



Bluegrassin'

Volume 24 Issue 2

March—April 2022

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

- March 6: "MRBA North" Jam, Flathead Electric Cooperative, Community Room (park at north side of building), Kalispell 4-8 pm. Pizza @ 6 pm
- March 10 & 11: Lil Smokies, Great Northern Bar, Whitefish
- March 12: Lil Smokies, Wilma, Missoula
- March 13—Smokestack String Band, The Revolver, Anaconda, 4-7 pm
- March 19: MRBA Winter Jam Series, Masonic Lodge, Missoula - Pickin' and grinnin' starts at 2 pm, potluck at 6 pm, followed by more pickin' and grinnin'
- April 3: Grammy Awards
- April 9 : MRBA Spring Festival and Fundraiser, Neeley Center, Victor (see pg. 6)
- April 10: Smokestack String Band, The Revolver, Anaconda, 4-7 pm

- Notes:*
1. Please check websites or call the venues to confirm show times.
 2. If you play in a band, (or know of a local bluegrass band) please e-mail the link for your band's web page or Facebook page to the editor.
 3. Send the editor info about open bluegrass jams and other bluegrass events in your area.

Thanks.

Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.
Confucius



President's Message

Howdy all..

We have one more winter jam at the Masonic Lodge in Missoula on Saturday, March 19. These jams have been attended by a small but fun bunch with good potlucks, good friends, and good music.

The MRBA Fundraiser and Festival will be at the Neely Center in Victor (see pages 6 & 7). Turn west off the highway at the Victor gas station and go 5 blocks; the Center is on the right. I haven't heard back from the Center about over-night camping, but we will find a place.

We desperately need volunteers to help with the kitchen, the CD table, and taking tickets. As in the past, folks who want to are asked to bring a dessert for resale in the kitchen. Tari and I also need help putting up the sound system.

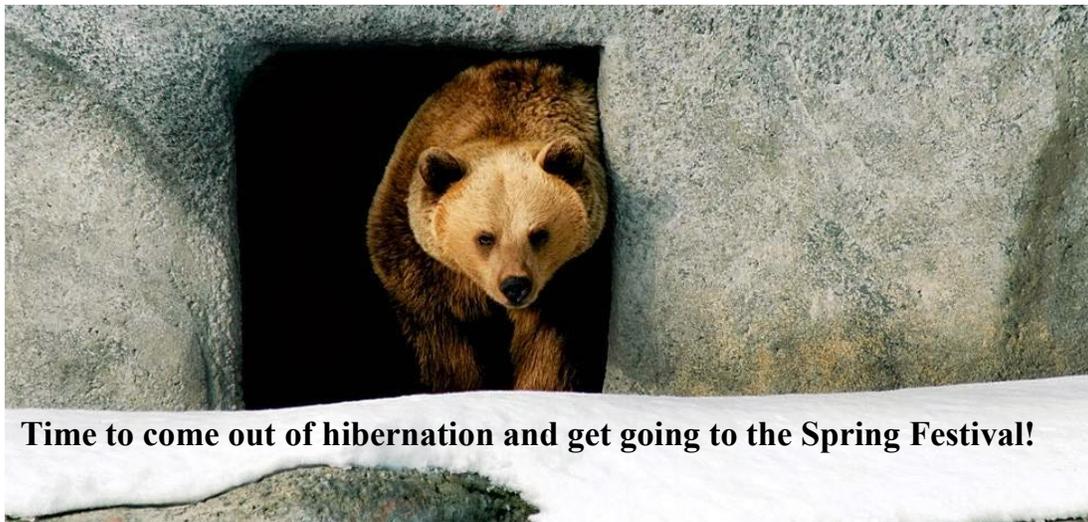
Still, no one has stepped up to oversee the MRBA merchandise.

Covid was and still is very hard on our Association. We need to stress the importance of people staying involved and offering to help if MRBA is to continue.

Mike

NEWS FLASH!

Because we have so many bands this year, and no one wants to play too late, we will start the MRBA Victor Festival at 11 AM.



Time to come out of hibernation and get going to the Spring Festival!

Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association

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

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

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*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

MRBA January Jam Photos



Playing in a Band

<https://globalsoundstudio.com/the-benefits-of-playing-in-a-band/>

Think you've got rhythm that rivals the steadiest metronome? Are your riffs in tune and on point? Can you correctly project your voice and maintain energy through a setlist of songs? You'll find out for sure once you start playing with other musicians.

Placing your musical skills in a group context will reveal both your strengths as a player and the areas that need fine tuning. Being able to integrate your playing into a band or ensemble setting is a vital step for musicians to take. Key abilities, such as playing in rhythm and singing in key, will develop exponentially the more you play in group setting.

Playing with others also exposes you to musicians at different skill levels than yourself. You might be inspired to up your practice game when you see how awesome your bass or guitar players are at their instruments.

If you've been curious about learning another instrument, your fellow bandmates can give you pointers or recommend an instructor – maybe even let you try out their instrument during practice. Understanding the basics of a variety of instruments is important to your overall musicianship, regardless of what instrument you play. Being in a band is a great way to begin learning those basics, along with other important tips and tricks. Plus, exposure to other musicians sparks creativity. You may not consider yourself a singer, but you might be inspired to add backup vocals to a song after hearing your vocalist rock out.

Being in a band teaches you how to work with others, just like any group collaboration. You'll learn how to compromise, respect, and constructively communicate with your bandmates. You'll build unique bonding experiences during rehearsal and performances. You'll work together towards common goals and develop good practice habits by following through with rehearsal commitments and practice routines.

Have we mentioned – being in a band is FUN!

You get to hang out with friends, play songs you love, write songs together, and perform them in front of your friends, family, and fans. You get a moment to shine on stage with the support and connection of your bandmates. Being in a band creates friendships and memories that last a lifetime!



Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association Annual Spring Festival and Fundraiser Saturday April 9, 2022

Neely Center @ 150 S A Street, Victor, Mt

Starts 11:00 am until 8:00 pm



Frog Pond String Band, Kalispell, Mt
Smokestack String Band, Anaconda, MT
Kentucky Sky, Idaho Falls, Id
Mike & Tari Conroy, Conner, Mt
Darby Sirens, hither and yon
93 North, Salmon, Id
Elk Ridge, Deerlodge, Mt
Raynae & Dallas, Victor & Utah
Matt Jolly & Mark Vosburg, Missoula, Mt

Pinegrass, Missoula, Mt
Bittergrass String Band, Stevensville, Mt
Todd and Nancy Stobie, Orofino, Id
Curtis & Teri, Missoula, Mt
Bluegrass 101, Hamilton, Mt
Shenanigans, Missoula, Mt
Starr Chilson/ The Kemps, Stevi & Hamilton
Over The Hill Gang, Victor, Mt
Greg Boyd Band, Missoula, Mt

Admission: non members \$10.00 MRBA members: \$5.00 under 12 free

More info: 406-821-3777

Spring Festival Band Schedule

Because there are so many bands and nobody wants to play too late, we will start the festival at 11:00 am this year.

Victor MRBA 2022 Festival Schedule

Saturday April 9, 2022

11:00—11:25	Over The Hill Gang	Victor, Mt
11:30—11:55	Raynae & Dallas	Utah & Victor, Mt
12:00—12:25	Matt Jolly & Mark Vosburg	Missoula, Mt
12:30—12:55	Bluegrass 101	Hamilton, Mt
1:00—1:25	Starr Chilson/ The Kemps	Stevensville/Hamilton
1:30—1:55	Todd & Nancy Stobie	Orofino, Id
2:00—2:25	Darby Sireens	Hither & Yon
2:30—2:55	Frog Pond String Band	Kalispell, Mt
3:00—3:25	Kentucky Sky	Idaho Falls, Id
3:30—3:55	Curtis & Teri	Missoula, Mt
4:00—4:25	Elk Ridge	Deer Lodge, Mt
4:30—4:55	Greg Boyd Band	Missoula, Mt
5:00—5:25	Mike & Tari Conroy	Conner, Mt
5:30—5:55	Bittergrass String Band	Stevensville, Mt
6:00—6:25	Pinegrass	Missoula, Mt
6:30—6:55	93 North	Salmon, Id
7:00—7:25	Shenanigans	Missoula, Mt
7:30—7:55	Smokestack String Band	Anaconda, Mt

If you have a problem with your band's scheduled time, please find a band that will swap places with you and let me know. Mike

WANTED!!!!

The Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association desperately needs help to put on the Festival and Fundraiser in Victor on April 9. We need people to help in the kitchen, at the Merchandise table, and taking tickets. Call us at 406-821-3777, Mike and Tari Conroy



CHECK OUT THIS PODCAST BY MRBA MEMBER MARK VOSBURGH!



Mark Vosburgh Blog
 It's available on Apple, Spotify, Stitcher and Facebook.

I listen on Spotify.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4x9fYcJNUG7BpYm6boff19?si=0mT60mL1SEe3XNUf3v1TIQ>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/3HAtoEb8wka10bGOyGkpZq>

All Episodes

- 

John Lowell
 The Bluegrass Vocal Connection My interview with Montana singer songwriter John Lowell recorded June 2021 at the Montana Fiddle...

Feb 2 · 38 min 56 sec
- 

Greg Blake
 The Bluegrass Vocal Connection My inaugural interview with Greg Blake, recorded June 2021 at the Montana Fiddle Camp. <http://montanafiddlecamp.org/See Greg...>

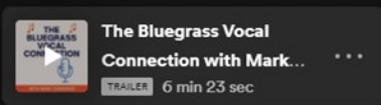
Dec 2021 · 55 min 12 sec
- 

The Bluegrass Vocal Connection with Mark Vosburgh - Season 1
Guests
 In this episode, I introduce The Bluegrass and Vocal Connection Podcast and reveal my first four episodes. Episode 1. January 2022. Greg Blake Episode 2 ...

Dec 2021 · 6 min 23 sec

About

A podcasts that connects you to bluegrass music by talking to the singers who play it!



The Bluegrass Vocal Connection with Mark...
 TRAILER 6 min 23 sec

Wheel of Fortune—Bluegrass Song

_ O _ _ Y _ O _ N _ _ _ N _ _ _ E _ _ _ _ O _ N

Happy Easter



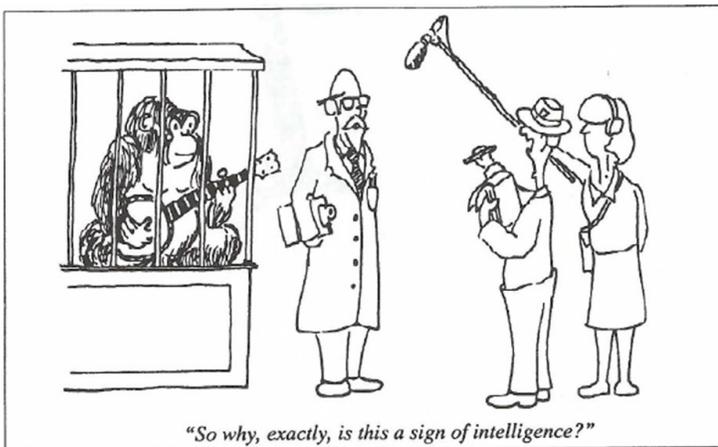
Music Theory

Music theory is one of the most feared, loathed, and misunderstood areas of music, especially for beginners. Most people put it on the same level as algebra class in high school; a lot of numbers and formulas, but really—what’s the point.

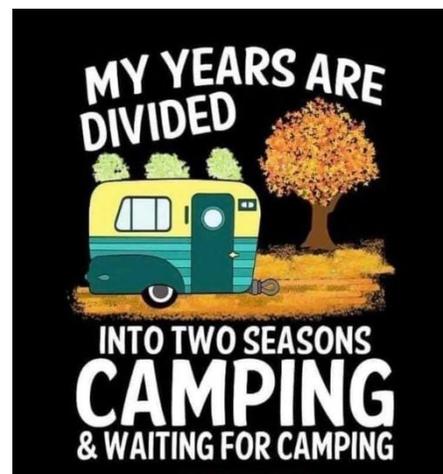
Music theory is not something that you learn, like a song or a lick. It’s more like an umbrella, covering a lot of ground. In fact, if you’ve played for any length of time at all, you probably know a lot more theory than you realize.

Theory is not something that you should feel you need learn in its entirety. The trick is to learn what is appropriate to your level of playing and the style of music that you are working on. By keeping your study of theory closely connected to your playing, it can become a friend that will help you get through many musical situations that you otherwise might not be able to handle.

Source: Ian Perry, *Banjo Newsletter*, June 1998



“So why, exactly, is this a sign of intelligence?”



Bluegrass Question of the Month

Have you ever written a bluegrass song? Have you recorded your original composition?

(Send the newsletter editor the name of the song & where we can find the recording so we can share with our readers!)

ANSWER TO WHEEL OF FORTUNE

FOGGY MOUNTAIN BREAKDOWN

Bluegrass Books on Amazon

How Bluegrass Music Destroyed My Life

[John Fahey](#)

Paperback – April 15, 2000

A collection of fictional but semi-autobiographical stories, this work comes from one of the most influential guitarists in music history. The tales are recalled in a conversational, feverish tone, following the musician in his childhood and young adulthood in post-World War II suburbia, pausing along the way for moments of clarity and introspection. The stories resist categorization—part memoir, part personal essay, part fiction, and part manifesto. They simply stand alone, having their own logic, religious dogma, and mythological history.

Bluegrass, Newgrass, Old-Time, and Americana Music

Craig Harris | Jul 2, 2021

Paper Back & Kindle

With simple instrumentation—banjo, guitar, and bass—a great variety of musical traditions converged to create the “old-timey” music of Appalachia. Over time, that mountain sound evolved into numerous genres and subgenres that continue to thrive today. Now musician and roots music historian Craig Harris takes readers on an anecdotal journey through this distinctly American music.

From the Grand Ole Opry and the historic Bristol Sessions to contemporary festivals and the reemergence of Bluegrass in popular culture, Harris combines extensive research and never-before-seen photographs with more than ninety exclusive interviews. Bluegrass, Newgrass, Old-Time, and Americana Music is chock full of anecdotes about Bill Monroe, Flatt & Scruggs, Del McCoury, Doc Watson, Alison Krauss, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and more.

Includes photographs of: Flatt & Scruggs; fiddler "Eck" Robertson in Amarillo, Texas; Doc Watson; bluegrass fiddler "Tex" Logan; the Stanley Brothers at Sunset Park; Sara and Maybelle of the Carter Family; and Cousin Emmy, Alice & Hazel, and a dulcimer in a parking lot.

In Memoriam—Pam Essary (We'll Miss You)



Memory Lane with Mike Conroy

We found some old pictures of the old Montana Rockies Bluegrass Association's festival at Lost Trail Ski Run. Tari thinks they are from about 2000 or 2001—see if you recognize folks in the pics. Those were the days: one speaker and one mic--- and a tiny generator to run them. Too much fun....



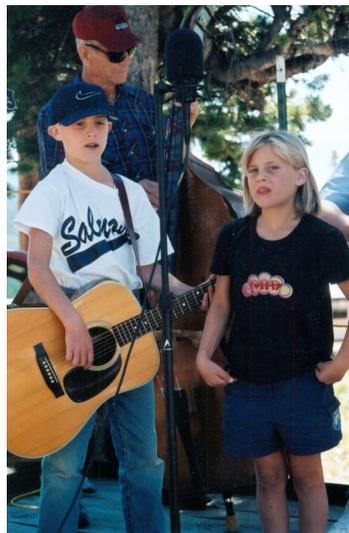
The Salmon bunch- - Ted, Bev, Gary, and Arlene



Jeff, Verna, Bill, Bill ,and Mike



Raynae Redman, Jeff Trask, Bill Anderson, and Brian Hall



Elias, Elora Wolf-Williams, with Ted playing bass



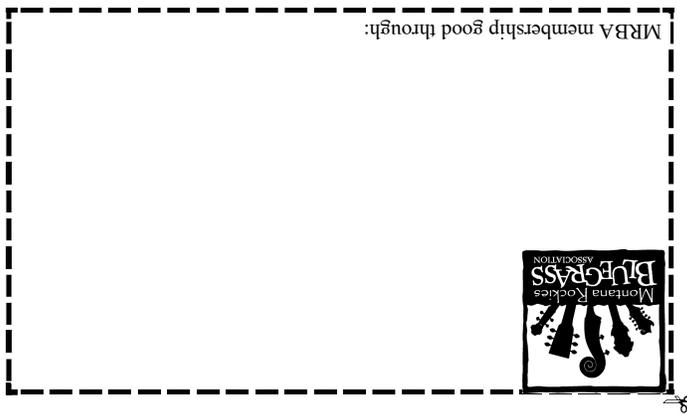
Phyllis and David



Lost Trail Ski Area

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

