



BLUES NEWS

May ~ June 2010

OFFICIAL RAMBLINGS FROM THE PREZ

Our 3rd Friday Blues at the Treehouse Lounge has been a great success, and there are a lot of people making it a regular occasion. Our membership has steadily increased and best of all, we all are having FUN!! This month we will say farewell to Rachel Scharnett as she moves to Nashville to enhance her opportunities for a musical career. Please join me in wishing her the best of luck!!

Last month Lightning Red joined up with the Steve 'The Harp' Blues band and gave us all a real deal blues treat. Several other folks including Matthew Curry sat in and made the evening very special. May brings the Joe Zaklan Band for a debut that promises to entertain. Joe is a former member of Studebaker John's band and a number of top notch local bands. So come on out and have some fun. Did I mention FUN?!?!? It looks to me that the bands are also having fun here in B/N! Meetings are now at the Treehouse on the third Friday of the month at 5:45 pm. OK??
Randy

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Hope we didn't miss anyone, but if we did...THANKS!!!

Where is all the stuff that was in the Blues News?
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News From the Blues Foundation

At the 31st annual Blues Music Awards, The Blues Foundation will publicly honor blues legend **Buddy Guy** with a **Lifetime Achievement Award**. The Foundation has commissioned for this special occasion a one-of-a-kind award from Patterson & Barnes, who also created the original artwork that serves as the basis for the 2010 poster. There will also be an oral and video presentation, as well as a special musical tribute, all in the legend's honor. Buddy Guy will be at the Blues Music Awards to receive this honor.

Buddy Guy has been a mentor and inspiration to five generations of musicians in multiple genres while he has continued to innovate. He has greatly expanded the blues definition while maintaining the anchor characteristics that first defined the genre, and with this distinction, we are proud to present him with this honor and tribute.

Buddy has been nominated for 41 Blues Music Awards and has received 28 such Awards. Past recipients of this prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award** include **Bobby "Blue" Bland, Ruth Brown, Ray Charles, Ahmet Ertegun, John Lee Hooker, Etta James, B.B. King, Sam Phillips, Koko Taylor and Jerry Wexler.**

Category for Best Traditional Female Artist Now Renamed in Honor of the Queen of Blues

Memphis, TN, April 20, 2010 Less than three weeks before its 31st annual Blues Music Awards gala event, **The Blues Foundation** is pleased to announce that, beginning this year, the award for the **Best Traditional Female Artist** category will be hereafter known as the **Koko Taylor Award**. The first-ever Koko Taylor award will be handed out to one of five nominees at the Blues Music Awards gala event in Memphis on **May 6, 2010**.

The re-designation of the category is in honor of deceased blues legend **Koko Taylor**, known to many as the Queen of the Blues. Taylor, an inducted member of the **Blues Hall of Fame**, not only received a **Lifetime Achievement Award** from **The Blues Foundation** in **1999**, but also received a record **29 Blues Music Awards** out of **37 Blues Music Award nominations** total. The Blues Music Awards ceremony itself also has a special connection to Taylor, who held her final live performance at last year's gala. You can still purchase a **DVD** from last year's awards show.

A quick note about this year's awards ceremony and show, set for Thursday May 6 at the Memphis Cook Convention Center in downtown Memphis: this year we will honor Buddy Guy with the Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as nominees in 26 categories as voted on by Blues Foundation members. The Blues Music Awards are universally recognized as the highest honor given to Blues artists, so it is an event not to be missed! Tickets are still available at www.blues.org, but act fast because ticket sales are outpacing last year's. Dare we utter the words "sold out"?

As always, if you'd like to stay up to date, check out www.blues.org, Facebook.com/TheBluesFoundation and on Twitter @bluesfoundation.

The 2011 International Blues Challenge will have a new format.

1. There will be **four nights** of competition. The contest will begin with all acts competing in the first night of the quarterfinal on Wednesday, February 2 and continue with a second night of quarterfinals on Thursday February 3. Some acts will then advance to the semifinal on Friday night. The number of acts advancing on Friday will depend on the number of acts and venues. The finals will once again be on Saturday.

The purpose of this expanded format is to accommodate increasing numbers of participating acts. The IBC is like a funnel. In theory, we can handle as many acts as there are when we start, but by Saturday, they have to be narrowed to about 10 bands and 8 solo/duo acts. This is the purpose of the added step. I would note that an increasing number of acts will now get to play 3 times (if they advance to the semifinals) and 4 times (if they advance to the finals) instead of the current 2 and 3 times.

In addition, the FedEx International Showcase will likely be held on Tuesday, February 1. Act registration and orientation would be during the day Wednesday February 2.

2. **Deadline for act registration will be midnight November 14, 2010.**