



Bluegrassin'

Volume 23 Issue 3

May –June 2021

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

May 28—31: Conroy Memorial Day Campout, Darby (see pg. 4 for details)

June 5: Timbler Rattlers, Missoula, Highlander Taphouse, 6:00 pm

June 11– 13: MRBA Campout, Hughes Creek, up the West Fork of the Bitterroot River (see pg. 4 for details)

June 28—30: Deer Lodge Draught Horse Expo and Bluegrass Festival, Deer Lodge (see pg. 6 for details)

Save the Date

July 17—18: Bannack Days, Bannack State Park, Dillon (for more info: 406-834-3413)

July 17: Trampled with Turtles, Kettlehouse Amphitheater, Missoula <https://logjampresents.com/events/>

July 23—25: Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival, Hamilton <http://hardtimesbluegrass.com/>

July 17 & 18: Under the Big Sky Festival, Whitefish <https://www.underthebigskyfest.com/>

August 6-7: Bob Marshall Music Festival, Seeley Lake [2021 Music Line Up \(thebobmusic.com\)](https://thebobmusic.com/)

Wanted: Event Dates

If you know of any upcoming jams, band dates, or other festivals, send information to the newsletter editor: kate@appcom.net

Check out these websites for other festivals in the region!

Idaho:

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

Washington

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

President's Message

We're gearing up for the 2021 Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival on July 23, 24, 25. We are starting to "build the buzz" about the festival so folks can get it on their calendars for this summer. Tell all your friends, invite everyone, even folks you don't like (hee-hee). This year, Music Villa in Bozeman gave us an excellent deal on a new, great sounding Martin dreadnought guitar to raffle at the Festival. The raffle really helps us raise the money to pay the 10 bands. Also, Linda McKnight donated a nice 100 year old German violin for the raffle. That could be your family's heirloom for future generations (just sayin'). And Janice Heiland has again made a Hardtimes quilt to raffle. Tari and I have one, and it will keep you plumb warm on a winter's night. A big thank you to you folks.

The 25th (25 years--WOW) Conroy's Memorial Weekend Campout is ON for May 28, 29, 30, and 31. It will be so great to see folks and do some pickin' and visiting. Tari and I have a SPECIAL PRESENT for folks at the 25th year. No hints--you have to come to see what it is.

The MRBA Campout is June 11, 12, 13. It will again be up the West Fork of the Bitterroot River. Another fun event in a beautiful location. Lots of jamming, hanging out with friends, hiking, bicycling, four-wheeling, swimming (really), and eating. Let the FUN BEGIN...

Mike



Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

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

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1/4 Page – \$10.00
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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 28, 29, 30, 31

Conroy's Memorial Weekend Bluegrass Campout will be May 28-31 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 jammin', pot-luck suppers at 6 p.m., and a biscuits and gravy breakfast Monday morning at 10 a.m., before everyone has to leave.

The campground is approximately 23 miles south of Darby. Heading south from Darby, turn right on the West Fork Highway about 4 miles from town and continue on the West Fork to just past the 14 mile marker. Turn right on Nez Perce Road. Stay on the road for 4 miles. The pavement will end, and the campground is 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 11, 12, 13

BIG NEWS: At the December, 2019, meeting the folks voted to move the MRBA CAMPOUT back to Hughes Creek, up the West Fork of the Bitterroot River. We used to have the campout there years ago, and it is a fantastic location, where we will have free camping, hiking, biking, four-wheeling, campfires, pot-lucks, and swimming (no - I ain't that tough) right next to Hughes Creek. Lots of room for big rigs and (can you believe it) plenty of shade trees for shade for everyone...YEAH!

The Association also decided to to end the free steak dinner and have a pot-luck instead (which is great, considering our campout pot-lucks are legendary). The campout is June 11, 12, 13. To get there, head south of Darby (approximately 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 one mile to the Thunder Mountain Road. Turn right on Thunder Mountain, and we are the first left.

Historical Note: When you turn up Hughes Creek, you'll see the old Alta Ranger Station. It was the FIRST Ranger Station in the United States—1899.

Come join in the FUN.

(Mike, Head Pot-Luck Sampler Guy)

Are you Smarter than a 5th Grader?

The following question is from a 5th grade music quiz.

Which of the following is a musical term(s) for "Slow"

Andante

Lento

Presto

Moderato

Adagio

Answer on pg. 7

(Bonus Question: What language are the musical terms derived from?)

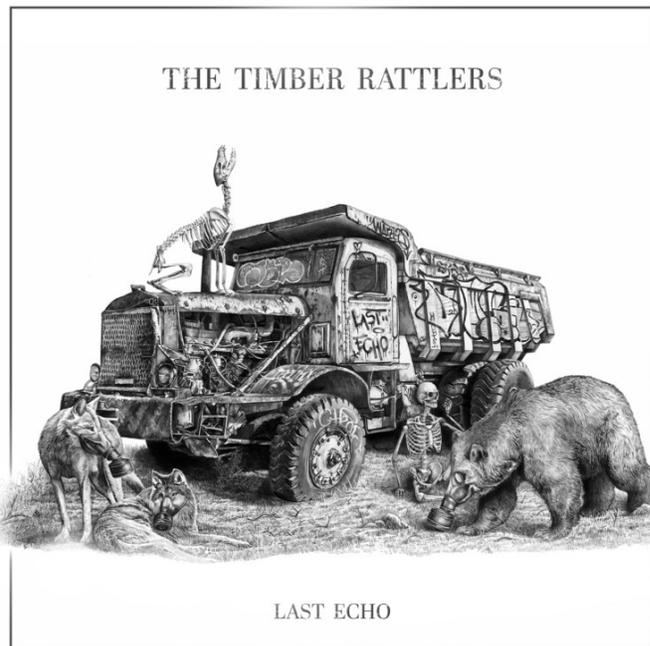
Timber Rattlers—Album Release

<https://www.thetimberrattlers.com/>

Congratulations to the Timber Rattlers on their new album release. According to their web site, “The Timber Rattlers are an energetic bluegrass quartet from Missoula, MT. They pull inspiration from their traditional roots, but continue to push their boundaries in the realm of acoustic music.”

Band member Caleb Dostal has been a MRBA regular since he was 11-years old and continues to wow us all with his banjo playing. Other band members, Jessie Brown, Dillon Johns, and Jamie Drysdale are musicians “extraordinaire.” (That’s French for really, really good!)

Our debut album is available for purchase on [iTunes](#) and [Amazon](#) or it can be streamed on any of your favorite streaming services! Don’t pass up your chance to see this up and coming bluegrass band!





www.DraftHorseExpo.com
Tri-County Fairgrounds



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Bluegrass Shows, Campout & Jam

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June 25-27, 2021

Special Performance by Desert Ramblers
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FAVORITE BUMPER STICKERS



Song Writing Challenge

redlodesongwriterfestival.org/

Every wonder what it takes to write a good song? The Red Lodge, MT, Song Writer Festival is scheduled for June 24-26 and will feature a contest to select the best from aspiring song writers. The songs will be judged according to the criteria below. If you are a budding song writer, these guidelines might be helpful in penning the next great bluegrass song.

SONG STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION

- The song has a clear theme or cohesive idea
- The song has clearly identifiable sections: verse, chorus, etc.
- The song is between 2 to 5 minutes long

LYRICS

- The lyrics evoke an emotional response from the listener
- The lyrics are singable and memorable
- The lyrics have an identifiable rhyme scheme or pattern

MUSIC & MELODY

- The music and melody add to the emotional impact of the song
- The music keeps the listener interested and engaged
- The music and lyrics fit together in a cohesive way

ORIGINALITY

- The song expresses the theme in a new or fresh way
- The song is memorable
- The song has commercial potential



Music Quiz Answer: *Lento and Adagio are terms for “Slow”*

Bonus Question: *Musical terms are from the Italian language.*



GRAMMY'S 2021

Best Bluegrass Album

Winner

HOME - Billy Strings



Other Nominees

- MAN ON FIRE—Danny Barnes
- TO LIVE IN TWO WORLDS, VOL. 1—Thomm Jutz
- NORTH CAROLINA SONGBOOK—Steep Canyon Rangers
- THE JOHN HARTFORD FIDDLE TUNE PROJECT, VOL. 1 (Various Artists) Matt Combs & Katie Harford Hogue, Producers

Did you know?

The Grammy Bluegrass Awards falls in the “American Roots Category.” Other genres in this category include:

- Americana
- Blues
- Contemporary Blues
- Folk
- Regional Roots

According to Wikipedia, “Roots Music” is defined as:

American traditional music is also called roots music. Roots music is a broad category of music including bluegrass, country music, gospel, old time music, jug bands, Appalachian folk, blues, Cajun and Native American music. The music is considered American either because it is native to the United States or because it developed there, out of foreign origins, to such a degree that it struck musicologists as something distinctly new. It is considered "roots music" because it served as the basis of music later developed in the United States, including rock and roll, contemporary folk music, rhythm and blues, and jazz.

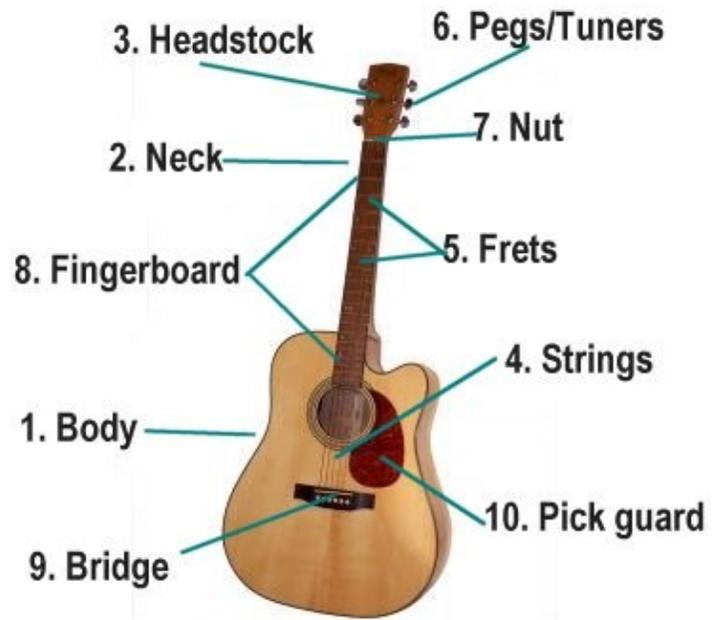
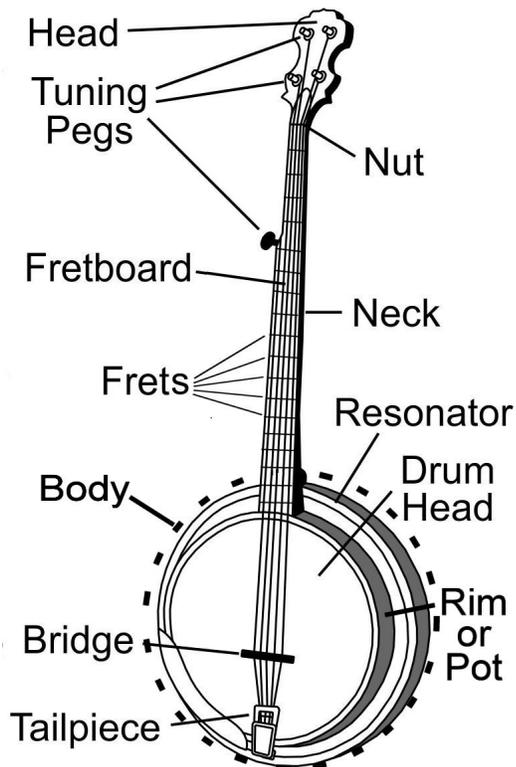
Many roots musicians do not consider themselves folk musicians. The main difference between the American folk music revival and American "roots music" is that roots music seems to cover a broader range, including blues and country.

Roots music developed its most expressive and varied forms in the first three decades of the 20th century. The Great Depression and the Dust Bowl were extremely important in disseminating these musical styles to the rest of the country, as Delta blues masters, itinerant honky tonk singers, Cajun musicians spread to cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York. The growth of the recording industry in the same period was also important; higher potential profits from music placed pressure on artists, songwriters, and label executives to replicate previous hit songs. This meant that musical fads, such as Hawaiian slack-key guitar, never died out completely, since a broad range of rhythms, instruments, and vocal stylings were incorporated into disparate popular genres.

By the 1950s, forms of roots music had led to pop-oriented forms. Folk musicians like the Kingston Trio, blues-derived rock and roll and rockabilly, pop-gospel, doo wop and R&B, soul music and the Nashville sound in country music all modernized and expanded the musical palette of the country.

The roots approach to music emphasizes the diversity of American musical traditions, the genealogy of creative lineages and communities, and the innovative contributions of musicians working in these traditions today. In recent years roots music has been the focus of popular media programs such as Garrison Keillor's public radio program, *A Prairie Home Companion* and the feature film by the same name.

Anatomy of an Instrument



Memory Lane

Flatt & Scruggs on the Beverly Hillbillies

Many MRBA members will remember the old television show the Beverly Hillbillies, along with the guest appearances on the show by Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs. According to the Bluegrass Reader, “When Flatt and Scruggs were in Hollywood working on a series of live shows, TV producer Paul Henning took some of their music into the boardroom of CBS-TV along with his idea for a show. The idea clicked, The Beverly Hillbillies were born and the boys wrote the theme song, “The Ballad of Jed Clampett,” a Number One hit in 1963. When Henning wrote them into the script of one episode of the popular show, he had the wisdom to let them just be themselves. They were great characters.”

According to a 1991 edition of the Banjo Newsletter, “As I write these lines one of those shows (*Beverly Hillbillies*) is probably being aired somewhere in the world and probably will continue to be shown into the 21st Century. There is a reason for that; they are marvelous! They are delightful, fun and amazing. The comedy holds up well and Lester and Earl not only play tunes on camera that we all enjoy but their acting and timing are without fault.”

“When discussing these shows with Louise Scruggs, we found out that there were seven shows in which Lester and Earl were featured. She also reminisced about the short time which they had to prepare for each show. They received the scripts on Monday with walk-throughs and tapings later in the week. It demonstrates that Lester and Earl were solid professionals in all aspects of show business.”

Below is a list of songs that Flatt & Scruggs played on the show. How many of these do you remember?

- Cumberland Gap (fragment)
- Randy Lynn Rag
- Little Girl in Tennessee
- Coming Around the Mountain
- Martha White Theme Song
- Pearl, Pearl, Pearl
- Rueben
- Little Brown Jug
- Earl’s Breakdown
- Wreck of the Old ‘97
- Foggy Mountain Breakdown
- Ballad of Milburn Drysdale
- Foggy Mountain Soap (commercial jingle)
- Granny’s Lye Soap (commercial jingle)
- Ballad of Jed Clampett
- You’re Nobody (pop ballad with Lester and Earl on guitars)

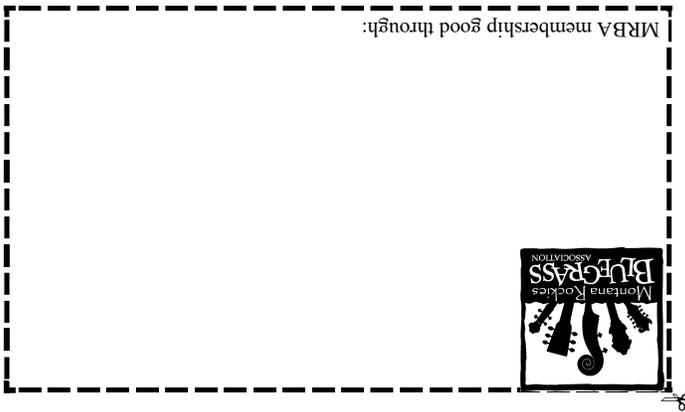


**"Why can't you just be a
hunter and gatherer like
everyone else?"**



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