



# Bluegrassin'

Volume 21 Issue 4

July—August 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.*

## Inside this issue:

	<i>Page</i>
<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Pasture Pickin'</i>	4
<i>Memorial Day Photos</i>	5
<i>Hardtimes</i>	6-7
<i>Bluegrass Profiles</i>	8
<i>Bluegrass Tidbits</i>	9
<i>Playing Technique</i>	10
<i>Bass for Sale</i>	11
<i>Beer Cake Recipe</i>	11

## Upcoming Bluegrass Events

- July 10 - Leftover Biscuits, The Springs in Whitefish, 5:30
- July 12 - Acousticals, Philipsburg Brewery, 5:00-8:00
- July 14 - Lil Smokies, Under the Big Sky Festival, Whitefish, [www.underthebigskyfest.com/](http://www.underthebigskyfest.com/)
- July 24 - Leftover Biscuits, Buffalo Hill Concert Series, Kalispell, 7:00
- July 25 - Lochwood, Bitterrot Brewery, Hamilton, 6:00-8:30
- July 26-28 - Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival (see pgs. 6-7)
- August 2 - Leftover Biscuits, Great Northern Resort @ West Glacier, 5:00
- August 3 - Leftover Biscuits, Festival of the Arts, Bigfork, 12:00-2:00
- August 9-11 - Grand Targee Bluegrass Festival, Wyoming [www.grandtarghee.com/summer-music-festivals/bluegrass-festival/](http://www.grandtarghee.com/summer-music-festivals/bluegrass-festival/)
- August 11-18, Pasture Pickin', Libby, MT (see pg. 4)
- August 11 - Leftover Biscuits, Sliter Park, Big Fork, 7:00
- August 12 - Leftover Biscuits, Bigfork Farmer's Market, 5:00
- August 16-18 - Bannock County Bluegrass Festival, Pocatello, Idaho
- August 23 - Leftover Biscuits, Great Northern Resort @ West Glacier, 5:00
- August 23-25 - Montana State Fiddle Contest, Lincoln, MT <https://montanastateoldtimefiddlers.org/>

## 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, Sundays, 6:00 pm

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

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Howdy all,

Just got back from the MRBA campout. What a fun weekend, although it was a little cool. The cool weather scared many away, but we had about 30 folks who came to pick, enjoy friends, eat great food, and enjoy the beautiful location. Some of us went for a 4-wheeler ride and saw deer, elk (including a big ole' bull elk) and one bull grouse (he was a big one.).

We are still looking for a great place to have potlucks and jams next winter. The location must allow potlucks, and have several different rooms for several different jams. If you have a location that might work, shoot me an email or call me.

As most of you know, this year Hardtimes Festival is "sink or swim." After the dust cleared and Tari tallied up everything last year, we lost \$2000. We have regrouped and are trying different advertising and have raised the price, so we'll see how it all works this year. If you would like to see Hardtimes continue, please print off posters from the MRBA website or Facebook page, put them up, invite friends, spread the word, and above all -- come to the festival. If Hardtimes doesn't float this year, it's been 12 great years. We could all just go camping next year. That would be a lot of FUN also.



Your faithful pot-uck sampler guy --- Mike

## ***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

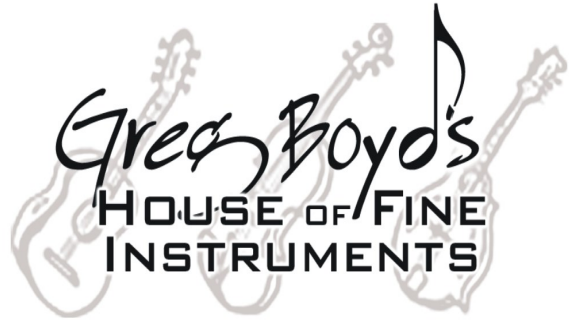
**Get MRBA Newsletter by E-Mail**

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.)*



New Collings Guitars  
New Roy Noble Guitars  
New Bourgeois Guitars  
Vintage Martin Guitars

-----  
Complete line of Picks, Strings  
& other accessories  
-----

Best prices you'll find anywhere!

www.gregboyd.com

406/327-9925

**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

# PASTURE PICKIN'

At Snyder Field, 5418 Pipe Creek Road, Libby, MT

Old-Time, Bluegrass, and Country Music  
Non-Electric - Strings Only  
Dry Camping and Tents, Spring Water

NO CHARGE

**August 11-18**

Contact: Dale or Dorothy Berg (406) 293-6608

## SAVE THE DATE!

Mandolin Master **Emory Lester** is 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, 7 pm. Guitar and Mandolin Workshops Saturday, October 26, 2019, beginning at 11 am  
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)

*Ellie Nuño*



Musical styles on:

- ★ fiddle
- ★ violin
- ★ violectra

- ★ Studio Recording Artist Services
- ★ Private and Family Style Lessons
- ★ Girls with Guitars Workshops

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



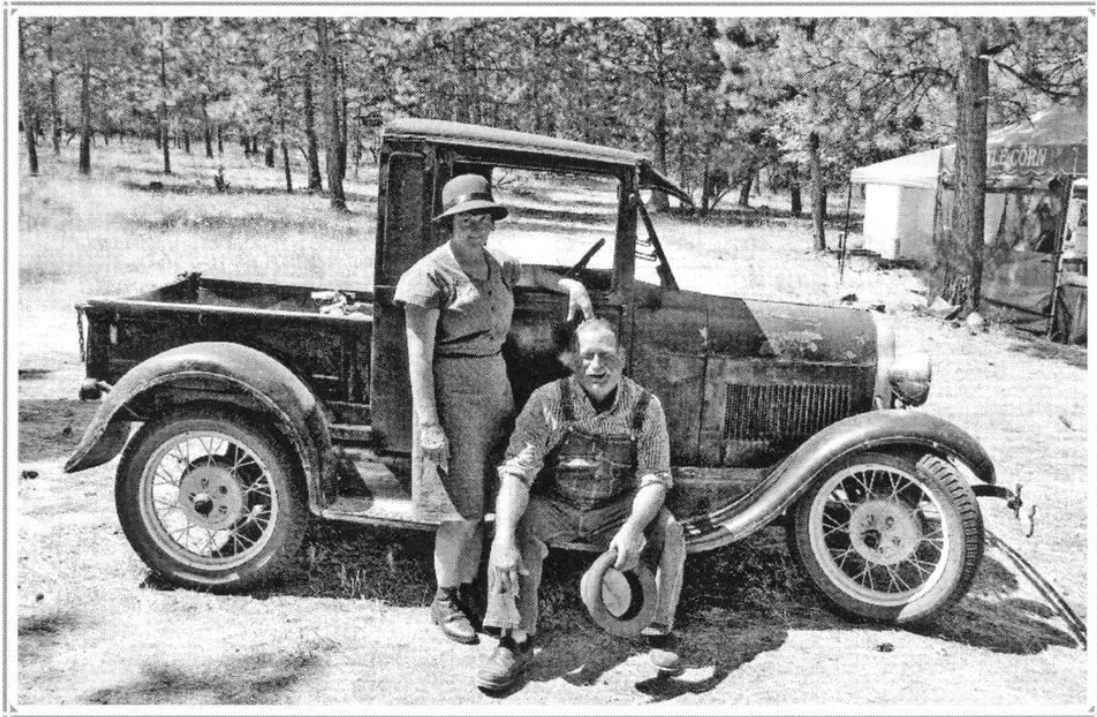
<http://thefiddleschool.com/>

# Memorial Day Campout



# 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

FOOD  
VENDORS  
ON  
SITE

ALL  
DOGS  
ON  
LEASH

BRING  
YOUR  
LAWN  
CHAIRS

BLUEGRASS  
GOSPEL  
SUNDAY  
MORNING

**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.hardtimestbluegrass.com](http://www.hardtimestbluegrass.com) or call 1-406-821-3777

**HARDTIMES SCHEDULE FOR 2019**

**Friday, July 26th**

5:45-6:00 Landowner Musicians-Ted Heiland, Ramona & Rachel Potter

6:00-6:40 BlueGrass Pals

6:45-7:25 Silver Gravely Revue

7:30-8:10 Pinegrass

8:15-8:55 Song Dog Serenade

9:00-9:40 Lochwood

**Saturday, July 27th**

12:00-12:35 Kids In Bluegrass

12:40-1:20 Pinegrass

1:25-2:05 Darby Sireens

2:10-2:50 BlueGrass Pals

2:55-3:35 Song Dog Serenade

3:40-4:20 Mike & Tari Conroy Band

4:25-5:05 Portneuf Gap

5:10-5:55 Throw together band contest

6:00-6:50 Pioneers In Northwest Bluegrass

6:55-7:35 Fred & Emily Frank Band

7:40-8:20 Ladd Canyon Ramblers

8:25-9:05 Lochwood

9:10-9:50 Kevin Pace & Early Edition

**Sunday, July 28th**

10:00-11:55 Open Bluegrass Gospel Show

12:00-12:40 Portneuf Gap

12:45-1:25 Kevin Pace & Early Edition

1:30-2:10 Fred & Emily Frank

2:15-2:35 Raffles

2:40-3:20 Ladd Canyon Ramblers

## Bluegrass Profiles

By Kate McMahon

A while back, someone suggested to me that it would be fun to publish interviews or profiles of MRBA members. To follow up on that excellent idea, I created a bluegrass questionnaire and asked attendees at the annual Christmas Party to complete the form. Each newsletter, I will print a few of the profiles that I collected at the meeting. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to share their info.

### Anne Merrifield

**I play these instruments:** Mandolin

**Favorite Bluegrass Songs to Sing:** "Let Me Rest at the End of My Journey"

**Favorite Bluegrass Banjo Tunes:** Too many to choose

**Favorite Bluegrass Fiddle Tunes:** Ditto

**First Bluegrass Festival Attended:** Norco, CA - 1977

**Favorite Bluegrass Festival:** Hardtimes—What Else?!

**Favorite Bluegrass Music Camp:** N/A

**Favorite Bluegrass Band:** Too many to choose! Ralph Stanley, Bill Monroe, Michael Cleveland

**Name of Bluegrass Band:** Haven't played in a band. I'm a virgin!

**Favorite Bluegrass Memories:** Conroy campouts - late nights pickin' and sippin' good bourbon.

### Susan McCauley

**I play these instruments:** Guitar & Bass

**Favorite Bluegrass Songs to Sing:** "There Aint No Ash Will Burn" and "Crying Holy Unto the Lord"

**Favorite Bluegrass Banjo Tunes:** ??

**Favorite Bluegrass Fiddle Tunes:** "Whiskey Before Breakfast," "Dill Pickle Rag"

**First Bluegrass Festival Attended:** Into the Forest, Whelton, WA - 2009

**Favorite Bluegrass Festival:** Hardtimes

**Favorite Bluegrass Music Camp:** West Fork, Memorial Day

**Favorite Bluegrass Band:** Spinny Brothers, Becky Buller

**Name of Bluegrass Band:** Bittergrass String Band

**Members:** Sue Pearson, Jim McCauley, Tim Hunter



# Bluegrass Tidbits

## Bluegrass History

Pic is Uncle Jimmy Thompson.

Henry Ford liked his playing so much he invited Jimmy to go to the Ford Factory and pick out any Ford he wanted. He picked a new Model T truck. He took it home and built a camper on the back and started roaming the country, fiddlin' along the way.



## Happy Birthday, Jack!

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

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

**Idaho:**

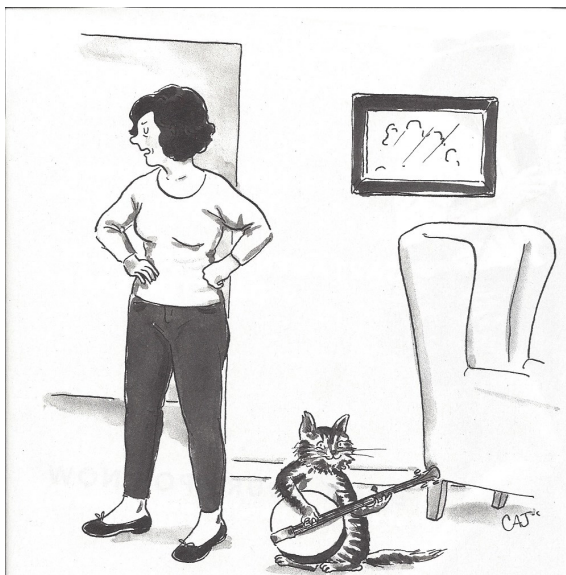
<http://www.idahosawtoothbluegrass.org/>

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

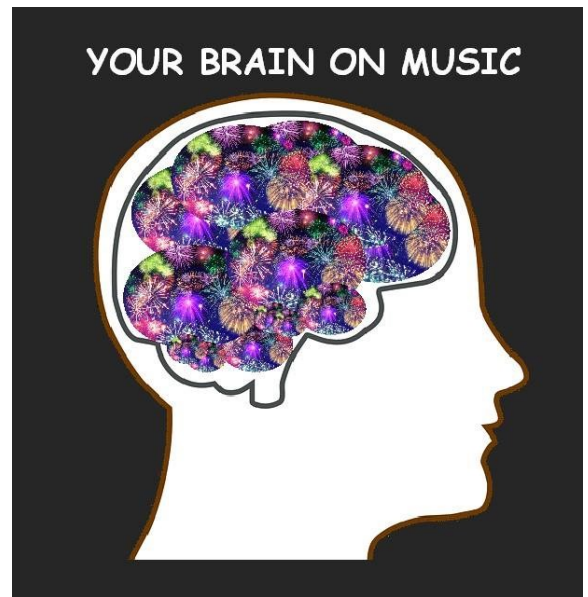
**Washington**

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

<http://washingtonbluegrassassociation.org/>



*That's it. The cat has to go.*



## PLAYING TECHNIQUE

Ross Nickerson  
Banjo Encyclopedia

*(Editors Note: Even though this was written for banjo players, there are good tips for all bluegrass musicians.)*

### THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD TECHNIQUE

Building a solid foundation of technique and understanding should help your progress considerably. It is a good idea to strive for good technique and do your best to learn correctly from the start. However, at the same time, leave yourself room to grow and do not expect perfection in the beginning. If you are getting discouraged by not being able to accomplish something in your technique right away, please remember it does not have to be all done at once. Your goal is to have fun and progress a little each day. Do your best and enjoy!

### RHYTHM & TIMING

Timing when playing the banjo is very important. It can be difficult to learn and difficult to teach. When listening to the banjo, most people hear many notes and might consider them all to be part of the melody. However, this is not necessarily the case. It would be better for you as a student to view your banjo playing in this way. As you pick the banjo, you are creating a rhythm with your picking consisting of quarter and eighth notes. Within the constant and consistent rhythm that you are producing, your job is to accent melody notes or notes that are to stand out and be heard more clearly.

Accenting notes usually means hitting them harder than the others. Another way you can accent a melody note is by playing that note as a quarter note within your stream of eighth notes, which will also bring the note out to the listener.

Learning and understanding timing can be difficult or intimidating, as I mentioned in the above paragraph. However, if you take some time at the beginning to understand and realize its importance and value, you will reap the rewards later. The reason most students have trouble with timing is because they are anxious to let the fingers fly and just skip over the timing lessons. It is not hard to learn if you take the time and will result in a better sound.

When the timing is right, not only will the listener enjoy it more, but it will be much more satisfying to you. Most people will notice a rhythm mistake long before they will notice you have played the second fret instead of the third. In other words, place a lot of value on your timing accuracy in the early stages. Anyone can miss a fret or string, but if you do not develop a sense of timing, everything played out of time will be wrong regardless of whether you are playing the right fret or string.

One thing to your advantage when learning to play the banjo is that you will only be playing quarter and eighth notes. This is unlike learning many other instruments that require you to learn to count many varieties of notes. The reason for this is that the banjo is limited to how long it can sustain (hold) a note, much like a drum.

In music, it could be said there are two things to consider; the note played and the value of the note played.

Students generally notice the note to pluck or the fret to play easier than understanding or applying the time value assigned to that note. The good news is that with most bluegrass banjo playing, as I referred to earlier, the timing can be divided into two time values, quarter notes and eighth notes. Simply said, if you can count quarter notes and eighth notes, you will be able to understand the timing of most bluegrass banjo songs.

### RHYTHM & TIMING EXERCISES

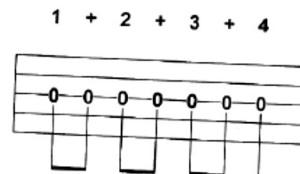
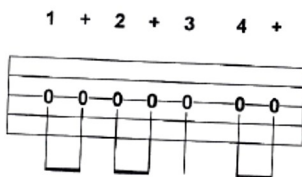
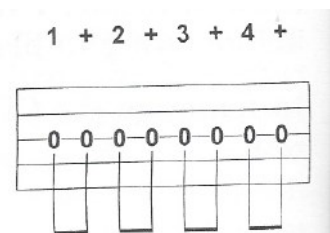
Use a pencil and tap out the rhythm against the table, book or music stand.

The down beat will be the numbered beats when the pencil is in the full down position on the table. The up beat will be the one marked with the (+) sign. This will be counted when the pencil is in the full up position.

There are four beats in each measure in the songs and exercises we will be learning. That means that any combination of quarter and eighth notes will equal four quarter beats in each measure.

This example is a measure with eight eighth notes which total up to four quarter beats. Now, try tapping these notes by counting out loud 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and. When you tap your foot, for example, the 1 or numbered note is going down and the + is the foot coming up. In other words you are fitting a note between each quarter note, creating an eighth note.

Below are some exercises to count out loud to. Do the same exercises tapping your foot or bobbing your head.



Once you develop a sense of where the down and up beats are and how to count quarter and eighth notes, you'll have it forever. With that in mind, keep working with it until you are satisfied that you are understanding it and counting

## FOR SALE—STAND-UP BASS

Nice American made stand-up bass. Englehardt EM! with padded case

Setup by Mike Conroy

\$1400

Call: Anne Krickle 1-406-203-8080

## Chocolate Beer Cake

(For the next bluegrass potluck!)

### Ingredients

1 cup stout beer (or porter)  
1/2 cup butter (cubed)  
2 cups sugar  
3/4 cup baking cocoa  
2 large eggs (beaten)  
2/3 cups sour cream  
3 teaspoons vanilla extract  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda



### Directions

In small saucepan heat beer and butter until butter is melted. Remove from heat and whisk in sugar and cocoa until blended.

Combine eggs, sour cream and vanilla. Whisk into beer mixture.

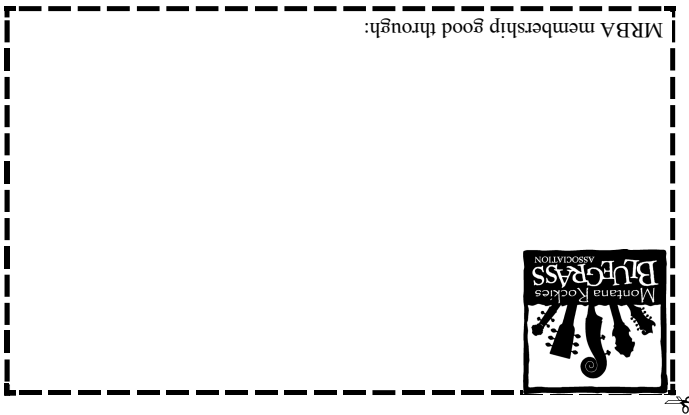
Add flour and baking soda and stir until smooth. Pour into greased bundt cake pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes (or until toothpick comes out clean).

Cool. Remove from pan. Frost with cream cheese frosting.

***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

