



BLUES NEWS

November - December 2006

BBS BLUES EVENT UPCOMING

Christmas Combo: 2007 Officer Elections and Party
Thursday, December 14
Cheeks Bar & Grill
1206 N Towanda Ave Ste 6
Bloomington, IL 61701-7416
309-829-3655
From 7 to 11 P.M.

Admission is a donation at the door: 2 non-perishable food items or \$2.00 per person. All donations will benefit the Claire House. For the live music, we are pleased to announce Wakefield Moor (former president, J. Balmer's Band) has agreed to play.

This is a do-not-miss event! Hey, it's Christmas, and the important officer elections are being held. Celebrate, don't abdicate!

ELECTIONS

Nominations: Bylaws: Article 3, Section 2. Nominations for new officers shall be open only during the November General Membership meeting each year. Specifically, nominations shall be opened during the new business section of the November General Membership meeting and shall be closed when that same meeting is adjourned. All nominees must

provide oral or written consent during the nomination process in order to be placed on the ballot. Elections shall be held during the December General Membership Meeting.

Eligible Voters: Bylaws: Article 3, Section 3. Only Active Members in good standing for no less than thirty (30) days shall be entitled to vote in an election or to seek nomination to office.

Bylaws: Article 2, Section 3, Part B, Clause 1 ... An Honorary Member shall have the right to vote and eligibility to hold office, unless otherwise prohibited within this document.

Bylaws: Article 2, Section 3, Part B, Clause 2... A Corporate Member shall **not** be entitled to vote or eligible to hold office.

Bylaws: Article 2, Section 3, Part B, Clause 3... A Preferred Corporate Member shall **not** be entitled to vote or to hold office.

Voting: Bylaws: Article 3, Section 2. Elections shall be held during the December General Membership Meeting. Bylaws: Article 3, Section 4. Voting during the election of officers shall be by secret ballot and shall be tallied by a teller committee chaired by the Parliamentarian.

Nominees for 2007:

President:
Randy Hoffman
Mike Sacco

Vice President:
Becky Bell
Deborah Mehlberg

Secretary:
J Balmer
Julie Swanberg

Treasurer:
Joanne Weigman

Parliamentarian:
Rudy Ordonez
Keith Zimmerman

Entertainment:
Deborah Mehlberg

Membership Director:
Frank Black

Education:
Randy Hoffman

Marketing:
Rudy Ordonez

Webmaster:
Ralph Weisheit

Newsletter Editor:
James Walker



KNOW YOUR BLUES BLOWTORCH SOCIETY

Our Website Our Treasure:
www.bluesblowtorch.com/society

Band Schedules and concerts:
Our Forum is a great source of information for the latest.
Delta Frank posts the concert listings he receives, especially ones for Central Illinois.

Hopeful Solution Found For Forum Spammers and Hackers
Hackers: our worst problem. If a person forgets to log out, it leaves a hole in the system for hackers to enter the site and do bad things to it.

Spammers: our annoying problem: We have had about 30 advertisers/spammers try to post on the site in the last 3 days, but to no avail. Not one got through thanks to Pete Moore, our number one webmaster. Pete set the registrations to "administration approval," and he approves only Delta Frank and James Walker. If you or anyone legitimate ever registered, but can't post messages now, send them to Delta Frank or James Walker. That should work well in keeping spammers off the site!

Addresses: Delta Frank:
blusgrdn@a5.com ; James Walker:
jwalker4@mchsi.com or
skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com

Thank you everyone for your cooperation,
Frank Black
BBS Membership Director

FALL BALL REVIEW

Ralph Weisheit: On October 8, 2006 the Blues Blowtorch Society held the Fall Ball, a fundraiser for the society's Education Fund. The setting was the Mackinaw Valley Vineyard, a great supporter of the society and live music. Featured bands included Russell Miller and 6V6, David Berchtold with Brian Stear, and After Midnight Blues. In addition to the music, fans got to dig into a hog roast with corn on the cob. Steve "The Harp" set the stage for the day by offering free harmonica lessons. As if all that were not enough, Karen Brault was kind enough to donate a quilt and basket, which were auctioned off with the proceeds going to the society's Education Fund. Great music, great weather, great food, and a great setting -- who could ask for more?

Eldon J. Hinshaw: Dear Blues Blowtorch Society,
I wanted to write to let you all know what a great time my family and I had at the Blues Blowtorch Society's Fall Ball on October 8. It just happened to land on my 70th birthday.
The weather was beautiful and the setting at the Mackinaw Valley Vineyard topped it off.
The view reminded me of my younger days when there was farmland as far as the eye could see. Seems there was something for everyone, Harmonica classes by Steve "The Harp" (who just so happens to be my son in law), a raffle for a beautiful quilt, and a hog roast washed down with a great tasting bottle of wine. I really enjoyed the music, especially 6V6 who

sang "Happy Birthday" to me. I thank them. Not many people get to say they had 375 people at their birthday party, but I can. Attached to this is a picture of me cutting my birthday cake, I heard Mike Sacco really liked it as well. I also appreciate the Blues Blowtorch Society T-shirt, I'll wear it proudly. Please accept a \$30.00 donation for the society.
Sincerely,
Eldon J. Hinshaw & Family



Steve Mehlberg, event chairman:
The Fall Ball was a huge success! Exceeding my expectations, we had over 375 paid attendees! There was great support from the society officers and members as well as the public! I especially want to send a "Thank you" to the bands that performed and Karen Brault for the quilt and basket she donated. We sure had a wonderful time and a lot of fun in the good weather with great music.

Make Sacco, President: I want to thank Mackinaw Valley Vineyard owner Paul Hahn and his entire staff for hosting and all their work. Plus, Steve did a great job putting this event together.

Rudy Ordonez, Marketing Chair:
Our BBS tent did very well selling T-shirts, harmonicas, and sundries.



➡ *continued from page 2*

Quilt tickets sold very well, but we needed to hold the drawing sooner in the day.

Delta Frank, Membership Chair:

Thank you to the new members who joined and those who renewed their memberships.

Photos: See photos of the Fall Ball on our website:

www.bluesblowtorch.com/society. Click on the camera icon.

Lost & Found: Two folding aluminum lawn chairs were found. They have blue and white webbing with white arm rests. Contact James Walker (815-432-5656) to claim.



REVIEWS

You've Got The Problem! Dr. Duke Tumatote & the Power Trio BPCD 5108 By Randy Hoffman

If you don't like the latest from Dr. Duke Tumatote, You've got the Problem!! Unlike many of his previous offerings, this one is full of Blues, all different styles and as always, a lot of fun lyrics and musical mastery. Nobody does as many different things with their musical arrangements as Duke and the Power Trio. Unusual chord changes and guitar riffs are a trademark of the always-entertaining group. When I say different styles, I mean every tune has a completely fresh sound and feel. From the Mississippi sound of "Mudcat Man," the vintage 30's sound of "Moanin' After Blues," the swingin' style of "Be So Easy," to the not-so-traditional style of "My Baby Is A Nudist," the tunes

evolve into entertainment variety. The guitar playing is signature Duke, cool riffs that are unique and prolific. Stretching out from his usual fare, he covers the spectrum from traditional Delta Dobro sounds to some tasty slide guitar, even some retro 60's remnants to catch your attention. The Power Trio is always right on the mark. They are so tight that sometimes it feels like the rhythm section of Toby Seiler on drums and Mark Christopher Rohrman on bass, create a symbiotic tension to compliment the lyrical content. James Mitchell Hill adds nice keys to the feel, without shadowing the guitar acrobatics. This CD also has a few guests that bring a nice flavor to the mojo stew. Dan Holmes is particularly hot on the harmonica and P.J. Yinger managed to impress someone that normally feels a trumpet doesn't belong in the Blues. If you want to have some musical fun, pick up a copy of this new Blind Pig release. Check out his website at duketumatote.com, especially his video of "My Baby Is A Nudist" on "YouTube" and "BOB and Tom's" website.

Blind Pig Records 30th Anniversary Collection BPCD 2003 By Randy Hoffman

I usually pass on reviews of compilations, yet I find myself following up the Jimmy Thackery review with the Blind Pig Records 30th Anniversary Collection. When it comes to a collection of Blues Music, no one (except Delta Frank Black) could put together such a variety of artists and make it sound right. Blind Pig, long recognized as one of the leaders in putting Blues Musicians in front of the listening public, has done a fine job on this one. When you open with Tommy Castro, you can't go wrong, and the journey through this two CD

set, encompassing 33 tunes, reminds you of the immense talent that you have listened to on Blind Pig records for these all-to-short 30 years. The list is 33 folks long, so I won't bore you with that, but the closer is one of my recent favorites, Duke Tumatote's "Moanin' After Blues".

BUT WAIT! THAT'S NOT ALL! You also get a bonus DVD with Tommy Castro doing a different tune and five other folks you won't want to miss seeing. So, if you like the recent history of the Blues, this Collection should trip your trigger.

Cleveland Fats The Way Things Go HB 3302 By Randy Hoffman

Honeybee Entertainment released this CD of all real Blues, and it is all good Blues! I kept trying to pick out a favorite tune, but just could not do it; they were all groovin' and movin'. Cleveland Fats wrote nine of the twelve tunes and his songwriting will catch your attention. The combination of his lyrics and vocals really draw you into the tunes. His guitar work is right on target, not dominating, but not shy either. The band is excellent. Well, of course, Robert Lockwood Jr. is featured on 12 string guitar and is Cleveland Fat's mentor, which is evident in the content being *real* blues. The mix of the instruments is extremely well done, which is impossible unless you have real pros playing the music they love, not trying to make an individual statement. Billy Branch on harmonica, Dave Jefferson on drums, Aron Burton on bass, Ariyo on piano, Doc Thomas on Sax and Vince Wills on organ are the best group of Bluesmen you could ask for. Talk about synergy, they must have an (blue) aura around them

continued on page 4 ➡

👉 *continued from page 3*

when they play!!

Like I said...I couldn't pick a favorite tune, they were all right in the pocket. Nothing stood out as special; they all just stood out as great. Go buy this one!!

DAVID BERCHTOLD

LIVE ON GLT

Self Release

By James (Skyy Dobro) Walker

The allure of acoustic guitar music is stripping it down to the basics. It's hard to hide anything when you are naked, and that is analogous to playing acoustically. "If a song is stripped down and still sounds good, then you know it's great," said recording artist Kate Hathaway from Rossville, Illinois.

David Berchtold takes his acoustic guitar playing beyond chord strumming (think "Kum-ba-ya") to finger picking. Talk about Roots Music, this is the real deal. Only the most accomplished players can take listeners back to the historic roots where Appalachian Scots-Irish players and their instruments collided with Africa's cultural rhythms and melodies.

The complexity of finger picking is similar to a juggler keeping four balls simultaneously aloft, only harder. With his thumb, Berchtold walks the bassline and maintains the underlying rhythm. With his other fingers, he plays the lead treble notes comprising the melody; it's what the old timers like Merle Travis called, "double picking." Next, David adds to the mix percussion by tapping the wooden body, along with string popping, neck bends, "hammer-ons," and "pull-offs" and that is just his right hand! For fuller appreciation, consider what his fretting left hand is doing and his brain remembering lyrics, what comes next on classics, or improvising new licks on his original works.

With those thoughts in mind, you are now ready to listen to David Berchtold's latest album, *Live on GLT!* Nine of the ten tracks were recorded live in the WGLT studio during two different sessions of Bruce Bergethon's *Acousticity* program. The ten tracks run around twenty eight minutes.

Track one finds "Dberch" paying homage to original Jefferson Airplane guitarist Jorma Kaukonen, who has always kept one foot in what Roy Acuff called "real" music. "Embryonic Journey" is a title that implies growth. Over the course of this instrumental, the complexity and tempo grow to a climatic finish.

"Know Your Rider" is an old traditional song on which Berchtold uses an arrangement by Kaukonen. Here we get our first listen to David's smooth tenor vocals. "I'll be your man; sure won't be your dog," sings Dberch.

The first Berchtold original piece is the fourth track, an instrumental, "Waiting On Charlie." David strikes a pattern, and each time it is repeated, it is varied in complexity. It's like telling a story over and over, and each time it is told, it is embellished and improved.

The sixth track is another Dberch original instrumental, "Serenity." Here David shows how pleasant chords can be struck right amongst the finger picking. The rhythm is intricate by itself, then comes the even more complex melody with the surprising chords interspersed. I disagree with the choice of title; it demanded my brain to pay attention, not be "serene".

Listed as a "Bonus track," Berchtold has studio recorded an instrumental by the amazing Leo Kottke titled, "The Fisherman." This song has interesting rises and falls. Steady patterns give way to flights of notes only to return back to a pattern before taking off

again.

In the final analysis when Berchtold's music is stripped down to the basics and the nakedness of his playing is fully exposed, what we see are David Berchtold's songs resplendently dressed in the styles of a master.

Visit: www.davidberchtold.com

DEB SEITZ

ANOTHER PROMISE

Self Release

By James (Skyy Dobro) Walker

Central Illinois Blues Challenge winner Deb Seitz has made herself a promise, and this time she's "not giving in." The Lockport, Illinois songstress' latest project, the solo album *Another Promise*, makes the listener a better guarantee: it will double your pleasure and double your fun.

In an interesting and unique approach, Seitz gives fans two versions of seven of the nine original songs, one a band mix with electric guitar and one an acoustic mix. The band mixes come first followed by the acoustic mixes with the songs in a different order. The best parts are a double dip of Seitz's beautiful and accomplished voice and twice as much guitar from Frank Anastos.

The title track finds the dynamic Frank Anastos on electric guitar absolutely launching the song (and CD) with an emotionally charged power Rock riff the likes of which would be expected only in a mid song climax. Seitz comes in on vocals using her seasoned and formidable Rock voice and bares her soul, "This highway leads right to his door." Seitz's self penned lyrics express that self discipline is hard, but her will is stronger this time she's keeping this promise. This cut and the final track are the only ones presented as single versions.

Pounding the first notes heard and anchoring the rhythm is

continued on page 5 🐉

 continued from page 4

arranger and producer, has-worked-with-everybody Patrick Doody. South Chicago bassman John Falstrom cohabitates the rhythm section. The four person lineup is the simple formula for the success on these songs' artful production.

The second cut, "Livin' The Blues" is instantly-likeable. Striking the song's mood of frustration, Anastos' opening guitar notes plaintively pierce the air in a slower tempo. Seitz this time utilizes a soft, melancholy Blues voice. She makes you feel her hurt when she sings, "Oh, I'll be alright, I've got nothin' to lose/I'm happy just sittin' back, livin' the blues."

Uplifting fun and celebration of live music are found in the third track, "Soul of the Music." Deb is obviously having fun too ("Come let the music set you free!"), because you can hear her gleefully howl and laugh out loud just ahead of the ending guitar solo. A careful listen to the lyrics reveals an indictment of all the "Idol" shows on television with their soul-less songs.

On "Lady Blue" Seitz puts incredible energy into singing with a Blues voice alternately full of tearful soul followed by pleading desperation. To the woman who stole her lover she sings, "Lady Blue...Why should I lose? / Am I too late; does his heart belong to you?" Seitz confided, "I had to dig deep on this one." The acoustic version this time best showcases Anastos in a clinic on how to support a singer.

Slide guitar fans take heart. For "Do You Just Want To Dance?" there's an electric opening on track seven and a killer Dobro intro on cut nine's acoustic version. Smiles Deb, "This is definitely my 'bad attitude' song."

By the end of the fifteenth track, the listener has become convinced that Deb Seitz is one of

the most versatile vocalists on the Chicago blues scene. Her ability to capture feelings and express emotional moods with an attention grabbing vocal quality is simply top shelf! Her song writing is not bad, either.

With no horns, no keyboards, and no fuss, Deb Seitz and crew have successfully shown how a simple line up can use intricate arrangements. The result is listeners get twice as much great music compared to some overly honked and hyper worked mish-mash! That's a promise! Visit Deb at www.debseitz.com



NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

Thank you and "welcome" to our newest members and renewals since last issue. Our apologies, to any one missed. E-mail corrections to the editor at skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com

Richard & Karen Behrens
Frank & Marilyn Black
Beth & Archie Crouch
Jan Darrow
Gary Dean
Jay Goldberg
Gary & Susan Kelley
Tim O'Connell
Lena Sacco
Brian Stear
Eric Steiner
Ric Thunder
Ralph & Carol Weisheit
John & Linda Williams
WGLT/Bruce Bergethon



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Committed Sponsor:

Dr. Dennis Fox

Dr. Dennis P. Fox, D.D.S. has re-newed his corporate membership for 4 Years! A dedicated member in the society, he gave secretary Becky Bell a \$400 check the other day. We are blessed with Dr. Fox and all of our Corporate Sponsors.



THANKS TO THE BB SOCIETY

From Debbie Mehlberg: Steve and I just received a very beautiful bouquet of flowers from the Blues Blowtorch Society (in sympathy for the passing of Steve's brother). Please pass along our very heart felt Thank You.

From Frank Black: I want to thank all of you for the Blues Blowtorch Society's pledge to the blues on "WGLT" last night during Pledge Weeks. It was appreciated very much by me.

From Frank Black: Friends, I want to personally thank all you involved in the Blues Society in making, framing, and presenting me with the pictures of my son, Chris Black, at the Fall Ball at the Mackinaw Valley Vineyard on Sunday, October 8th. My son will leave for Kuwait, and then on to Iraq in December. God Bless each and every one of you. This really meant a lot to me that you did such a wonderful thing for me.

From Brian D. Stear, harmonica player: "On behalf of David Berchtold and myself, I just wanted to thank you for allowing us both the pleasure and privilege to participate [acoustic guitar and harmonica duo] in your Fall Ball. What with all the cutbacks in arts and music in the public school systems, it was nice to see someone (the society) is working hard to make a difference, and ensuring that the blues will be passed on to David for the next generation. Keep up the good work!" Said BBS Treasurer Joanne Weigman, "Notes like this make it all worthwhile!"



FROM THE PREZ

OFFICIAL RAMBLINGS FROM THE PREZ

Greetings Blues Fans!

As a founder of the Blues Blowtorch Society, I wanted to use this issue's column to address the State of the Nation, er, make that, the Health of BBS. We have completed our 6th year of existence, and I am happy to report that the BBS is doing really well and considerably better than I had ever hoped!

Our membership is up, mostly thanks to Delta Frank. But, you don't sign up members unless people are interested in becoming a member. So, there are many positive points to that equation.

Our treasury is in the best shape it has ever been. We have seen some lean times, but our management team has learned and improved.

That equates to doing more community service, which is part of our whole mission in the first place. For example, at the September meeting, we just voted to renew subscriptions to *Blues Revue* magazine for three different libraries. And, we have recently sponsored three educational programs and provided harmonicas to kids.

Word is finally spreading so that, for the first time, people are now approaching us about helping them with some of their educational programs that are already established. Or, they are trying to establish new programs with our help.

Bless you members who have joined and contributed your dues money. Please grow with us and experience personal growth by volunteering and attending meetings. We need to increase the percentage of members who actively volunteer. You'll find out it's fun.

Mike the Mechanic,

BBS President

PS: I realized that Thursday is the anniversary of the first meeting of our society, Oct. 26, 2000. Congratulations to us, and may we have many more happy years together.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: BUSINESS AND FUN

Remember, monthly meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM. Meetings (except the Christmas Combo) are held at the VFW located at Morrisey Drive and Lincoln Street. Next meeting there is January 19. Call any Board member (see last page listings) to confirm.

The future BBS meetings will feature harmonica lessons taught by Steve "The Harp" Mehlberg. Bill Porter will join Steve in some months to teach and talk about the guitar.



EDUCATION SPOT

EDUCATION SPOT

Our mission statement: "The Blues Blowtorch Society was formed as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization to enhance the culture of blues music in the Central Illinois area through the promotion of local artists, as well as regional and national talents, and to educate the public to foster an appreciation of the American Heritage known as The Blues."

Indeed, together we are making it happen! Diana Cushing gave BBS a check for \$100 for the Education Fund on Saturday night, October 14. We are fortunate to have such generous support. Thank you, Diana!

Defining Terms: Manager, Agent, Tour Manager
"Manager" is different than "Tour

Manager" and "Agent". The manager is a bit like a GM in baseball, where they make the final calls on everything and drive the ship. Managers are responsible for finding a record label, keeping the label doing their job, working and hiring a publicist, dealing with day to day band

issues/complaints, and getting the band picked up by an agency.

Managers try to find the right attorney and business manager, and manage all of these relationships for the band.

The "Agent" is responsible for getting gigs (of which the manager will work with them to find the best and most appropriate gigs).

Managers can also be the agent until getting the band to the next level where they could bring on a bigger booking agent/agency.

The "Tour Manager" is in charge of dealing with the day to day road issues, and, currently at this stage, is kind of the utility

infielder (to stick with the baseball analogy). He is the van

driver, merchandise guy, deals with advancing and settling the shows (making sure things are set before hand and getting them paid afterwards).

From Geoff Harrison, Manager for Backyard Tire Fire



ASK DELTA FRANK

Note: This column can also be read on the BBS website "Forum." Send questions to skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com or jwalker4@mchsi.com

In the last issue, we left you with this question:

Question: What reasons helped Chicago develop into the "Mecca" of the blues scene?

Answer: In the 1940's and 1950's the black people of Mississippi and "the South" were sick and tired of

continued on page 6

living on plantations as semi-slave sharecroppers and making no money. They were working sun up to sun down in the fields, only to get further in debt to their "owners" and only receiving a place to live and food. So they migrated by hobo-ing north to Chicago where they heard that jobs were plentiful and the pay was good. They brought along their special brand of music with them.

Question: Ok then, what is "Chicago Blues," and how does it compare to "Delta Blues"?

Answer: "Delta Blues" is the oldest style. Venerable Memphis bluesman Gus Cannon claimed to have first heard a musician playing in a blues style circa 1900. Robert Palmer described the music in his book *Deep Blues*, "The Mississippi Delta's blues musicians sang with unmatched intensity in a gritty, melodically circumscribed, highly ornamented style that was closer to field hollers than it was to other styles of blues. Guitar and piano accompaniments were percussive and hypnotic, and many Delta guitarists mastered the art of fretting the instrument with a slide or bottleneck that made the instrument 'talk' in strikingly speech-like inflections." The Chicago Blues came whole cloth from the Mississippi Delta.

During the depression, Delta bluesmen took the Illinois Central train to Chicago to record for major labels like Bluebird. Many of the Delta's best musicians, including Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Elmore James, and Sonny Boy Williamson, moved to Chicago in the late 1940s and early 1950s to be near the recording studios. Delta Blues musicians who brought their old-time rural blues with them to Chicago did not smooth off the rough edges and developed the expressive possibilities of the distortion and volume provided by electrical amplification. The old-style rolling Delta Blues accompaniment of a finger picked acoustic guitar was left behind for a new soundhard-edged, searing, and rawof electric guitar and harmonica lead, driven by a rhythm section of piano, rhythm guitar, bass, and drums. Delta musicians who migrated to Chicago along with Chicagoans Willie Dixon and Leonard and Phil Chess of Chess Records, were instrumental in creating a unique sound that still retains its identity. This sound was a significant influence on American and British rock and roll of the 1960s and 1970s.

Question: Delta Frank, how did you ever get started at WGLT?

Answer: See next issue of Blues News

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Fall Ball Standouts:

Participation is the essential ingredient in any democracy, and that includes your B.B.Society. We are so grateful for our volunteers. A big "ATTAWAY" shout-out goes to:

Dave Garrett Parking lot duty

Dylan Hart Parking lot duty

Brian Stear - made color copies of the flyer and posted around Peoria. He also spontaneously created the "donate a dollar" idea that worked well!

Karen Brault (keyboardist for After Midnight Blues) donated a quilt in a basket

Julie Swanberg sold the most tickets for the quilt raffle



BLUES NEWS NOTES

SAD NOTICES OF PASSINGS:

Michael L. Thompson - Steve "The Harp" Mehlberg's brother died September 28 in Bloomington at the age of 46.

Bonnie Lee, one of the last great voices in urban women's blues, passed away on the morning of September 7th. Born in 1931 near the Texas-Louisiana border, the young Bonnie played piano and

continued on page 8



Buddy and Hopkins

By Jason Nocera (www.buddyandhopkins.com)



➡ continued from page 7

sang gospel in her hometown church. In her teens, she toured the South as a singer with the great minstrel show; but her life took a new direction when she caught a ride with a moving van driver and headed north to Chicago. Living with an aunt on the South Side, she made her debut as a performer in neighborhood clubs -- first as a dancer, then a singer. Her powerful voice delivered blues in the full range from flirty simper to throaty growl, and her reputation grew as she gained experience.

James Edward “Snooky” Pryor:

“We’ve lost another great bluesman, Snooky Pryor. He was one of my favorite Chicago Blues musicians (harmonica). Whenever I play his “Shake My Hand” on Blind Pig, I forget about what’s wrong with the world and simply enjoy his singing and playing,” Delta Frank.

“Snooky Pryor played a mammoth role in shaping the amplified Chicago blues harp sound during the postwar era. He long claimed he was the first harpist to run his sound through a public-address system around the Windy City, and since nobody’s around to refute the claim at this point, we’ll have to accept it!” Bill Dahl, All Music Guide

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHANGE:

Due to the International Blues Challenge rules for the category of Best Self Produced CD that the BBS recommended, Steve “The Harp” Mehlberg resigned his position as Entertainment Chairman. “I do this regrettably to stay within the rules of the Blues Foundation. I hope you all understand that I have enjoyed working with all of you and resign my chair with a heavy heart,” said Steve.

At the October 19th meeting, the BOD selected Deborah Mehlberg for the chairmanship of the Entertainment Committee. She will serve the remainder of Steve’s term.

BLUES NEWS EDITOR’S FIRST PODCAST

You can listen to James Walker discuss the Blues Blowtorch Society’s Central Illinois Blues Challenge and winner Deb Seitz & Swank Daddies. First topic is Champaign’s Kilborn Alley Blues Band. Go to: <http://ww2.daily-journal.com/podcast/index.cfm>

DELTA FRANK’S “MOUTH OF THE SOUTH” PODCASTS

To hear Delta Frank’s Podcasts at WGLT...click on: <http://wgl.org/programs/blues/index.phtml> and Scroll Down and pick your story. You’ll enjoy his encounter with the Police story!

CD RELEASE PARTY; SALES HELP FUND MEMPHIS TRIP

“In raising some extra money for the trip to the International Blues Challenge, I still need to raise more. My new CD will be released soon, and I plan on using some of the proceeds from the sales to cover some of the expenses. The CD release party for *Another Promise* is on December 15th. It’s being held at The Quest in Dyer, Indiana, but the CD will be available to purchase online at www.cdbaby.com.”

Thanks for all you do,
Sincerely,
Debbie Seitz

CONGRATULATIONS

Champaign-Urbana’s Kilborn Alley

Blues Band’s sophomore release, *Put It In The Alley*, reached number 8 of the top 25 on Living Blues magazine’s Radio Charts for July! The album also charted on the weekly Roots-Blues Chart reaching number 22 of the top 50. (www.rootsmusicreport.com)



CONCERTS

www.bluesblowtorch.com/society...Forum...Concerts

Band Schedules and concerts: Our Forum is a great source of information for the latest. Delta Frank posts the concert listings he receives, especially ones for Central Illinois. Here are examples:

Lucca Grill 70th Anniversary Party

116 East Market St, Bloomington
Wednesday, December 6
Steve “The Harp” and David Berchtold on guitar

Hip Pocket

“Pre-New Years Eve Party”
Saturday Dec. 30
New Lafayette Club, Bloomington
8-11 pm (doors open at 7)
\$10 per person \$15 per couple
Hate being out on amateur night?
Come out the night before and be home before midnight. It’s Hip Pocket’s only remaining public performance as we close out our 20th season. Wake the kids and call the neighbors...let’s party like its...well....nearly 2007!

Joe Bonamassa

Thursday, February 1, 2007
New Lafayette Club, Bloomington
Hosting another blues event, NLC’s performer this time is the young guitar phenom Joe Bonamassa. Tickets will go on sale in the middle of December. Other details will be announced soon.
www.jbonamassa.com



Corporate Sponsors

Please remember to patronize our CORPORATE SPONSORS. They have taken the time to sponsor our Blues Society...and put out the money to help our Society promote and bring blues entertainment and education into McLean County...let's all show our thanks to them by patronizing and "promoting" them!

VFW Post 454

Friday Night Dinners \$6.00 5:30 - 7:00
 Broasted Chicken 1st and 3rd Fridays
 Home of \$2.00 Saturday Lunches - Noon
 Non-Smoking Dining Room

1006 East Lincoln Avenue
 Bloomington, IL 61704

PIP PRINTING and Document Services

Store: 309 663-8545
 Fax: 309-663-8546
 Mobile: 309-275-7307

100 N University Ave.
 Normal, IL 61761

Jerry Siadek
 Owner



Russell Miller

& 6V6

real blues power

Sally Weisenburg Trio

Don Berbaum/Sally Weisenburg
 RR 4 Box 69 • Rushville, IL 62681

Maguire's Pub
 Downtown Bloomington

Mike and Rachelle Hill

218 N. Center
 Bloomington, IL 61701
 309-829-0002

Private Room Available

309-829-0482



fox & hounds
 hair studio

200 W. Monroe St.
 Bloomington, IL 61701

www.fox-n-hounds.com



David Berchtold
 Acoustic Fingerstyle Guitarist

Parties - Dinners - Concerts
 Finger pickin' good Folk, Blues,
 Gospel, Ragtime, and Originals

Phone: (309) 392-2936
 Email: dberch@mchsi.com
 Web: www.davidberchtold.com

"David Berchtold has the rare ability to combine musical talent with heart and soul" -- Mark Lush of midwestbands.com

1717 RT Dunn Drive, Unit E
 Bloomington, Illinois 61704
 309820-9880 or
 888-662-4131
 309-820-9882 fax



SAMUEL MUSIC
 turn it up!

Effingham • Champaign • Springfield • Peoria • Bloomington

Corporate Sponsors



News Blues & Jazz!

RONDA D. TAYLOR GLENN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

115 W. JEFFERSON • SUITE 303A
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61701
BLOOMINGTON (309) 827-3535 FAX (309) 828-2574
PONTIAC (815) 842-1111



- Newly Renovated • Plenty of "Free" On-Site Parking
- Elevators • Full Loading Dock
- Offices • Retail • Loft Apartments • Storage

TIM TILTON 309-829-0482
Developer/Owner 200 W. Monroe • Bloomington, IL



Hahn Family
Winery
33633 IL. Rte. 9
Mackinaw, Illinois 61755

Paul Hahn, Owner 309-359-WINE (9463)
www.mackinawvalleyvineyard.com Fax: 309-210-1540
hahnwine@mackinawvalleyvineyard.com



Technology Group

Nina Sharp
GENERAL MANAGER
Phone: 309-828-4439 Ext. 142
800-403-4439
Fax: 309-827-4721
npsharp@deskmic.com

716 East Empire Street, Suite A Bloomington, IL 61701



Dennis P. Fox, D.D.S.
2103 E. Washington St.
Bloomington, IL 61701
(309) 662-9481

Eastland
Chiropractic
& WELLNESS CENTER

We Listen . . . We Care . . . We Get Results

220 Eldorado Road • Bloomington • 309-662-8418



CHEEKS
Bar & Grill

Chris Hubbard
Owner
309-829-3655

1206 Towanda Ave.
Bloomington, IL 61701



P.O. Box 1092
Bloomington, Illinois 61702-1092

Read All About It!

**Attend the
General Membership
Meeting
The third Thursday
of each month!**

www.bluesblowtorch.com/society



**The Blues Blowtorch Society
Membership Application**

Name _____ Start Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-mail Address _____

Would you like to volunteer? YES, Interest _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPES: Individual \$20/yr. _____
 Family \$25/yr. _____
 Student \$10/yr. _____
 Corporate \$100/yr. _____
 Preferred Corp \$TBD/Event

**Make checks payable to:
The Blues Blowtorch Society**

Mail to: (Our Treasurer)
Joanne Weigman
907 Gerike Way
Bloomington, IL 61704

OFFICERS & CHAIRS

President
Mike "The Mechanic" Sacco 309-530-1895
mikethemechanic@bluesblowtorch.com

Vice President
Richard Goff 217-935-4680
rgoff@bluesblowtorch.com

Secretary
Becky Bell 309-828-4137
rcbell@ilstu.edu

Treasurer
Joanne Weigman 309-829-9813
jodieann98@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian
Martin Weigman 309-829-9813
jodieann98@yahoo.com

Entertainment
Deborah Mehlberg 309-662-0996
deborah464@aol.com or stevethesharp@aol.com

Membership Director
"Delta Frank" Black 217-935-8603
blusgrdn@a5.com

Education
Randy Hoffman 309-531-2533
rd.hoffman@verizon.net

Marketing
Rudy Ordonez
rordonez@bluesblowtorch.com

Photographer/Archivist/Webmaster
Ralph Weisheit 309-452-6444
raweish@ilstu.edu

Newsletter Editor
James "Skyy Dobro" Walker 815-432-5656
skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com