



# BLUES NEWS

newsletter@bluesblowtorch.com

January - February 2008

## OFFICIAL RAMBLINGS FROM THE PREZ



Randy Hoffman

2008 may be a pivotal year for Blues Societies in Central Illinois. The River City Blues Society was faced with the possibility of folding since no one wanted to run the organization. Fortunately, Bob Kieser stepped up and is going to bring them back.

Unfortunately, that situation may be a future reality for the Blues Blowtorch Society, too. We are currently operating without a Secretary this year, and most of the Officers are doing double duty as Committee Chairs. What does that mean to our nearly 300 members?

It means we have eliminated the Mardi Gras Party. Reducing the number of events reduces the

stress level on those few dedicated individuals that have the responsibility to produce events. It may be necessary to further curtail the number of events our members have grown to expect, concentrating on the one or two that most closely represent our mission statement.

The BBS had several Board members that declined to continue their posts this year. We thank them for their years of dedicated service. We also have at least three Board members stating this is their last year.

### Who will run this organization next year?

Overall, it was a successful year:

1. Our events this past year have accomplished our mission statement, brought entertainment, supported artists, and, above all, been fun.
2. We had great event attendance.
3. Our membership numbers have swelled.
4. Sponsors, venues and other Blues Societies have complimented us on our organization.
5. Our Education program has grown by leaps and bounds, and looks to continue that path.
6. We are considered essential to the Nothin' But the Blues Festival as event and volunteer organizers.

We have succeeded in every aspect of a successful organization, EXCEPT for involved individuals to pass the leadership baton.

So, if you are willing to step up to the plate let me know. It's fun, we provide good training, and you are desperately needed.

Randy Hoffman

[rd.hoffman@verizon.net](mailto:rd.hoffman@verizon.net)

309-531-2533



## NEWLY ELECTED 2008 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

### President

Randy Hoffman 309-531-2533

[rd.hoffman@verizon.net](mailto:rd.hoffman@verizon.net)

### Vice President

Larry du Chanois 309-838-1858

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### Secretary

--Vacant

### Treasurer

Deborah Mehlberg 309-662-0996

[deborah464@aol.com](mailto:deborah464@aol.com) or [stevetheharp@aol.com](mailto:stevetheharp@aol.com)

### Parliamentarian

Steve "The Harp" Mehlberg

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## BBS' 2007 IN REVIEW

As we were trying to recruit new members at the Christmas Combo, one prospective soul asked, "So what does your group do?" Fair question! Here is a brief look back at 2007 BBS activities.

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

\*Mardi Gras Party and Membership Drive, Feb 17, Maguire's Pub with Nick Moss & The Flip Tops, Soggy Bottom Blues Band, and Prairie Dixieland Jazz Band

\*Blues In The Schools, April: ISU  
\*Central Illinois Blues Challenge, June 3, Mackinaw Valley Vineyard  
1<sup>st</sup> - Kim Massey 2<sup>nd</sup> - Melvin Taylor

\*Nothin' But The Blues Festival, July 20 & 21, Sponsored by BBS and staffed by BBS Volunteers plus Steve "The Harp" tutoring and free harmonicas

\*Fall Ball, October 7, Mackinaw

Valley Vineyard with James Armstrong and Shawn Kellerman  
\*Christmas Combo 2006: Food Donation Drive and Elections, Dec 14, 2006, NV Ultra Lounge  
\* Five issues of Blues News, the society newsletter  
\* Monthly BOD and General Meetings, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, V.F.W.  
\* Steve "the Harp" Harmonica lessons and after meeting performances



## ASK DELTAFRANK



Frank Black and Too Slim

**Note:** This column can also be read on the BBS website "Forum." Send questions to [skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com](mailto:skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com) or [jwalker4@mchsi.com](mailto:jwalker4@mchsi.com)

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

**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:** I try to look on the internet for events. I hear from people that keep me informed on events. I don't do as good a job as some do...but I do my best to let people know what I do find out. Thanks for asking, Delta Frank.

**Question:** Frank, the late Ike Turner is lauded as a Rock and Roll pioneer. But, didn't he have deep roots in the Blues?

**Answer:** See next issue of Blues News

## BONUS:

[www.clintondailyjournal.com/feed\\_view\\_article.php?story\\_id=1332&page\\_id=72&heading=0](http://www.clintondailyjournal.com/feed_view_article.php?story_id=1332&page_id=72&heading=0)  
Read about Delta Frank in the Clinton Daily Journal.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S BLUES SHACK



Haley Crouch

• Nov 30: Wild Bill Stahlschmidt, Greg Roling (distant cousin ?), and I attended a performance by **Roling's Tones** featuring a teenage **Haley Crouch** on harmonica and a couple of vocals. The full-house event was hosted by The Rhythm Kitchen on the Peoria waterfront. Possessing the cleverest band name lately, the boys were smoking with a nice mix of popular songs and styles. When Haley was brought to the stage, it was so fun watching her get better and better as she "grows up."

• **Barb Hamilton** has been keeping up appearances recently performed in Clinton and Champaign. Good luck to her in the International Blues Challenge's Solo/duo category. Barb is returning to the IBC competition, since 2005, with **Tony Juodis** on drums.

• January 16, 2008: Delta Frank has just received the first three songs from the new CD of the **Matt**

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**(Matthew) Curry Project.** They are good! Listen in on WGLT Friday and Saturday night to Delta Frank, and hear them.

- We've been waiting. It's here! [www.destihl.com](http://www.destihl.com). Featuring live music twice per month, DESTIHL Restaurant & Brew Works, 318 S. Towanda Ave., Normal, IL 61761 (309) 862-2337 Phone (866) 381-0349 Fax. Hours: Monday-Thursday 11:00am to 11:00pm, Friday-Saturday 11:00am to 12:00am, Sunday 11:00am to 10:00pm.

- Congratulations to Steve The Harp for his cover story on Town and Country magazine. Check it out at: <http://www.townandcitymag.com/departments/live.html>

- Note from **Larry Garner**, Baton Rouge bluesman, following bypass surgery:  
Howdy Skyy,  
I'm doing ok, considering I've never had anything like this before so it's hard to say how I feel. I think I was pretty stupid for going to Russia [to play gigs] after 4 weeks after having my chest cracked open like a crab, but I had to cancel several gigs [due to surgery]. American Express does not take kindly to hearing that you can't pay them for a couple of months. They really don't care that you're about to die as long as they get their money. Anyway they've started calling me Larry "Ironman" Garner. Thanks for inquiring, give my best to all and happy holidays.  
Peace,  
lg

- Got an e-mail from the agent for BBS' 2003 Blues in the School Artist/Teacher, **Fruteland Jackson**:  
Dear Blues Blowtorch Blues

Society,

Your Blues brother Fruteland Jackson has received two nominations from the Blues Foundation for his current CD entitled *Tell Me What You Say*. He is in the category of "Best Acoustic Album" and "Best Acoustic Artist for 2008."

I hope this is your first vote request. Fruteland is asking for your vote. You must have a current membership with the Blues Foundation to vote. Please consider voting for Fruteland. He feels that if you have not made up your mind, or would reconsider an existing vote, give him a listen. Thank You for your consideration. V.Chandler for Fruteland Jackson IT Talent Agency  
879 Joliet Street #221  
Dyer IN 46311

- The next Jerry Lee Lewis: **Jason D. Williams**:  
<http://www.rockinjasondwilliams.com>. "Here is the link to the piano player we saw down in Memphis last year. Super, high-energy show. Check out the clips," reports Jeff White, Friend of the Blues.

- Check out Wisconsin harmonica female, **Geneva Red** at [www.genevared.com](http://www.genevared.com). Received this note: Geneva Red & The Roadsters Support Hospitalized Veterans Saturday, February 2, 2008 in The Normandy Room at the McHenry VFW Hall, 3002 W. Route 120, McHenry Illinois. Leading her band of accomplished musicians, Geneva Red, a slim six-foot tall red-head, is known for her powerful harmonica playing and her strong, heart-felt vocals.

- **"No Blues in Your Area--These Friends of the Blues Fixed That"**  
This is the headline on the Blues Foundation website ([www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org)) telling the story of the Kankakee area group who have hosted 16 Blues shows in

2006-2007. It is a "you-can-do-it-too" story.

- Congratulations to the **Bill Porter Project** opening set for Indigenous at the Lafayette Club.

- Note this change in format for the **2008 Mississippi Valley Blues Festival**. It will be Thursday night, Friday, and Saturday instead of Fri-Sat-Sun. **Dates are July 3, 4, 5.**

- Visit [www.weshow.com](http://www.weshow.com). It is a British website with loads of vintage Blues videos. Just watched Albert Collins with Debbie Davies perform "I Ain't Drunk (I'm Just Drinkin')." "

- Blind Lemon Jefferson's name was used as part of which 1960s 70s rock band? Answer: Jefferson Airplane. **Band name origins** are revealed at: [www.digitaldreamdoor.com/pages/music0\\_name.html](http://www.digitaldreamdoor.com/pages/music0_name.html)

- Charleston IL's **Sippy and the Night Owls** report: The band has laid down the tracks for its first CD. Mix-down begins in January, with mastering to follow. We anticipate a release date of early summer 2008.

- Note from **Ken Tucker**: Scott Thornton nominated Ken Tucker's new album for IBC "Best Blues Album". Also, I got called by BB Kings in Los Angeles to play on Dec. 15th. Here are my contact numbers: 812-413-9555 and 812-268-6521. We are starting to book for 2008. Thanks, BBS, you are the best!

- You Tube pick: **Franklin & Baytop**:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vv36tPia940>. Washington DC

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area's Rick Franklin and partner Michael Baytop play and sing songs from the 1920s and 1930s or earlier. "

If you like Delta/Piedmont style blues, you ought to check it out," Greg Roling, Friend of the Blues.

- Visit [www.bluescritic.com](http://www.bluescritic.com) for the top album charts in **Soul-Blues**. This is the music most African- Americans prefer when it comes to contemporary blues. How many artists' names do you recognize? They feature other charts, too.



## 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."

### BIG NEWS YOU CAN USE:

#### How To Start Your Own Band After Meeting Guitar and/or Harp Lessons

Steve "The Harp" and Bill Porter are in the planning stages to present a seminar and workshop for musicians who want to start a band and learn how to organize a band.

Also, if enough interest is shown, these two can provide Blues guitar lessons and harmonica lessons after meetings of the Blues Blowtorch Society.

Contact: Steve the Harp at 309-662-0996 or [stevetheharp@aol.com](mailto:stevetheharp@aol.com). Contact Randy Hoffman, President, 309-531-2533 or [rd.hoffman@verizon.net](mailto:rd.hoffman@verizon.net)

## Head start Harmonica Workshop YWCA, December 4, 2007

It went very well, we had 22 students. The children enjoyed playing the harmonica so much, they have decided to play Jingle Bells on the harmonica for their Christmas Concert.

Steve "The Harp" Education Chair

## Chestnut Healthcare Harmonica Workshop, Jan 9, 2008

Dear Members,

Another successful Harmonica Class! 18 children and 2 adults attended the workshop generating harmonica sales to the two adults. The Chestnut people stated that this kind of music therapy was just the thing these young students needed.

Steve "The Harp" Education Chair

Note From Delta Frank: We are proud of you Steve....Keep up the good work.

## The Winter Blues Festival, Hannibal MO

January 19 - Steve "The Harp" Harmonica Workshop (size unknown).

## What's the difference: "Blues Society" vs. "Blues Club"?

Answer, no difference. From Judy Burgess, Springfield: "In researching the history of our Illinois Central Blues Club, there was reference to the choice of "club" over "society". Our organizers felt that "club" portrayed what they wanted to be - and that "society" was a little "uppity." In reality, of course, we are the same thing.



## REVIEWS

**DAVE RILEY - Live, 11-20-2007,** Brandon Casey's, Bradley IL. CD RELEASE PARTY Presented by Friends of the Blues. [www.daverileybluesman.com](http://www.daverileybluesman.com)

For people who like their blues to be real "not more white boy rock and roll being passed off as blues" Dave Riley's first set took us all back to the Delta. Opening solo, seated, and playing electric guitar and singing, Riley's wonderfully gruff and powerful, world-weary voice and understated, but tone-rich guitar style provided as deep a journey into Blues as the Friends of the



**Dave Riley and Dave Riley, Jr., Blues Music Award Nominees**

Blues have ever showcased. Typical of the genre, one song in particular ("Overalls") was humorous: "Well, they say I shouldn't wear no overalls / Well because, you know, I don't wear no doggone drawers."

Dave's second set was Riley at full throttle! The sport coat came off, the volume came up, and the party got down. People who know Dave Riley know he has too much fun to spend an evening not tearing it up a little. He even played my favorite modern Rolling Stones' song, "Miss You"

Only two days ahead of the Thanksgiving Holiday, Dave expressed thanks to the Friends for having live Blues and bringing his band down (son Dave Riley, Jr. and drummer, Tony Wade). He then got sincerely emotional introducing John Lennon's "Imagine" to close the show.

Ever happy to please, his encore blended two shouted song

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requests: "Living On Borrowed Time" and one other of his originals that I can't remember now because I was so happy then.

**Note:** Dave Riley's new CD with Bob Corritore has been nominated for a Blues Music Award for Best Acoustic Album:

**Dave Riley and Bob Corritore**  
*Travelin' the Dirt Road*  
Blue Witch Records

By James "Skyy Dobro" Walker

Born into a lifetime of music, Dave Riley has quietly been playing his blues and paying his dues, nationally and internationally, waiting for a big break.

When it comes to playing the Blues, some folks decide to do it, and some are born to it. Born in 1949 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Riley brings real-deal experiences to his art: picking cotton, Chicago habitation near Maxwell Street, combat duty in Vietnam, working as a Joliet IL prison guard in the "tombs" segregation unit of death row, alcohol and substance abuse and recovery, broken neck in near fatal car wrecks (that's plural), and associations with everyone from "Pops"

Staples to Jimmy Reed to Sam Carr to Arkansas Governor, Mike Huckabee, who backed him on bass guitar, and now, this duet-plus-friends with Bob Corritore on harmonica.

*Travelin' the Dirt Road* is a thoroughly enjoyable album of Mississippi and Chicago styled blues. Produced by Chicago raised but now Phoenix-based Corritore, a prolific, Grammy-nominated producer in addition to club owner and radio host, *Travelin' the Dirt Road* features eight original songs by Riley, who handles guitar and vocals, with two others created by the late John Weston, Riley's friend and former band mate. Studio guests are Riley's son Dave Jr. on bass, Johnny Rapp on second guitar, Matt Bishop piano, Paul Thomas bass, and Tom Coulson drums.

**Tom Rosencrans & Nate Myers**

By Randy Hoffman for the Blues Blowtorch Society

I don't usually write reviews on, or even listen to, Acoustic Blues. So many cds I receive in this genre are either so Dobro repetitive they drive me crazy, or they've been to Fur Peace Ranch and have copied Jorma's [Kaukonen] techniques to the Nth degree. I received a nice request from Nate Myers to review this cd, and when I received it, there was a nice note. So, I played it on my last road trip. As soon as I knew it was Acoustic Blues, I thought 'OK, maybe I can make it through this.' Instead, NICE SURPRISE!

This is a very cool cd. It opens with an original, one of three on the sixteen-cut self-produced cd, and it was soooo... smooth. Following that is a nice mixture of 'traditional' and more well known tunes. Every Acoustic Blues cd needs a train song to be authentic, and "Ruebens Train" fills the bill. "Hot Tamales" is a fresh rendition of the Robert Johnson classic, as well as "Walking Blues." I found that I was actually enjoying listening to this cd a second time...rare for me.

The guitar playing is very, very nice. There is excellent guitar work by both players. I can't really tell who is playing when, but it fits together nicely with each other, as does the vocals and the harmonica. The vocals, and once again I can't tell which is which, were filled with tone, emotion, and strangely enough "authenticity" for the genre. By that I mean that even though they don't sound like a scratchy 1930s recording, they sound like they should be singing these songs. They could be a touch stronger in the mix.

My impressions on the downside are: the mix is too hot on the harmonica. The relatively flat EQ on my car stereo produced some rather piercing and sometime grating harmonica effects. The playing was good, but the mix wasn't.

I gotta say I have heard better kazoo than what Nate played on this cd! I know what you are thinking, "who is qualified to judge kazoo playing?" Well, I think I am, since one of my old bands had a backup tune during which the guitar player occasionally pulled one out and grabbed the audience's attention. I probably would have let it go, but since Nate owned up to it in the liner notes, I felt compelled to comment.

OK, I give this one a Thumbs Up, so I better tell you where you can get one. Email: [bonnietrump@yahoo.com](mailto:bonnietrump@yahoo.com) or go to Nate's website: [www.natemyers.com](http://www.natemyers.com)

**Bobby Rush**

*Raw*

Deep Rush Records

Distributed by Thirty tigers

By Randy Hoffman for the Blues Blowtorch Society

What a surprise!! Bobby Rush, so well known for his traveling band of naughty and nice butt-shaking gals, has released a truly acoustic blues cd. It is very well done, with soulful vocals, understated guitar, tone bending harp, and ageless tunes.

If you want something different and enjoyable, give this one a try.

**Magic Slim**

*The Essential Magic Slim*

BPCD 8009

By Randy Hoffman for the Blues Blowtorch Society

As collections go, this is authentic, straight-forward blues, and played well. The promo refers to Magic's slash and burn guitar playing, and that is an accurate description. Culled from eighteen years of recording with Blind Pig, it a blues collector's essential.

**Nappy Brown**

*Long Time Coming*

BPCD 5119

By Randy Hoffman for the Blues

Sit Back, Relax

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### Blowtorch Society

Nobody in the Blues has any more distinctive vocal delivery than Nappy Brown. This cd has folks like Sean Costello, Junior Watson and Bob Margolin lending a hand to create what Nappy calls his 'best record since 1955.' It has some tendency for over production, a lot of horns, and some edgy guitar. Worth a listen.

### Mason Casey

#### *Sofa King Badass*

NBM0042

By Randy Hoffman for the Blues Blowtorch Society

I gotta tell ya, I like this cd! It's not your standard Blues fare, but it has a bluesy feel throughout. Mason Casey has a unique vocal tone, which captures a smoky feel without being raspy or gruff. Although he is a harmonica player, this cd is not a harp cd. He uses his instrument very well, but somewhat sparingly, and always tasty. His band has Chester Thompson on some tight drums, Sally Tiven on bass, Mark Jordan on piano, Wayne Jackson on trumpet, and most notably Jon Tiven playing every instrument in the studio and producing this disc. Jon is a well seasoned writer/player/producer associated with the likes of the Rolling Stones, Little Milton, B.B. King, and Ellis Hooks.

The disc opens with "You Make It Hard," which isn't so subtle double-entendre at it's best. Followed by "Nine Times A Man," which Wilson Pickett co-wrote and recorded with Jon And Sally Tiven. Sally & Jon co-wrote "Blue Hair Woman" with Al Franken, and it is a hoot!

There are fourteen tunes, all of them somewhat unique, all of them have a flavor, all of them entertain. This one stays in my player for awhile.

### Stacy Mitchhart

#### *Gotta Get The Feeling Back Again*

Dr. Sam Records

Distributed by Select-O-Hits

By Randy Hoffman for the Blues Blowtorch Society

I was first introduced to Stacy Mitchhart at the 2002 International Blues Challenge. Not only did his band make the finals, he won the Albert King Award (best guitarist) and a cool Blue Gibson 335. I was impressed, and envious!

I was just OK with Stacy's last release, so I was pleasantly surprised with this one. Stacy is a great guitar player, and on this release, he demonstrates it without having to hit you up-along-side-the-head with it. Stacy has Darin James on the drums, four different bass players, a couple of keyboard players, various horn, fiddle, and banjo players to fill in the spaces. With that kind of mixture, you get a variety of musical flavors, and it ends up tasty.

I'd recommend this one, so check it out

### Blues Still Got A Hold On Me

#### *Nelsen Adelard Band*

By Randy Hoffman for the Blues Blowtorch Society

OK, this one is on my list of the best independent Blues CDs of 2007. All the way through, different styles of Blues music knocked me out. Nelsen Adelard, originally out of the LA area, now transplanted to MS, has put together a well produced disc that really entertains. Nelsen is the songwriter, vocalist, guitarist, harp and keyboards player. He has Steve Gabil backing him on guitar, Rick Arbuckle on sax, Michael De Gaulejac on drums and Michael Monarch playing keys, some slide guitar and producing this disc. Originally released by J Bird Records in 1999, it's been re-mastered by engineering wizard Richard Robinson for this release.

The cd opens with a jumpin' and jivin' tune called "Don't Stop Now." Not only does the tune insure that you don't, it introduces you, right off the bat, to the talents of the band, starting with hot twelve bar sessions of guitar, sax, and harp.

Then the song grabs you and won't let go. You are into it all the way to the end of the cd.

The title tune, "Blues Got A Hold On Me," has that affect on me, too. The slide work was smooth. I kept trying to place what other artist produced a tune with that familiar sound, maybe southerner Ace Moreland? What's important is that it's a good strong sound and a well written song.

"Jacko's In The Bayou," has that Louisiana swamp feel. You can feel the fog, intrigue and backwoods justice comin' roun'. This tune exemplifies the diversity of the music on the disc, yet it holds a bluesy feel throughout.

The cd closes with the old standard, "Ain't Misbehavin'." It has very nice jazzy feel without getting lost in itself. Again, it's a familiar sound, but fresh take on the tune.

If you'd like to check it out, his website is [www.nelsenadelard.com](http://www.nelsenadelard.com). He has some sound clips linked up, and I'm putting this one back in rotation in my car cd player. The band will be touring mostly in the South until next summer, when they will hit the road to promote their upcoming release. I'll be looking forward to that!

## REGIONAL BLUES ROUNDUP

### KANKAKEE

The Kankakee area Friends of the Blues joined the Blues Blowtorch Society in booking touring artists to get them two shows on their way through. Washington State's Too Slim and the Taildraggers performed in Normal Monday night October 15, and then in Bradley IL on October 15. Canadian Shawn Kellerman performed in Bradley December 4, and then in Normal on December 6.

There is potential here for the future. If Springfield and Peoria groups cooperate in joint booking, fans and artists alike could really benefit.

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**JOLIET from Rick Padilla,  
Correspondent**

Sky, are you aware of the hi-quality blues jams in this area? These jams bring out some pretty good artists.

WED'S: T-Bird at Carter's in Lockport IL

Eat A Peach guys at Budzz on E. Washington St Joliet

Jam at Miss Kitty's, Ogden Ave., Naperville IL

THURS: Twist & Mellow Fellows at Greuben's Uptown in Plainfield IL

Jimmy Good Times at Dave's in Aurora IL

FRI: Eat A Peach at The Rustic, Wilmington IL



**KNOW YOUR BLUES  
BLOWTORCH SOCIETY**

Hi fellow BBS & BOD members,

My vote would have been "YES" to keep the Mardi Gras event with a few changes or conditions. As the motion to cancel the annual Mardi Grass has passed, I would still like to take a moment or two to express my humble opinions and thoughts.

Central Illinois becomes all too gloomy and for some SAD, and for some brings SAD (Seasonal affective disorder, also known as winter depression) in the heart of winter. I believe it is most important as a Society to help with an opportunity, however slight the returns, to do our part in picking up the mood and giving our General Membership and guests a reason to get out, hear the Blues, and party.

Some of the major concerns for this event in the past and present have been:

- Poor weather conditions or chance of weather cancellations
- Poor or limited parking
- I've fallen and I can't get up (well made you read it anyway)
- Not a good money maker; or perhaps better worded not a good fund raiser
- Limited number of Board of

Directors

1) Poor weather conditions or chance of weather cancellations: Weather can play a major role during any of the 4 Seasons: Summer with extreme heat (Global warming?), down pouring of rain, thunder storms, and blood thirsty female mosquitoes, Spring with extended winter weather, chance of a tornado, down pouring of rain, thunder storms, ice and snow storms, Fall with early severe winter conditions as we have experienced this past couple of weeks with ice and snow storms, Winter in Central Illinois can include all of the above conditions, but of course seasonable cooler and even frigid temperatures, and a greater chance of ice and snow storms.

2) Poor or limited parking Downtown Bloomington and Normal have this year round, and sometimes worsened by road construction and improvements. There's no perfect parking scenario, as some require a fee, some require a 4 wheel drive, some require walking a few extra paces or a lot of extra paces. Walking is great for the body, and if at the end of the evening you can walk to and find your vehicle, then perhaps, just perhaps, you're sober enough to drive. This may be an opportunity for a business partnership with a for-profit shuttle service.

3) Not a good money maker / fund raiser  
The Society is a NON-Profit 501(c)(3) organization. Deficit spending is not fiscally responsible; but in regards to events sponsored by the Society, funds can not be predicted. Who thought this years Christmas Party would have been as successful as it turned out to be, even though the benefactor to a large extent was the Claire House food pantry. The only mention of profits in the Society's Bylaws Article VIII, Section 2. Profits: Items may be purchased by the society for resale purposes and may be sold

at a reasonable profit. Sponsoring an event sometimes just requires finding a business partner with an establishment that would benefit from paying customers. Business partners would handle ALL preparations as they are in business for a profit and that should be motivation enough. An obvious caveat is have Blues entertainment of which we should be able to provide multiple suggestions. Advertisement and promotion of the event should always be by both the Society and the business partner. Predicting the success of an event can not always be measured immediately in dollars or in membership and guest turnout.

4) Limited number of Board of Directors

Limited BOD should not equal DEAD or Paralysis. If any Society recognizes challenges, past and future, it is a Blues Society. Involvement at the events may require just 2 BOD members handling the door / cover donations, promoting and answering questions about the BBS, accepting new and renewal memberships, and selling BBS hats and T-Shirts.

Conclusion: Please try to remember that Blues musicians have to eat too, and that doesn't stop in the winter - especially for those Blues Musician that don't have a full time job because they have devoted there life to playing the Blues.

I recognize the society faces many new as well as existing challenges in remaining viable and true to its purposes and goals. I also recognize that my opinions and thoughts of the preceding are just that, mine and only meant as food for thought. I also recognized that maybe if I had been at this as long as most of you reading this, I too might have voted otherwise; as learning experience may be better than hopeful expectations. Enjoy!

Larry D.  
BBS Vice President  
Normal, IL



## NEW MEMBERS AND CHANGES

Approximately half of all BBS memberships were up for renewal by December 31, 2007. The other half will be due by June 30, 2008. If you did not get a letter, you are not due until June.

Delta Frank sent out 99 renewals if you were due to renew in December. As of December 30, 2007, 46 of the 99 had renewed, thank you! Sadly, it is impossible for me to list them all.

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](mailto:skyydobro@bluesblowtorch.com)

OR phone 815-432-5656.

### Renewal:

Fox N Hounds (Corporate)

### New Members:

"Welcome" to our newest members!:

Bill Belshaw

Tammy Boyd

Diana Green

Laure & Luke Kvolikowski

Tom Landin

Stacy & Dave McCaddon

Mark McIntosh/Connie Griffin

Nancy Nelson

Denny & Alison Nelson

Charles & Teri Pratt

David Spellman

Richard Tull

### CHANGED ADDRESS ?

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](mailto:blusgrdn@mchsi.com) OR BBS, PO Box 1092, BLOOMINGTON IL 61702-1092

Thank you, Frank Black  
BBS Membership Director



## BLUES NEWS NOTES

### 2008 INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE

The World's Largest Gathering of Blues Bands

January 31-February 2, 2008

The program for the 2008 International Blues Challenge (IBC), in Memphis, Tennessee, is posted at [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org). The 24th edition of the world's premier Blues music competition will feature a record 159 acts from 36 states and 10 countries and 6 continents, with 99 competing in the band division and 60 in the solo/duo contest. For the first time ever,



Barb Hamilton



Kim Massey

participants will come from Africa (South Africa) and South America (Argentina). The winners receive cash prizes, professional services, and appearances at top Blues festivals. Representing the BBS are Kim Massey and Barb Hamilton.

### GOOD LUCK BLUES BLOWTORCH SOCIETY'S CIBC WINNERS: KIM MASSEY AND BARB HAMILTON.

Note: In addition to competing in the Challenge, Kim Massey has been chosen to sing the National Anthem and will be performing Wednesday night, Jan 30, at the FedEx Forum when the NBA Memphis Grizzlies play the Denver Nuggets. Nice, further exposure for Kim and the Blues Blowtorch Society.

### BBS MEMBERS ON STAGE WITH TOMMY CASTRO

The Legendary Rhythm & Blues Revue is returning to Illinois. Tommy Castro's management team has offered the BBS two dates for guest appearances.

Feb 6th - Chicago IL @ Fitzgerald's - Steve "The Harp" Mehlberg

Feb 7th - Bloomington IL @ The Lafayette Club - Mathew Curry - 12 year old guitar player

They wrote

"Last years jam with Steve "The Harp" Mehlberg at The High Dive in Champaign was a lot of fun, and we'd love to work with the Blues Blowtorch Society again!"

### TECHNOLOGY NEWS:

Dear Blues Blowtorch Society,

As I am sure you are aware, the DVD *I Am The...Blues Lead Guitarist* has been causing a lot of talk in the Blues guitar community and consistently charting on sales charts, like Amazon.com, since its release date in October 2007.

**This Interactive Blues DVD, allows a musician to jam out with a backing band, which should vastly improve skills, in the comforts of one's own home.**

Here is an easy accessible Youtube.com link of a 2 minute video, explaining the DVD.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJWKn7i-Ekl>

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[www.vjworld.com](http://www.vjworld.com)

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## SOCIETY PHOTOS

Go to

[www.bluesblowtorch.com/society](http://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](http://www.prettygoodphotos.com)



Ike Turner at Miss Valley Blues Fest July 2005

## SAD NOTICES OF PASSING: IKE TURNER 1931 - 2007

Ike Turner, the musician who gave the world what many historians consider the first rock 'n' roll record, was most famous for being the husband of Tina Turner. He died December 13 in suburban San Diego; he was 76. Passing at his home in San Marcos CA, Turner's cause of death was not immediately known.

The first rock 'n' roll song, "Rocket 88" in 1951, featured one of the first examples of distorted guitar, which became a signature accent in the forming language of rock 'n' roll. Turner, who played piano on that recording, would later say that the effect was pure accident, due to an amplifier that had been damaged by a fall from a car roof, water damage, or both.

Turner's career spanned more than six decades and peaked in the late 1960s and early 1970s when he and his wife, Tina, were an incendiary force in R&B and

live music, with hits such as "Proud Mary," "I Want to Take You Higher," "Nutbush City Limits" and "River Deep-Mountain High."

Under appreciated, Turner recently lamented, "You can go ask Snoop Dogg or Eminem, you can ask the Rolling Stones or [Eric] Clapton, or you can ask anybody -- anybody -- they all know my contribution to music, but it hasn't been in print about what I've done or what I've contributed until now."

In 2006, he won a Grammy for best traditional blues album for "Risin' With the Blues." In 2004, he also received the Recording Academy's Heroes Award. However, back in 1991, the long troubled Ike missed his induction into the Hall of Fame because he was sitting in a cell; later, when his award was shipped to him, it arrived broken.

## BOB ENOS 1947 - 2008

Bob Enos, longtime trumpet player for Roomful of Blues, died in his sleep in his hotel room in Douglas, Georgia, early Friday morning, January 11, 2008 of suspected heart failure. He was 60. Roomful of Blues had played the Douglas Country Club the previous night. The band was on its way to Fort Lauderdale, Florida on Sunday to perform on The Legendary Blues Cruise. Roomful is continuing its current tour with former band member John Wolfe taking Enos's place. Enos joined Roomful Of Blues in September, 1981. Only saxophonist Rich Lataille had been with the band longer.

## "PHILADELPHIA" JERRY RICKS 1940 - 2007

At a Chicago Blues Festival, I heard Jerry talk about being a care giver for Skip James in his final days. "Skip would always

refer to himself in the third person. 'Mr James will have his bath, now.'" Skyy Dobro

Jerry died in his hospital room in Rijeka, Croatia. Jerry and his wife Nancy had been living in Croatia since early this year. He was diagnosed in September with a brain tumor. Jerry was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and began playing guitar in Philadelphia venues in the late 1950's. Jerry embraced all styles of traditional country blues. This beloved bluesman traveled extensively, played blues festivals all around the world, and recorded a number of beautifully constructed albums. Jerry was very involved in research and education as another way of advancing the word of the blues.

## DAN FOGELBERG 1951 - 2007

Singer-songwriter Dan Fogelberg, famed for the soaring vocals and elegant instrumentation of tunes such as "Longer" and "A Love Like This," died three years after being diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer. He was 56. Fogelberg, a native of Peoria, Illinois and former University of Illinois student, broke into the music industry in the early 1970s, at a time when it was embracing introspective songwriting, or "soft rock," by such acts as the Eagles and America.



## CHRISTMAS COMBO REVIEW

Thursday, December 13, 2007  
Cheeks Bar & Grill

From Randy Hoffman, President

We had a very successful party last night at Cheeks, in so many ways. First of all, J Balmer is dropping off five full boxes of donated food at the Claire House. In addition from donations,

Continued on next page



**Martin & Joanne Weigman**



**Steve the Harp Blues Jam**



**BBS Welcoming table. Frank, Joanne, Larry D standing**

Joanne Weigman, treasurer has informed me that we are mailing them a check for \$170! Delta Frank signed up five new members and some renewals; once again, a sign of a successful event.

Steve 'the Harp' Band not only did a killer first set, but they also hosted a great jam that gave us an opportunity to see a number of musicians we haven't heard before. Great guitar players and Scott Larson on keys was a special treat. I had two of our Corporate Sponsors tell me they thought the jam was a real highlight and more desirable than having a band.

Chris at Cheeks is very interested in getting involved with the Society, especially in the Education aspect. He had some great ideas last night, and I fully expect us to bring them to fruition.

To tell ya'll the truth, I was more than a little disappointed after our November meeting and concerned about the future of our Society, but this event has helped restore some confidence in our role in the community. I do think the future will bring some changes in the organization and what our role will be, but I think it will be a positive direction.

Thanks again for all the hard work of both the former and new Board members. Your contributions have made us a stronger society and helped insure the future of the Blues in Central Illinois.

From Larry D, Vice President (December 14)  
LDGator@DavesWorld.net  
Hi Folks,

On behalf of the BBS President and myself, we want to personally give a big THANK YOU to all that helped make this year's annual Christmas party at huge success for the Claire House food pantry, the enjoyment of those attending, and the BBS. For extra fun we had FREE BBS drink koozies to all that attend (while supplies lasted) and door Prizes: Including BBS T-Shirts, Hats, Blues CDs. Wishing you and yours a Safe and Joyous Holiday Season!



**The young, the younger, the youngest**

### AWARDS SEASON

#### Grammy Nominations Announced - Blues

The 50th Grammy Awards will be held on Feb. 10, at Staples Center in Los Angeles and will be broadcast live in HD TV and 5.1 surround sound on CBS from 7-10:30 p.m.

#### Category 66 Best Traditional Blues Album

1. Pinetop Perkins On The 88's - Live In Chicago  
Pinetop Perkins
2. Live...And In Concert From San Francisco  
Otis Rush
3. 10 Days Out: Blues From The Backroads  
Kenny Wayne Shepherd Featuring Various Artists
4. Old School - Koko Taylor
5. Last Of The Great Mississippi Delta Bluesmen: Live In Dallas

Continued on next page

**Continued from previous page**

Henry James Townsend, Joe Willie "Pinetop" Perkins, Robert Lockwood, Jr. & David "Honeyboy" Edwards

**Category 67 Best Contemporary Blues Album**

1. Into The Blues - Joan Armatrading
2. Is It News - Doyle Bramhall
3. The Road To Escondido JJ Cale & Eric Clapton
4. Truth - Robben Ford
5. The Scene Of The Crime Bettye LaVette

**BLUES MUSIC AWARD NOMINATIONS**

The 29th Blues Music Awards are set for Thursday, May 08, at the Grand Casino Event Center in Tunica Resorts, Mississippi. Most of these nominees will be there mingling with the fans. And, you can be there mingling too; try doing that with the stars of rock or country! Attendance is open to the general public. Voting is open to all Blues Foundation members.

**Acoustic Album of the Year**

- Bobby Rush - Raw
- Dave Riley and Bob Corritore - Travelin' the Dirt Road
- Fruteland Jackson - Tell Me What You Say
- Jimmy "Duck" Holmes - Done Got Tired Of Tryin'
- Marie Knight - Let Us Get Together

**Acoustic Artist of the Year**

- Bobby Rush
- Doug MacLeod
- Eric Bibb
- Fruteland Jackson
- Guy Davis
- Mary Flower

**Album of the Year**

- Bettye LaVette - The Scene of the Crime
- James Blood Ulmer - Bad Blood in the City
- Koko Taylor - Old School
- Nick Moss & the Flip Tops - Play It 'Til Tomorrow
- Omar Kent Dykes & Jimmie Vaughan - On the Jimmy Reed Highway
- Sugar Ray & the Bluetones - My



**Will work For Blues**

- Life, My Friends, My Music
- Watermelon Slim & the Workers - The Wheel Man
- B.B. King Entertainer of the Year**
- Bettye LaVette
- Bobby Rush
- Janiva Magness
- Tommy Castro
- Watermelon Slim
- Band of the Year**
- Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials
- Magic Slim & the Teardrops
- Mannish Boys
- Nick Moss & the Flip Tops
- Watermelon Slim & the Workers
- Best New Artist Debut**
- Diunna Greenleaf & Blue Mercy - Cotton Field to Coffee House
- Gina Sicilia - Allow Me to Confess
- Insomniacs - Left Coast Blues
- John Nemeth - Magic Touch
- The Soul of John Black - The Good Girl Blues
- Contemporary Blues Album of the Year**
- Bryan Lee - Katrina Was Her Name
- James Blood Ulmer - Bad Blood in the City
- Kilborn Alley Blues Band - Tear

- Down Chicago
- Tommy Castro - Painkiller
- Watermelon Slim & the Workers - The Wheel Man
- Contemporary Blues Female Artist of the Year**
- Bettye LaVette
- Candy Kane
- Debbie Davies
- Fiona Boyes
- Teresa James
- Contemporary Blues Male Artist of the Year**
- James Blood Ulmer
- Kim Wilson
- Ronnie Baker Brooks
- Tab Benoit
- Watermelon Slim
- DVD**
- Carey & Lurrie Bell - Gettin' Up: Live at Buddy Guy's Legends, Rosa's and Lurrie's Home
- Kenny Wayne Shepherd - 10 Days Out: Blues from the Backroads
- Pinetop Perkins - Born in the Honey
- Son Seals - A Journey through the Blues - The Son Seals Story
- Willie King - Down in the Woods
- Historical Album of the Year**
- Blind Pig - The Essential Magic Slim - Magic Slim
- Blue Witch - House Rockin' and Blues Shoutin' - Various Artists
- Delmark - Kidney Stew Is Fine - Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson
- Delmark - Steady Rollin' Man - Robert Jr. Lockwood
- Epic/Legacy - Breakin' It Up, Breakin' It Down - Muddy Waters, Johnny Winter, James Cotton
- Instrumentalist-Bass**
- Bill Stuve
- Bob Stroger
- Calvin "Fuzz" Jones
- Jeff Turmes
- Larry Taylor
- Michael "Mudcat" Ward
- Instrumentalist-Drums**
- Jimi Bott
- Richard Innes
- Robb Stupka
- Sam Carr
- Sam Lay
- Instrumentalist-Guitar**
- Bob Margolin

Continued on next page

**Continued from previous page**

Duke Robillard  
Kid Ramos  
Lurrie Bell  
Nick Moss

**Instrumentalist-Harmonica**

Carey Bell  
James Cotton  
Kim Wilson  
Mark Hummel

Sugar Blue  
Sugar Ray Norcia

**Instrumentalist-Horn**

Big James Montgomery  
Calvin Owens  
Deanna Bogart  
Doug James

Kaz Kazanoff

**Instrumentalist-Other**

Gerry Hundt - Mandolin  
Johnny Sansone - Accordion  
Otis Taylor - Banjo  
Robert Randolph - Pedal Steel  
Sonny Rhodes - Lap Steel

**Pinetop Perkins Piano Player of the Year**

Ann Rabson  
Bruce Katz  
David Maxwell  
Henry Butler  
Honey Piazza

**Song of the Year**

1. "Gonna Buy Me a Mule" - Koko Taylor, Koko Taylor - Old School
2. "Jimmy Reed Highway" - Omar Kent Dykes & Steve Callif, Omar Dykes & Jimmie Vaughan - On the Jimmy Reed Highway
3. "Poor Man's Paradise" - Johnny Sansone, Johnny Sansone - Poor Man's Paradise
4. "The Last Words of A Fool" - Sugar Ray Norcia, Sugar Ray & the Bluetones - My Life, My Friends, My Music
5. "The Wheel Man" - William Homans, Watermelon Slim & the Workers - The Wheel Man

**Soul Blues Album of the Year**

Eugene Hideaway Bridges - Eugene Hideaway Bridges  
Holmes Brothers - State of Grace  
Mem Shannon - A Night at Tipitina's  
Root Doctor - Change Our Ways

**Tad Robinson - A New Point of View Soul Blues Female Artist of the Year**

Barbara Carr  
Denise LaSalle  
Irma Thomas  
Sharon Jones  
Sista Monica Parker

**Soul Blues Male Artist of the Year**

Bobby Rush  
Eugene Hideaway Bridges  
Jackie Payne  
Mem Shannon  
Tad Robinson

**Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year**

Diunna Greenleaf  
Koko Taylor  
Nora Jean Bruso  
Ruthie Foster

Sharrie Williams

**Traditional Blues Album of the Year**

Big George Brock - Live at Seventy Five  
Darrell Nulisch - Goin' Back to Dallas

Koko Taylor - Old School  
Nappy Brown - Long Time Coming  
Omar Kent Dykes & Jimmie Vaughan - On the Jimmy Reed Highway

**Traditional Blues Male Artist of the Year**

Bob Margolin  
Hubert Sumlin  
Lurrie Bell  
Magic Slim  
Nappy Brown  
Phillip Walker

**2008 KEEPING the BLUES ALIVE AWARD Recipients:**

Art or Photography: VividPix & Design, Des Moines, Iowa  
Blues Club: Knuckleheads Saloon, Kansas City, Missouri  
Blues Organization: South Florida Blues Society, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida  
Education: Fernando Jones, Chicago, Illinois  
Festival: Edmonton's Labatt Blues Festival, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
Film, Television or Video: Ten Days Out: Blues From the Backroads  
Historical Preservation: Mississippi

Blues Commission and Mississippi Development Authority, Division of Tourism for the Mississippi Blues Marker Trail, Jackson, Mississippi  
International: Blues sur Seine, Mantes la Jolie, France  
Internet: STLBlues.net, St. Louis, Missouri  
Journalism: Don Wilcock, Scotia, New York  
Literature: Arthur Flowers, Syracuse, New York  
Manager: Michael Frank, Chicago, Illinois  
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Producer: Bruce Iglauer, Chicago, Illinois  
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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](http://www.illinoisblues.com)

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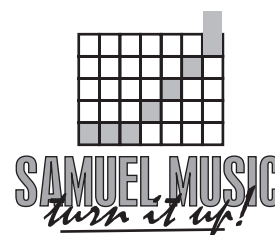


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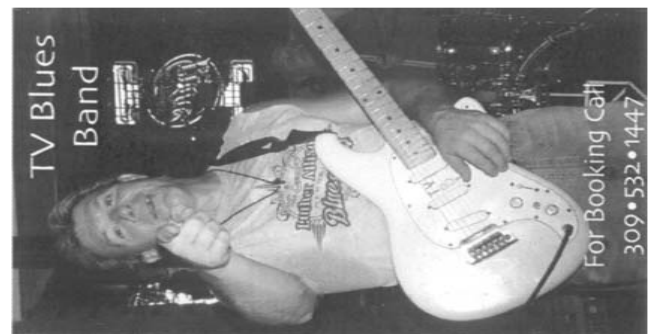


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