



# BLUES NEWS

April-May 2009

## OFFICIAL RAMBLINGS FROM THE PREZ

March 20<sup>th</sup> the BBS kicked off our 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Blues at the Treehouse. Mathew Curry and Currfew started off our new monthly event that brings you the Blues. Mathew again proved that his talent is enormous. He absolutely rocked the Treehouse Lounge with his new band of veteran players and he featured several guests on stage. In the second set, I was fortunate enough to join this group for three tunes and then Steve 'The Harp' blew us all away with his ability to get the crowd going. Dave Lindsey and his bass player joined in for some smokin' hot guitar tunes. The third set featured Mathew playing with the entire Rooster Alley band and the guitar interplay between Mathew and Boz on guitar was a delight. I doubt the Treehouse has had that many people come in for a band in a long, long time.

April 17<sup>th</sup> Steve 'The Harp' Blues Band, with special guest Jack Empson on guitar. *Continued on page 2*

### OFFICERS

**President: Randy Hoffman -**

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**Vice President: Jeff Augsburger**

**Treasurer: Deborah Mehlberg**

**Secretary: Sallie Beach**

**Parliamentarian: Leonard Beach**

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Education: Steve Mehlberg**

**Entertainment: Rick Tull**

**Marketing: Dave Long**

**Membership: Frank Black**

**Newsletter Editor: Sue Camp**

**Webmaster: Deborah Mehlberg**

### GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS

**Larry Duchanois**

**Mike Sacco**

**J Balmer**

## NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

**Welcome** new members Ben RYBURN/Arlene HOSEA!!

Most of our members renew in either January or July, so IF you forgot your renewal, PLEASE do it now!!!

IF you don't have your email address registered with us, PLEASE do it now!! It takes more time and money to reach the few with a paper Blues News than the sum of everything else.

Where is all the stuff that was in the Blues News?  
IT'S ON OUR WEBSITE!!

[www.bluesblowtorch.org/](http://www.bluesblowtorch.org/)

Visit and patronize the Corporate Sponsors,  
supporting us in bringing Blues Entertainment and Education to  
McLean County Illinois

Look at our Blues In the Schools Workshops

You can read the latest blues music reviews

Join or renew - download your BBS Membership Application

Read the archive of Blues News and General Meeting Minutes

Stroll down Memory Lane with our picture history

Check out our hot Merchandise

What's Happening? Check our calendar!!

Links?? Yeah we got 'em!!

Contact Us...we want to hear from you!!

*Ramblin's from front page.* You do not want to miss this performance. The chemistry of this group is hot, and they are very close to releasing a new cd of original material. The Dave Lindsey Band will keep the energy level at the Treehouse hoppin' on May 15<sup>th</sup>, we are still working on the band for the June 19<sup>th</sup> party.

Put a circle around the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month on your calendar, 'cause we are going to have some fun!

If you haven't made it over to the River City Blues Societies Wednesday Blues Shows, you have been missing out on some great music. On April Fools day, Reverend Raven and the Chain Smoking' Altar Boys weren't foolin' around!! They opened with an hour and forty-five minute set that had the crowd jumpin'. The Dragon Dome in Pekin is becoming 'the' place to be in the middle of the week. They have a great lineup of blues scheduled for the next couple of months, including the 'Bluz Guitar Gurlz'series. Go to their website and check it out. [www.rivercityblues.com](http://www.rivercityblues.com)

OK, it's time for my plea for attending our monthly meetings. We are now holding a combined Board and General Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, at the V.F.W. Post 454 in Bloomington. We'd love to have more members join the discussion and help us set the direction for the Society. Drinks prices are the best in town, and then you can slide over to the Eagles and catch Clint Thompson's acoustic jam afterwards. Come on out!!!

Randy Hoffman—Prez

## THE NEWS IN PASSING

### **A Contemplation on Music**

Welcome address to parents of the incoming freshman class at Boston Conservatory, given by Karl Paulnack, pianist and director of the music division at Boston Conservatory.

One of my parents' deepest fears, I suspect, is that society would not properly value me as a musician, that I wouldn't be appreciated. I had very good grades in high school, I was good in science and math, and they imagined that as a doctor or a research chemist or an engineer, I might be more appreciated than I would be as a musician. I still remember my mother's remark when I announced my decision to apply to music school-she said, "you're WASTING your SAT scores." On some level, I think, my parents were not sure themselves what the value of music was, what its purpose was. And they LOVED music, they listened to classical music all the time. They just weren't really clear about its function.

So let me talk about that a little bit, because we live in a society that puts music in the "arts and entertainment" section of the newspaper, and serious music, the kind your kids are about to engage in, has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with entertainment, in fact it's the opposite of entertainment. Let me talk a little bit about music, and how it works.

The first people to understand how music really works were the ancient Greeks. And this is going to fascinate you; the Greeks said that music and astronomy were two sides of the same coin. Astronomy was seen as the study of relationships between observable, permanent, external objects, and music was seen as the study of relationships between invisible, internal, hidden objects. Music has a way of finding the big, invisible moving pieces inside our hearts and souls and helping us figure out the position of things inside us. Let me give you some examples of how this works.

*Editor's note: Please read the remainder of this great article on our website, see Newsletter.*

### EDUCATION SPOT

Steve Mehlberg, Education Chair, filed our grant application with the Illinois Blues Coalition.

Steve is also under final consideration for Ambassador of the Blues with the Official Blues Hall of Fame for his work with our Blues in the Schools program.

Steve 'The Harp' recently received a thank you note from every child attending his harmonica workshop at Prairieland elementary School.

The Blues Blowtorch Society Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to Volunteer? YES! \_\_\_\_\_ Interest \_\_\_\_\_

|                   |                     |                 |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| MEMBERSHIP TYPES: | Individual          | \$20/yr. _____  |
|                   | Family              | \$25/yr. _____  |
|                   | Student             | \$10/yr. _____  |
|                   | Corporate           | \$100/yr. _____ |
|                   | Preferred Corporate | \$TBD/Event     |

Make checks payable to:  
The Blues Blowtorch Society

Mail to:  
Frank Black  
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Clinton, IL 61727



P.O. Box 1092  
Bloomington, Illinois 61702-1092

***Read All About it !***

**Attend the  
General Membership  
Meeting - 6 pm  
The third Thursday  
Of each month!!**

**V.F.W. Post 454 Bloomington**

[www.bluesblowtorch.org](http://www.bluesblowtorch.org)

[www.myspace.com/blues\\_blowtorch\\_society](http://www.myspace.com/blues_blowtorch_society)