



BLUES NEWS

newsletter@bluesblowtorch.com

July - August 2007

BBS BLUES UPCOMING EVENT

FALL BALL
Sunday, October 7, 2007
Mackinaw Valley Winery
Noon to 6:00 pm
15 Miles West on Route 9



It's the BBS Fall Ball, y'all! Ever since the fun and fantastic successes of two Central Illinois Blues Challenges in June 2006 and 2007 and last year's inaugural Fall Ball held at the beautiful Mackinaw Valley Winery, 15 miles west of Bloomington on Route 9, we have been planning a return to what has become one of our favorite spots.

BBS members and friends, let's return Sunday, October 7, for live blues music, wine, and food! Last year's Fall Ball brought out over 375 friends to party. Several joined as new members, and our new black BBS t-shirts were popular. This year will be even better.

Exciting plans are currently in progress at press time. Watch, listen, or call for more details, but mark you calendars, now.



ASK DELTAFRANK

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: Tell us about your May vacation to South Carolina. Did you see any live Blues down there?

Answer: We took two weeks and went to Edisto Island South Carolina. My objective was to get away from it all...computers, blues, all the other stuff, and just relax...for some peace of mind. We visited an old friend Tahoma Ironfeather who used to be a nurse practitioner in Bloomington. She got cancer, and fought it off for 5 years and retired. She lives on a great but very rare island in South Carolina. The island is between Charleston and Hilton Head. She built her a lovely home and lives there with her cat "Gray". She is very happy, and walks the beach, fishes for fish and shrimp....the great way to retire. We swam, walked the beach, and picked up some beautiful shells. We stayed a whole week with her. We went thru a beautiful state park on the island.

We also went to Savannah Georgia, to visit the Tybee Lighthouse, walked the cobble stone streets at the River Walk, ate some good food, and just sat on the river and relaxed.

On the way to Licksillet to see my sister in Alabama and her family, we stopped and went to the Hardrock Cafe in Atlanta. That was a wonderful experience so we stopped at the Hardrock in Nashville coming home.

Next year we WILL visit Tahoma again after going to the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Question: Frank, what did you think of the NBTB Festival 2007? From Randy Hoffman.

Answer: See next issue of Blues News



OFFICIAL RAMBLINGS FROM THE PREZ



Well, I think everyone has to agree that the Nothin' But The Blues Festival this year was a great success. I wanted to thank all of the volunteers, whether for the NBTBF or the BBS, for helping make this festival one of the most enjoyable, yet.

Tri-Lakes proved to be a beautiful venue. I was standing on the stage looking, and there was a tree line completely surrounding the grounds. Even the west side

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fence has trees behind it. The lakes made it seem very park-like, and with the tents, it had fairground flair. The folks at Tri-Lakes were absolutely involved and supportive and are to be commended for their contribution. Did you know this fishing club is only \$120 a year membership?

Eric Tapley once again put together a very solid line-up of musicians, no, better yet, *performers*, for this event. He has vowed to take this festival to the next level, so put the third week-end in July on your "Things You Gotta Do" next year list.

Steve 'The Harp' had the most successful harmonica workshops ever. We had to have Hohner drop ship another order of BBS harmonicas so he could hold a workshop at the Spoon River Blues Festival in Canton the next weekend! The kids not only loved the workshop, but they were also making good use of the playground! It was very encouraging that we had so many adults participate in the workshop this year.

So, as we bask in the fortune of this festival, it is time for our preparations to begin for the **Fall Ball on Sunday, October 7th**, at Mackinaw Valley Vineyard. We are looking at several bands over the next few weeks to see who can help us rev up the event. This would be a fine opportunity for all of the newly signed up members to come to the next couple meetings and help us out. We don't want to leave the burden on the Board to do 90% of the work, although we do enjoy it. See ya when the Blues are around. Randy

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. Call any Board member (see last page listings) to confirm.

Meeting Minutes are On Line

Look in the Forum for the minutes of each meeting held the third Thursday of each month at the VFW.



FROM THE EDITOR'S BLUES SHACK

• From Randy Hoffman, the **YouTube** pick:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIJtKxdRQzY>

This is long, almost 6 minutes, but it's worth watching. You will love the end. Have the sound on to get the full effect.

• Thank you to **South Side Cindy & The Slip-Tones** for working with the Blues Blowtorch Society to our mutual benefit. At their NV Ultra Lounge performance on August 11, one could join the Blues Blowtorch society and receive a choice of: *Mighty Mighty* the newly released CD from South Side Cindy & The Slip-Tones or a men's or women's *Mighty Mighty* T-Shirt.

• More cooperation: "I would like to invite all of the BBS members to the 3rd annual Lutherfest. We will give you our members' rate of **\$12.00 at the gate** if you show your BBS membership card." Tim Donahue, Promotions, River City Blues Society

• **Chord On Blues** in St. Charles IL, my favorite Blues Club, held their final show July 28th. Wrote Steve Chapman, "There could be no better way to close the book on C.O.B.'s decade in the blues biz than with Tab Benoit who was responsible for some of the most epic shows at Chord On Blues."

• To see a **Pantagraph video podcast praising BBS** volunteers at the NBTB Festival, go to http://www.pantagraph.com/video/2007/072007_bluesfest/

• Go to: http://leisureblogs.chicagotribune.com/turn_it_up/2007/07/exclusive-eric-.html to read a fantastic **interview with Eric Clapton** about Chicago Blues don prior to the Crossroads Guitar festival.

* More and more bands and individuals are creating a myspace account. Check out myspace.com/aftermidnightblues from the 2006 Fall Ball headliners.

• From Hip Pocket: "Lets party folks! Keep an eye on the web site: www.firsthippocket.com for dates this summer, including the Lincoln Balloon Festival on August 25th! That one should be really cool." Later kids, Marc Boon and the boys.

• Hope everyone saw the really cool article in **TC STYLE magazine** featuring photos and coverage of the Central Illinois Blues Challenge at Mackinaw Valley Winery. Thanks to Scott Miller for "Singing the Twin City Blues"!

• Here's an unknown group to me that sounds great. The **Soul Fixin' Foundation** is an independent, non-profit service organization with a reputation for being an advocate of Blues Musicians in financial need and providing an information network that can broadcast their needs to people in a position to help. If you know of any Blues musicians who need financial assistance, please fill out the application on our website (<http://www.soul-fixin.com>) and we will start the process of getting them the help they need. Contact the Soul Fixin' Foundation directly for more information: Soul Fixin' Foundation, P.O. Box 415, Rogers, Texas 76569

• From **Barry Cloyd**: "If you are interested in booking me, the duo "Clones" or the band "Celtricity" for Fall/Winter parties or get-togethers of any type, please feel free to contact Barry Cloyd Productions at 309.635.7774. Thanks a lot for your continued support and friendship. My new CD, *The Rainmaker's Garden* is in production and should be available in a couple of months. Get out and enjoy life."

• **BBS represented** at Mississippi Valley Blues Festival: Randy Hoffman helped Bob Kieser at his Illinoisblues.com booth. Our BBS brochure was updated and available along with the NBTBF flyers. Good job RH!

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• A little **positive reinforcement** never hurts: "James, Just to let you know that the newest BBS newsletter is wonderful. It's loaded with interesting information. I think each issue is better than the one before it. Keep up the excellent work." Ralph Weisheit.

• From friend Angie Beeson, Saxophonist from Kankakee: I will be playing over the summer with Steve Arvey and The Saxtelles, based out of Chicago. If you like saxophone, you will love this band. We have a 3 piece, female sax section - Jasmine Logan on tenor and alto saxes, myself on tenor sax, and Buffy Kattke on baritone sax. Steve Arvey, our lead man, is a seasoned blues guitarist who is known worldwide for his music. Visit www.steearvey.com for his full story.

• This is too cool: Friends **stayed one night in the "Pinetop Perkins" cabin** and would gladly stay again. Place is about 5 miles south of Clarksdale MS. Cabins rent for about \$70 a night, and it's easy to get cabins together so group of friends can cook out, party together. TV in room gets only one channel, the Blues Channel. Clarksdale is about an hour south of Memphis.

Visit:

<http://www.shackupinn.com/main.html>



NOTHIN' BUT THE BLUES FESTIVAL REVIEW

From Deborah: I would like to thank all of the Blues Blowtorch Society members that volunteered their time for the Nothin' But The Blues Festival. We worked long hours for "Nothin'" more then the Love of, and the Hope of, opening the public's eyes to the true beauty of The Blues.

The switch to the venue at Tri-Lakes once again proved that Eric Tapley knows what he's doing. The grass was green and plush; the atmosphere was pure excitement for the thousands that came out. Food was plentiful and the drink,

well let's just say it was intoxicating. And, we could not have had better weather. A small



Tab Benoit



Matthew Curry



Harmonica Workshop

chill was in the air in the late Friday evening, but for those of us working, we were too busy to notice

President Randy Hoffman, the Stage Manager, and his crew handled the loading and unloading of equipment with a true musician's eye. For example, Deborah Coleman was not quite happy with the equipment on stage so Randy used John Primer's amplifier while we all looked for John's keys. When you think of it, John couldn't have lost his keys at a more convenient time. Deborah was thrilled with the substitution of a "hot amp" and did it ever show. With the constant movement of equipment, the crew behind the stage did a superb job of rotating artists without distraction. Very Smooth and Great Work! By the way, John found his keys in his own guitar case.

James Walker, the official M.C. Friday night and Saturday afternoon and Frank Black, the "Blues Doctor" and official M.C. Saturday night, knew exactly what was happening, when and where. Their attention to detail showed every time they made the announcements and updates needed to maintain a positive flow. Keeping the attention of thousands can be a little intimidating, but they were professional, informational and interesting to hear. What a sight it was to see thousands of Frank's groupies anticipating every utterance of Blues Discography from his immense knowledge of everything Blues. Aren't we lucky to have such talent within our ranks!

Rudy Ordonez, Becky Bell, Susan Walker, Mike Sacco, and Larry DuChanois manned the BBS merchandise tent that also doubled as the official autograph signing area for all artists. They worked long hours setting up and attending to the needs of the masses all wanting a close up glimpse of their favorite singer and keeping in line all those who had to wait to buy a CD and get an autograph. It was exhausting, hard work inventorying every artist's merchandise so the

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counts were correct and then selling the CDs for the artists Friday night. We appreciate everything you do.

Richard Goff was so busy coordinating volunteers and making sure everything was together and in its place, that his super human efforts to be literally everywhere-at-once were proven. Even if you got a glimpse of him, it was a blur.

The Pantagraph VIP tent was decorated so beautifully one might think they were at a wedding reception rather than a Blues Festival. Jonell Kehias put her artistic talents to work along with the Growing Grounds to set an atmosphere so relaxing, the artists stayed and socialized long after they're appearances were over. She had hot food and cold drink available both days that ranged from meatballs, corndogs and shrimp to watermelon filled fruit bowls. Never have I seen an area for artist's so well put together.

I would also like to thank Edible Creations for the donations of bouquet arranged fruit baskets, they were such a big hit she wound up bringing a total of three. Two of which were devoured as soon as they arrived. Tab Benoit liked them so much he took the last one with him to have for breakfast the next morning. Talk about a vote of approval.

Steve "The Harp's" Harmonica Workshop sponsored by the Blues Blowtorch Society was the largest classes we have ever held. Every child received a free harmonica and a lesson. As each child received their harmonica they were told to open it up and start blowing on it.

Steve "The Harp" was greeted by students which ranged in age from 1 to 85 serenading his entrance to start the lessons. The decision to hold these classes while nothing was happening on the main stage was a stroke of brilliance. The eldest gentleman attending the classes drove all the way from Chicago to partake in the Harmonica Masters workshop. He stated that he is also planning to attend the workshop at Spoon River.

The proof of how much fun these workshop classes are can be found in the beautiful photographs taken by Ralph Weisheit and posted on the Blues Blowtorch Society web site.

Thanks one and all for your hard work, dedication and love of the Blues that made this 2007 Nothin But The Blues Festival such a wonderful event.

Sincerely,
Deborah Mehlberg, BBS
Entertainment Director

From Rudy: I want to thank you folks for all the help at the festival this weekend. Couldn't have done it without you!

James and Susan Walker both stepped up to fill in at the last minute. Susan sold membership and merchandise all night on Friday and the whole day Saturday.

Mike Sacco worked the merchandise and artist table Friday night, provided the extra chairs and the much needed lights.

Becky Bell and Larry DuChanois: In addition to your scheduled shifts, you both filled in during our busiest times.

Delta Frank: Yet another remarkable membership-selling-marathon. You are the reason the BBS has members!

I really enjoyed working with all of you. Everyone did a fantastic job. I think Frank may have signed up and renewed more people than before, and can you believe we sold close to \$1500 worth of CDs Friday night for 5 different artists?!

Again, thank you very much.
Rudy Ordonez, BBS Marketing Chair

From Randy: Hey Folks, I just wanted you to know that I was very proud of the BBS at the festival. We had a little shaky start at the tent with decorations, but Rudy stepped up and everyone pitched in and made it work. The BBS folks that were on the committee did a fantastic job, and everyone is to be commended.

Steve "The Harp" held two of the most successful harmonica workshops we've ever had. We sold over \$200 in harmonicas and gave

kids nearly a gross(144) of harps. The downside is...we are down to 15 harps and Steve has another workshop at the Spoon River Blues Festival this weekend. In addition to that, we used up all of our harp instruction brochures. I have already sent an e-mail to Hohner to see if they can produce them and have them here Friday, and I've contacted the Copy Shop for more brochures.

These are "good" problems.

I asked the Board Of Directors to approve these expenditures to meet our commitment to our Education Mission. I expect those expenditures to come from the Education Fund, as well as the sales for harps to be credited towards the Fund.

Randy, BBS President

From Delta Frank: I want to thank all the members of the blues society that helped at the Blues Fest this year. We did it, and we should be proud! Looked like a record number came out on Saturday.

Thanks people,
Frank Black



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

NBTB Festival Heavy Lifters:

Participation is the essential ingredient in any democracy, and that includes your B.B.Society. We had approximately 55 volunteers! We are so grateful for all of our volunteers; to them a big "MUCHAS GRACIAS." I can't list them all as I don't know them all. Rather than list no one, I am listing the names I do know. My apologies to those left out. Send me corrections and omissions to skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com

Other than Board of Directors, these volunteered:

Jeff Augsburg
J Balmer
Jerry Devine
Larry DuChanois
Mike Easton
Richard Goff
Dave Long
Gianna Long
Mike Sacco
Terry Sparling
Martin Weigman
Phil White



REVIEWS

The Twisters *After The Storm* NBM0037

By Randy Hoffman

From the liner notes, this band has made a remarkable comeback since their last CD three years ago. The band was involved in a tragic vehicle accident, losing one member and critically injuring another. Dave "Hurricane" Hoerl, on harp and vocals, wrote the notes, and with the help of Chris Isaak on songwriting, engineering, and co-producing, they feel this is their best work yet. Without the benefit of knowing their previous work, I feel this is definitely some great work. They hail from Canada, and they know how to play. Joining Dave are Brandon Isaak on guitars, Matt Pease on drums, Keith Scott on bass fiddle, and Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne on keys. The music proves they are a tight knit unit.

The songwriting struck me midway through the CD. Fresh lyrics that seemed familiar, top notch harmonica work without being dominating, excellent guitar work in both rhythm and lead, symbiotic piano and nice mood work on the organ, and there is always something refreshing about a stand up bass that carries the feel through a very nice mix of blues genre tunes. The album has energy without being frantic, seems laid-back without getting boring, and overall, is just plainly a fun listen. They cover the music from an old blues feel, through some '50s stylings, and can swing right along.

I plan on leaving this one in the car CD player rotation for awhile, so check it out.

John Nemeth *Magic Touch* BPCD 5109 **By Randy Hoffman**

Right off the bat you know that having Anson Funderburgh produce this album is a big plus and endorsement. Not only that, he lends some lick to one of the tracks. This is wonderfully mixed

and tastefully delicious music throughout. John Nemeth is out of the Bay area, and that area has produced some great blues musicians over the years. His harmonica playing is solid, Junior Watson is stellar on guitar, Ronnie James Webber and Eric Przygocki cover the bass lines nicely, John Calhoun Street plays some tasty piano, Wes Starr carries the rhythm section on the drums, and the Texas Horns lend a hand on some of the tunes.

The two things that really stand out on the CD are John Nemeth's songwriting and most prominently, his vocals. This man can really sing, with great variety in tone, and powerful delivery. I had the pleasure of meeting and hearing John and the road band in Bradley, IL in May. John's voice is amazing, maybe even more so live. Junior Watson was a pleasure to talk to as well as checking out some pretty amazing guitar techniques.

I've had this cd in the car CD rotation for a month, and I don't plan on taking it out anytime soon.

Tommy Castro *Painkiller*

BPCD 5111
By Randy Hoffman

The fun just doesn't stop when it comes to Tommy Castro and his latest release. I've been a fan of Tommy's for years now, and this CD is a fine extension of his previous work. Great guitar work, great songwriting, and a fine mixture of styles make this a "must have" for fans.

My favorite cut is "Big Sister's Radio," drawing me back to the old transistor radio days on which I grew up. Tommy collaborated with Delbert McClinton on his last album, and the influence is still evident on a couple cuts on this one, which make for a pleasurable change of pace. He closes out the CD with a wonderful piano backed song, "It Ain't easy Being Me." It is soul wrenching and relates personally to most of us.

If you don't have this CD...get it!

Sue Foley, Deborah Coleman, **Roxanne Potvin**

Time Bomb

Ruf Records

www.rufrecords.de

www.bluescaravan.com

By James "Skyy Dobro" Walker
11 songs; 40:45 minutes; Excellent

Canadian Sue Foley is the driving force behind this project album that delivers three great guitar playing, singing, and songwriting women within the context of a Blues caravan. All three artists play tribute to the powers of focus and collaboration. Two years ago, Foley put together a two-CD compilation for Ruf Records called "Blues Guitar Women."

The album featured over two dozen female artists playing both traditional and contemporary blues.

The third edition of the popular BluesCaravan Tour represents a logical next step.

This carefully chosen trio of performers reflects the diversity and dedication of a growing generation of female blues players. The three ladies toured Europe and the USA, and they killed in an appearance at the Nothin' But The Blues Festival on July 20.

The CD is a studio album with producer Kevin Bowe (Tommy Castro, Paul Westerberg). The backing musicians are Billy Thommes drums, Jim Anton bass, Mark Lickteig organ and background vocals, Bruce McCabe piano, and Kevin Bowe provides some backup vocals, percussion, and programming.

All three guitar slingers blast the instrumental first track like an exploding estrogen bomb. Trading leads and rhythm, the 3:17 frantically paced number is exciting when performed live, but seems just obligatory for the CD. The only other song featuring all 3 is better, as they both sing and play with real joy on Bill Davis' "In the Basement," which closed their NBTB Fest set.

Across the album, the pacing is judicious with only two songs reaching four minutes. Three songs are sung by Potvin with two also

Continued from previous page being penned by her. Foley sings three of her own compositions, and Coleman sings one original, one by Kevin Bowe, and a funk laced cover of James Brown's "Talkin' Loud and Sayin' Nothin'".

Standouts include Potvin playing and singing the welling "Strong Enough To Hold You," Sue Foley's retro-sounding "Show Me," and Coleman's propulsive "Motor City."

As long as you don't expect magic that occasionally comes from collaborations, you'll find this album energetic and competent with unedited side comments adding to the fun.



KNOW YOUR BLUES BLOWTORCH SOCIETY

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

Our Forum is a great source for the latest information, reviews, anecdotes, humor, Meeting's Minutes, and links. Delta Frank posts the concert listings he receives, especially ones for Central Illinois. You can submit replies, reviews and articles, too.

If you or anyone legitimate ever want to post messages, you certainly can. Send them to Delta Frank or James Walker. Addresses: Delta Frank: blusgrdn@mchsi.com; James Walker: jwalker4@mchsi.com or skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com.



RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

Approximately half of all BBS memberships were up for renewal by June 30, 2007. The other half will be due by December 31, 2007. Sadly, several have not renewed, and it is a month passed the deadline. If you did not get a letter, you are not due until December.

Thank you for *these* renewals and new members since last issue. Our apologies, to any one misspelled or missed entirely. E-mail all corrections to the editor:

skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com

Renewals:

Becky Bell
David Birky
Scott and Karen Brault
Thom & Pam Brouillette
Anthony Cade
Diana Cushing
Grace & Raymond Doolin
Tom & Mary Haynes
Dean Miller
Michael & Jacque Murohy
John & Gale Nolan
Larry Spaulding
Mark Stanley (Tater)
Julie Swanberg

New Members:

"Welcome" aboard to our newest members!:

Michelle Arthington
David Brockway
Ed Callahan
Jerry Crews
Lincoln Dreher
Larry DuChanois
James Fultz
Mr & Mrs Ron Garrett
Jerry Lee Gingery (Juju Kings)
Jim Helwig
Richard Lake
Karen Kempin McCarey
Lilly Meiner
Denny & Alison Nelson
Ron & Paula Phipps
John & Pearlene Pitchford
Charles & Teri Pratt
Linda Reed
Beverly Sargent
Tony & Eric Schlesinger
Rick & Katie Scott
William & Fran Swanson
Bob Strawser
Evelyn Veselack
Dave & Julie Wade
Monte Walker
Ross & Linda Weur
Steve "The Harp" New
Corporate Sponsor
"We have over 300 members and that is the most we have EVER had since the Society was born in the year 2000!"

Frank Black, BBS Membership Director



Buddy and Hopkins

By Jason Nocera (www.buddyandhopkins.com)



BLUES NEWS NOTES

SAD NOTICES OF PASSINGS:

"Uncle John" Turner, 62, drummer

Legendary Texas blues drummer, born in Port Arthur, Texas, Uncle John was a childhood friend and band mate of legendary southeast Texas blues and rock guitarist, Johnny Winter. While playing drums with Winter in 1968, Turner convinced him to try a full-blown blues band format and sent for his friend Tommy Shannon to play bass. Success quickly followed, and the trio went on to record what many consider to be three of Johnny Winter's finest albums: "The Progressive Blues Experiment," "Johnny Winter," and "Second Winter."

Bill Perry, 49, guitarist, singer

Perry was known as an outstanding guitarist whose go-for-broke technique combined effortless fluidity and incredible attack. *Guitar One* magazine called him a "six-string superman more powerful than a locomotive." He was also gifted with a distinctive, raspy voice full of grit and gravel that particularly suited the drama and emotion so essential to blues music. Perry first made his mark in the clubs of New York City in the 1980s where he was spotted by folk-rock singer Richie Havens. Perry spent four years on the road as the featured guitarist in Havens' band.

Jimmy T-99 Nelson, 88, Blues Shouter

Jimmy "T-99" Nelson, the last of the real-deal blues shouters, died on Sunday July 29, 2007 of cancer at St. Dominic's nursing home in Houston. Born in 1919, Jimmy "T-99" Nelson had a recording career that spanned over 50 years and established him as one of the true elder statesman of American music. Nelson got his start singing in church. In 1941, he saw a performance by Big Joe Turner and realized he wanted to sing the blues. Big Joe taught Jimmy about singing, performance, and the music business. Jimmy, in turn, absorbed the shouting style of his mentor. Source: www.blues.org (The Blues Foundation)

GLT NEWS

Message From Pat Peterson at WGLT In Normal, Illinois: Expressing your opinion works!
Thanks to you and other Internet

radio listeners, the potentially disastrous new royalty rates for Internet music radio have been delayed. In response to public outcry, members of the US House of Representatives initiated negotiations between Sound Exchange (representing the music industry) and webcasters, including NPR, representing public radio web casters like GLT. As a result, all parties have agreed to a 3 month reprieve on imposing the new fees. GLT's live music stream and Blues Radio 24/7 are safe for the time being.

From Frank Black: It is still very important that you express your concerns about the fate of music on the Internet to your elected representatives. Learn more at www.wgl.org.

BBS Donates to Paul Butterfield Fund & Society Event

At the July BBS meeting, the membership voted to donate \$300 to help fund transportation for this event. Visit: <http://tribeca.net/home/arts/the-paul-butterfield-fund-and-society>. Paul Butterfield Fund & Society event in Clarksdale to include a reunion of the Sam Lay Blues Band: The Paul Butterfield Fund and Society will host its second annual Conference & Gathering in Clarksdale, Mississippi from September 6, 2007 to September 10, 2007. There will be a welcoming dinner, a mini film festival (featuring rare footage and interviews of Paul Butterfield), a birthday party (it is Paul's son Gabriel's birthday), a jam, Award presentations, various excursions to neighboring blues landmarks, and much more. On Saturday, September 8, 2007 at Hopson's Commissary, as part of Gabriel's birthday Jam, the Sam Lay Blues Band reunion will be part of a large lineup that includes Gabriel Butterfield, Rod Hicks (Former bassist with Paul Butterfield, as well as Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder), and more. Sam Lay will be reunited with Chris James, Patrick Rynn, and Bob Corritore, who all worked together in the Sam Lay Blues Band. For more information on becoming a member of the Paul Butterfield Fund

and Society and attending this conference, visit the website or the MySpace site at www.myspace.com/pbfs.

We are currently seeking sponsorships and funding to assist with the costs of the event (Transport costs of event needs, meals and food costs, final award costs, promotional materials, merchandise and the list goes on) and to also assist with traveling costs for Sam Lay (award recipient who recently was hospitalized with an attack of Bell's Palsy) Rod Hicks (whose car was recently stolen) and also our youngest staff member 14 year old blues musician Zack Pomerleau (who is also a cancer patient) and possibly George Davidson.

Please note that this is not a festival but rather a small, intimate, casual, down-home, up-close and personal gathering, enabling people to network, meet each other, play some great music, eat some good food and have some good conversation.

Changes for Blues Music Awards 2008

Note: Your BBS recently renewed our membership in The Blues Foundation.

August 1, 2007, Memphis, TN: The Blues Foundation announces several changes for the nomination process currently underway in preparation for the 29th Blues Music Awards next May. The Board of Directors has made the following changes for 2008:

- Recognize the increasing number of video releases by honoring one DVD title with a Blues Music Award; honoring one DVD title with a Blues Music Award;
- Eliminate the Comeback category due to a historical shortage of qualifying releases; and
- Restrict eligibility in non-album categories to two consecutive nominations unless the artist has an eligible release in the third year.

The most significant change, of course, is the expanded restriction on the eligibility to be nominated in a given year. In recent years an oft-heard complaint about the Blues Music Awards was that the same people win every year. While this has

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not been as widespread as some suggest, and is a problem in other musical genres as well. The Blues Foundation has nevertheless undertaken steps to address this legitimate concern. Under the change, a two-time winner in a non-album category such as Contemporary Blues Male Artist or Instrumentalist-Bass will not be eligible for a third consecutive nomination unless that musician has released a CD during the current eligibility period. After sitting out a year, the musician would be once again eligible in the following year.

The Board also decided against adding zydeco, international, and blues/rock categories at this time. Individual zydeco releases may have limited Blues content and has just been awarded a Grammy category. The Blues Music Awards are already open to international artists and releases, and artists have been nominated in recent years from Europe and Australia. While there is some sympathy for the Blues/Rock category that appeals to many fans, especially younger ones, the categories already include three Contemporary Blues categories.

SOCIETY PHOTOS

Go to www.bluesblowtorch.com/society and click on the camera icon. By the way, you can visit Ralph's own site to see more of his pix at www.prettygoodphotos.com



EDUCATION SPOT

More Baby Boomers Coming to the Blues

We are never too old to learn, or re-learn. At the NBTB Festival, a woman came by the BBS tent. A previous Blues fan, she married a man who wasn't a fan, and she dropped out of the scene. Now divorced, she is back and curious.

Bob Kieser at Illinoisblues.com has also observed that many Baby Boomers are coming to the Blues and seeking information. Many attended music festivals as twenty-somethings and then dropped out to raise families. Now empty nesters with a little money to spend and the time to

pursue hobbies, they are finding the festivals and fun they remembered still exist in the form of Blues Festivals.

Here is where we, and all blues societies com in. Remember 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."



SPOON RIVER BLUESFESTIVAL REVIEW

The Ingersol Country Inn in Canton, IL was the setting for this year's Spoon River Festival held Saturday, July 28. Still in its infancy, being just three years old, the setting reminded me of the old Sale Barn



Deborah Mehlberg and Devon Allman

with its lush grass and natural amphitheater. Large trees surrounded the stage framing it like a picture from a Norman Rockwell painting.

Volunteers were everywhere, easily recognizable by their aqua-blue Spoon River Blues Festival t-shirts. For food, one had a choice of a pork chop sandwich, a hamburger, hotdog, or nachos. The hamburgers were very good and quite big enough to fill that hungry spot in the stomach before washing it down with an ice cold draft, any available coke product, or a lemon shakeup made by the local scout troops.

The stage was set way back in a massive field that sloped and gently curved down to the front of the stage. Sally Weisenburg and Her Famous Sidemen kicked off the festival with a performance equal to any major event. Her tunes were smooth and relaxing under the overcast sky. Her voice was beautiful as usual with lyrics as cute and funny as could be.

Steve "The Harp" and The Blues Deacons showed us once again why they call Steve "The Harp" a master harmonica player. The crowd loved every song and had no problem yelling out their favorite tune that they wanted the band to play. Billy Galt with his raspy voice made one think Louie Armstrong had been reincarnated into a guitar player; the contrast between the two vocalists made for an interesting mix that captivated the crowd and kept their feet moving.

Next up was the Rock/Blues sounds of Dave Chastain and his band. His style of Stevie Ray Vaughn, Jimmy Hendrix, and Gary Moore guitar playing hit the spot for all of the rock/blues guitar fans. They performed a killer show that rocked the house; even this harmonica junkie enjoyed it to the max.

Prior to the Grand Finale on the main stage, Steve "The Harp" held another BBS educational Harmonica Workshop. In total he had 59 students including our own Julie Swanberg who actively took the class along with everyone else. 18 adults stood as the 41 children encompassed the Harmonica Workshop sponsored by Capitol Music. Steve "The Harp" gave an extra long workshop to ensure that everyone attending walked out able to play something on their brand new harmonica provided by the Blues Blowtorch Society.

After the workshop was complete, Devon Allman and Honey Tribe hit the stage roaring! He called everyone that wanted, to come on down to the stage front so fans could be up close. He is a gifted guitar player that shows genealogy (uncle Duane Allman, father Gregg Allman) has an impact on future generations. What a wonderful afternoon for fans young and old to attend a festival that will only expand and excite in the years to come.

All those who attended the Nothin'

Continued from previous page

But The Blues Festival in Bloomington were admitted free, something the event coordinator Denny Debourbon stated he would like to continue. I recommend that everyone add this to your list of Blues Festivals to attend next year.

Sincerely,
Deborah Mehlberg, BBS
Entertainment Director



REVIEW: ERIC CLAPTON CROSSROADS GUITARA FESTIVAL

Reported by BBS Member Kurt Foor, the Coal City Clubman

Hi from 7000 South Harlem in Bridgeview IL. I attended the Crossroads Guitar Festival with my friend Mike. We were among the lucky 29,000 people that got tickets through Ticketmaster during the 20 minutes when they sold out. While tempted to sell them on E-bay for \$400 each, we decided to come to the show. We left home at 8:00 and got home a little after 1:00 am.

We had general admission for the field and no seats. We got close enough to see the jumbotron screens real well and the stage pretty well. Surprisingly, they did not put the names of the players on the screen. Bill Murray emceed between some acts and announced artists.

Steve Winwood I think I liked him the best out of everybody. And, then Jeff Beck played a great, long set with a girl on bass that looked 15-16, young enough to be his daughter. I Googled later and found that she is Tal Wilkenfeld, 21, originally from Australia.

There were all kinds of concessions with long lines; some long sets and long lines. Giant beers were \$8.00 and smaller ones were \$6.00. The lemonade sign said "fresh squeezed," but it came out of a faucet, ha.

They had a Guitar Village, but the line was real long. There was a tent with the Legend's guitars, like Stevie Ray Vaughan's "Lenny," and one of Eric Clapton's that is now a museum piece.

I was both surprised and amused that there was no shortage of people partaking in herbal entertainment. Two old hippies in the parking lot had on tie dyed shirts and were cleaning their stash right in the open. I thought that stuff was like a sick bird: "ill-eagle!" Four kids from Canada were "bowling" in front of us, and the people on the right kept trying to offer us some. The kids from Canada told us they had their paraphernalia taken at the border and were held up for five hours, but they made it.

People watching is always fun. One Jewish girl danced the entire festival. Didn't matter who was on stage, she was dancing.

BB King did the real short stuff played a few licks and then talked. He praised Eric Clapton for how much he has done for everybody. Johnny Winter looks so feeble. He was seated, like last year at the Nothin' But The Blues Festival.

Before Clapton played "Cocaine," Bill Murray came out and yelled, "You'll never forget this!" Derek Trucks played with him did a fantastic job. Clapton was on stage throughout the day at least four different times.

Buddy Guy ended the fest with a stage full of guests. He got into some head cutting with John Mayer as they all traded leads. Buddy was shaking his head, "No," and laughing like he didn't want to try to follow that.

All in all, it was a real good deal. It was a long day; the older you get, it gets harder to do that all day stuff. We had good weather for the most part. The sun made it uncomfortable for a

little while, but the music made it worthwhile.

For more info:

http://leisureblogs.chicagotribune.com/turn_it_up/2007/07/clapton_s-crossr.html



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. dMany listings are also now available at www.illinoisblues.com

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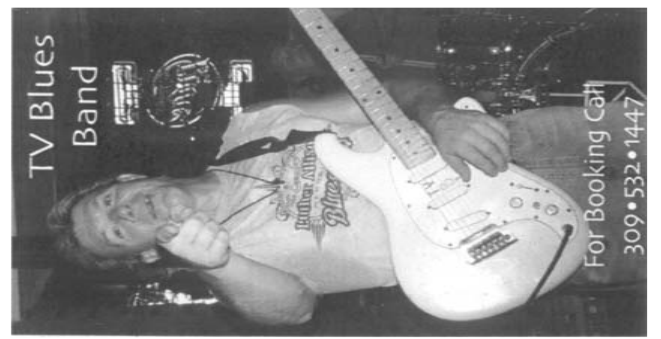


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