



BLUES NEWS

newsletter@bluesblowtorch.com

May - June 2007

BBS BLUES UPCOMING EVENTS

**Nothin' But The Blues Festival
Celebrating 6 Years!**
Friday, July 20 & Saturday, July 21, 2007
Bloomington Sale Barn
www.nothinbutthebluesfestival.com

It's big time Blues in your own backyard. It's the Nothin' But The Blues Festival in its 6th year of keeping the blues alive and kicking in central Illinois. Enjoying its newest location at the Bloomington Sale Barn, the festivals' crew is ready to roll.

The NBTB Festival has grown from a one-day affair with 5 artists to a two-day, 5,000 plus attendee, open air extravaganza with the biggest blues names in the country including Grammy and WC Handy award winners and nominees. Families come for the entire festival, spread out blankets, feast on great food and enjoy a day of top-notch musical acts. It's summertime, and the living is easy. It's parents, it's kids, it's blues fans from all over the country, kicking back and having a great time.

The Place - Bloomington Sale Barn

In 2005, the Blues Festival found the perfect home on the lawn of the Sale Barn in Bloomington. The gently sloping yard creates a natural outdoor amphitheater, and the venue is conveniently located just off U.S. 51. It is easy to get to from interstate 74 or 55. So whether you're coming from Chicago or St.

Louis or just across town, the Sale Barn is easily accessed.

The Food - Awesome

What kind of food goes with the blues? How about some walleye or catfish? Or some gumbo? Or some ribs? All washed down with a cold beverage of your choice. And, there's plenty of corn dogs, ice cream, and cotton candy as well. Whether you want to enjoy a taste of "Nawlins" or play it safe with a corn dog, if you crave it, you'll find it here.

EVENT SCHEDULE

JULY 20th - Gates Open at 5:00 pm
6:00 pm TBA
7:00 pm Dona Oxford
8:15 pm John Primer and the Real Deal Blues Band
9:30 pm Blues Caravan 2007 "The Guitar Women"
Sue Foley - Debra Coleman - Roxanne Potvin

JULY 21st Gates Open at 12:00 NOON
1:30 pm TBA
2:45 pm Kim Massey Band
4:45 pm TBA
6:00 pm Big Ray and Chicago's Most Wanted
7:30 pm Tab Benoit
9:00 pm C.J. Chenier

FOR THE KIDS

1:00 - 4:00 pm Kids Face Painting
1:00 - 4:00 pm Unique Design
Balloon Twisting
1:30 - 3:45 pm Steve "The Harp" Mehlberg free harmonica clinics

TICKET INFORMATION

ONE DAY ADMISSION: \$12.00
GATE PRICES: \$15.00
CHILDREN 12 and under FREE!
BUY By Phone: 309-820-0099
BUY By Mail:
Nothin' But The Blues Festival,
P.O. Box 265
Normal, Illinois 61761
(All mail order tickets end July 15, 2006)
BUY On The Internet at:
<http://www.nothinbutthebluesfestival.com>
BUY AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:
BLOOMINGTON
*The Pantagraph
301 W. Washington,
Bloomington IL
309-829-9000
*Eastland Chiropractic and Wellness Center
220 Eldorado Road,
Bloomington IL
309-662-8418
*Golf Discount
1 Auto Road,
Bloomington IL
309-662-8688
*Pro Tire and Auto
1607 Clearwater Avenue,
Bloomington IL
309-662-9445
*Samuel Music
1717 R.T. Dunn Dr.
Bloomington IL
309-820-9880
*Famous liquors
1404 E. Empire
Bloomington IL
663-8303

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SPRINGFIELD

*Samuel Music
3730 Wabash Ave
217-787-7788

PEORIA

*Samuel Music
4700 N. University spc #80
309-689-8488

CHAMPAIGN

*Samuel Music
1006 W. Anthony Dr.
217-352-2466

BBS 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, you are from what town with a funny sounding name, and what is it nearest?

Answer: I am from Licksillet, Alabama. It is a small town not close to anything! THERE ARE two of 'em to be honest with you! One is near Huntsville to the north, and one is near Fort Payne [on I-59]. Both are in North Alabama. But, this is the truth.

The name "Licksillet" is a "Pun," as is "the Blues Blowtorch" saying. The town is out in the country, population 15 people, and it probably still is 15 today.

I hung out with the boys, and we hung out at a tavern some. We had parties, etc. at a friend's house.

Thank you for asking,
Delta Frank

Question: Tell us about your May vacation to South Carolina. Did

you see any live Blues down there?

Answer: See next issue of Blues News



OFFICIAL RAMBLINGS FROM THE PREZ

OFFICIAL RAMBLINGS FROM THE PREZ

Well, the summer has finally arrived. By the time you read this, the 2007 Central Illinois Blues Challenge will have been a huge success. My thanks go out to Paul Hahn at the Mackinaw Valley Vineyard, The Ronda Glenn Law offices, Eastland Chiropractic Center, Samuel Music, STL Blues (www.stlblues.net) as our media sponsor, our fine panel of judges, the faithful bevy of volunteers, and to our 2008 IBC Solo/Duo act Barb Hamilton, and the eight top quality Blues bands that competed. Deb Mehlberg did a great job coordinating this event. Evidence again that we can really throw a party! We can be proud to send the winner to Memphis, and the River City Blues Society is going to sponsor a top quality act: the runner-up band.

I hope that many of you signed up with Richard Goff (217-433-3140) to volunteer at the Nothin' But The Blues Festival slated for July 20th and 21st. This year's line-up is going to be HOT!! The Society will also need BBS volunteers to man the tent next to the stage. Spend some time with Frank Black as he signs up members, hangout with the artists as they sign CD's, and sell some of our merchandise! Contact Deborah Mehlberg, Entertainment Chair at Deborah464@aol.com or 309-662-0996.

I also wanted to give Frank Black and Pete Moore a plug for enduring the relentless attacks on our website. It has been an ongoing battle, and the adversary

is very sneaky. James Walker has been giving them a hand by taking down the inappropriate posts as soon as he sees them.

Also, if you haven't checked it out, Bob Keiser has a new website worth book-marking at www.illinoisblues.com with a lot of good info.

For my last item Safety First! As we head out to Blues festivals all over the Mid-West and beyond, please remember to wear you sun block, and don't drive if you imbibe! Have a great summer.
Randy Hoffman, President



FROM THE EDITOR'S BLUES SHACK

Hey, the new BBS hats look great! They're available in white or khaki color.

Congratulations to After Midnight Blues who will be performing at the 2007 Illinois Blues Festival Sat. Sept. 1. Held at the RiverFront Park in Peoria, IL, this event runs Aug 31-Sept 1. Headlining this event Sept. 1 is the legendary Dave Mason. Check: www.jaytv.com/bluesfestival Contact: sksbro@aol.com

Congratulations to Steve "The Harp" and David Berchtold for playing the music for a play "Send the Light: The Story of the REA" presented at the McLean County Museum of History. Steve played melodic harmonica and David Berchtold played acoustic guitar that blended into the play to create a background of sound. Several people gave a standing ovation!

Blind Pig Records has announced the signing of veteran blues and R&B singer Nappy Brown. Recording sessions for a new CD were recently held in Kernersville, North Carolina, not too far from Brown's hometown of

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Charlotte. Once the recording sessions were wrapped up Nappy said, "This is the best record I have done since 1955!" Included in the stellar backing lineup are guitarists Bob Margolin, Sean Costello, and Junior Watson, keyboardist Jim Pugh of the Robert Cray band, bassist Mookie Brill, Blues Music Award bassist winner, and John Nemeth.

Want to hear a 1971 concert by Crosby, Nash, and Young? Join Wolfgang's Vault at www.wolfgangsvault.com; it's free, they have vast archives, and you will get weekly offerings.

From Delta Frank, the YouTube pick:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcgegpOKdE4>.

The symbolism in the full 8 minute version of Don McLean's "American Pie" is explained. Cool!



CENTRAL ILLINOIS BLUES CHALLENGE REVIEW



"Becky Bell, Deborah Mehlberg, Steve The Harp, Delta Frank"

From Deborah Mehlberg, Entertainment Director and CIBC Coordinator

I would like to say Thank You to everyone. The Central Illinois Blues Challenge held at Mackinaw Valley Vineyard has been our most successful event to date! Each and everyone deserves Big Kudos for sticking it out and making this event the HUGE SUCCESS it was.

The Sound team did a superb job, the stage crew and backstage management was so smooth they were almost invisible. President Randy Hoffman announced each band and worked the entire day to ensure each and every stage plot was set to specifications. Randy had every aspect of the backstage under control and boy did it ever show! Terrific Job!

Newsletter Editor James Walker has got my vote to M. C. any event from now on. He was very professional, and how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful public speaker. He was very informative, he was able to draw and keep the attention of the crowd to make the needed announcements clear and clean for the audience, to enhance their experience.

Membership Director, Frank Black once again showed us all how it is done, he worked very hard the entire day and was able to increase our ranks once again. His numerous announcements made the difference for many on the cusp of joining.

Rudy Ordonez and wife Suzanne were manning the Merchandise table in another of Rudy's marathon missions to sell our BBS items. He was busy all day long fulfilling the wants of the thousands of Blues fans that converged on this event.

Becky Bell sold raffle tickets far longer than expected. She was the driving force that helped us earn extra cash. She was courteous and patient with the enormous demand placed on her by all wanting to win the Artist Signed Poster that has become a mainstay at our events. She was tired, hungry and sun burnt yet she continued on. Way to go Becky!

Former President, Mike Sacco was Johnny on the spot helping to ensure our silent auction was a success. He was also working a

marathon mission helping out wherever he was needed. He stayed long after everyone else had left. What a blessing it is to have someone so anxious to continue to help our society.

Other Board members deserving a pat on the back were Joanne Weigman, our Treasurer, who had the change boxes ready and devoted time behind the BBS tables, Julie Swanberg greeting at the Gate duty, and Ralph Weisheit shooting club photos for the website.

Steve "The Harp" was a life saver giving an impromptu speech about the Harmonica Workshop he had held earlier in the day. What a joy it was to see the little boy (Alex) run onto the stage to show what he had learned from his first harmonica lesson, so proud of his brand new BBS harmonica. This helped to hold the attention of the audience, while technicalities were worked out with Melvin Taylor's band. Thank You Steve "The Harp" your true love of the Blues emanates from every child wanting to learn, and what a beautiful legacy to leave behind in the minds of children.

Sincerely,
Deborah Mehlberg, Entertainment Director

Attention Blues Blowtorch Members:

We had between 1900 and 2000 people at the Challenge at Mackinaw Valley Vineyard today. We thank all those who were involved, including Paul Hahn and Mackinaw Valley Vineyard and all the sponsors who helped put this event in the record books. We sold 405 dollars in memberships!
Frank Black

MORE ABOUT CIBC

Bear hug to Deborah Mehlberg: From everyone on the Board, let me say "thank you" for a fine accomplishment in taking care of

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"Randy Hoffman, James Walker, Kim Massey, Frank Black"



"Kim Massey is teased by Melvin Taylor"



"Steve The Harp and Alex"

all the little details that go into an event this size and complexity. The main work started in February, at least! Skyy Dobro Please support our generous sponsors that supported us: Mackinaw Valley Vineyard, The Ronda Glenn Law offices, Eastland Chiropractic Center, Samuel Music, STLBlues.net (www.stlblues.net) our media sponsor.

The River City Blues Society was on hand represented by

president Cathy Cheesman and fellow members Rich Cheesman, Tracy Boettcher, and Tim Donahue. They are sponsoring the runner up, Melvin Taylor, to the IBC in February 2008.

JUDGES

Special recognition goes to our panel of judges: Gordon Holmes, Jeff Paxton, Thomas Duncanson, and, from Earwig records in Chicago, Michael Frank. They used IBC rules and ranked each band in the categories of: Blues Content,

Originality, Talent, and Stage Presence.

Michael Frank commented after the event, "All the bands had something going for them!"

WINNERS

First: Kim Massey Band

Second: Melvin Taylor

Third: Rooster AlleySee Dave

Beardsley's photos at

http://www.stlblues.net/illinois_blueschalleng2007.htm and Bob

Kieser's pix at

www.illinoisblues.com



BLUES FESTIVAL SEASON

CIBC Heavy Hitters:

Thank you to past officers for continuing to contribute in a major way. Participation is the essential ingredient in any democracy, and that includes your B.B.Society. We are so grateful for all of our volunteers! A big "WAY-TO-GO" shout-out goes these members, other than Board of Director's, who volunteered: Mike Sacco, BBS founder and former president
J Balmer, former president
Richard Goff, former vice president
Suzanne Ordonez
Dave Long
Jeff Augsburger
Larry DuChanois
Tianna Collette
Gianna Long
Cheryl Melgosa from the Copy Shop



REVIEWS

THE SEAN CARNEY BAND

Life Of Ease

Nite Owlz Records (2006)

IBC Winner, and winner of the Albert King Guitar Award

Picture this: A contest is held for bands where the judging is weighted for "originality." You would expect the winning band to have some fresh songs and arrangements but still be rooted in Blues music that one can immediately recognize as such. That is exactly what you get with The Sean Carney Band and their debut *Life of Ease*. The title track is first on the CD and was played first in their winning 20 minute set in the finals of the International Blues Challenge February 3, 2007. How could your contemporary album collection be complete without it? Be prepared for old-school R&B, contemporary

blues, jump, and swing played competently to be as popular as dollar beer night.

Carney has all the chops at his disposal necessary to make strong musical statements and it's proven well from beginning to end.

Whether laying down West Coast grooves as displayed on the title track, high velocity shuffles like "Why Do You Lie," or bristling Chicago Blues in "Bad Side Baby," Carney offers up a tour through time as both a stellar guitarist and a top notch vocalist.

Special guests include Willie Pooch, Teeny Tucker, "King Saxe" Gene Walker, and the late Joe Weaver, along with several more adding classy talents to a band already brimming with taste.

With clever covers like T-Bone Walker's "I Know Your Wig Is Gone," Louis Jordan's "Outskirts Of Town," or Pee Wee Crayton's

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“When It Rains It Pours,” mixed with 8 originals out of 16 songs running about 70 minutes, The Sean Carney Band, simply said, brings joy and excitement. The Blues is a dieing genre? Not likely!

South Side Cindy & The Slip Tones

Change From a Penny
Self Release

www.thesliptones.com

By James “Skyy Dobro” Walker

8 songs; 28:16 minutes The only thing that could have made this album better would be releasing it as a DVD! With the album one gets the great, upbeat Blues-Rock with some R&B music of lead singer Cindy Youngren, but with a video one could see the fantastically classy stage show of Cindy & the Slip Tones. Minus the visuals, one is able to concentrate more on their creative lyrics, however. Featuring 8 all original songs credited to the entire band, this is their second release since 2004.

It only takes a few seconds into the first song to discover the high energy and emotion contained in the entire CD. “Peace In This World” opens with E Johnson’s throbbing bass notes followed by Steve Youngren piercing the air with attention grabbing treble notes on his guitar. 24 seconds later, South Side Cindy’s buoyant and self confident voice comes in pleading for some global harmony. Before the end, Wendy Gossett adds her formidable vocals to the mix and Jim Donahue takes a lead on organ while Jeff Smucker keeps them all rock steady on drums.

The third track slows the pace with my favorite song on the album, the powerful, “Oh Road.” Cleverly personifying a road as a seductive mistress, South Side Cindy pours out a plaintive

question to the luring highway, asking what she has that takes the jilted lover’s man away leaving her standing alone. In the background, Wendy Gossett sends shivers as she sings “Oh road” at the end of each line.

More intelligent simile and metaphor are found in the title track as the protagonist demands why her man makes her feel like “Change From a Penny” when “I ain’t done anything wrong but love you.” The instruments perfectly set the mood here: this is not a whining “sweet little girl” anymore; this is a changed, confident woman insisting on an answer.

Unlike the title, this album is as gold as its cover!

Candy Kane
Guitar’d and Feathered
Ruf Records

www.candykane.com

www.rufrecords.de

By James “Skyy Dobro” Walker

13 songs; 40:04 minutes We are approaching the day when the “professional studio” recording will be the exception instead of the norm. With digital recording systems meaning virtually anyone can record a CD, many albums that reviewers encounter sound exactly like they were recorded “at home.” Candy Kane’s latest release since *White Trash Girl* in 2005, also on Ruf Records, is fully competent with professional recording, mixing, mastering, and co-production by Bob Margolin.

Guitar’d & Feathered is a treasure chest of varied guitar, soulful music, and torch blues. There is a wide variety of styles, tempos, and guests, but Candy sings with such depth and power that she is always the central focus. Known for her exciting and entertaining - and sometimes adult-oriented - stage show, Candy is a natural-born, supremely-gifted vocalist who can

sing her humanity and touch ours.

Kane’s vocal acumen is complimented by featured guest guitar players: Junior Watson, Dave Alvin, Bob Margolin, Sue Foley, Jeff (Jeffrey P.) Ross, Kid Ramos, Ana Popovic, Bob Brozman, and Popa Chubby. Bob Brozman’s guitars are pictured on the cover along with the curvaceous Candy adorned in feathers.

Guitar’d & Feathered begins with the retro swing of Junior Watson’s guitar, Bill Stuve popping on bass, and Kane’s eldest son, Evan Caleb, on drums. “My Country Man” kicks the party off in style. Next up, Dave Alvin slides into the atmosphere on a National Steel-bodied Guitar to make it clear: the listener is in for wonderfully different styles.

Other highlights are Candy’s convincing rendition of Guitar Slim’s “I Done Got Over It,” mutual laments from “Jesus and Mohammed” over today’s misguided religious violence, Ana Popovic’s playing on Kane original “I’m Lucky,” and the closing break-neck-speed Rock and Roller, “Crazy Little Thing” propelled by Popa Chubby.

What’s not to love when there is something for everybody?

Billy Jones
My Hometown
Black & Tan Records
www.blackandtan-shop.com
www.myspace.com/billyjonesbluez

By James “Skyy Dobro” Walker
10 songs; 45:28 minutes;

Clearly, Billy Jones is an exciting singer, song writer, and guitarist deserving more attention. This second album produced in the Netherlands on the Black & Tan label is a great set of variety: original soul-blues, blues-rock, and funk that honor traditions, but bring something new for today.

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Born in 1953 in North Little Rock, Arkansas, Jones' family owned and operated a blues cafe often hosting Howlin' Wolf and Bobby "Blue" Bland. Learning guitar as a child, he was considered a prodigy, who developed a voice similar to Prince, and became an understudy to artists such as Little Johnny Taylor and Rufus Thomas.

Seeing himself as part of the new Blues generation, Jones describes his music, "...it ain't that same ol' predictable stuff at big corporate labels...But then...what do these 'fat cat' record company guys know about what's happening on the streets right now?"

A perfect example of a contemporary street issue is his powerful indictment of methamphetamine's destruction in "Crystal." The tough guitar accentuates the message, "...it's the worst thing I've ever seen."

The CD kicks off acoustically with a soul-blues number that can deceive the listener into thinking the entire album will be in this vein. But, by the second number, gears have shifted to tasty electric slide guitar. Then beautiful shimmering guitar chords underlie the love song in the third track. The title track lyrics tell a poignant mix of frustration and hope underscored by an intricate studio mix of instruments.

Jones is an artist worth the investment of your time. How many artists today are really trying to change things with their music?

JOHN NEMETH with JUNIOR WATSON

Monday April 23, 2007

The Alamo, Springfield IL

By James "Skyy Dobro" Walker

They were heavily into the second set of music, when on

"The Pawnbroker," it looked like Junior Watson, a California guitarist with nearly thirty years of experience and cult status, was going to steal the show. Not to be out done, especially since he was the billed artist on tour, rising star John Németh laid the microphone down and filled the room with his powerful voice, singing without amplification! That was just one of the highlights Monday night, April 23, at the Alamo club in Springfield.

John Németh (pronounced like the Jets quarterback, Joe Namath) is a rising blues star; an incredible singer steeped in tradition and with dynamic range. A harmonica player of riveting intensity and virtuosity, he also puts on a stage show with antics like kicking his foot as high as his head.

On one song, John played a mid song bridge on harmonica with just drums. He was like a pied piper on the harp leading the crowd up and down with every note and even had some call and response with the audience where they would yell, "Hey" when Németh did a stop.

His decade long career has found him opening for the likes of Robert Cray and Keb Mo'. From his January release, "Magic Touch," the song "You're An Angel" is getting air play and appearing on juke boxes nationwide. Performing at major music festivals around the United States, Europe, Canada and Asia has brought him critical acclaim and increasing accolades.

John's origins are an unlikely breeding ground for such an impressive blues talent. A thirty year old native of Boise, Idaho, he grew up singing in a Catholic church and started playing in local bands as a teenager. Németh and his wife currently live in San Francisco.

Németh's delightful rendering of "Blue Broadway," an original song from his third CD, showed his

uncanny blend of retro-modern blues and soul music. He is far from a one trick pony as further witnessed on "Romance Without Finance (Is a Nuisance)" and Tampa Red's "Yes, Yes, Yes" with a light-hearted, bouncy rhythm typical of the 1930s Chicago music maven.

When I asked him about his voice, Németh told me he is enjoying the current Mid-west tour because of the humidity. For a power singer, it's important. "When we are in the Northwest or Southwest, it is so dry I have to drink a gallon of water a day," he said.

In attendance were guitar players, Russell Miller (6V6) with his son Aaron and Dan Berbaum with wife Sally Weisenberg (SW & The Famous Sidemen). They were there to see Junior Watson. They even brought guitars for him to autograph. Watson was no stranger to the Springfield club. Said Németh, "Junior has been playing here since before the Dead Sea was even sick." All his playing was pure string squeezing as he used no foot pedals or electronic special effects. Junior Watson played with sweet harmony in his solo melodies with John often joining in with harmony harp in the background.

On drums was Wes Star from Austin Texas, and on bass, Vance Ehlers from Oakland. Visit: www.johnnemethblues.com and www.juniorwatson.com



**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.

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Delta Frank posts the concert listings he receives, especially ones for Central Illinois. You can submit replies, reviews and articles, too (see below).

The Return of Forum Hackers

The smarter we get, the smarter the smut peddlers get! We have recently been attacked again by hackers posting advertisements, often attaching them as “replies” to an existing post. Thanks to Pete Moore, our number one webmaster, for setting up two “newer” firewalls to scuttle the pirates.

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.

So sorry about the embarrassing posts. Thank you everyone for your cooperation, Frank Black

BBS Membership Director

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.

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 Morrissey Drive and Lincoln Street. Call any Board member (see last page listings) to confirm.



RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

Approximately half of all BBS memberships are up for renewal by July 1, 2007. The other half will be due by January 1, 2008. Thank you for these renewals since last issue:

Steve Anderson
Jeff & Barb Augsburg
Bob & Carol Burger
Mark & Cindy Gillis
Russell Miller
Tim Muehlenpfort
Sheila Nettleton
Kim & Rebecca Smith
Bill Stahlschmidt
Brian Wilkinson
Walter & Pat Williams
Cindy Youngren
DMi technology Group Corporate Sponsor
More in next issue.

New Members:

“Welcome” aboard to our newest members!:

David Beardsley
Tracy Boettcher
Paul & Patti Curry & Son Matthew Curry
Tim & Terri Donahue
Marge Fortman
Gary Goodwin
Phil Stickel & Candy Gorman
Gordon Holmes
Brian & Lee Hulsether
Jeff Preuitt
David Raistrick
Melvin Taylor, Blues Guitarist
Ken Tucker
Tony Valentine
Russell Vance
Jim Weber
Dan & Maureen Woodard
TV Blues Band (Tony Valentine)
New Corporate Sponsor
Our apologies, to any one missed. E-mail all corrections to the editor:
skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com



BLUES NEWS NOTES

SAD NOTICES OF PASSINGS:

Carey Bell (Harrington), 1936 to 2007, Chicago Blues harmonica legend. He was one of the very few players who didn't learn his craft by listening to old records, but by

studying directly under the masters. Big Walter Horton, Little Walter and Sonny Boy Williamson II were among his teachers. A veteran of both Muddy Waters and Willie Dixon's bands as well as a searing solo artist with chops to burn, Bell's classic yet contemporary, funky yet subtle and deeply soulful blues placed him firmly on the short list of blues harmonica superstars.

NEW VENUE

A new restaurant and brew-works is in the making. Named Destihl, it will be near the Shoppes of College Hills in Normal off Veterans' Parkway in front of the new Hamilton Inn. They have a website, and they are asking bands to contact them if interested. www.destihl.com. They are scheduled to open early October. From Joanne Weigman, Treasurer

GLT NEWS

Bruce Beregathon, the station manager, told me that WGLT made their goal for the fund drive of 107,800 dollars. Blues Pledges were up 20 % from last time! Thank you people for all you did to support Blues on GLT Radio. From Delta Frank Black

And, from Delta Frank's son,
I got a huge box of goodies the other day from that bunch of folks from WGLT. Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers. The soldiers in my squad thank you all as well. It is so exciting to receive things from back home, but when a box of unexpected goodies shows up, it is somehow so

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much more comforting. Tell everyone at WGLT thanks so much.

Listening when I can,
SSG Christopher Black
2nd Platoon "Punishers"
128th Military Police Company
PTT - Samarra, Iraq

BLUES MUSIC AWARDS WINNERS 2007

Comeback Album: Jerry Lee Lewis - *Last Man Standing*
Traditional Blues Male Artist: Robert Lockwood, Jr.
Traditional Blues Female Artist: Etta James
Acoustic Artist: David "Honeyboy" Edwards
Acoustic Album: Rory Block - *The Lady and Mr. Johnson*
Pinetop Perkins Piano Player: Marcia Ball
Instrumentalist-Guitar: Hubert Sumlin
Soul Blues Male Artist: Bobby Rush
Soul Blues Female Artist: Irma Thomas
Soul Blues Album: Irma Thomas - *After the Rain*
Historical Album: Shout! Factory - Hooker - *John Lee Hooker*
Contemporary Blues Album: Guitar Shorty - *We the People*
Contemporary Blues Female Artist: Janiva Magness
Contemporary Blues Male Artist: Tab Benoit
Instrumentalist-Harmonica: Charlie Musselwhite
Instrumentalist-Bass: Mookie Brill
Instrumentalist-Drums: Willie "Big Eyes" Smith
Instrumentalist-Horn: Eddie Shaw
Instrumentalist-Other: Robert Randolph

Best New Artist Debut: Slick Ballinger - *Mississippi Soul*
Song of the Year: "Church is Out" - *Charlie Musselwhite*
Traditional Blues Album: Charlie Musselwhite - *Delta Hardware*
Album of the Year: Charlie Musselwhite - *Delta Hardware*
Band of the Year: Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials
B.B. King Entertainer of the Year: Tab Benoit

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

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."

Erik D. Swanson, guitar player for Denise Lagrassa's gigs at Redfire Grill, is teaching a class this summer at Heartland called "Jazz, Blues, and Rock and Roll." Delta Frank Black has been invited to guest lecture about the blues. Said Erik, "You could talk about whatever you want and bring in any records you want. I thought the class

would like hearing about the blues from someone like you, and you could spread the blues gospel to some students who might not otherwise be exposed. The class meets Mon/Wed 9-11:30."



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

Mark Hummel's Harmonica Blues Blowout

featuring Billy Branch and James Harmon
Russel Miller and 6V6 at 7pm
Kilborn Alley Blues Band 8:30 pm
Mark Hummel, et al 10pm
Friday June 29th, 2007
Best Western Ashland House
Convention Center
201 Ashland Ave Morton, IL
309 266-6919
\$7 in advance \$10 at the door.
Tickets at Paddy O'Flaherty's in the Best Western

Sugar Creek Arts Festival

Sat July 7 & Sun July 8
10am-5pm both days
Uptown Normal IL
Free
North Street Stage
Saturday, July 7
10:00 Sugar Creek Cloggers
11:00-12:30 Sally Weisenberg &

Continued from previous page

The Famous Sidemen
1:00-2:30 The Delta Kings
3:00-4:30 Hip Pocket
Sunday, July 8
11:00-12:30 TBA
1:00-2:00 Mt. Pisgah Gospel Choir
3:00-4:30 Heartland Jazz
Orchestra
Quad Stage
Saturday, July 7
10:30-noon Joe Metzka and
Friends
12:30-2:00 Backyard Tire Fire
2:30-4:00 Southside Cindy & The
Slip Tones
Sunday, July 8
10:30-noon Wise Guise
12:30-2:00 David Hoffman
Quartet
2:30-4:00 Mike & Amy Finders



EDUCATION SPOT 2

Live Music Clubs Closing: Part 3 of a 3 part article.

Favorite Blues clubs just close. It happens too often. What is going wrong with the world? Is live music not important anymore? Is live music on the way out? Part 1 revealed 19 reasons for closing clubs. Part 2 explained why it's important, and should not be impossible, to keep Blues clubs

open.

The following information was taken from the Blindman's Blues Forum (www.blindman.forumhoster.com)

SOLUTIONS:

1. Early Blues shows and double shifting. The Highdive in Champaign, Illinois has had a Blues act 7 10 pm and a DJ 10:30 2:00 am. They get two different crowds, double cover charges, etc.
2. Every sound engineer should have a decibel meter and use it so that the band wouldn't be so loud.
3. Realize the truth: The music game has always been very tough; nothing has changed in that arena. Life and music are not a straight line, they're peaks and valleys - always has been always will be. The trick is to ride them all out without losing your positive outlook for the one thing is certain - nothing ever stays the same.
4. More truth: many audiences want to hear covers, not original works. They are looking for something they know. A couple of original songs in a set aren't bad, but often a singer will do all original work when they are totally unknown. Unless the singer is outstanding, the audience will be out, standing (waiting for a taxi).

5. For bands to get in the door try mixing it up. Do some blues, some zydeco, some rockabilly, some rock and roll, some country swing, some funk and some gospel. Have male and female vocalists. It can appeal to the ages from 25 to 65 and a wide demographic. It also helps to have a strong rhythm section and keep the sets up tempo.
6. But, be prepared to play to the audience. Some audiences may not find appeal in such a diverse range. Audiences can tend to congregate where their tastes are in agreement.
7. Bands should do music the average couple can dance to and for those folks who know what they are doing so they can kick their heels up too. Mix up the tempo of the songs so folks can get in some slow dancing too.
8. Non-alcoholic drink options. How about a smoothie? How about shake? How about some interesting and fancy soda's or coffee's? If folks are willing to pay bucks for that stuff at Starbucks, they will pay for it at a bar. How about some interesting bar food/deserts?
9. Club Operators could audition unheard local bands and hire the proven players.
10. Smoke free shows, if not smoke free bars.



Buddy and Hopkins

By Jason Nocera (www.buddyandhopkins.com)



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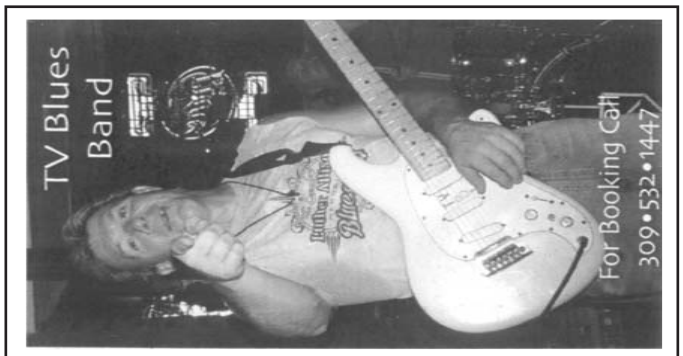


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of each month!**

www.bluesblowtorch.com/society



**The Blues Blowtorch Society
Membership Application**

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-mail Address _____

Would you like to volunteer? YES, Interest _____

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	Family	\$25/yr. _____
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	Preferred Corp	\$TBD/Event

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<p>Make checks payable to: The Blues Blowtorch Society</p>	<p>Mail to: (Our Treasurer) Joanne Weigman 907 Gerike Way Bloomington, IL 61704</p>
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