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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. _____
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Preferred Corp \$TBD/Event

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

Mail to: (Our Treasurer)

Joanne Weigman
907 Gerike Way
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James "Skyy Dobro" Walker 815-432-5656
skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com



September - October 2006

BEVERAGES:
Mackinaw's fruit of the vine and other beverages will be available.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
Please contact Steve Mehlberg if you can help out, 309-662-0996 or e-mail:

Steve & Deb Mehlberg
E-mail Address(es):
Deborah464@aol.com

Steve Mehlberg
E-mail Address(es):
stevetheharp@aol.com

IN CASE OF RAIN EVENT WILL BE CANCELLED:
Call any Board member (see last page for numbers) for confirmation.



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: When Sugarcane Collins played at the BBTs meeting in July, I overheard you ask him if he went to visit Robert Johnson's grave last summer on his first trip

through the Mississippi Delta. He responded, "Sure did - both of them." What did he mean by that?

Answer: Well, he died a tragic death on Tuesday, August 16, 1938. I have read and heard that his burial site is in two different places. I have been to the one grave with the big upright monument at Morgan City, Mississippi. The place is the Mt. Zion Baptist Church; it's just outside of town.

But, also the story is, his other burial site is in Greenwood, Mississippi. I have not been there. His legal heir, Claude Johnson set the record straight in an interview stating that "this is the site where my father was buried, let there be no doubt!" (Editor's note: In 1991, Sony Records erected a monument to honor him at the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church graveyard outside of Greenwood.)

I have been told by Honeyboy Edwards the true story that he is buried at Morgan City. He can attest to that. I guess the truth will NEVER be known. If his son says it's in Greenwood, what the hell. I prefer to remember him as being buried at Morgan City.

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

Answer: See next issue.



**BBS BLUES EVENT
UPCOMING**

**BLUES BLOWTORCH SOCIETY
PRODUCTION:**

FALL BALL
Fund Raiser for BBS Education Fund

Sunday, October 8, 2006
Noon to 6:00 PM
Mackinaw Valley Winery, 15 miles west of Bloomington on Route 9
Admission: \$5.00

Ever since the fun and fantastic success of the Central Illinois Blues Challenge held at the beautiful Mackinaw Valley Winery, we have planned to return. Gates open at noon.

MUSIC:
Steve "The Harp" Free Harmonica Lessons - 12:15 to 12:45
6 V 6 - 1 to 3 P.M.

Dave Berchtold (acoustic guitar) and Brian Stear (harmonica) - 3 to 4 P.M.
After Midnight Blues - 4 to 6 P.M.

FOOD:
Mackinaw Valley Winery is planning a hog roast.

www.bluesblowtorch.com/society

**A BLUES BLOWTORCH SOCIETY PRODUCTION:
2006 CENTRAL ILLINOIS BLUES CHALLENGE AND
NOTHIN' BUT THE BLUES FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER PARTY**

Mackinaw Valley Vineyards
Sunday, June 4th, 2006

"Ten bands completed for the chance to be sent to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee. The skies were blue, the setting was beautiful, the beer and wine were plentiful, and the music was wonderful,"... Ralph Weisheit, BBS Webmaster

Competing bands, in order, were:

Southern Blue Band
Barb Hamilton Band
Steve the Harp Blues Band
Delta Terry Austin & The Soul Hoosiers
Deb Seitz & the Swank Daddies
After Midnight Blues
The Edge
Wakefield Moor

Celtricity
South Side Cindy & The Sliptones

Results:
1. Deb Seitz & the Swamp Daddies
2. The Edge
3. Southside Cindy & the Sliptones
4. Steve the Harp Blues Band
5. After Midnight Blues

Photos by Ralph Weisheit



Deb Seitz & the Swamp Daddies



The Edge



Steve the Harp Blues Band



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The Blues BLOWTORCH Society

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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!

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Karen Brault of After Midnight Blues.

NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

Thank you and "welcome" to our newest members and renewals since last issue. With apologies, some of these should actually have been listed in the last issue.

Doug and Cheryl Alexander
J Balmer and Marcia Hammerstrand
Brent Coburn
Jonathan Hasle
Thomas J. Landin
Mark McIntosh
Steve and Debbie Mehlberg

Dave and Sandy Montgomery
Rudy Ordonez
Rick Ridenour
Del and Susan Roberts
James and Susan Walker
Don and Bobbie Yoder
Keith Zimmerman



Buddy and Hopkins

By Jason Nocera (www.buddyandhopkins.com)



NOTHIN BUT THE BLUES IN BLOOMINGTON

**Bloomington, Illinois Sale Barn
Friday and Saturday, July 21-22,
2006**

For the 5th year, the Blues Blowtorch Society volunteers have made the festival possible by providing generous and happy efforts, on so many levels and in so many areas.

Thank you for A fantastic job! I can't list them all; I don't even know them all. Ones I personally observed: Richard Goff emptying trash cans at 12:30 AM, Rudy Ordonez and his wife saving the BBS tent and merchandise when the storm hit, Marty and Joanne Weigman managing the beer and cash

behind the scenes, Randy Hoffman announcing from and managing the stage to prevent dead time between bands, Becky Bell making change till her fingers turned green, and Mike Sacco taking the "last shift" instead joining the dancers for Rosie Ledet's fest closing Zydeco.



Photos by Ralph Weisheit



REVIEWS

Bill Perry
Don't Know Nothin' About Love
BPCD 5140
by Randy Hoffman

I have several of Bill Perry's CDs and have always found a couple of really good tunes on each one. Although the album wasn't bad, I never found that tune that tripped my trigger. "Hello Josephine" was a cool, funky groove. "Accused Me of Lyin'", "Can't Afford to Die", and "Waiting For My Luck To Change" all were solid tunes. "Ball of Confusion" turned me off completely. The title track wasn't objectionable, except for the booming bass drum on an acoustic based tune, that just did not feel right. In fact, I didn't care for the drum mix throughout the CD. I played this album three times on a road trip and kept thinking, I always like Bill Perry's stuff, but the song writing seemed forced and it just didn't work for me.

Jeremy Spencer
Precious Little
BPCD 5106
by Randy Hoffman

It is a real pleasure to review a CD and think to myself...this one's staying in the CD player! Jeremy Spencer was a member of the original Fleetwood Mac and recently made a trip to Norway to meet and play with some local blues-men and cut a great album. The most amazing quality of this recording is the ability of all the players (2nd guitar, harmonica, mandolin, horns and keys) to blend into a harmonic melody with Jeremy's slide guitar. The production work is outstanding throughout. Many albums start out with an acoustic slide with a nice blues feel, but

sometimes that's about all there is. Not on this CD! There's an old blues feel, but the styles are swing, swamp, smoke and rock. The opener "Bitter Lemon" grabbed my attention with dual guitar licks and a great piano mix. Jeremy's vocals were intriguing right from the start and proved engaging as each tune unfolded. "Psychic Waste" has a hot sax and great lyrics. I think this is the best rendition of Elmore James' "It Hurts Me Too" I have ever heard. The stand up bass in the rockin' 50's piano boogie "Please Don't Stop" was killer. "Dr. J" turned out to be my favorite tune on this CD. Clever lyrics and so cool horn arrangement, complimenting the slide guitar, made it a winner. Later in the album you get some Knopfler and Stray Cats like flavors. No doubt about it, the purity of the blues sound is "like the pure Norwegian water!" Best CD I listened to this year. Buy it!!

Albert Cummings
Working Man
BPCD 5105
By Randy Hoffman

This CD has great energy, decent songwriting, and hot, but no beat-you-to-death-guitar playing on it. Although not particularly high in blues content, it's entertaining music all the way through. Merle Haggard's "Working Man Blues" is a kick-ass opener with a country rock flavor, which is evident on many of the cuts. There are some nice ballads and all-in-all, good production quality. The man can definitely play guitar, and the vocals are seasoned and solid. The band is tight, and the drum mix was great. This one will definitely get some more time in my CD player.

The Kilborn Alley Blues Band
Put It In The Alley
Blue Bella Records
By Skyy Dobro

While listening to Kilborn Alley's second studio album, I told my wife I was scheduled to review it. She said, "That should be easy because it has good vocals, good and understandable lyrics, songs that stick in your head, and good instrumentation especially in guitars and harmonica." Score one for her correctness and succinct-osity!

Produced by Chicago Blues maven Nick Moss, and recorded in his Elgin, Illinois studio, *Put It In The Alley* progresses Champaign-Urbana's best young blues band with substantial maturity musically as well as from the touring road's many potholes.

The CD bolts from your speakers with track one, an up tempo romp. "I want to be 'Your Next Baby's Daddy'" may not be a suave pick-up line, but it makes for great blues. "Soldier Blues" reflects contemporary wars' realities. "Mr. Campbell's Blues" is a fitting tribute to Little Milton, while "I Like To Live the Love" is radio ready!

Inspired by Muddy Waters and Paul Butterfield's Blues Band, K.A. wisely allows Joe Asselin plenty of hot harmonica leads throughout. Simply, Asselin can blow with best anywhere. Andrew Duncanson's blues rich voice really stands out on "The Blues Take Me In" and the tearful "The Breakaway." With bassist Chris Breen and drummer Ed O'Hara in the engine room, Joshua Stimmel's classic guitar alternately joins the rhythm and trades leads with Duncanson.

Take this great CD out of the alley, and put it in your player!

