices ever since I first heard them years ago while working on a radio show together called *At Home In The Country*. I loved their song selection and noticed they made everything they sang their own. The addition of Brad Apple's gorgeous harmony, mandolin and guitar work is the glue that binds the sound. This band not

only mesmerizes you with the vocals, but burns it up on the Big Mon. That's what I'm talkin' about! They come from where the music begins; the heart and soul. They are as natural sounding and as accomplished as any band you'll hear anywhere. It's time you heard them." Another reviewer, Joe Ross, said: "This is one engaging project that gives us a kaleidoscope of beautiful acoustic music."

Come out to the Lucy Opry on June 11th and support this talented band that has a direct MABA connection. If you'd like to hear a little of their sound before heading out to the Lucy, you can listen to five selections from the Apple, Kirby & Rounds CD on the acousticspectrum.com website. The band is beginning work on their next studio release which will include more original material composed by all three band members. Apple, Kirby & Rounds are available for bookings. You may contact them by emailing akr@acousticspectrum.com or calling Brad Apple at (870) 612-0249.

In addition to the Lucy Opry performance date, Brad will also be performing again with the Memphis All-Stars at the Bartlett Pickin' Picnic Bluegrass Festival on Saturday, May 7th.

MABA – Live and Pickin’

By Mike Albert

MABA is planning on producing its second live recording, so put on a new set of strings and get ready! The recording will take place on Saturday, July 23rd in the old sanctuary (now called The Chapel) at Bartlett United Methodist Church. The old sanctuary is at the corner of Stage Road and Shelby Street in Bartlett. The first group will start at 10am and we’ll go until we’re finished. Will Mays has once again volunteered his time, talent and equipment to record and engineer this session.

The guidelines for this recording session will be the same as the last one. Everyone who participates must be a MABA member. If you’re in a band and not everyone’s a MABA member either encourage the non-member(s) to join, or recruit someone for this recording. If you’re not in a band, put together a group of your picking friends and work up some songs. Each group will perform three songs, and the songs must either be original or public domain. There are plenty of public domain songs in bluegrass music. Just look at your CD’s or songbooks for the ones that say “traditional” instead

of crediting a songwriter. If you’ve got your own original material, that’s even better. One song from each group will be chosen by the recording/engineering committee to be included on the CD.

We’re not billing this as a “Recording Concert” like we did last time because we don’t want to focus as much on the “concert” aspect of the event. We’re making a recording and if a group wants

to stop a song and start it over again, that’s okay (within reason, of course...we don’t want to be there all day!) However, we want an audience and certainly encourage everyone to attend. There will be no admission fee. You’ll be able to pre-purchase CD’s that will be produced of the recording at a discounted price at this session. All proceeds from this CD will go to benefit MABA.



Last time, we had eighteen groups performing and we’ll probably have to hold it to that same number again this time. We’ve got more people involved in MABA now than we did then so if you want to participate let me know as soon as possible. The slots will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Time slots will

be chosen at random and announced as soon as we’ve filled all of the slots to give everyone as much time as possible to make plans. We’ll need volunteers to help out all day, so please let me know if you can help. You can contact me at malbert@bellsouth.net or (901) 382-2171.

Bluegrassitus



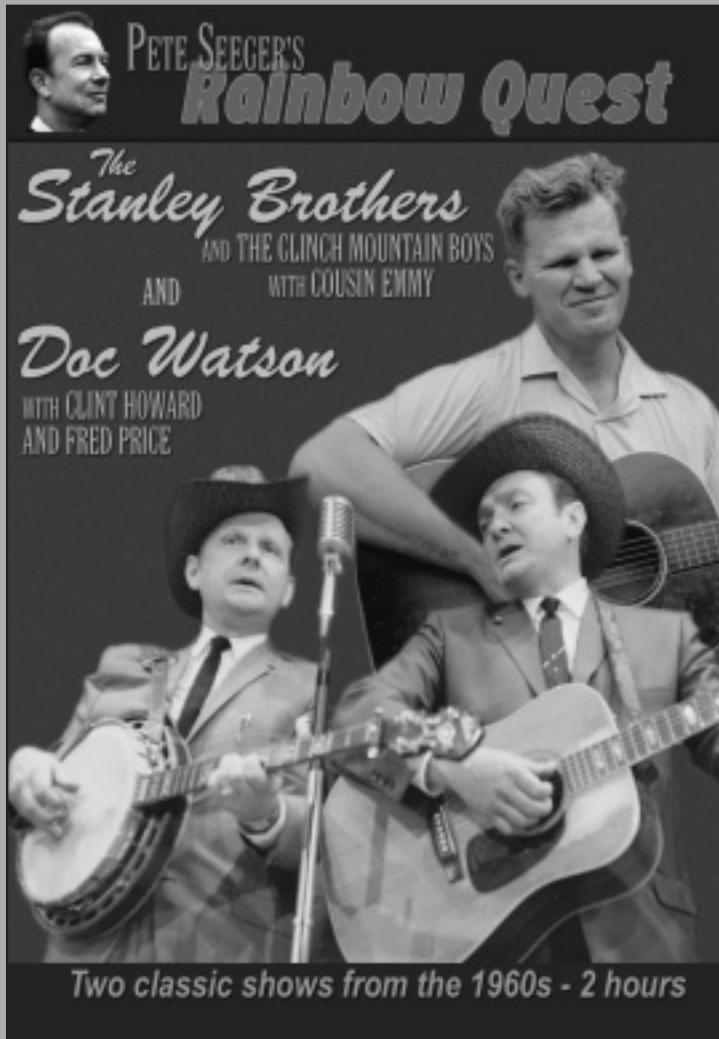
By Brad Robb

The things one can see, hear and experience in general when subjected to the hospitality (and I use that word sarcastically) offered by commercial airlines, provides never ending fodder for my columns that surely makes some readers glad they don’t ever have to fly commercially. After a while, airports turn into nameless buildings where the most important thing is your gate of departure. If you’ve been infected with “bluegrassitus”, (not officially found in any medical dictionary or recognized by the American Medical Association), you understand that once you contract this anomaly, you seem to find, see, hear and interpret anything that is related to, sounds like, or resembles bluegrass...as interesting. I always see someone carrying a guitar through whatever airport I’m in and I wonder...”Can that case actually be

squeezed into an airliner’s overhead storage compartment?” A few days after the Presidential inauguration, I visited our nation’s capital. When I got there, a girl was carrying a small, soft-shell case that looked like a mandolin. I inquired...but it was a ukulele - (yes, I had to look up that word I’m not ashamed to say). While driving into the city, I noticed all the portable grandstands still lining the Presidential parade route. I thought about the throng of people it took to fill them and how great it would be to have a bluegrass festival and see crowds of that size show up.

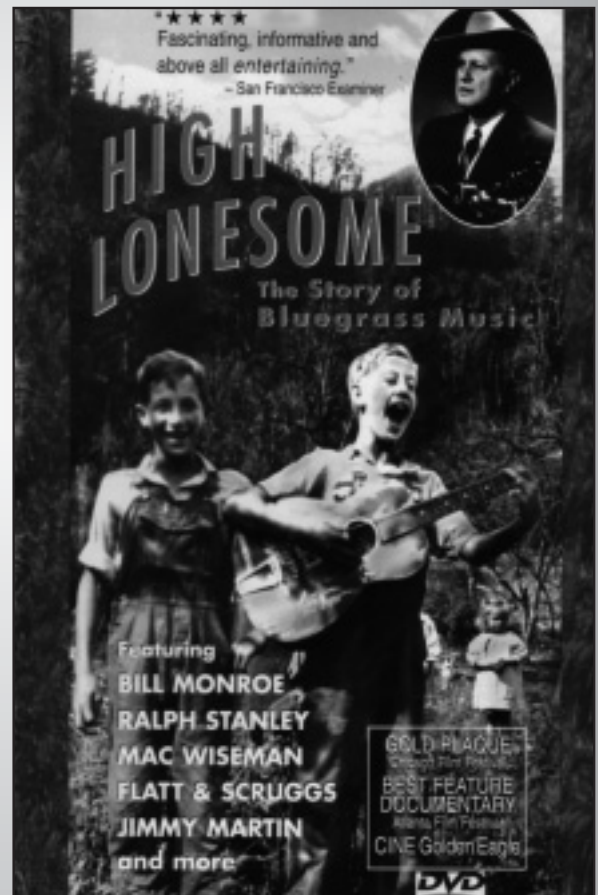
The Thursday before I left, the Weather Channel warned of an approaching cold front that would surely shut down the Atlanta-Hartsfield airport. Thinking I was a savvy traveler, I changed my return home route from via Atlanta, to via Cincinnati. I thought I had “done good” – NOT! When we landed in Ohio, (the airport is actually in Kentucky which peaked my geographical interest immeasurably), the snow was coming down as fast as the Orange Blossom Special being played at

See Homesick, page 7



The Stanley Bros and Doc Watson

This rare and wonderful footage captures the illustrious Stanley Brothers, widely considered to be among the founding fathers of bluegrass, performing together in the mid-60's shortly before the untimely passing of Carter Stanley.



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RANDOM NOTES

Banjo and Mandolin Workshop at Spring Festival: As of this writing, there are still a few slots available for the Roland White Mandolin Workshop at the Bartlett Pickin' Picnic on **Saturday, May 7, 2005**. Roland White (formerly of the Kentucky Colonels and the Nashville Bluegrass Band) is a veteran performer and teacher in the bluegrass world. Richard Bailey (banjo player for The Roland White Band), also an accomplished musician, will conduct a banjo workshop. More participants are needed for the banjo workshop. Cost is \$40 per person with a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 15 per class. Pre-registration is required. For those of you that are interested, please contact Beth or Will Mays at wmays2@bellsouth.net or call them at 901-867-3876.

A Bass Workshop will be conducted by Steve Craig at the regular Saturday pickin' at Lord of Life on **Saturday, May 14**. It will be for the beginning bass players and any other pickers that may be considering adding the bass to their list of instruments to play. Steve Craig is an experienced bass player that plays bass for the Loosahatchie Grass and Ghost River. He will cover all the basic information a beginning bass player needs to know to begin playing in jam sessions and then on to being in a band. Everyone is welcome.

Advanced Guitar Workshop: A workshop for Advanced Guitar held by new MABA member Kevin Thompson. Kevin is probably one of the best guitarists in the Tony Rice tradition of playing lead and rhythm that has been in and around Memphis. He is also an excellent vocalist and along with his wife Donna, a good upright bass player, can be found at various jam sessions in and around Memphis. The workshop will be held at the home of Don and Faith Peters, 484 Dove Valley, Collierville, TN 38017. The date is currently scheduled for **Thursday, June 23** at 7:00 pm. Please sign up at the merchandise table at the LOL on Saturdays so we will know how many to expect.

Millington Monday Night Pickin': Beginning Friday, May 13, 2005 the Monday night pickin at the flying club will move to Friday nights. Until then, (Friday, May 13, 2005) we will continue to pick on Monday nights.

Hernando Pickin: Roy Madders called to extend an invitation to all MABA members to come down and pick in Hernando, MS on Thursday nights from 7pm - 10pm. This jam has been going on for eight years. They pick at the Hernando Museum and the adjacent Old Log House which are just West of the railroad on Commerce Street. In addition to the regular pickin, There will be a **Bluegrass Pickin on the Green Grass Festival** on Friday May 20th and

Saturday May 21st. It will start at 6pm on Friday and 10am on Saturday - going until everyone decides to leave. The event will take place at the Old Courthouse. It will all be open pickin.

Brandon Apple Update: For those of you who don't know, MABA fiddler Brandon Apple is now part of country superstar Clint Black's touring band as of the latter part of 2004. Brandon played with Clint Black at the pre-race ceremony for the Daytona 500 Nascar race on February 19. They played in front of more than 200,000 people at the racetrack as well as in millions of homes across the world as it was also broadcast on the Fox Television Network. Brandon has also been traveling to Nashville to record on Clint Black's upcoming record.



Bluegrass Church Service: On Sunday, June 26th St. Luke Lutheran Church in Cordova (2000 N. Germantown Rd at Dexter) will be having an outdoor bluegrass church service. The bluegrass gospel sound of Delta Blue will be incorporated throughout the service.

Bass Wanted: Damon Lipinski would like to purchase a used upright bass. If you've got one for sale you can contact Damon at 647-7459.

Welcoming and Caring Committee: Please remember to let Loyce Smith (386-2069), Jo Edith Hudson, or Erna Wheeley if you know of a MABA member who is ill or in the hospital.

In consideration of the Pickin' Picnic and Rhonda Vincent Show, Erna's "First Saturday Potluck" will be postponed until May 14th.

Visit our website:

www.memphis-bluegrass.org

Join our Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maba>

The Lucy Opry

– est. 1967 –

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For more information, log on to www.lucyopry.com

Homesick, from page 4

the end of the night's final set. After two flight delays... and then a third, I turned toward the food court and like a beacon flashing hope into the night, a respite for the weary, a port in a storm, the words Bluegrass Brewing Company appeared. My feet stumbled over passengers waiting for their flight, as I resembled a dying man staggering toward an oasis. I could envision the sounds of diversionary bluegrass as I revitalized myself on airport cuisine that traditionally earns at best, a hearty "One Star" rating. Perched on well-worn, uneven stool in sight of my departure gate, I rested and waited for my order of hot wings and sweet tea (which I was shocked they actually had!...the sweet tea that is). My waitress appeared with tray in hand as I heard my flight being called for boarding. With disappointed amazement, I covered my bill, added a tip and forgot any hope of eating...as I walked out of the Bluegrass-themed watering hole without hearing the first downbeat of bluegrass or even sampling the wings. Thanks to MABA, I knew that there would plenty of bluegrass at Lord of Life Church come noon on Saturday.

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