

BLUES NEWS

January - February 2007

BBS BLUES EVENT UPCOMING

MARDI GRAS PARTY
STARRING: NICK MOSS & THE FLIP TOPS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17th
MAGUIRE'S PUB
218 N. CENTER ST,
BLOOMINGTON IL
7:00 PM CLOSING
ADMISSION: \$5.00

The Blues Blowtorch Society will hold its annual Mardi Gras party and Membership Drive in downtown Bloomington. Our Mardi Gras is a combined festive party (costumes encouraged and King and Queen crowned), fundraiser, and signing of new members. Three Bands will provide continuous music throughout the evening on two stages, starting at 7:00 PM. Prairieland Dixie Band will perform a New Orleans style Jazz and Americana roots music via a brass quartet. Steve "The Harp" and Rob Williams and The Soggy Bottom Blues Band will be providing Harmonica Blues, and Nick Moss & The Flip Tops will perform their dynamic Chicago Blues. Nick Moss is currently nominated for three awards for the Blues Foundation's "Blues Music Awards": Band of the year, Album of the Year and Traditional

Tuesday. It is a festive day celebrated world wide on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It marks the close of the pre-Lenten season. In the United States this festival is elaborately celebrated in New Orleans. Mardi Gras Season begins on January 6th and ends the day before Ash Wednesday.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS BLUES CHALLENGE

Sunday, June 3, Mackinaw Valley Vineyard

FALL BALL

Sunday, October 7, Mackinaw Valley Vineyard



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: Delta Frank, how did you ever get started at WGLT?
Answer: I started on WGLT in February 1985. I did a pre-recorded one hour show called the "R & B Hall Of Fame" on Friday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Even though WGLT was a classical radio station, I had wanted to do a blues program all my life. I went

to Tim Emmons, the Program Director, and asked to do a show. He gave me the one hour. In time, about 5 years, they hired Bruce Bergethon as Manager. In 1988, he put me on the air, live, at 10 pm to 1 am on Friday nights. That was the only Blues we had until Mark Boon was hired as a student. He started doing a blues shift on Saturday afternoons from Noon to 4 pm. The rest is history.

Question: What did you get for Christmas? Any new music?

Answer: Nope, I didn't get any new music; however, I did buy myself the new CD by JJ Cale and Eric Clapton, *The Road To Escondido*. I got a new gazebo for the back yard, some new pots and pans, and a new more comfortable mattress. I guess that is boring isn't it.

We are not that materialistic at Christmas. We try to remember what the REAL REASON for Christmas is all about. The greatest gift of all I ever received was receiving HIS GRACE years ago when Jesus saved me.

Question: Delta Frank, what is the first Blues concert you remember seeing as a youngster?

Answer: See next issue of Blues News



OFFICIAL RAMBLINGS FROM THE PREZ

By Randy Hoffman

Are you ready for this? My first "Official Ramblings," and what better time than with Mardi Gras coming up. Can you say "party?" The music will be non-stop, and the good times will roll. We may even have a few surprises for you!!

I wanted to start with giving our 'team' the credit for really stepping up to the challenge of preparing a great Mardi Gras party. Your new Board of Directors has the bull by the horns. Deborah Mehlberg and Steve "the Harp" have been on top of every aspect of the entertainment, design, and party arrangements. Rudy Ordonez has put a comprehensive marketing plan in place, so we can make this the best one yet. The communications and input from all of the Board members since our Christmas Combo has been tremendous.

The Mardi Gras is also our annual Blues Blowtorch Society Membership Drive. Over the past few months, Frank Black has simplified our membership renewal by having just two due-dates per year, instead of twelve. Great idea! Our membership numbers have grown over the past year, due to some hard work and great luck with the events we held. We need those folks who appreciate our efforts, to support us by joining, renewing and participating. Yes, that's right...give us a hand making this fun for everyone.

We have a great schedule of events laid out for your entertainment, but don't forget our monthly meetings at one of our sponsor's venue, the V.F.W. Post 454. Come on out, after always short meetings, we are having "the Harp" lessons and, on occasion, entertainment (e.g. group blues comedy writing Feb 8).

MONTHLY MEETINGS: BUSINESS AND FUN

Remember, monthly General Meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM. Meetings are held at the VFW located at Morrisey Drive and Lincoln Street. **Note:** Next meeting there is February 8 (not 15th) to better prepare for Mardi Gras. Call any Board member (see last page listings) to confirm. By 7:30, meetings usually adjourn for the entertainment. Over the past year, BBS meetings featured a performance by Australia's Sugarcane Collins, harmonica lessons from Steve "The Harp" Mehlberg, and Bill Porter demonstrated and talked about the guitar. February's meeting will include a group blues comedy writing session.



(L to R, seated): Joanne Weigman, Deborah Mehlberg, Julie Swanberg, Becky Bell (Standing) Steve Mehlberg, James Walker, Frank Black, Randy Hoffman, Rudy Ordonez



FROM THE EDITOR'S BLUES SHACK

Greetings and Happy New Year. It will be my honor to serve as your editor for one more year. Thank you for the vote of confidence. I have learned much in the first year and will keep an eye on constant improvement of *Blues News*. I continue to operate as a team: Dr. Brian Wilkinson and family do the newsletter

retrieving, labeling, stamping, and mailing, and PIP Printing's Bruce Lang has been competently helpful in giving our BBS *Blues News* a classier look than that of most societies.

YouTube: I am knocked out by the number of music videos at www.youtube.com. I have always been a fan of slide guitar innovator **Duane Allman**, but I had never seen him live nor on video. Interested? Go to youtube.com and type "Allman Brothers" into the Search Box. Look through all the listings of videos to find one (of currently three) taken in 1970 or 1971 with Duane. I also enjoyed **Derek and the Dominoes** (minus Duane) live on the **Johnny Cash** show in 1970, but hey, search your own obscure favorite artists. Or, search "BB King and Friends" a video of BB, SRV, Clapton, Dr. John, Albert King, Phil Collins, Etta James, Chaka Kahn, and many more all playing on the same stage sometime in the 80s!

Tab Benoit has listed on his website tour schedule that he will be at the 2007 **Nothin' But The Blues Festival** on Sat July 21. www.tabbenoit.com

Good luck to **Deb Seitz and the Swank Daddies** as they represent BBS in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis Feb 1,2,3!

Pianist **Barrelhouse Chuck** of Libertyville IL was featured in a nice article in the Wall Street Journal Jan 3. It described his Blues In The Schools work as well as his interesting blues pedigree. www.barrelhousechuck.com Read that Peoria's **Nick Boettcher** and his **Nickalogic Groove Project** are going into the recording studio.

Good luck to **Kilborn Alley** at the Blues Music awards in Memphis in the Best New Artist Debut category. They may tour

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Alaska in June.

www.kilbornalley.com

Congratulations to **After Midnight Blues** for their album *Everybody's Gettin' Some* making Tom Lounge's Top 10 list in the *NW Indiana Times*, the second largest newspaper in Indiana.

www.aftermidnightblues.com

Delta Frank's "Mouth of the South" Podcasts at GLT are

priceless. New ones added each

week. Click on:

<http://wglt.org/programs/blues/index.phtml> and scroll down to pick a story.

Cathy Cheesman has been elected the president of River City Blues Society for 2007. Visit www.rivercityblues.com for full election results.

Bloomington based **Backyard Tire Fire** (folk, pop, alt-country, Southern rock, R&B, blues and rock'n'roll) will release their newest CD, *Vagabonds and Hooligans*, on February 6th. Catch them Feb 9 at Canopy Club in Urbana or Feb 16 at NV Ultra Lounge in Normal.

www.backyardtirefire.com

How cool is that? **Steve "The Harp" Mehlberg** and **David Berchtold** opened for Joe Bonamassa at the New Lafayette Club Feb 1! Shucks-dog, boys.

Visit www.earlklatzel.com to see an on-going series of oil paintings on the "**History of the Blues.**" They are of real people, places & architecture from an era of which the Blues was born.

Earl Klatzel, Studio: 403-253-7899

Visit

<http://www.icbluesclub.org> (Illinois Central Blues Club) to get updates on artists performing at **Blue Monday at the Alamo** on 5th Avenue in Springfield.

www.chicagobluesbreakdown.com is a new newsletter worth a

look see.

It was an honor when **Back In The Blues**, the debut CD by Steve "The Harp" Blues Band, made the top 25 after the first round of judging reduced the field to 46 in the International Blues Challenge's "Best Self-Produced CD 2007" contest. Unfortunately, it did not advance to the top 10 in subsequent judging.



BBS' 2006 IN REVIEW

As we were trying to recruit new members at the Christmas Combo, one prospective soul asked, "So what does your group do?" Fair question! Here is a brief look back at 2006 BBS activities.

Note: new members were added at each "event," and a big "Thank you" to the dedicated members who made these activities happen.

*Mardi Gras Party and Membership Drive, Feb 25, Maguire's Pub

*Central Illinois Blues Challenge, June 4, Mackinaw Valley Vineyard

*Blues In The Schools, April: ISU, and May 30: Towanda ES

*Australian Sugarcane Collins, after meeting performance, July 13

*Nothin' But The Blues Festival, July 21 & 22, Dave Berntson and harmonicas sponsored and

BBSVolunteers

*Fall Ball, October 8, Mackinaw Valley Vineyard

*Christmas Combo: Food Donation Drive and Elections, Dec 14, NV Ultra Lounge

* Monthly BOD and General Meetings, 3rd Thursday, V.F.W.



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 all corrections to the editor: skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com

Roger & Kathy Alexander
Terry Anderson
Joe and Lauri Blaney
Johnny Firefly
Randy Hoffman/Sue Camp
Bruce & Barb Iden
Tom Land
Bill & Deb Porter
Eric Steiner



EDUCATION SPOT 1

Team of Presenters for Blues In The Schools Now Being Formed

We are now recruiting volunteers among local musicians and history buffs for Blues In The Schools and similar presentations. Steve "The Harp" Mehlberg is our point man. Frank Black, Bill Porter, and Russell Miller have been involved with presentations in the past and would like to continue their involvement. Steve would like to have more volunteers who could help out, possibly with different instruments and at times when Frank B. and Bill P. have scheduling problems. If you or a musician you know would like to participate, this is a fun way to help our communities learn about the Blues.

Please contact President Randy Hoffman at rd.hoffman@verizon.net or 309-531-2533. Or contact Steve Mehlberg at stevetheharp@aol.com or 309-662-0996



BLUES NEWS NOTES

SAD NOTICES OF PASSINGS:

James Brown, 73: "Godfather of Soul"

William "Homesick James Williamson" Henderson, 96:
Chicago slide guitar master

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Jay McShann, 90: Kansas City pianist, bandleader and songwriter
Ahmet Ertegun, 83 Atlantic Records founder
Robert Lockwood, Jr., 91 - Pioneering Mississippi Delta blues guitarist and singer.
Born in Turkey Scratch, Arkansas, at 11, he started guitar lessons with legendary bluesman Robert Johnson, who briefly moved in with Lockwood's mother.
Ruth Brown, 78 - You can hear her influence in everyone from Little Richard to Etta James, Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin, and divas like Christina Aguilera today.

SOME CHICAGO BLUES CLUBS

Chicago has been called the "Home of the Blues." Here are some possible sites for a well planned pilgrimage.

Bill's Blues, 1029 Davis St., Evanston 847-424-9800

Blue Chicago, 536 N. Clark 312-661-0100

Blue Chicago 736 N. Clark 312-642-6261

B.L.U.E.S., 2519 N. Halsted Ave 773-528-1012

Buddy Guy's Legends, 754 S. Wabash (moving soon) 312-427-0333

Checkerboard Lounge 5201 S. Harper 773-684-1472

East of the Ryan 914 E. 79th St. 773-874-9244

Hothouse, 31 E. Balbo 312-362-9707

House of Blues 333 N. Dearborn 312-923-2000

Kingston Mines, 2548 N. Halsted Ave 773-477-4646

Lee's Unleaded Blues 7401 S. South Chicago 773-493-3477

Linda's Place 1044 W. 51st St. 773-373-2351

Nick's, 1516 N. Milwaukee Ave 773-252-1155

Rosa's Lounge 3420 W. Armitage 773-342-0452

Smoke Daddy, 1804 W. Division St. 773-772-6656

Wallace's Catfish Corner 2800 W. Madison 773-638-3474



CHRISTMAS COMBO REVIEW

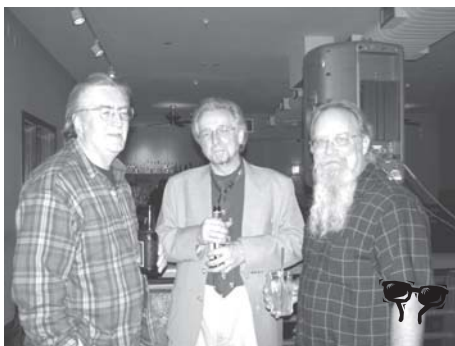
61 members and guests gathered in downtown Normal on December 14 at the very nicely renovated building now home to the NV Ultra Lounge for our annual holiday party. A food donation drive was held to benefit the Claire House, officer elections were conducted, live music was on stage, hors d'oeuvres were served, drink specials were quaffed, and the holiday season was celebrated gaily (well not....you know what I mean :)

The new officers and chairs are listed on the last page of this *Blues News*. We welcome Julie Swanberg to the Secretary position, and

thank Mike Sacco, Richard Goff, and Martin Weigman for service in their positions over the past year(s).

Rockin' Blues music was generated by former president J Balmer's band, *Wakefield Moor*. Surprise musical guests added to the buzz: Bill Porter on guitar, Steve "The Harp" Mehlberg on harmonica, and Randy Hoffman on guitar. Between sets we listened to Kilborn Alley's Blues Music Award nominated album, *Put It In The Alley*.

A big Thank You to Steve and Deborah Mehlberg and helpers for arrangements, J Balmer for securing NV Ultra Lounge, and owner Harry Fuller for the snacks and hosting.



Buddy and Hopkins

By Jason Nocera (www.buddyandhopkins.com)



REVIEWS

Cleveland Fats 'The Interview' by Randy Hoffman for the Blues Blowtorch Society

Last newsletter I wrote a review on the new release by Ohio's Mark "Cleveland Fats"

Hahn, *The Way Things Go*. I noted that Robert Lockwood Jr. was his mentor and played 12-string guitar on four cuts. Shortly after that review, the kind folks at Honeybee Entertainment asked if I wanted to interview Fats. I was impressed with the CD, so I readily accepted. Unfortunately, Robert Lockwood Jr. passed away just a few days before the scheduled interview. I offered to reschedule, but Fats wanted to go ahead. He told me Robert would have wanted everyone in his life to carry on.

The first thing discussed was Robert's influence on his music. Fats told me about, at eighteen years old, meeting Robert when he was already "a house party fixture" in the rural corridor between Ravenna and Kent, Ohio. By the time Fats was nineteen, he had joined the Robert Lockwood Jr. Band. He played with him for nineteen years. Fats told me that Robert not only taught him guitar licks, but how to sing and play guitar at the same time. Robert was a real stickler for appearance and made sure Fats dressed appropriately for the stage. Fats relayed that in the early days, Robert was the one who told BB King to get a back-up orchestra! Good advice all around, huh?

In the promo materials, words such as 'uncompromising' and "authentic" were used to describe Fats' Blues music. I asked him to further define the genre. "Roots music" was his response, "the Chicago/Delta sound"

more specifically. He spoke of the fact that, in their day, Hendrix and Clapton were not considered Blues by the Bluesmen he hung with. He noted that the music has changed and more styles have evolved to include those artists, but it wasn't always that way. He tends to stay

with the roots of the Blues and just give it his touch and feel.

I noted Fats' seasoned players on the CD with some impressive credentials. When I asked him about the creative process and how they contributed, he was very candid, "

Mostly, I write the lyrics and music, and have the tune laid out with the basic arrangement, then they play their own thing." They are all accomplished musicians, and it shows when you hear the CD. I asked him about touring with them, and he said that it could happen, but he knows plenty of great players that can fill in any gaps. He does want to take it on the road. The new album is garnering great response, and the road has always been the best way to spread the word.

I asked Fats about Executive Producer Paul McCarthy's decision to bring in Earwig Records owner and acclaimed producer Michael Robert Frank for his release. I wanted to know what Fats felt Frank contributed to the end result. Fats said that Frank's "organizational skills, ideas, and input was instrumental in making this CD." I told him that in my opinion, it worked.

He told me about the '70 Epiphone Casino guitar he plays, and how he bought the Gibson humbuckers from a bar owner for one cent! He told me of losing his favorite acoustic guitar, a '60's Gibson LGO. A gal stole it right in front of them in England. I have one and told him it is my favorite "home" player, also.

Fats is a very nice person to talk to and has a very nice album to listen to. I'm hoping we can hear him in person soon.

Skyy Dobro's Top 20 Albums For 2006:

1. The Kilborn Alley Blues Band Put It In The Alley
2. Sugarcane Collins Way Down The River
3. Jeremy Spencer Precious Little

4. Albert Castiglia A Stone's Throw
5. Steve "The Harp" Blues Band Back In The Blues
6. Nick Moss & Fliptops Live at Chan's
7. Paul Mark & The Van Dorens Trick Fiction
8. Eric Burdon Soul Of A Man
9. Reverend Billy C. Wirtz Sermon From Bethlehem
10. After Midnight Blues Everybody's Gettin' Some
11. Barrelhouse Chuck 25 Years of Chicago Blues: Vol 2 Instrumentals
12. Chicago Blues Angels Lit Up
13. Various Artists - Covers (David Spargur production)
14. Johnny Cash At Folsom Prison (1968 Concert re-mastered and reissued)
15. Tab Benoit Brother To The Blues
16. Lil' Ed & Blues Imperials Rattleshake
17. Allman Brothers Band Eat A Peach (Deluxe Edition)
18. Charlie Musselwhite Delta Hardware
19. Barbara Blue Love Money Can't Buy
20. Backyard Tire Fire (EP) Skin and Bones

Skyy Dobro's Top 20 Songs For 2006:

1. The Breakaway - The Kilborn Alley Blues Band Put It In The Alley
2. Folks of the Road - Sugarcane Collins Way Down The River
3. Serene Serena - Jeremy Spencer Precious Little
4. Feeling Blue - Eric Burdon Soul Of A Man
5. It Hurts Me Too - Jeremy Spencer Precious Little
6. Ghosts of Mississippi - Albert Castiglia A Stone's Throw
7. Lazy Days Eric Lindell Change In The Weather
8. Crazy Woman Blues - Chicago Blues Angels Lit Up
9. Icicles in My Meatloaf - Lil' Ed & Blues Imperials Rattleshake
10. Scratch My Back - Steve "The Harp" Blues Band Back In The Blues
11. I Will Dave Moore vocal - Covers (David Spargur production)
12. Leroy Carr's Hop - Barrelhouse Chuck 25 Years of Chicago Blues: Vol 2 Instrumentals

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13. Cocaine Blues - Johnny Cash At Folsom Prison (1968 Concert re-mastered and reissued)
14. Church Is Out - Charlie Musselwhite Delta Hardware
15. If Trouble Was Money Blake Whittington guitar and vocal - Covers (Spargur production)
16. Wine-O-Baby Boogie - Nick Moss & Fliptops Live at Chan's
17. Livin' The Blues (Acoustic Mix) Deb Sietz Another Promise
18. Call My Job - Barrelhouse Chuck & All-Star Blues Band Got My Eyes On You
19. Hooch - After Midnight Blues Everybody's Gettin' Some
20. I'm On Your Side - Tab Benoit Brother To The Blues

Gregg Allman & Friends Live
House of Blues, Chicago, Jan 12 & 13
Review by Rick and Bob Schlereth, two blues brothers

The House of Blues was the venue for Gregg Allman & Friends to showcase their Blues and Southern Rock influenced sounds on Friday and Saturday January 12 & 13. Opening for the main show was a very strong set by Greg's son (with wife Janice) and his group: Devon Allman & Honey Tribe. Attending the House of Blues for a concert means standing around for at least four hours, since there is limited seating and costs extra for that convenience. There was no inconvenience though as Devon and the band supplied one song after another that conveyed their understanding and love of Rock, Blues, and guitar solos. Do not miss a chance to see this band as a stand-alone if they arrive in your area.

Gregg & Friends provided the full house of mostly over-50-year-olds with sounds that resonated in our memories of the Allman Brothers Band of years past, but also brought us all to the point where Gregg Allman is now musically. This was not an oldies but goodies show. A childhood friend, Floyd Miles, is a member of

the band with Blues running through his blood and was an anchor vocally for the show with newer songs like "I've Been Hurt" and "Goin' Back To Daytona." Gregg was behind the Hammond B 3 and played songs like "Midnight Rider," "Melissa," and "Whippin' Post" that were interpreted with the new band's take on these classics. As the night came to a close after midnight, all in attendance were full to the brim with music from a band that knows where its roots are and where it will be moving in the future. Don't miss the ride if you have a chance. 

EDUCATION SPOT 2

Live Music Clubs Closing: Part 1 of a 3 part article. The following information was taken from the Blindman's Blues Forum (www.blindman.forumhoster.com)

THE PROBLEM

Sadly, Skyy Dobro's favorite Blues club just closed: Chord On Blues in St. Charles, Illinois. It happens too often. Here's another account of the problem from Richard Ray, Newtown, Pennsylvania.

"Another Club Finished"

"What is going wrong with the world? Is live music not important anymore? One of the places I had a steady gig has changed owners, and the new owners are getting rid of all future live music. This club did music four nights a week. This really sucks and just adds to the continuing frustration for this musician's life that I've been living for thirty years. We rocked 'em out last Friday night; the place was packed, and the people were begging for more. What else can one do? I just don't know anymore. I really didn't think I would have to still be hustling for little bar gigs at age 50. Is live music on the way out?"

SUBMITTED REASONS FOR THE PROBLEM:

1. Mainly, it's all about money. The clubs that used to have live music because the owner thought that it would be a good way to make money are usually the first to go, and now have karaoke, sports on big screen HD TVs, Texas Hold'em, and/or disc jockeys.
2. The Karaoke factor: everyone wants to be a star. You're good, I'm good, we're all GOOD! Honestly, a large percent suck real bad.
3. Aging Baby Boomers, the audience for Blues, just don't go out as much anymore; they go to bed earlier.
4. The younger crowd, in general, is not interested in what Boomer musicians have to offer.
5. When Boomers do go out, they do not drink the same amount they did 35 years ago, which generates less revenue for the bar (compared to a format conducive to attracting hard drinking twenty / thirty some-things). Reasons for decreased consumption include health issues and...
6. DUI arrests and dodging deer late at night.
7. As responsible adults, some community leaders, grandparents and family patriarchs / matriarchs, there is more at risk on a night out than when young and single.
8. Late starts, especially for mid week shows.
9. Smoke in the clubs.
10. There is a set of folks whose hearing started to go due to over-amplified bands.
11. Crime and the fear thereof. The perception can be that the times have worsened.
12. Home entertainment: The Computer and, in-turn, the Internet, HD TV and DVDs.
13. Local musicians that have been playing the same thing over and over for years have grown too predictable in what they're presenting. They need to bring something fresh to the table.

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14. Festivals seem to be the last bastion of live blues. The popularity of festivals vs. night clubs: if you're festing, you have likely arranged local lodging; no late nights, family friendly, et al.

Part 2 - In the next issue: More reasons and arguments for keeping Blues Clubs alive.

Part 3 Solutions to the problem.



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Grammy Nominations Announced - Blues

The 49th Grammy Awards will be held on Feb. 11, at Staples Center in Los Angeles and will be broadcast live in HD TV and 5.1 surround sound on CBS from 7-10:30 p.m.

Category 65--Best Traditional Blues Album (Vocal or Instrumental)

1. Brother To The Blues-- Tab Benoit With Louisiana's Leroux [Telarc Blues]
2. Bronx In Blue-- Dion [Razor & Tie]
3. People Gonna Talk-- James Hunter [Rounder]
4. Guitar Groove-A-Rama-- Duke Robillard [Stony Plain Records]
5. Risin' With The Blues-- Ike Turner [Zoho Roots]

Category 66--Best Contemporary Blues Album (Vocal or Instrumental)

1. Live From Across The Pond-- Robert Cray Band [Vanguard Records/Nozzle Records]
2. Sippiana Hericane-- Dr. John & The Lower 911 [Blue Note Records]
3. Suitcase-- Keb' Mo' [Epic/One Haven/Red Ink]
4. Hope And Desire-- Susan Tedeschi [Verve Forecast]
5. After The Rain-- Irma Thomas [Rounder]

BLUES MUSIC AWARD NOMINATIONS

The 28th Blues Music Awards are set for Thur May 10, at the Cook Convention Center in downtown Memphis. Most of these nominees will be there mingling with the fans. And, you can be there mingling too; try doing that with the stars of rock or country! Attendance is open to the general public. Voting is open to all Blues Foundation members. Visit www.blues.org to see the full list of nominees, or check our website Forum at www.bluesblowtorch.com/society.

Some highlights:

Album of the Year:

- Nick Moss & the Flip Tops - Live at Chan's
- Charlie Musselwhite - Delta Hardware
- Watermelon Slim & the Workers - Watermelon Slim & the Workers
- Irma Thomas - After the Rain
- Janiva Magness - Do I Move You?

Best New Artist Debut:

- The Kilborn Alley Blues Band - Put it in the Alley
- James Hunter - People Gonna Talk
- Eric Lindell - Change in the Weather
- Slick Ballinger - Mississippi Soul
- Dave Gross - Take the Gamble

Band of the Year:

- Nick Moss & the Flip Tops
- Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials
- Mannish Boys
- Watermelon Slim & the Workers
- Magic Slim & the Teardrops



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.

2007 Winter Blues Festival

March 3rd, 1:00 pm to 11:00 pm
Exposition Gardens, Opera House,
1601 W Northmoor Rd, Peoria
61614

Tickets: \$12 in advance.

Admissions price at the door, \$15. (Young adults 14 and under are free with paying adult). Tickets may be purchased online at www.rivercityblues.com.

Featuring:

- Guitar Shorty 9:00 pm
- Dave Chastain with Robin Crowe 7:15 pm
- 2nd Annual River City Harmonica Blowout 6:00 pm
- Steve "The Harp" with the Rob Williams' and Soggy Bottom Blues Band 4:40 pm
- Southside Cindy & the Sliptones 3:15 pm
- Dorann and the Soul Mystics 2:00 pm
- Matthew Curry (11 years old) with The Nickalogic Groove Band 1:00 pm

Contact Information:

www.rivercityblues.com and
Cathy Cheesman 309-360-8773,
cathy@rivercityblues.com

David Berchtold & Steve the Harp

Wed Feb 14 Mackinaw Valley
Vineyard
Valentine's Day Wine, Dinner,
Dessert
Reservations required 309-241-1470

Tommy Castro

Wed Feb 14: NV Ultra Lounge,
Normal (309-454-9357 call for
time and price)
Thur Feb 15: Shady Nook,
Saybrook (details at wwhp.com)

Ronnie Baker Brooks

Sat April 7, Mustang Sally's, Leroy,
8:30 PM benefit for Cystic Fibrosis
Foundation. \$20 advance tickets
can be purchased from Julie
Swanberg at jesedb@yahoo.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

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