



# Bluegrassin'

Volume 23 Issue 4

July—August 2021

## Upcoming Bluegrass

*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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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 17 & 18—Under the Big Sky Festival, Whitefish,  
<https://www.underthebigskyfest.com/> (See pg. 7)

July 23—25, Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival, Hamilton  
<http://hardtimesbluegrass.com/> (See pg. 4)

Aug. 2—Lochwood Trio, Farmers' Market, Bigfork

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

Aug. 12—Timber Rattlers, Missoula Downtown Tonight @ Caras Park

August 20—Whitefish Hootenanny, Depot Park, Whitefish  
<https://www.whitefishlegacy.org/event/wt-hootenanny/>

Aug. 27-28, River City Roots Festival, Missoula  
<https://www.rivercityrootsfestival.com/>

Aug. 27—28 , [Montana State Old-Time Fiddlers Association - Contest](http://montanastateoldtimefiddlers.org)  
([montanastateoldtimefiddlers.org](http://montanastateoldtimefiddlers.org)) , Dillon (See pg. 5)

Sept. 3—Lochwood Trio, West Glacier Farmers' Market

Check out these websites for other festivals in the region!

Idaho:

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

Washington

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

## President's Message

OK, Tari and I are OFFICIALLY getting excited. We have been starting the promo and advertising for this year's Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival. People are calling and emailing about the festival, camping, food, water, space, dogs, and everything else. Folks are bringing their 30- and 40-foot campers from all over the country (California, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, etc.). We're thinking this year will be BIG. Not too sure where we will put all the cars and campers, but we'll make it work. Bring on the Bluegrass Fun!

The MRBA Campout was a smaller crowd than usual, but we did lots of fun pickin' and grinnin' and had some fine food to eat. Weather was good, and the tents were nice and warm at night.

At Memorial weekend, Todd and Nancy Stobie had a new popup tent they had bought for jamming. It went up in 60 seconds. We were so impressed that Tari and I bought one, and Anne Merrifield also bought one. The tents hold about 10 musicians (if they are chummy).

We were thinking of scheduling the MRBA Festival for September but there was a suggestion we wait until next spring, in part because friends can see that Tari and I are getting worn out -- and the MRBA still has plenty of money in its account. As we get older, it sure doesn't seem to get easier. That being said...SEE YOU AT HARDTIMES July 23,24,25. Below is a pic of the new festival site.

Mike



## Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

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

**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

# HARDTIMES BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

July 23-24-25, 2021



**Featuring:**

**Ladd Canyon Ramblers-OR Montana Standard-MT**  
**Kevin Pace Band-WA Kentucky Sky-ID Dry Buck-ID**  
**Lochwood-MT Song Dog Serenade-MT Brothers Parker-MT & AZ**  
**Pinegrass-MT Darby Sirens-MT & ID Mike & Tari Conroy-MT**  
**KIDS IN BLUEGRASS**

**Location:** 10 Miles south of Hamilton, mile marker 37, 424 Forest Hill Road

**Admission:** Adult weekend: \$30.00 Children weekend: \$15.00

Day passes: Friday or Saturday \$20.00 adults \$10.00 children

Sunday: \$15.00 adults \$7.00 children

Camping: \$25.00 for weekend

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

ALL  
DOGS  
ON  
LEASH

BLUEGRASS  
GOSPEL  
SUNDAY  
MORNING

FOOD  
VENDORS  
ON  
SITE

BRING  
YOUR  
LAWN  
CHAIRS

## Join us August 27th and 28th in Dillon, MT for our annual Montana State Fiddle Contest!

This years contest is being Co-Hosted by the Dillon Junior Fiddlers and we're excited for the new location in Dillon at the Pioneer Event Center. This is a newly renovated space that has lots of room and amenities.

We will be having all our regular age divisions in addition to a Junior and Adult Picking division, Twin Fiddle, Dance Fiddle, Entertainment Division (be sure and have a good costume or schtick), Accompanist, Oldest and Youngest Fiddler, Novice, and our now infamous Gambler's Division.

Food and beverage will be available at the venue in addition to all the great local restaurants in downtown Dillon. There is free dry camping available in the parking lot of the venue or stay at one of the many hotels that Dillon has to offer.

Make sure you pre-register to reserve your spot and get a free contest T-Shirt!

We look forward to seeing everyone and hearing some great fiddling.

Check back for updates on Hotel sponsors, Judges information, and schedule information.

<https://montanastateoldtimefiddlers.org/contest>

## Bluegrass Gospel Tunes

The Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival, and many others, frequently have a bluegrass gospel jam or show on Sunday mornings. According to the magazine Bluegrass Today, most well known bluegrass bands will record some bluegrass gospel songs or even devote entire albums to the genre. The Whites are a successful bluegrass gospel band. Many bluegrass gospel songs have been around for over 100 years and are rooted in Appalachian church culture, African American gospel/spirituals, folk songs, and southern gospel traditions. Often the songs are performed a capella. Following is a list of some popular bluegrass gospel songs compiled from various books and websites.

Amazing Grace

Angel Band

Do Lord

Drifting Too Far From the Shore

Down to the River to Pray

Everybody Wants to Get to Heaven

Golden Slippers

Happy I'll Be

I Am A Pilgrim

I'll Fly Away

Wayfaring Stranger

What Would You Give In Exchange for Your Soul

Working on a Building

## Conroy Memorial Day Campout photos



Our special present to ALL the folks who attended the 25th bluegrass campout was a custom-designed coffee cup



I'm thinking the caption could be: "Up the West Fork, you don't mess with our dogs or our women" (Mike)



Lester and Earl dressed for the gathering



Phil & Arlene



Gospel Jam Sunday morning



Dog-tired from all that pickin'

## Under the Big Sky Festival

Under The Big Sky Finalizes 2021 Edition and Line-up

Whitefish Montana July 17 + 18, 2021

**EmmyLou Harris, Lil Smokies, Laney Lous & the Bird Dogs, Hogslop String Band, Jason Isbell And The 400 Unit, Tyler Childers, Elle King, Brothers Osborne, Colter Wall, Shovels & Rope, Lucinda Williams, Orville Peck, Mandolin Orange, Jade Bird and Many More**

Under The Big Sky will showcase the very best in Americana, folk, alt-country, and rock across two beautiful stages in the heart of one of America's most unspoiled and pristine regions of natural wilderness. The festival pairs cutting edge emerging voices and talents with musical icons, creating a unique showcase for the diverse strains of American music today.

Under The Big Sky is held on Big Mountain Ranch, a 350 acre working farm located just over a mile East of the city limits of Whitefish. The site plan has been expanded in 2021, to provide attendees with more space. The ranch has 180 degree views of Whitefish Mountain Ski Resort. This is the heart of Big Sky country and one of Montana's most beautiful regions.

For tickets, Covid policies and further information visit

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



### For the Love of Music

*(Murphy Henry—Banjo Newsletter, 1984)*

“Musicians wouldn’t be musicians if they didn’t love to pick. It is the love of music that kept us going when we were learning and that keeps us going now. All those hours—all those years—of practice, they weren’t a chore to us. They were a joy. They were more than a joy, they were a necessity—they were something we **had** to do— something we were driven from inside to do, even though we didn’t know that we were driven—we just thought it was fun. That’s what our music means to us. It’s our life.

“So there you have it. Musicians love to pick. We even pick on our time off.”

# MRBA Campout photos

June 11-13



Jammin' in the pines



Eatin' in the pines



Jammin' in the shade



Who doesn't love a wienie roast and bluegrass?



Beautiful weather—Look at the blue sky!



Fiddlin' around

# Word Search—Festival Madness

Q	D	S	A	W	F	E	C	V	F	R	T	G	B
A	F	W	H	O	R	Y	C	P	O	D	M	T	G
Z	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L	O	O	U	K	H
X	R	A	L	M	E	E	V	O	M	G	S	E	N
C	T	T	Y	L	N	N	Z	M	I	F	I	E	O
V	Y	H	C	A	D	N	F	U	N	V	C	N	T
D	U	E	E	R	S	A	G	K	L	B	D	L	C
R	I	R	N	T	R	I	O	F	L	B	I	N	A
I	O	H	Q	J	U	D	S	O	N	L	D	O	M
V	P	S	T	A	G	E	P	O	I	U	T	A	P
I	A	X	H	M	E	R	T	D	M	E	R	C	I
N	S	V	P	S	T	G	I	F	O	G	E	N	N
G	D	T	B	D	P	I	C	K	N	R	B	M	G
B	F	I	S	E	T	A	T	S	T	S	O	B	P
L	A	W	N	C	H	A	I	R	A	S	R	A	L
N	G	B	A	N	J	R	U	N	N	H	E	N	M
M	H	Y	C	A	M	P	F	I	R	E	N	D	N
L	J	M	C	R	A	T	I	U	G	O	R	S	H
K	V	E	N	D	O	R	S	X	D	C	Y	B	J

## Word List

**FESTIVAL**

**BANDS**

**STAGE**

**CAMPING**

**JAMS**

**FOOD**

**MUSIC**

**FUN**

**VENDORS**

**FRIENDS**

**DRIVING**

**SING**

**PICK**

**WEATHER**

**LAWN CHAIR**

**CAMP FIRE**

## About Practicing.....

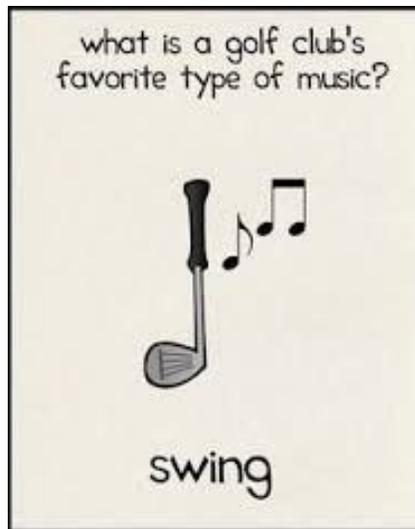
[www.mandohangout.com](http://www.mandohangout.com)

"Lots of people want to play music, but not many want to practice."

"It takes thousands of hours of practice, just to be mediocre."

**Word Search - Answer Key**

Q	D	S	A	W	F	E	C	V	F	R	T	G	B
A	F	W	H	O	R	Y	C	P	O	D	M	T	G
Z	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L	O	O	U	K	H
X	R	A	L	M	E	E	V	O	M	G	S	E	N
C	T	T	Y	L	N	N	Z	M	I	F	I	E	O
V	Y	H	C	A	D	N	F	U	N	V	C	N	T
D	U	E	E	R	S	A	G	K	L	B	D	L	C
R	I	R	N	T	R	I	O	F	L	B	I	N	A
I	O	H	Q	J	U	D	S	O	N	L	D	O	M
V	P	S	T	A	G	E	P	O	I	U	T	A	P
I	A	X	H	M	E	R	T	D	M	E	R	C	I
N	S	V	P	S	T	G	I	F	O	G	E	N	N
G	D	T	B	D	P	I	C	K	N	R	B	M	G
B	F	I	S	E	T	A	T	S	T	S	O	B	P
L	A	W	N	C	H	A	I	R	A	S	R	A	L
N	G	B	A	N	J	R	U	N	N	H	E	N	M
M	H	Y	C	A	M	P	F	I	R	E	N	D	N
L	J	M	C	R	A	T	I	U	G	O	R	S	H
K	V	E	N	D	O	R	S	X	D	C	Y	B	J



**Did You Know?**

In 2009, a man ran the Nashville Country Music marathon while playing the banjo. He did it as a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. He ran the marathon in just over 4 hours.

Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead used to play in a bluegrass band called the “Sleepy Hollow Hog Stompers.”

## Montana Historic Society Portrait Exhibit Shows Eclectic Slice of Montanans

The Montana Historical Society's newest exhibit, *Who Speaks to You? Portraits from the Permanent Collection*, includes about 50 portraits of interesting people and pets from Montana whose presence has enriched the lives they touched. The MHS website featured the portrait below of a fiddle maker. Fiddles made by luthiers in Montana periodically make an appearance at MRBA bluegrass jams. This painting captures the craftsmanship in this endeavor.

The painting is by Montana artist Loren Entz. He was born in Kansas but left his childhood home to work as a Montana ranch hand, where he came into contact with other Western artists. Cowboy by day and artist by night, Loren soon began to realize it was possible to make a living as an artist and started working as a full-time artist in 1981.



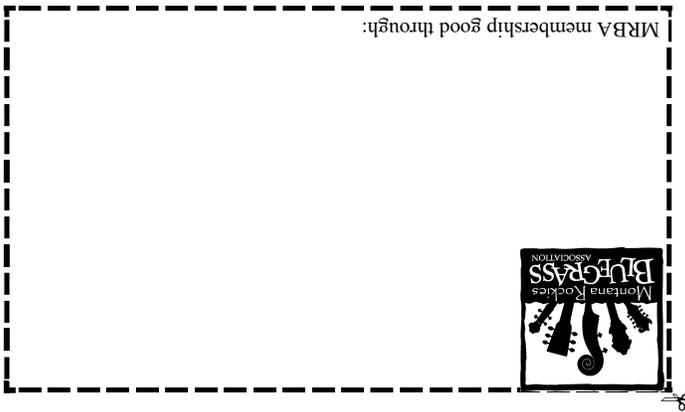
Loren Entz, Fiddle Maker <https://www.lorenentz.com/>

### **Fun Fact**

The year 2020 set a record for guitar sales. The likely cause— during the pandemic lockdown, people were taking up new hobbies such as learning to play an instrument. Sales for all music instruments were up during the last year. Maybe we'll see some new bluegrass pickers at the MRBA jams!

***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.



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