



BLUES NEWS

newsletter@bluesblowtorch.com

September - October 2007

ASK DELTAFRANK

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

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

Question: From Randy Hoffman: "Delta Frank, what did you think of the Nothin' But The Blues Festival 2007?"

Answer: I thought the Nothin' But The Blues Festival was one of the best had. I was amazed at the volunteers doing their part to make the Festival a success. Richard Goff worked so hard to get the volunteers and directing them. Randy Hoffman did an outstanding job taking care of the stage. All people in the Blues



Frank Black and Koko Taylor

Blowtorch Society did a good job greeting people and taking care of Business all weekend long. I was happy with the new members that signed up in the society also. Things were perfect. The crowd on Saturday night was outstanding

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BBS BLUES UPCOMING EVENT

Christmas Combo: 2008 Officer Elections, Food Donation Drive and Society Party

TBA: location

Tentative date: Thursday, December 13

Admission is a donation at the door: 2 non-perishable food items or per person cover. All donations will benefit a charity soon to be selected. For the live music, we are pleased to looking for a band. Submit ideas to Deborah Mehlberg and Randy Hoffman.

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



Enjoying NV Ultra Lounge

ELECTIONS

Nominations: Bylaws: Article 3, Section 2. Nominations for new officers shall be open only during the November General Membership meeting each year. Specifically, nominations shall be opened

during the new business section of the November General Membership meeting and shall be closed when that same meeting is adjourned. All nominees must provide oral or written consent during the nomination process in order to be placed on the ballot. Elections shall be held during the December General Membership Meeting.

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

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

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

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

Voting: Bylaws: Article 3, Section 2. Elections shall be held during the December General Membership Meeting.

Bylaws: Article 3, Section 4. Voting during the election of officers shall be by secret ballot and shall be tallied by a teller committee chaired by the Parliamentarian.

Nominees for 2008: chosen by next issue



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even though we had to change venues (from Sale Barn). I am looking forward to next year at Tri Lakes.
Thank you for asking, Delta Frank Black

Question: Frank, when it comes to blues news, you always seem to know first and generously pass it on to the rest of us. Where do you get the latest news of the blues?

Answer: See next issue of Blues News



OFFICIAL RAMBLINGS FROM THE PREZ

Greetings,

The Blues Blowtorch Society has had a busy late Summer and Fall this year.

We helped coordinate the return of Bryan Lee and the Blues Power Band to Central Illinois. The Society paid admission for 31 current members and Frank signed up another twelve members! It was a pleasure, watching people that don't know Frank, suddenly recognize his voice, and tell him how long they have been listening to him, and then decide to join the Society. Bryan Lee was thrilled that we were able to help him fill a cancellation in his schedule and turn over \$700 in tickets sales. It really made the evening that more special. He and his band tore it up and one of our 'junior' members, Mathew Curry showed that he could cut the groove with a master. Steve 'The Harp', our Education Chair, sat in on the last set, and you could tell Bryan enjoyed the flair that Steve brings to the Blues.

The Fall Ball was another success story, raising over \$1100 for our Education Fund. Debbie Mehlberg, our Entertainment Chair, coordinated the preparation work with the Mackinaw Valley Vineyard, designed the posters, booked the bands and insured that we all had a great time. Kudos to Debbie and

Becky Bell, our VP, who handled the volunteers we needed to pull this event off. Shawn Kellerman and James Armstrong were great to work with and they certainly did their 'thang' on stage. Gene Duncan, of 6V6, handled the sound duties, making the bands sound as good as they actually are. Thanks again to all of our volunteers.

We have some opportunities for our members coming up as we round the corner and head for the end of the 2007 journey. Our



Randy Hoffman,
Our Level Headed President

December Combo Party is just that. We hold our election of officers, collect food goods for a local charity, and pay recognition to our Corporate Sponsors, without whose support we would not be able to provide the events and Blues in Schools programs we have been doing. If any of our members are interested in becoming Board Members, it is important they attend our November meeting at the VFW. **Nominations are taken and must be accepted at the meeting** in order to be on the ballot.

Come on out to our meetings and events, we know you'll have a good time.

Randy Hoffman
PS Thank you all for the birthday cake at the August meeting. I hit double nickels.

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.

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

- The online video pick: www.dailymotion.com/video/xe5w0_ray-charles-jerry-lee-lewis features Fats Domino, Ray Charles, and Jerry Lee Lewis all on stage at the same time!
- Best CD of the year? Unless something big hits in the last three months, this is my pick for album of the year: *The Insomniacs*, Left Coast Blues. Read the review in this issue.
- Latest news on Destihl Microbrewery and Restaurant. The opening date has been pushed back due to some unforeseen problems. They are shooting for the middle to end of October, but inside sources say it will more likely be November 19. The outside of the building isn't done yet, let alone the inside. Also, they still need to hire all the help, etc. The owners are anxious to get started!
- Dave Riley of Calumet City has teamed with Phoenix impresario and 2007 KBA winner Bob Corritore on a hot new CD titled *Travelin' The Dirt Road*. Visit www.myspace.com/daverileybobcorritore for MP3

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samples.

- **The Rolings Tones** are 3 former members of Cobalt Canopy with guest artist **Haley Crouch**. Haley is a 16 year old blues harp player; some of you may have seen her perform with them in the past, when she was 12 or 13 years old. Haley has really matured and is playing better than ever. She is playing about 75 minutes of material with them. Visit:

www.rolings-tones.com

- **Two new albums** have been released by **Blind Pig Records**: *Nappy Brown*, *Long Time Coming* and *Magic Slim*, *The Essential Magic Slim*. Visit

www.blindpigrecords.com

- Had a note from **Reba Russell** in Memphis. She and her band will be on the next Blues Cruise, and they are trying to finish album # 7 before they tour Europe in 2008.

www.rebarussell.com

- Dig **Southern Soul music**? Check out www.jomarrecords.com

- The May 8, **2008 Blues Music Awards** have been moved to The Grand Casino and Hotel in Tunica MS. More details coming at www.blues.org

- **Checking in with Bill Porter** of Fishbone Willie and Bill Porter Project, "This summer: I bought another guitar, wrote some more songs, went boating on the IL River and caught an Asian jumping carp (It jumped IN the boat!). Still doing gigs and having fun. Take care, BP

*Congratulations to Nick & Kate Moss's **Blue Bella Records** on 4 simultaneous releases of Chicago Blues albums on October 9: Nick Moss & The Fliptops, *Play It 'Til Tomorrow* 2 CD set; Gerry Hundt, *Since Way Back*, The Kilborn Alley Blues Band, *Tear Chicago Down* with liner notes by yours truly; and Bill Lupkin, *Hard Pill To Swallow*.

- It was my honor and pleasure to serve as one of the 4 judges for the Illinois Central Blues Club's Blues Challenge. It was held in conjunction with Old Capitol Blues and BBQ Festival on August 25. The

winner was **Darrein Saffron & the Soul Sensations**, who also appeared at the Nothin' But The Blues Festival.

- **Alligator Records** announced the signing of blues, soul and R&B vocalist **Janiva Magness** for a 2008 album. She is the winner of the 2006 and 2007 Blues Music Awards for Best Contemporary Female Artist Of The Year. They also signed **Smokin' Joe Kubek** with **Bnois King**.

- Have you ever been in **Rolling Stone** magazine? Says BBS member Kurt Foor, the Coal City Clubman, "I have! I'm in a picture amongst the crowd at the Eric Clapton Crossroads Fest. Standing, in a blue shirt with a cig in my mouth. Now I can say I was in **Rolling Stone** magazine! 15 minutes goes by quickly." If you missed Kurt's great review of the Festival, dig out the last issue of *Blues News*.

- Congratulations to **Too Slim and The Taildraggers**. Their 14th CD, *The Fortune Teller*, hit the Billboard.biz Blues albums chart at # 9 on September 1.

Best Blues to you,
Skyy Dobro



FALL BALL REVIEW

Sunday, October 7, 2007
Mackinaw Valley Vineyards

In order to include a review of the Fall Ball, I asked Board members in attendance to keep it short and easy, just tell gut reactions, favorite moments, accomplishments, uppers, downers, and thoughts for next time.

From James and Susan Walker:

Gut reaction: Great time on a Fall afternoon! A big THANK YOU to Entertainment Chair, Deborah Mehlberg for the posters and all her hours of toil. And, kudos to her granddaughter, Lilyana Alvarez, age 4, for all her hard work, seriously.

Upper: We successfully added money to our Education Fund while having fun.

From Ralph Weisheit:

Favorite Moments: The chance to see and visit with people I don't see in my daily routine. The music was great, but as with most things, it's the people that really make the event. Also, it was great fun watching Steve the Harp do his harmonica workshop. Until this event I had thought of the workshops as mainly for kids, but this one was mainly adults. They had a great time, and I think they learned a lot. In particular, they learned what Steve makes appear easy, is in fact, quite a challenge.



Lilyana Alvarez, Harmonica Workshop

Downers: It was hot, but not much we could have done about that. At least it didn't rain.

For Next Time: I like the idea of only 2 bands but would have scheduled a shorter day -- perhaps from 1-5 instead of 12-7. The event was much too long. Also,

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instead of two bands from out of town I think I would have had one local and one national act. The local bands often bring in their own set of followers and the national act makes it special. Finally, I think the event wasn't publicized enough. I didn't see much about it in the Go section of the Pantagraph and had I not been on the BBS e-mail list I might not have known it was happening.

Finally: Kudos again to Randy Hoffman who always seems to be there and who always does an excellent job with set-up, tear-down, and sound. These events would not go as smoothly as they do without his help.

From Becky Bell:

Gut reaction: I was a little disappointed that they didn't need any of the volunteers I had recruited, but I think they let them all in for free.

Uppers: It was nice that owner Paul Hahn was there, visible, and ready to help whenever we had questions. Everyone seemed to be having a good time, and there weren't any negative incidents that I was aware of. James Armstrong was great! I will definitely attend if he plays anywhere near here again.

Downer: I think it was the heat that kept people way more than anything, although it wasn't as hot out there as people in town would have expected.

From Rudy Ordonez:

Gut reaction: More popular national/local bands would have drawn a bigger crowd.

Favorite moment: Frank's cheese dilemma.

Uppers: The music.

Downers: No food ready until 2 PM;



Lilyana and James Armstrong



Shawn Kellerman



James Armstrong

Shawn Kellerman and band having to perform while starving to death; small crowd.

Thoughts for next time: Don't rely on the Vineyard to advertise as contracted, do it ourselves. Make it a shorter event; there's no benefit in running 7 hours. Hire band(s) people are familiar with. Discontinue the silent auctions. Keep Frank away from cheese.

From Delta Frank:

Gut reactions: Could have been more advertising, which would have led to more people coming.

Favorite moments: When Rudy and I talked about the occasion when I ate too much cheese.

Upper: Good food by the one vendor that was there.

Downers: Cheese was too high priced. Not enough vendors, and no car show.

Thoughts for next time: More vendors, and more bands. Water and drinks closer.

From Deborah Mehlberg:

Gut reaction: I was very disappointed that the Car Show didn't happen and that the promised advertising was a complete wash as well. We could have had an even bigger crowd with a little advertising.

Uppers: Watching my 4-year-old granddaughter Lilyana dance and participate in the harmonica workshop. My most favorite was when I was selling raffle tickets, Lilyana would sing "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" for everyone that bought a ticket. Some even gave her money, a total of \$2.50! She told everyone this was her "first paying gig." I could not believe the reaction of the crowd

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to the 5 Christmas baskets I made and donated, everyone wanted them, even more than the signed autographed posters.

Downers: It was HOT. Only one food vendor showed up, and the auctions didn't raise as much money as I had hoped. Also, not enough employees were working. They were overworked and stressed out.

For Next Time: I think we should have the Fall Ball at a venue closer to home. Seventeen miles doesn't seem that far until it's time to drive there. We will also make sure there are more food vendors for a variety.



REGIONAL BLUES ROUNDUP

It means a road trip and late night, but good Blues is happening all around. Hey, there will be plenty of time to sleep when we're dead! It is reassuring to see so much happening all around.

SPRINGFIELD from Judy Burgess, Secretary of Illinois Central Blues Club

Tom Irwin, one of Springfield's fantastic local musicians and an entertainment writer for the *Illinois Times*, has a new CD called "Carry Me Home." Tom was recently voted "Best Musician in Springfield" in the *Illinois Times* annual contest. Irwin's album can be purchased online at <http://www.CDBaby.com/tomirwin>, or at Tom's website <http://www.tomirwin.org>. If you prefer the old fashioned way - checks for \$15 can be mailed to Tom at 6656 WSR 97, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677.

2007 Illinois Central Blues Club Solo/Duo Blues Challenge

The 2007 ICBC Solo/Duo Blues Challenge will be conducted on November 3, 2007 from 6:00 p.m.

to 10:00 p.m. at the Alamo, located at 115 N. 5th St., Springfield, Illinois. Those chosen to compete are musicians who are members of the Illinois Central Blues Club (unless they've already been a finalist for a Handy/Blues Music Award or are affiliated professionally with someone who has been). We are anxious to see how our representatives do at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis Jan 31-Feb 2, 2008.

JOLIET from T-Bird Huck
Wednesday Blues Jam

"SUBTERRANEAN BLUES JAM" The ambience of a 1940's Blues club pervades Carter's Place in historic Lockport IL. Join venue owner Gary Carter & Jam host T-Bird Huck as the Wednesday night action returns!

S. B. J. lineup:

JIMMY "KEEYZ"

CALECA/KEYBOARDS

DOUG HORAN/BASS

JEFF RUFFIN/DRUMS

T-BIRD HUCK/VOCALS, GUITAR, HARMONICA

Our musical brotherhood and camaraderie is as strong as it's ever been. It's an era of good feeling. These *are* the "

good old days!" Years from now looking back, you'll see it's true. Carter's is gonna rock, jump & swing!

PEORIA

Wednesday Night Blues Jam

Open Stage Blues Jam Every Wednesday night At The Silver Dollar located at 4322 N Prospect Rd. Peoria Ill. 61616 Music Starts At 8:30 pm with Chuck Ely and the Silver Dollar blues band and continues on until 12:30 am.

"Come on out and jam or just to have a great time listening to some great Blues."

<http://www.myspace.com/silverdollarbluesjam>

QUAD CITIES

Karen McFarland, elected to Blues Foundation Board of Directors

Karen is a member of the Mississippi Valley Blues Society in the Quad Cities, a retired college professor, and former Board member with broad experience in Blues education.



KNOW YOUR BLUES BLOWTORCH SOCIETY

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

YOU CAN POST!

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 wants 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.
LIVING BLUES MAGAZINE WINNERS
Visit the Forum on the website and click on "Blues News." There you will find the Reader's Poll and Critic's Poll winners for 2007.



REVIEWS

The Insomniacs

Left Coast Blues

Delta Groove Music, Inc.

www.insomniacsblues.com

13 songs; 50:00 minutes; Essential

It's finger snapping, hipster music! It's energized and fun! And, it should be among the five nominees for Best New Artist Debut at the Blues Music Awards. This CD made me, a weekly album reviewer with limited time, listen to it over and over. That's how great this album of West Coast, Jump-Blues is.

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There probably hasn't been a totally unique guitar solo passage created in decades, but these guitar riffs sound inventive and fresh when performed with creative bounce and joy like in the playing of 25-year-old Vyasa Dodson.

Equally imaginative, two-fisted piano and organ trade leads with the guitar, courtesy of Alex Shakeri, in a traditional manner defining West Coast Blues.

All notes are placed judiciously with no extensive, note wasting solos as most songs are shorter than four minutes.

The songs themselves are full of Dodson's stylized, want-to-sing-along vocal phrases and harmonies, plus there are catchy musical hooks and turnarounds that are in your brain to stay by the second listen. Impressively, nine of the twelve songs are Dodson originals.

With no studio overdubs using horns or such, the foursome recorded the CD to combine various flavors of slow blues, Jump, Swing, Rock and Roll, Twists, and Shuffles that will drive ducks out of the water just to dance.

Justly so, the 4-piece band, with rhythm section of Dean Mueller bass and Dave Melyan drums, won the Cascade Blues Association Muddy Award for "Best New Act" of 2006.

For a quick tutoring in West Coast Blues, here is the sweet synthesis of decades of top players of the genre from Lowell Fulson and Big Joe Turner to Junior Watson, Hollwood Fats, and Little Charlie Baty to today.

Standout tracks include: "Wrong King of Love" with a "Night time Is The Right Time" beat, a popping instrumental "Crime Scene," the opening dance starter track, "Stick Around," and a bonus live track, "No Wine, No Women."

The slightest downer: the staring, bloodshot eyeball artwork on the cover. I agree with the fan who wrote, "Congratulations!

Although, I must say...that eyeball is giving me the willies!"

By James "Skyy Dobro" Walker for the Blues Blowtorch Society

**Bryan Lee
Katrina Was Her Name
Justin Time Records, Inc.
www.braillebluesdaddy.com
13 songs; 66:23 minutes; Highly Recommended**

When it comes to being hip, Bryan Lee is like James Harman; they've got more cool than a Frigidaire! Lee has worked himself into the upper echelons of first-rate Blues entertainers through years of perseverance and sincerity, but mainly, sincerity. This latest CD is among his best and contains the elements that have that endeared him to audiences: instant-party songs, expert guitar work, soulful vocals, and Lee's rhythmic, vocal calls directing and encouraging the band (even in the studio).

Blind since age 8 and originally from Wisconsin, 62 year old Bryan Lee had made his career playing Blues nightly in New Orleans for 20 plus years. Like so many musicians playing in a city dedicated to music, Bryan was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Life's test is to move on, and Bryan has done that very successfully. He has an approaching marriage, this sixth studio recording, and he teamed with protégé Kenny Wayne Shepherd on the hit song, "Tina Marie," for Shepherd's CD and DVD, 10 Days Out. Bryan then made an appearance on Jay Leno's Tonight Show with Kenny Wayne and Hubert Sumlin. You can see the video of his Leno appearance at www.braillebluesdaddy.com

For this album, Bryan kept road partners: guitar ace Brent Johnson and drummer John Perkins. Producer Duke Robillard brought to the studio Bruce Katz on keyboards, bassists Marty Ballou, Jim Mitchell, and John Packer, and "Sax Gordon" Beadle and Doug

James on saxophones. Robillard also brings a touch of Swing to numbers like Willie Dixon's "29 Ways" and Chick Willis' "Take It Like A Man."

Mostly, though, the CD parties-on with rocking numbers like Robert Parker's "Barefootin,'" Oscar Wills' "Flat Foot Sam," and Kim Wilson's "Don't Bite The Hand That Feeds You."

The hottest track is Luther Allison's "Lowdown and Dirty" which features Brent Johnson on slide guitar. The deepest blues are found in the slower, extended workout of Jimmy Witherspoon's "Ain't Nobody's Business."

Bryan's four original contributions include the title track as emotionally devastating as Katrina was physically. There are also Bryan's tribute to his new love, "Bethany Jane" and the song "Blues Singer" in which Lee reveals some early personal history in the blues genre.

Thank the stars that after the Louisiana's hurricanes are gone, there is still national treasure Bryan Lee!

By James "Skyy Dobro" Walker for the Blues Blowtorch Society

**Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers
Blues Quartet
ThrillVille
Delta Groove Music, Inc.
www.themightyflyers.com
14 songs; 60:34 minutes;
Excellent**

Given complete creative freedom by Randy Chortkoff, founder of Delta Groove Music, Piazza self-produced ThrillVille as the culmination of 40 years of honing and crafting his music - a heritage that began with the Dirty Blues Band and Bacon Fat, followed by the formation of the Chicago Flying Saucer Band, which ultimately gave birth to the Mighty Flyers.

The result is an album full of

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diversity that is a good mixture of his spirit, creativity and experience. Expect great covers of Jr. Wells' "Hoodoo Man Blues" and "Stranger Blues" popularized by Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee plus their own noted groove on "Honey Bee" and Rod experimenting more on vocals with the R&B number "It Can't Be True."

In an unusual move, Piazza has recorded as a quartet with no bass player. His wife Honey on piano handles the bass chores with her left hand. Unfortunately, that takes away the boogie woogie piano solos that were often the best part of a Rod Piazza album and live performance.

Henry Carvajal remains on guitar, expertly filling a role created several band formations ago by Junior Watson. Dave Kida on drums rounds out the quartet, and JohnnyViau and Allen Ortiz add saxophone to five of the 14 tracks.

California harmonica master Rod Piazza's job is to perform blues music and make blues music records. It is a job he does extremely well, but while this latest CD is solid blues in every way, it comes across as exactly that he did his job. Where is the drive, the spark, the excitement? Having just reviewed last week a truly energetic album by a new band, The Insomniacs, the contrast is too great.

While the album won't ignite any forest fires, Piazza fans will not be disappointed.

By James "Skyy Dobro" Walker
for the Blues Blowtorch Society

Haley Crouch & The Comet Blues Band

Bring Pluto Back

Clique Records

www.cliquerecords.com

8 songs; 29:13 minutes; Very Good

When it comes to the future of the Blues, who will keep the Blues alive? Thankfully, there are

youngsters out there who will do a fine job, and one of the most notable is Haley "The Kid" Crouch. At age 16, Haley is already an award winning harmonica player who has appeared on many stages including that of the prestigious Illinois Blues Festival in Peoria in 2006 with Cobalt Canopy.

For her debut CD, Haley had the good fortune to record in Kevin Chalfant's Clique Records studio with Kevin doing the producing and adding vocals to two tracks ("Killing Floor" and "Everybody Wants to Go To Heaven"). A dream team of musicians join Haley on the 8 songs including guitarists JuJu Kings founder Jerry Lee Gingery, Eddie Nakarus, and Alby Odum, organist Jimmy Caleca, bassist Brian Bridenthal, and drummer Tommy Colangelo.

Haley lives in Streator IL which is also the birth place of Clyde Tombaugh, the astronomer who first photographed Pluto in 1930.



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 four months passed the deadline. If you did not get a letter, you are not due until December.

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

skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com

OR phone 815-432-5656.

Renewal:

Bob Kieser

Jon Norton

New Members:

"Welcome" to our newest members!:

Susan Townsend Bentley(Paid thru

12-08)

Brian Brooks (12-08)

Kimberly Burgess (12-08)

Larry Carius(12-08)

Kevin Christianson(12-08)

Kevin Collins (12-08)

Pat Gleason (12-08)

Nita Gravlin (12-08)

Terry Irvin (12-08)

George Radjenoyic(12-08)

Pete Read (12-08)

Brent Reddish (12-08)

Ben Ryburn(12-08)

Jerry & Ethan Skalla(12-08)

CHANGING ADDRESSES

Dear Members of the Blues Blowtorch Society,

I have been told by a member that some of the phone numbers we have for Society members have been disconnected. Can you please let us know when you change your phone number and e-mail address so we can get the news out to you. Use Delta Frank: blusgrdn@mchsi.com OR BBS, PO Box 1092, BLOOMINGTON IL 61702-1092

Thank you, Frank Black
BBS Membership Director



BLUES NEWS NOTES

SAD NOTICES OF PASSING:

Gary Primich 4/20/58Ê- 9/23/07:

Harmonica great [Gary Primich](#)

passed away suddenly on Sunday, September 23, 2007 in his home base of Austin, Texas. He was 49.

[Gary](#) was a spectacular artist who was considered among the greatest of harmonica players. He had become a respected member of the Austin music community.

My first Blue Monday show at the Alamo was to see Gary. In his memory, here are excerpts from the review:

GARY PRIMICH

LIVE AT THE ALAMO, SPRINGFIELD, IL

JUNE 17, 2002

My friend Geno and I saw Gary Primich and his band at the weekly

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Blue Monday night at The Alamo, 115 N. 5th Street in Springfield. Touring in support of his new CD, Primich played a nice mix of his new tunes, old ones, and some standards. The most surprising song of the evening was a trip down memory lane that I am still on. To close the first set, Primich played his harp like Al Hirt's trumpet on Hirt's 1965 Grammy winning instrumental "Java." Instantly recognizable, this song was used as theme music on some past television show. I have been trying unsuccessfully to remember which one (maybe it was *The Price Is Right* or *The Dating Game*).

Gary Primich is built like a fire-plug, about 5'9" tall, slightly wide, and solid. He plays harmonica and does lead vocals. "Dog House" is another number featuring some humorous lyrics, "She's got me locked out, penned in bad boy - barking at the moon!" In a telephone interview with radio DJ Chicago Slim, Primich told the story behind this song. "Seems like I spend a fair amount of time, like a lot of men do, getting in trouble with the little woman. So, it is a song from a dog's point of view about getting in trouble with your wife or your girlfriend"

The lyrics confess, "Barkin' and a-howlin' won't get me out, it isn't gonna help my case, if I had only behaved myself, I wouldn't be here in the first place!"

Born in 1958 in Chicago, raised in Gary, Indiana, learned the blues harmonica from the masters on the legendary Maxwell Street Market, Primich moved to Austin, Texas in 1984. He is universally recognized by his peers as one of the country's best blues harpists.

A teenage Primich got into the blues listening to The Allman Brothers on Chicago's WXRT. "I remember being in my friend's car under the influence of something that wasn't legal and hearing the Allman Brothers version of 'Hootchie Cootchie Man'. Then they backed it with the original

Muddy Waters version. That is what started me investigating and picking up records by him and Little Walter, Howlin Wolf, and people like that," revealed Gary.

INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE, MEMPHIS 2008

From the Blues Foundation: Beginning October 1, at www.blues.org, you will be able to obtain host hotel information, as well as purchase tickets and merchandise. At that time, you will also be able to get an updated look at the schedule of events. Those planning to come to the 2008 International Blues Challenge should note that there are events planned for Wednesday, January 30, including a welcoming reception sponsored by the Beale Street Merchants and IBC acts performing in the FedEx Forum before during and after the Memphis Grizzlies-Denver Nuggets NBA game, for which discounted tickets will be available for IBC attendees.

The semifinals will be Thursday January 31 and Friday February 1 and the both finals will be Saturday February 2. The band finals will be in the afternoon and the solo/duo finals will be in the evening, both at the Orpheum Theater.

As always, there will be Blues in the Schools all week, a two-day silent auction, panels for both IBC participants and Blues society representatives on Friday as well as a Friday luncheon with a noted Blues keynote speaker and the Keeping the Blues Alive brunch on Saturday morning. Jay Sieleman

REDGORILLA MUSIC FEST

RedGorilla Music Fest is held in Austin, Texas, on March 12-15, 2008. Last year, RedGorilla was an overwhelming success and made a name for itself as the cool, rebel showcase that caters to its artists and promotes up-and-coming independent music in all genres to

help independent artists further their careers.

Over 250 bands and solo artists will participate in shows in venues on 6th Street in Austin. RedGorilla showcases will take place from Wednesday, March 12 to Saturday, March 15 in clubs that are right in the heart of all the action. The event continues to be a "No Badge Required" event. It is free to attend and is open to the general public.

RedGorilla Music Fest offers showcase slots to bands and solo artists so that they can take advantage of this excellent opportunity. Contact: RedGorilla Music Fest, 1307 Eastland Avenue Nashville, TN, 37206. Phone: (615) 251-4920 or www.redgorillamusic.com

3 NEW BOOKS

WONDERFUL TONIGHT: GEORGE HARRISON, ERIC CLAPTON, AND ME

So much myth surrounds the 1970s love triangle between George Harrison; his wife, Pattie Boyd; and Eric Clapton. After all, Clapton's pining for Boyd inspired him to write the legendary rock song "Layla." Here, Pattie Boyd breaks her 40-year silence on the subject and opens up about going from being an extra in The Beatles's *A Hard Day's Night* film to the object of affection of two of rock music's most renowned musicians.

CLAPTON: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

The gentleman with the guitar opens up in great detail for the first time about his drug and alcohol addictions, his lost and found loves, and the tragic loss of his young son. From his earliest memories as a child to his days with The Yardbirds, Cream, and Blind Faith, Clapton recounts how he endured it all through his love of music.

THE ROAD TO ROBERT JOHNSON:

The Genesis and Evolution of Blues in the Delta from the Late 1800s Through 1938 by Edward Komara. This book traces the

Continued from previous page

development of the legendary Robert Johnson's music in light of the people and songs that directly and indirectly influenced him. It includes much information about life in the Delta from the late 1800s to Johnson's controversial death in 1938, and features fascinating historical photos, maps, musical examples, and much more. Required reading for all blues fans!

2008 BLUES WOMEN CARAVAN

Check out Dani Wilde! She's a young one from England.

[Http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvT_pzN2UHA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvT_pzN2UHA)

She is part of the new Blues Caravan 2008 which Piedmont is pushing for Ruf. The next version of the Caravan includes Deb Coleman, Candye Kane and Dani. Should be a good one!

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

www.allmusic.com

You visit, you learn. This is the **absolute best website** for music information in all genres. It is my constant resource and reference. You have to join, but it's free.

Here is an example of something that happens all the time: I read somewhere that the song "Flat Foot Sam" was done by "TV Slim."

Who was that? I went to allmusic.com and did a search. I discovered what Delta Frank already knew, his real name was Oscar Wills.

Searches can be done under "Artist/group, song, or album."



BRYAN LEE REVIEW

THANK YOU BBS MEMBERS CONCERT WITH BRYAN LEE

A rare opportunity arose when a booking foul up caused Bryan Lee's appearance at Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago to be canceled. Their loss was our gain as we were able to get Bryan Lee & the Blues Power Band for a show the night of our September meeting at NV Ultra Lounge. The BBS Board of Directors voted to pay the \$5.00 admission for each member and new member who joined. A special Thank You to show sponsors Eastland Suites and bar owner Harry Fuller.



Bryan Lee

From President Randy Hoffman: All in all, this was a very successful event! We were able to give Bryan \$550 at the end of the night. We paid for 31 BBS members to hear Bryan and the Blues Power Band tear it up. Frank signed up 12 new members, so our costs were nearly break even!!

11-year-old Mathew Curry impressed Bryan, and everyone in the audience with some tasty licks as Bryan generously allowed him to sit in. Steve "The Harp" followed up in the third set, adding some flavor to the mix.

One of the things that I was very excited about: there were a lot of twenty-something's that

were blown away by the Blues. I think we fulfilled our mission, and I am encouraged about the future generation enjoying this genre of music. (Editor's Note: Deborah Mehlberg had contacted *Daily Vidette* regarding Bryan's appearance. They ran an article to let the students know about the rare opportunity to see Bryan for only \$5.00).

Randy



REVIEW: ILLINOIS BLUES FESTIVAL

PEORIA, LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Hello Skyy, I'll tell you a funny story, but you didn't hear this from ME!

Security kind of dropped the ball when Dave Mason was performing (he gave an excellent show, by the way). During his performance, in the middle of a song, this woman (who was obviously drunk and carried few extra pounds in her tight pants) comes strolling onto the stage from the side stairs.

At first I thought, "Oh, he has a guest singer...like maybe she was there to sing back up." She stopped a few feet behind Dave Mason's guitarist, and started dancing. She was not a good dancer, and she danced about half a minute, maybe, not sure...probably much less...before security took notice. Dave Mason noticed her, and he just slightly turned around and looked at her and didn't say anything. One security guy finally came on stage... finally...to hustle her off, and she kind of resisted.

He got her to the stairs, all of which was very visible to the audience, and she wouldn't go down. Help arrived, and ...it took three security men to get her

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

down the stairs! She was holding on to the hand railings with both hands at the top of the stairs, again visible to everyone, refusing to go down. Now that was funny! Then you could kind of hear her yelling off stage right afterwards, but the music really drowned it out. But, you could still kind of pick it up. Betcha the security guys got their asses chewed for that one.

We thought it was pretty damn funny, especially since she was not a petite woman and it took three men to get her to go. They had to pry her hands from the railings to get her to go down the stairs. Since she wouldn't let go of the hand rails, it was not a quick exit. Damn good entertainment, ha!

Reported by ???

Another Report

By Karen Brault, keyboardist and vocals for After Midnight Blues

The blues fest went great!

Glad to say we gave a really good show. They did not use the smaller stage due to the river being so high, so they put all performers scheduled on that stage in the Beer tent. But, that was fine with me to have more shade. There was a packed crowd that night.

Watermelon Slim had his show cut short right during his performance. They needed to get the stage ready for Dave Mason. So, during Watermelon Slims' show, Slim had to stop, walk over to the side of the stage, and be informed he was getting cut off soon. He was giving an excellent show, too! Not a very professional thing to have done to him. His drummer was really pissed off too.

Bob Keiser has photos he took of performers at the blues fest posted on his illinoisblues.com website. He was nice enough to include us, too.



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

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CURRENT HISTORY 101

Here is a short quiz for fans of the **Nothin' But The Blues Festivals:**

1. How many NBTBFs have there been?
 2. Where were they held?
 3. Which artist(s) has appeared the most times?
 4. How many times has CJ Chenier appeared?
- Bonus: name a now deceased artist that has appeared.

The answers can be found by going to www.bluesblowtorch.com/society and click on the camera icon("pix"). Thanks to co-webmaster Ralph Weisheit, all six festivals at their **three** different locations are documented with photos. While at my daughter's apartment in Decatur passing time recently, I was looking at everything in the BBS Website Photos File. Ralph has documented all NBTB Festivals, and so much of BBS history. What a treasure! I had forgotten CJ Chenier had performed at an earlier NBTBF. I appreciated more deeply the photo of the **late Willie Kent.**

When I e-mailed a thank you to Ralph, he wrote back, "Thanks for the kind words. I've always viewed the photo page as a visual history of BBS events. I just hope that our new web site isn't so limited in space that we need to do away with the older photos."



Buddy and Hopkins

By Jason Nocera (www.buddyandhopkins.com)



Buddy and Hopkins

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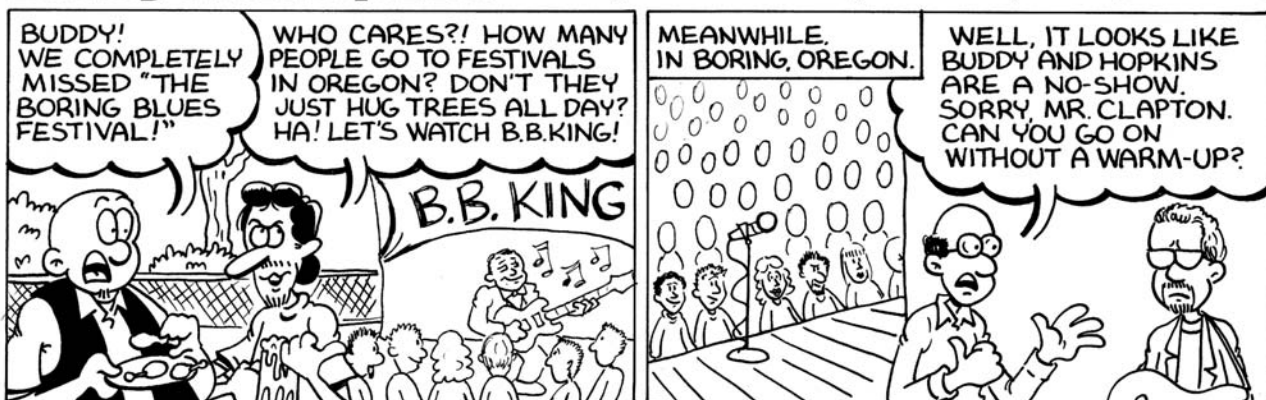
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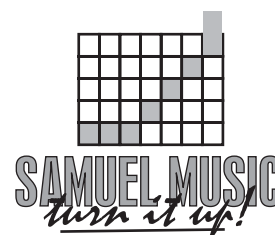


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Would you like to volunteer? YES, Interest _____

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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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