



## Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

April 2015 Edition

### Monthly PCBS Meeting Notes

PCBS staff

We had a very dynamic March Prairie Crossroads Blues Society meeting at the wonderful Po' Boy's in Urbana. After a need for new committee chairs was established, Jim and Sandy Hannum stood tall and put together a presentation that was sent out to a current PCBS member list.

It is with great pride I share the news that three chairs were filled at our March meeting. I will note the need for more volunteers is still ongoing and we hope to have more news soon of new volunteers or seasoned veterans returning to help lead us down our Bluesy path.

Elaine Schneider was voted in unanimously as our Newsletter Editor. Elaine has newsletter experience in the past, and a positive upbeat attitude which will help her in driving *Inclusive* forward bringing information, news and fun to our Blues community, both far and wide. *Inclusive* is a great tool and wonderful resource for PCBS and Blues fans. Congratulations and good luck moving forward Elaine!!!

Zach Widup was unanimously voted in as Treasurer. Zach is known to all of the local Blues community and music community as one of the most avid and active fans anywhere. He also is an important cog in local

music CU Bands and Fans which has helped PCBS in marketing our shows and provide tremendous good works to the CU and Indianapolis music communities. Zach with CUBS energizer bunny/leader Terry Miller provide a powerful and wonderful resource in our community. Zach brings his knowledge of the scene, experience with CU Bands and Fans and also previous experience as a treasurer to PCBS.

Dennis Wismer was also voted in as President of PCBS. I am honored to take PCBS through this interesting time in our world and try and continue our good work preserving, educating and promoting Blues music. I believe in supporting our local musicians and national touring artist's and fostering a bond with our community to help do this. Our community is blessed with incredible Blues talent and our location is perfectly centralized to have once in a lifetime level talent traveling through with great regularity. Hopefully these can synergize and create a great time of growth for our Blues Society.

Merchandising any ideas for updating our line...members – any suggestions?

 **We need your help!** 

The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society has been serving the community for more than four and a half years promoting live Blues music, preserving the heritage of Blues, and educating our young people about the

Blues. Perhaps you have stayed on the margins of these efforts and do not realize how satisfying and fun it is to be directly involved. If so, it is time for you to find out!

Several of our board members are stepping down in June and we need some of you to step forward to help run the society. Don't be shy! Prairie Crossroads Blues Society is a great group of people to work with and an interesting way to get to know the various Blues musicians in this area. The positions that will be open are listed below. Can you commit some of your time to take over one of these jobs for the next year? Those who are leaving positions will be glad to provide some orientation to new volunteers.

### **Open positions:**

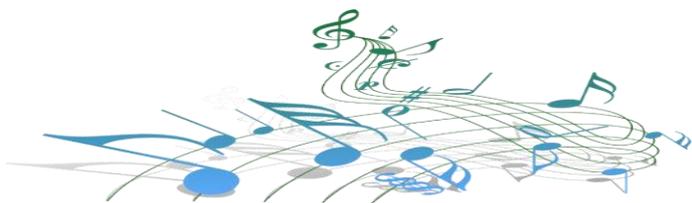
**Education Committee Chair:** Makes arrangements to provide Blues in the Schools programs to local schools, and Blues workshops for children in libraries, Boys and Girls Club, etc.

**Marketing Chair:** Publicizes upcoming events for the society through a variety of media outlets, and promotes the mission of PCBS in general

**Web maintenance Chair:** Keeps the PCBS website up to date by posting the calendar, meeting minutes, special events, articles of interest, and information about member bands. May also use Facebook for interaction with members.

If you are interested in helping to lead Prairie Crossroads Blues Society, please send your name to Greg Altstetter (galtstet@yahoo.com) by April 8, 2015, along with a note about the position you would be willing to take on. New officers will be voted in by members who attend the May meeting which will be announced in April.

Thank you for considering joining us in serving PCBS!!



## **VIEWS**

**Written by: PCBS President Dennis Wismer**

Hello music lovers and Blues fans! We are very fortunate to live in a very intriguing time in history. The advancements in technology bring us to the information age. Entertainment is available in an ever expanding array of devices. The collecting, viewing and listening options are endless. Great sound is never out of ones reach with computers, phones and audiophilia ever present. Music as data...Hmmm!!!

Of course music has never been too far from ones reach as the early roots of field calls, clapping and stomping can create as powerful an emotional response as a symphony or electronic wall of sound. That tune in your head, tapping a beat with a finger pen etc., I have never known a time when I was around too much good music.

I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am to be involved with Prairie Crossroads Blues Society, an organization that helps preserve, promote and educate the vital music known as the Blues. With various pressures constantly tugging on purse strings an ability to provide children with music in their life is a great thing. To give a child an instrument and a gift of music and appreciation is honorable and powerful. With PCBS Blues in the Schools program some incredible people made this happen.

To provide an opportunity to a Blues artist to perform their craft and eke out a living or at least a friendly port in the storm of road life is a great way to contribute to the preservation of Blues music. Volunteering to help organize, promote and implement a show helps provide fans with entertainment and the artist a gig.

Donating time and resources as a volunteer or committee member allows your voice to be heard and your beliefs to be shown in a tangible way. Being a member of PCBS gives the music and community stability and support showing you care enough to be a part of keeping the Blues **alive and thriving** in our community. Being a member, volunteer, committee member or board chair is a dynamic way to meet great people, experience wonderful events and have fun. Involvement in Prairie Crossroads Blues Society is

a great way to help in providing a local musician a chance to showcase and share their talent, to dance, smile and invigorate oneself with music and sense of community; to provide an artist with a job, a fan with an opportunity.

## **It's All About the Blues at South Side and Westview**

By Sandy Hannum

Last fall the education committee met with a group of music teachers from the Champaign schools to tell them about our Blues in the Schools programs. They were quite enthused! Karinsa Moline from South Side Elementary and Betty Carlson from Westview were successful in writing a grant for a BITS program which the two schools are sharing.

The South Side program is different from anything we have done before. It is not merely an after-school enrichment program. It involves ALL of the kids in grades 3, 4, and 5. We are fortunate to have our regular, experienced teaching team on board: Gus Wood is teaching the Roots and History of Blues, and Josh Spence is teaching the basics of playing Blues harmonica.

The first two days of Blues in the Schools at South Side on March 11 and 12 went very well. The kids were responsive and excited. It was fun watching from the back of the room. They had lots of things to say while Gus was teaching. All of us were amazed at their intelligent insights! They loved Josh's music. I saw all the heads bobbing while he played a demo and lots of smiles and laughs throughout. They had a good time trying out their harmonicas. I would say it is a huge success so far. We will be going back April 8 and 9. They are supposed to practice on their own in the meantime. The teacher, Karinsa Moline has been wonderful also. She mentioned the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society in each class. This program will be followed by a Blues concert for the whole school by Jiggy and the Source, on a date yet to be determined. The kids will have a chance to join in and play along on their harmonicas for part of the concert.



A Blues concert was held at Westview Elementary on March 18 from 1-2 pm, which was right before their spring break. Betty Carlson, the music teacher there, made the arrangements with Jiggy and the Source. The principal, Sean Morrison, made a brief introduction, and spoke again at the end, expressing his heartfelt appreciation for the content of the concert. Josh and Lolo chose a wonderful selection of songs with great messages for kids. Right from the beginning, all the kids were into it. They started clapping spontaneously to the music from the first song. They even chimed in with a call and response when Sweet Home Chicago was played. Nobody had to ask! It was quite amazing.

A big thank you to Krannert Center for the Performing Arts for supporting our Blues in the Schools program by covering the stipend of our historian, Gus Wood. Thank you to the PTA of the above-mentioned schools for contributing to the program. And thank you to Prairie Crossroads Blues Society for contributing the harmonicas for all of these students. Our BITS program continues to be a rewarding and fun part of being in PCBS, largely because of the friendships we create in the community and the new Blues lovers we bring into the fold.

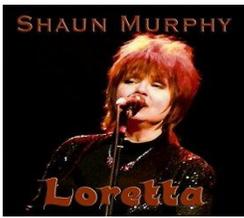
### **CD Reviews and News**

Written by James "Skyy Dobro" Walker

Shaun Murphy – *Loretta*

Vision Wall Records

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



12 tracks; 47:10 minutes

Styles: Blues Rock; Rock and Roll; Electric Guitar Blues

Author's Note: Soon after I finished this review, the guys at Fluid Events hired Shaun Murphy to appear at the 2015 Blues, Brews, and BBQ event in Champaign the last weekend in June. Good on them!

Some things are unexplainable: self-destructive habits, poor people not voting, and Shaun Murphy not appearing at any of the Blues festivals listed in the 2014 "Blues Festival Guide." How have festival talent buyers missed this three time Grammy nominee and 2013's only double winner at the Blues Blast Music Awards (Best Female Blues Artist of the Year and Best Contemporary Blues Album "Ask For the Moon")? How have Blues cruise operators and festival buyers not noticed her tours and album credits with Eric Clapton ("Behind the Sun"), Bob Seger (since 1973, including Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction in 2010), Bruce Hornsby, Joe Walsh, Glenn Frey and The Moody Blues – to name a few? Did the festival talent search committees miss her at the first "Live Aid Concert" in 1985? Were they unaware of her appearing in both of the on-the-road Broadway productions of "Hair" and "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band"? Did festival talent chairmen sleep through her duo album with Meatloaf for Rare Earth/Motown Records ("Stoney and Meatloaf"), when a teenage Murphy arrived in Detroit MI and was known as "Stoney"? Did they not hear and see her lead singing for the legendary band Little Feat from 1993 through 2009; did they miss her appearance on Jay Leno's Tonight show and Conan O'Brien? Will they, now, notice Shaun's Jimi Award for "2014 Best Female Vocalist" from Blues 411?

On tour, again, with Bob Seger, doing 33 dates across late 2014 and early 2015, Shaun Murphy has quietly (?) carved out a "new" solo career since 2009 as Blues chanteuse and leader of the Shaun Murphy Band. Deciding to return to her Blues roots, Shaun released the album "Livin' The Blues" in September 2009. A second album, "The Trouble With Lovin'," followed in

2010. Late in 2011, Murphy released a DVD and live CD both titled "Shaun Murphy Live at Callahan's." Her album "Ask for the Moon," released in 2012, was nominated for three Grammy Awards and won a Blues Blast Music Award. 2013 brought the CD "Cry of Love," and, now, her sixth CD, "Loretta," is due for a February 1 release.

Murphy's magnificent vocals are showcased on each selection (there are no instrumentals). As one might surmise, Murphy possesses a vocal instrument with broad range, clear diction (even I can understand the lyrics), and pleasing pitch and timbre. Her superb deliveries exhibit expert meter and are full of vibrant passion. Of the 12 songs, 7 were penned or co-written by Shaun.

Right off the Launchpad, Murphy announces that this CD is a little more het up than previous works. The Rocking-the-Blues-like-a-barreling-freight-train arrangement in the opening original song "Don't Lie to Me" is powered by stellar studio musicians. Throughout, here are the seasoned cats that throw down deftly: Jack Pearson - slide and lead guitars, Rob McNelley – lead guitar, Jimi Fiano – lead guitar, Kenneth Michael Cramer – guitar, Randy Coleman – bass, George Lilly – drums, Mark T. Jordan – keyboards, Larry Van Loon – keyboards, and Matt Workman – background vocals along with Randy Coleman and Shaun herself. The CD was produced by Murphy's agent T.C. Davis and Randy Coleman.

By track 3, "Kiss Me Like Whiskey," Murphy slows it down to mid-tempo to soulfully plead beside Allman Brothers alum Jack Pearson's plaintive yet insistent slide guitar. The protagonist is begging for passion, "Kiss Me Like whiskey; leave your taste on my tongue."

In the rollicking up-tempo title track, Murphy takes the roll of scold. Her acquaintance "Loretta" is about to give her husband a "heart attack" with all her "sneaking around." Sings the protagonist, "I've been down that road; I've walked in them shoes. Oh, Loretta, you need to slow down, or you'll be singing those dead man Blues!" Again, Pearson paces the proceedings powerfully with his slithery slide guitar.

"Strange Life" is a slower number featuring welling organ by Larry Van Loon and harmonic guitar from Jimi Fiano. For some Rock and Roll fret board

fireworks courtesy of Rob McNelley, try Shaun's version of the standard "Big Train Stops at Memphis." A nice full-band treatment rides atop Van Loon's organ in "Careful They Say," a song penned by Laura Creamer, Murphy's long time co-vocalist in Bob Seger's band. John and Sally Tiven helped write a ballad of lament in "24 Hours from Memphis." Paced by Randy Coleman's pulsing bass guitar lines, the CD concludes with Murphy powerfully pouring herself into Bettye Crutcher's "How Strong Is a Woman."

Perhaps the "unexplainable" mentioned in the opening paragraph can partially be blamed on fans. It is up to fans to request her at festivals, theaters and clubs. Further, call radio stations and request Shaun. Fans just don't know how much power they collectively have in these areas. Someone needs to wake up the talent buyers to what they are missing in Shaun Murphy.

## Blues Brews and BBQ News

Schedule of artists provided by: Lorri Coey

Learn more about the 2015 Blues, Brews and BBQ Fest on their Web Site:

<http://bluesbrewsandbbqfest.com/index.php/about>

### FRIDAY

4:30-5:30 - Kayla Brown

5:50-7:20 - Upshot

7:45-8:15 - Adrianna Marie

8:40-10:10 - Sena Ehrhardt

10:30-Midnight - Carolyn Wonderland

### SATURDAY

12:50-2:20 - Country Showdown

2:40-4:10 - Laura Rain

4:30-5:00 - Motorcycle Awards Show

5:00-6:30 - Joanna Conner

6:50-8:20 - Janiva Magness

8:40-10:10 - Shaun Murphy

10:30-Midnight - Ana Popovic

More about the individual artists in next month's

*Inclusive*

It may be time to renew your PCBS Membership. You can do this on our website using PayPal

[www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/member.html](http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/member.html)

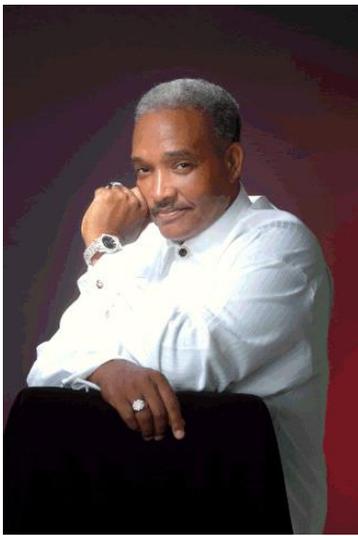


## Johnny Rawls Show

Written By Bob Paleczny

Prairie Crossroads Blues Society is excited to bring the legendary Soul/Blues musician Johnny Rawls to the Champaign-Urbana area. Johnny will be performing in the intimate setting of The Iron Post, 120 S. Race St. in Urbana, at 9:00 pm on Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>. Johnny is a singer, songwriter, guitarist, arranger and producer. He's noted for his smooth vocal style and effortless guitar stylings. Johnny's C-U performances have been rare lately, so PCBS is thrilled to be able to present this show to local blues lovers.

Johnny was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi on September 10, 1951. He grew up deeply immersed in the Southern Soul of the 1960's, influenced by performers such as O.V. Wright and Z.Z. Hill. By his mid-teens he was backing up performers such as Wright and Joe Tex when they toured through Mississippi. In the mid '70s, Rawls joined O. V. Wright's backing band, became its musical director and played together with Wright until the latter's death in 1980. Johnny then kept the band touring together for another 13 years as the Ace of Spades Band.



Johnny Rawls

Promotional picture from his website

Johnny's debut solo album "Here We Go" was released in 1996 on JSP Records. Johnny released 3 more albums on JSP and in 2002 released "Lucky Man" on his own Deep South Soul record label. His 2006 release "Heart and Soul" garnered Johnny his first Blues Music Award nomination for Soul Blues Album of the Year. Since his 2008 release, "Red Cadillac", Johnny has been on the Catfood Records label.

In all, Johnny has been nominated for 15 Blues Music Awards and his 2009 release, "Ace of Spades", won the BMA for Soul Blues Album of the Year. That release as well as "Red Cadillac" and "Memphis Still Got Soul" also won Living Blues Critic Poll Awards for Best New Recording in the Southern Soul Category. The 2015 edition of the Blues Music Awards will be presented in Memphis on May 7 and once again Johnny is nominated in the Soul Blues Male Artist category. Johnny is also nominated for a 2015 BMA for "Soul Brothers", his recent album with Otis Clay. The "Soul Brothers" CD has been popular with the blues air shifters at WEFT 90.1 FM, having received the 2<sup>nd</sup> most spins of all blues disks over the last 6 months.

Johnny has played the Chicago Blues Festival three times previously and is scheduled to appear there again later this year on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. He has toured Europe several times as well as Japan and Australia. The show at The Iron Post on April 24th is a chance to see Johnny up close and enjoy his superb vocals and awesome guitar playing in an intimate club setting. Cover is \$10, and only \$8 for

PCBS Members with their current Membership Card. Now may be a great time to renew your membership in PCBS.

PCBS is excited to have a performer of Johnny's stature come to our area and we're really looking forward to Johnny's performance. As The Times of London says, "Rawls has the earthiness of B. B. King and the Memphis soul of Al Green." This is a show you don't want to miss.

Prairie Crossroads Blues Society  
presents

## Johnny Rawls



Legendary Soul/Blues Man  
9:00 pm Friday April 24th

The Iron Post  
120 S. Race St. Urbana

\$10.00 cover

\$8.00 with current PCBS Membership Card

[www.facebook.com/PrairieCrossroadsBlues](http://www.facebook.com/PrairieCrossroadsBlues)

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



## Prairie Crossroads Blues Society



Champaign-Urbana IL

### Executive Board

President - Dennis Wismer

Vice President - Greg Altstetter

Treasurer - Jim Hannum/Zach Widup

Secretary - Lorri Coey

## **At-Large Board Members**

Sandy Hannum - Phil Hult - Tony Odendahl

## **Committee Chairs**

Membership - Phil Hult

Merchandise - Greg Altstetter

Marketing - by Committee

Education - Sandy Hannum

Newsletter Editor - Elaine Schneider

Entertainment - Bob Paleczny

Web Team - Lorri Coey, Bob Paleczny

## **Next meeting of PCBS:**

Thursday, April 9, 6:30pm Po'Boys,

202 E University Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

## **Corporate Sponsors**

We greatly appreciate our Corporate Sponsors for supporting the PCBS with their funds and their missions.

**Memphis on Main** regularly brings impressive Blues talent to Champaign.

**Fluid Events** brings the Champaign Blues, Brews, and BBQs festival to town in the summer, along with other Blues music events throughout the year.

**Krannert Center for the Performing Arts** supports our Blues in the Schools program with both funding and expertise.

**The Pawn Shop in Rantoul** has long been a supporter of live blues shows in central Illinois.

**Rossville Sound Werx** in Rossville, IL manufactures speaker cabinets and hand wired point to point tube amplifiers. They support PCBS with equipment.

**Skins-N-Tins Drum Shop** has provided a drum set for use in The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society IBC challenges and other events.

## **Donors**

We are grateful to the following individuals and businesses that have provided donations to support the work of the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society.

Cody Sokolski and Marci Dodds

One Main Development

LLC Eastland Suites

Hohner USA

Louie's Dixie Kitchen & BBQ

Krush Foundation

Samuel Music

Slumberland Furniture

Supervalu

## **Band Memberships**

**Alex Jenkins & The Bombers** Their new CD "Voodoo You is available at all their live shows.

**Back Pack Jones** Their CD "Betsy's Kitchen" won our Best Self-Produced CD competition.

**Benny Jenkins Bloodline** Their CD "Can't Take the Blues" won our PCBS Best Self-Produced CD competition in 2013.

**Black Magic Johnson** has their new CD, "Walk With You Baby" available from their web site

**The Diva and The Dude** play regularly throughout the area. Check out their Facebook page for up-to-date information on gigs.

**Groove Avenue** is one of our newest member bands. They are Joni Dreyer/ Vocals, Bob Watson/ Guitar, Dan Henry/ Bass, Brad Hendricks/ Harmonica, Daniel Casey/ Drums.

**Hurricane Ruth** released their second CD "Born on the River" in September.

**Jackie Scott** won a Blues Blast Magazine award in 2010. Check out her website for more on our newest member band [jackiescottandthehousewreckers.com](http://jackiescottandthehousewreckers.com)

**The James Jones Trio** recently released their new CD "Tuned In".

**Jerry Lee & The Juju Kings** were the winners of the PCBS 2012 IBC Band Challenge. Their new CD "Southside of Nowhere" was released in September and is available on their web site.

**Jimmy Nick & Don't Tell Mama** play frequently throughout the Midwest. They have a CD called "Who Ya Kiddin'."

**Kilborn Alley** will be playing their 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Shows on Thursday April 30, 2015 at The Iron Post.

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, April 1** 9:00pm

Kilborn Alley - D.R. Diggers - Champaign - Juke Joint Show

**Thursday, April 2**

7:00pm

James Armstrong Presents - The Alamo Club - Springfield, IL

**Friday, April 3**

8:00pm

Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - Huber's - Champaign

9:00pm

Kilborn Alley - A.I.W. Hall - Decatur, IL

**Saturday, April 4**

7:00pm

The Mudwinders - Sullivan VFW Post - Sullivan, IL

8:00pm

Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - Bunny's - Urbana

8:00pm

Kilborn Alley - Goldy's - Champaign, IL

**Monday, April 6**

8:00pm

The Blues Deacons - Blue Monday @ The Alamo - Springfield, IL

**Tuesday, April 7**

6:30pm

Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - El Toro Bravo – Champaign

**Friday, April 10**

9:00pm

Black Magic Johnson - The Trading Post Saloon - Springfield, IL

9:00pm

Kilborn Alley - Cowboy Monkey - Champaign, IL

**Saturday, April 11**

6:00pm

The Painkillers - The Iron Post - Urbana

7:00pm

Jason Elmore & HooDoo Witch - Goodfellas - Pekin, IL

8:00pm

Billy Galt - Lock Stock & Barrel - Decatur, IL

8:00pm

Kilborn Alley - J&J's Homestead - Gifford, IL

9:00pm

The Mudwinders - VFW Post - Shelbyville, IL

**Sunday, April 12**

3:00pm

Kilborn Alley - Pop's Place - Decatur, IL

**Monday, April 13**

8:00pm

Jason Elmore - Blue Monday @ The Alamo - Springfield, IL

**Tuesday, April 14**

6:30pm

Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - El Toro Bravo – Champaign

**Thursday, April 16**

7:00pm

Back Pack Jones @ Friends of the Blues - Moose Lodge - Bradley, IL

**Friday, April 17**

8:00pm

Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - The Lucky Goat - Monticello, IL

**Saturday, April 18**

12:00pm

Black Magic Johnson - Fat Jack's - Bloomington, IL

9:00pm

Kilborn Alley - Sophie's - Clinton, IL

**Monday, April 20**

8:00pm

Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

**Tuesday, April 21**

6:30pm

Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - El Toro Bravo – Champaign

**Thursday, April 23**

6:00pm

Kilborn Alley - Blues City Deli - Saint Louis, MO

**Friday, April 24**

8:00pm

Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - Monticello Bowling Alley -  
Monticello, IL

9:00pm

Johnny Rawls - The Iron Post - Urbana

9:00pm

Kilborn Alley - BB's Jazz, Blues & Soups - Saint Louis,  
MO**Saturday, April 25**

6:30pm

The Painkillers - The Clark Bar - Champaign

**Sunday, April 26**

3:00pm

Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet - Pop's Place -  
Decatur, IL**Monday, April 27**

8:00pm

Tom Holland & The Shuffle Kings - Blue Monday @  
The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL**Tuesday, April 28**

6:30pm

Billy Galt &amp; Jeff Kerr - El Toro Bravo - Champaign

7:00pm

Mississippi Heat @ Friends of the Blues - Moose Lodge  
- Bradley, IL**Thursday, April 30**

6:30pm

Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet - The Curve Inn -  
Springfield, IL

9:00pm

Kilborn Alley w/Nick Moss Band - Iron Post – Urbana

The Blues are the true facts of life expressed in words and song, inspiration, feeling, and understanding. - **Willie Dixon**



For more upcoming events, visit Prairie  
Crossroads Blues Society at

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