



# Bluegrassin'

Volume 21 Issue 3

May-June 2019

*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.*

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## Upcoming Bluegrass Events

- May 3 & 4—Idaho Old Time Fiddlers, Hoots Café, White Bird, Idaho
- May 16—Lochwood, Draughtworks Brewery, Missoula, MT
- May 17—Lochwood, Highlander Brewery, Missoula, MT
- May 24-27—Conroy Memorial Campout (See pg. 4)
- May 26-June 2—River Pickin', Libby, MT (See pg. 5)
- May 25—Old Fashion Bluegrass, Symes Hotel, Hot Springs, MT
- May 30—Acousticals, Bitterroot Brewery, Hamilton, MT, 6:00-8:30
- June 1—Lochwood, Concert in Lewistown, MT
- June 21-23, MRBA Annual Campout (See pg. 4)
- June 28—Lochwood, Ten Spoon Winery, Missoula, MT
- June 28-30—Deer Lodge Draft Horse Expo & Bluegrass Festival (See pg.8)
- June 28—L'il Smokies & Green Sky Bluegrass, Kettlehouse Amphitheater, Bonner, MT

## Recurring Shows and Jams

- ♦ **Missoula:** Pickin' Circle, Montana Distillery (631 Woody St.)  
Tuesdays, 6:00 pm
- **Helena:** Bluegrass Jam, Staggering Ox, Tuesdays, 6:00 pm
- **Great Falls—** Celtic Cowboy Open Bluegrass Jam, Sunday, 5:00 pm on May 6, May 12 & May 20

Please send information on open jams and shows to the newsletter editor.

Check out these web sites for other festivals in the region!

### Idaho:

<http://www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org/>

### Washington

<http://www.spokanebluegrass.org/>

## FROM THE PREZ

Howdy....Thanks to all the folks who came and helped make the MRBA Lone Rock Festival such a success. Lots of bands, great food, and just a warm fuzzy feeling after seeing many of the bluegrass family. The Ridge Runners from the hills of Idaho were voted (by Tari and I) the best dressed band at Lone Rock. Nancy and Helen made the three 1930's style dresses for their performance...how cool is that? Thanks to Todd, Nancy, Jackie and Helen.

Britt Arnesen made a must-see video at the last Ruby's Motel Jam. The video is available at [https://youtu.be/HLh\\_PphHOKU](https://youtu.be/HLh_PphHOKU) It shows this wonderful Association we have and how great the Ruby's Jams were. (Ruby's Motel is scheduled to be torn down and replaced). Thanks Britt! You da man...(woman).



Folks often ask me what's the next bluegrass thing. The Memorial Weekend Campout is May 24-27, and the MRBA campout is June 21-23. Many people say (including me) that the Memorial Weekend Campout is their favorite one all year long. If you don't find it fun and super relaxing, you need to see a doctor...Heehee!

The Idaho Old Time Fiddlers are doing an old-time music get-together, and they want bluegrass folks to come join in the fun. It is at Hoots Cafe in White Bird, Idaho, on May 3 and 4. Tari and I and Bill and Verna Molenda and a few friends have been going to this event for years. I love it there because it's like stepping back in time 30 years. Old-time mountain place with great friendly fiddle folks. Workshops with fiddle, mandolin, guitar, banjo, and bass. On Saturday night they feature a performance of a song learned in the workshops (this year the song is "Uncle Pen"). See ad on Page 10.

The MRBA Campout is very fun and in an awesome location. See the writeup on Page 4.

There is a new Bluegrass Festival in Deer Lodge on June 28-29. It is in conjunction with a draft horse show. For more info, call Bill Anderson at 406-498-6621.

The Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival is July 26-27-28 (always the 4th weekend). Ten great bands in an awesome location. COME JOIN IN THE FUN...

Mike (head MRBA mop-squeezer)

### **Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association**

PO Box 1306, Missoula, MT 59806

Website: [www.mtbluegrass.com](http://www.mtbluegrass.com) email: [mrba@mtbluegrass.com](mailto:mrba@mtbluegrass.com)

President - Mike Conroy, [mikevconroy@gmail.com](mailto:mikevconroy@gmail.com) or phone 406-821-3777

Vice President - Dallas Olson

Secretary/Treasurer - Anne Merrifield, [happypasture9@gmail.com](mailto:happypasture9@gmail.com), 406-360-1877

Board Members - Tari Conroy, Kate McMahon, Isaac Callender, Verna Molenda

Merchandise Manager - Dallas Olson

Newsletter Editor - Kate McMahon, [kate@appcom.net](mailto:kate@appcom.net), 406-863-9255

MRBA Webmaster - Phyllis Erck [mrba@mtbluegrass.com](mailto:mrba@mtbluegrass.com)

*Bluegrassin'* is a bi-monthly publication of the **Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association**

Information printed in *Bluegrassin'* is at the discretion of the editor.

**Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association**

**Got Something to sell?**  
**Advertise in *Bluegrassin'***

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

**Contact:**  
 Kate McMahon  
 kate@appcom.net  
 406-863-9255

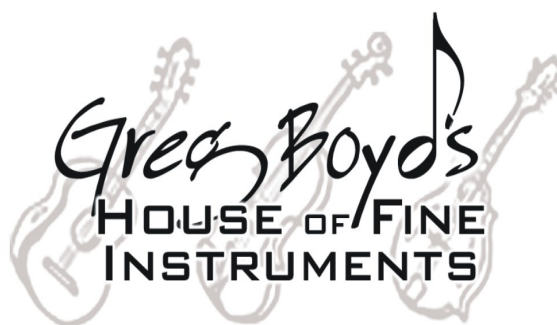
**Get MRBA Newsletter by E-Mail**

If you would like to get your newsletter delivered electronically via e-mail send a message to:

happypasture9@gmail.com

Electronic version has color photos & hyperlinks to websites.

*(P.S.—It will help keep down printing and mailing costs for the Association.)*



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**MONTANA ROCKIES BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION**  
**Membership Application**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$15.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want the newsletter delivered electronically? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your application to: MRBA, PO Box 1306, Missoula, MT 59806

## Conroy's Memorial Weekend— Bluegrass Campout May 24-25-26-27

Conroy's Memorial Weekend Bluegrass Campout will be May 24-25-26-27, and will be held at the Little West Fork Campground south of Darby, MT. It'll be just like past years: three or four heated wall tents for jamming', pot luck suppers at 6 pm, and a biscuits and gravy breakfast Monday morning at 10 am, before everyone has to leave.

The campground is approximately 23 miles south of Darby, MT. Heading south from Darby, turn right on the West Fork Highway about 4 miles from town, continue on the West Fork to just past the 14 mile marker, and turn right on the Nez Perce Road. Stay on the road for 4 miles. The pavement will end, and the campground will be on the right. Watch for signs.

Beautiful scenery and the camping is free. This is an old-style campout with campfires, recreational activities, and a heck of a lot of jammin'.

## MRBA ANNUAL CAMPOUT June 21,22,23

Come join us and the Bluegrass family for our annual MRBA Campout, June 21, 22 & 23. It is in a fantastic location where we have free camping, hiking, biking, 4-wheeling, campfires, potluck, and swimming (for the brave) right next to Hughes Creek.

Lots of room for big rigs and plenty of shade for everyone. YEA! The big MRBA potluck is Saturday at 6:00 pm (our potlucks are legendary...).

To get there: Head south out of Darby (approx. 4 miles) and turn up the West Fork/Highway #473. Follow the highway up and around the left side of Painted Rocks Lake. Turn left at Hughes Creek and go approximately 1 mile. Turn right on Thunder Mountain Road. We are on the left. Signs will be posted. Come join in the fun!

Mike (head potluck sampler guy)

*Ellie Nuño*

Musical styles on:

- ★ fiddle
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ellienuno.com  
emnuno@hotmail.com  
home/studio (406)721-3908



<http://thefiddleschool.com/>



## **River Pickin' on the Kootenai**

*(formerly Pasture Pickin')*

**May 26 - June 2 • Libby, MT**



**DAYE BLACKBURN'S  
Kootenai Angler**



**Free Dry Camping,  
Well water,  
Hook-ups are  
available for a fee.**

**dave@montana-flyfishing.com**



**River Bend Restaurant  
13068 Hwy 37  
Libby, MT 59923  
406-293-5140**

## Bluegrass Family: The Last Winter Jam at Ruby's Inn Missoula

*Britt Arnesen*

For more than a decade, Erck family hotel Ruby's Inn in Missoula, Montana, has hosted the Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association winter jams. These events bring together old and new friends from across Montana and neighboring states like Idaho and Wyoming. Folks share songs on their best guitars, mandolins, banjos, fiddles, dobros, and basses. We get to know each other over a potluck dinner, then get right back to picking.

Around the holidays there's a gift exchange with much laughter. I moved to Missoula several years ago to join up with the thriving acoustic music scene here. Being adopted into the "bluegrass family" has been a joy. Our love of this old time music brings us together despite varied politics and backgrounds. "Get in amongst all these people and you've got friends forever," says Tari Conroy. "A lot of people at their best," says her husband Mike. March 2019 was the last Ruby's Jam (due to the hotel being torn down and rebuilt).

I wanted to use my video camera to help us all to remember the good times we had at Ruby's. This video shows the MRBA through my eyes. This is my family. I thank them for sharing their thoughts, music, and smiles. We all thank you, Ruby's and Co, for the amazing space you provided for the bluegrass community. Good luck to all down the road.



Below is a link to watch the video about MRBA and the closing of jams at Ruby's Motel.

[https://youtu.be/HLh\\_PphHQU](https://youtu.be/HLh_PphHQU)

*Editor's Note: The video is awesome: Ditto from the Secretary/Treasurer!*

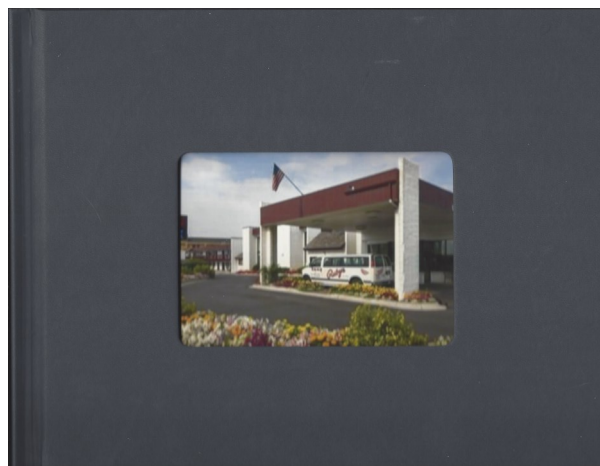
## Ruby's Inn Memory Book

*Kate McMahon*

As newsletter editor, I have pictures from MRBA events on my computer. To commemorate the last jam at Ruby's, I compiled the pictures from the last ten years of winter jams into a picture book that we presented to Phyllis Erck at the spring festival. Several people commented that they would like a copy of the book. If you would like to order a picture book, the cost is \$20.

For details, send me an e-mail at:

[kate@appcom.net](mailto:kate@appcom.net)





# MRBA Spring Festival—2019

The results are in. This years 20th MRBA Festival grossed about \$3,400  
Thanks to all the folks that played, listened and worked so hard to make it such a success.



Everybody's favorite Sireen, Mike.



Thanks to Susan and the kitchen elves.



Someone is having fun.



Can't beat the music from the terrific bands at the festival.



Couldn't put on the festival without our volunteers.



Everybody on stage for the grand finale!

## Deer Lodge Draft Horse Expo & Bluegrass Festival

<https://drafthorseexpo.com/>

June 28<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**HITCHIN & PICKIN**



This year the EXPO has added something new and exciting. In addition to the Draft Horse Show, there will be some awesome BLUEGRASS MUSIC.

**Featuring:**

Lochwood  
Richie Reinholdt  
John Parker  
Steve Taft  
Chad Fadely  
Taylor Buckley  
Fred and Emily Band  
Silver Graveley  
Elk Ridge Bluegrass Band

Camping at the fairgrounds.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Mandolin Master **Emory Lester** coming to Missoula and Hamilton October 25, 26, 27, 2019

Home Sweet Home - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6Vr7uQgo000>

Darcy Farrow - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCNON9j51Oo>

**Hamilton** concert and workshops - concert Friday, October 25, 2019 7pm. Guitar and Mandolin Workshops Saturday, October 26, 2019 beginning 11am. Rooted Music, 100 Skeels Avenue, Hamilton. [www.rootedmusic.com](http://www.rootedmusic.com)

**Missoula** concert and workshops - Sunday, October 27, 2019 - afternoon guitar and mandolin workshops followed by evening concert at Longstaff House, 601 Longstaff Street, Missoula. Please check back for specific times. [www.longstaffhouse.com](http://www.longstaffhouse.com)





## Grammy Awards - 2019



### *Winner—Best Bluegrass Album*

“The Travelin' McCourys” — The Travelin' McCourys

### **Other Nominated Albums**

“Portraits in Fiddles” — Mike Barnett

“Sister Sadie II” — Sister Sadie

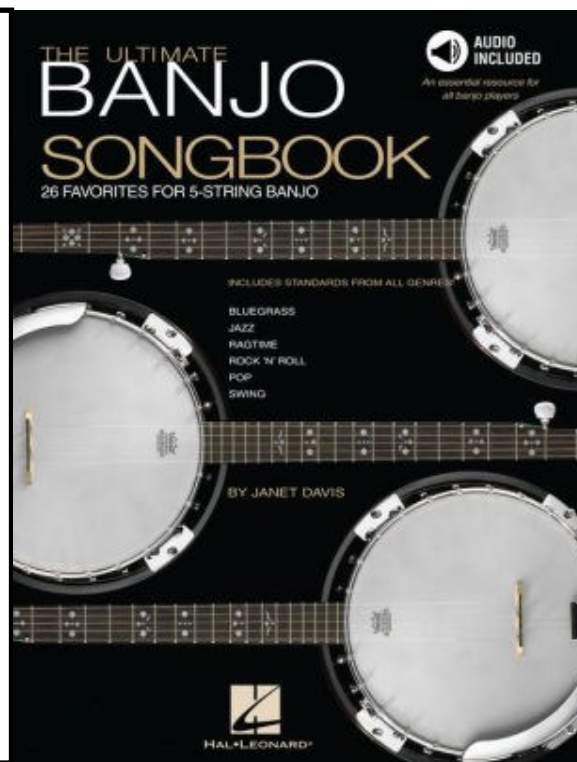
“Rivers and Roads” — Special Consensus

“North of Despair” — Wood & Wire

## Banjo Book Recommendation

*Brin Grosfield*

I recommend a banjo book by Janet Davis called *The Ultimate Banjo Book*. I just bought it, and it is a good one. Great Songs. And there are different versions of the same songs with alternative licks as well. It comes with two CD's so you can get familiar with the sound. For instance, there are eight different versions of Foggy Mountain Breakdown. For me, I get tired of playing song the same way. The book shows one how to embellish your playing and energize your playing.



## Birthday Celebration!

Jack Winthers is celebrating his 90th birthday August 4, 2019, and wants to invite his bluegrass friends to come. Bring a chair, a side dish for the potluck in the afternoon and, of course, your instrument.

The party will be at Jack and Jean's home at 210 Silver Bow Drive, Victor, Montana.

Please RSVP by calling 406-642-9519 by AUGUST 1, 2019.

# On the Road with MRBA

*Teri Llovet*

This picture was taken last November. It is the barn behind Hank Snow's Rainbow Ranch. It is an airBnB now but owned by his family. The barn was used on a lot of his album covers.

My sister, Deni, surprised me for my 60th birthday. She rented this place (it's really like a museum!) and managed to get all our siblings together for a reunion there. We grew up in Nashville in a house really similar to this place. It felt like going back in time!




**Idaho Old Time Fiddlers  
Music workshops**

**Bluegrass**  
**Beginner or Professional**

**Hotels and camping available**

**Old Time**

**Hoots Cafe  
Whitebird, Id  
Fiddle, Guitar  
Bass, Banjo,  
Mandolin, Dobro**

**Instructors:  
Mike and Tari Conroy**

**May 3-5, 2019**

**More Info: Teresa 208-520-9588**

# HARDTIMES BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

July 26-27-28, 2019



## Featuring:

Ladd Canyon Ramblers-OR      Song Dog Serenade-MT

Kevin Pace & Early Edition-WA      Lochwood-MT

Fred & Emily Frank-ID      Pinegrass-MT

BlueGrass Pals-MT      Darby Sireens-MT&ID

Portneuf Gap-ID      Mike & Tari Conroy-MT

Kids In Bluegrass-MT&ID

## Special Featured Pioneers in Bluegrass

Clyde & Nikki Clevenger-Salem, OR

Fred & Jeanne Buckley- Roundup, MT

Randy Gariglietti-Troy, MT

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VENDORS  
ON  
SITE

BLUEGRASS  
GOSPEL  
SUNDAY  
MORNING

ALL  
DOGS  
ON  
LEASH

BRING  
YOUR  
LAWN  
CHAIRS

LOCATION: 10 miles south of Hamilton, mile marker 37, 163 Forest Hill Rd

ADMISSION: Adults \$20.00 for weekend, Children under 12—\$10.00 for weekend

Adults: Friday or Saturday day pass \$15.00      Children under 12 Friday or Saturday day pass \$7.00

SUNDAY ONLY- \$10.00

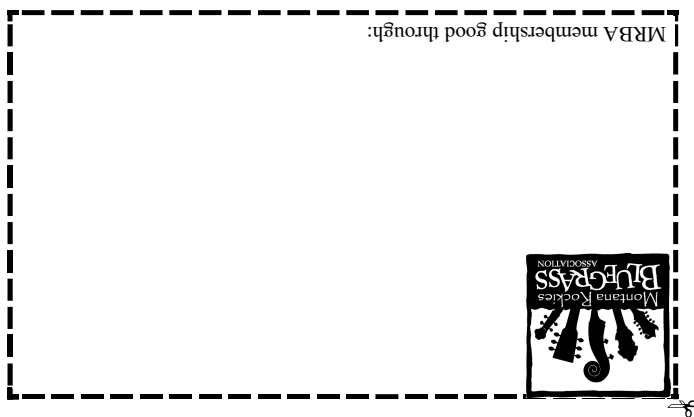
Dry Camping- \$20.00 for weekend

For more information [www.hardtimesbluegrass.com](http://www.hardtimesbluegrass.com) or call 1-406-821-3777



***ATTENTION:***

We have set up the address label on your newsletter to be your membership card, please clip it out and use it for proof of your membership to the MRBA.



PO Box 1306  
Missoula, MT 59806

