



Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

August 2011

PCBS to hold International Blues Challenge Qualifier By Bob Paleczny



Prairie Crossroads Blues Society is excited to stage our first regional competition to select a band to represent us in the International Blues Challenge. The Blues Foundation encourages all affiliates to hold a preliminary competition, with the winning band advancing to the IBC, January 31, 2012 thru February 4, 2012 in Memphis, TN. The winners of our competition will receive \$1000 in travel assistance from PCBS to help them on the road to Memphis. The IBC, in its 28th year has grown into the largest showcase for musicians ready to take their act to the national stage. It is a judged "Battle of the Bands" in which the acts are judged on an established scoring system set by The Blues Foundation.

PCBS is happy to hold the event Oct. 22 at Memphis on Main, 55 E. Main St., Champaign, IL. Our competition is open to all Illinois based bands. We are actively soliciting bands to compete in our challenge, the application to compete is located on our website;
http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/ibc_challenge2012.pdf
and bands have until Sept 20th to register. Bands will be asked to submit a photograph, a short biography and a cassette or CD of their music. Each act will have 25 minutes to showcase their talents. A panel of 5 esteemed judges from the entertainment

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field, music and radio industry and associated Blues Societies will use the scoring criteria of the Blues Foundation; http://www.blues.org/#ref=ibc_scoring. The only bands ineligible to compete are those that have previously been nominated for a Blues Music Award (BMA) formerly known as the W.C. Handy Awards. The only other restriction is that an act can only compete in the IBC two consecutive years, they then must sit out a year.

Since our first meeting, hosting an IBC challenge has been one of our primary goals and is in our mission statement. We anticipate a lot of excitement, beginning with the recruitment of bands for the competition and building as the event approaches. We will be updating members and prospective members as the planning for the event proceeds. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages for all the news. If you have questions or comments sent an email to our Entertainment Committee at, entertainment@prairiecrossroadsblues.org.

Some of the performers who have competed in the IBC over the years include; Eden Brent, Michael Burks, Albert Castiglia, Tommy Castro, the late Sean Costello, Zac Harmon, Joe Moss, the late Robin Rogers, Super Chikan, Susan Tedeschi, Watermelon Slim and Michelle Wilson. We're excited to play a part in helping new artists take a step on the way to launching what may become their own national performing careers. Stay tuned as the event approaches.

Cool Night of Blues at Memphis on Main By Sandy Hannum

It was another packed house of blues lovers on Saturday July 23 on Memphis on Main. Outside it was miserably hot – inside it was cool, with a chance of hot blues vibes emanating from the stage.

When opening act Soul Creek had to back out due to an emergency, the Painkillers stepped up to fill in, and we are so glad they did. I got a real kick out of Dave Adcock's rendition of the classic "Built for Comfort," with various instrumental solos

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taken by Jack Brighton and the other Daves, all showing their prodigious skills. Another standout was their cover of Musselwhite's "When It Rains It Pours," with cool syncopated rhythm and nice work on the güiro by Carolyn Johnson. However, the real stunner of the set was one of the Painkillers' own songs, "Done Me Wrong." Carolyn really let go with this one, and we had a chance to hear the full richness of her honey-butter voice dripping with emotion. The rest of the band responded in kind with more classy instrumental work. The crowd was up and dancing, and on a roll. Later on Carolyn stopped the music mid-song to remind the crowd that she is Trouble. We are up for her kind of trouble any time.



The Sugar Prophets at Memphis on Main

Courtesy of Rich Cibelli



The Painkillers at Memphis on Main

Courtesy of Rich Cibelli

The party was already in full swing, and then the Sugar Prophets arrived and revved it up another notch. Chuck Applebee was sitting in as substitute bass player, and fit in like family. Josh Spence kicked off the set in high gear with several songs from their Blues Blast award-nominated CD. The crowd really went wild with "Bad Ass." For sheer blues power, it is hard to beat Josh singing "Livin' in Sin" which clearly comes from a very deep place. The Prophets' performance of one of my favorites, "Big Love" seemed even steamier than usual. They were radiating so much energy from the stage all night that it was both a visual and an audio phenomenon. At one point, Joe Asselin was down to three strings, and had to switch guitars. As an added treat they were joined by sax player, Seth Anders on several songs. "Brighter Day" sounded real jazzy with that extra sax riff. The energy level never dipped during the whole evening, and the entire audience was totally involved.

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To top off a perfect evening, the PCBS drew two raffle winners, each of whom got a pair of tickets to the BB King show. The winners were Rod Sickler and Denise Pelafas. Congratulations! The rest of us paying customers will see you there at the Virginia Theater on August 23.



Raffle Winner Rod Sickler with his BB King Tickets

Courtesy of Rich Cibelli

2011 Mississippi Valley Blues Festival

By Rich Cibelli

They say the more times you experience something, the better it gets. I guess that's why this year's trip over to the Mississippi Valley Blues Festival stands out as one of my favorites. 2011 marks the 27th year for this annual festival presented by the Mississippi Valley Blues Society. The festival takes place at LeClaire Park, along the Mississippi River in Davenport, Iowa.

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This is the third year in a row my wife Sherry and I have made the three hour drive across interstate 74 to spend the 4th of July holiday weekend with our neighbors to the west. I'll tell you right now it's really worth it if you like blues music, because there's plenty of it.

This year's festival featured three days of local and national acts along with several free blues workshops and also an outstanding photo exhibit. There was something for everybody to see or do.

It should be mentioned at the outset that this year's festival was manned entirely by volunteers. With so much going on these days, being able to put on a festival as big as this one deserves a boat load of credit.

Some of the acts that Sherry and I got to enjoy at the band shell on Friday night included Eric Gales, Dwayne Dopsie and the Zydeco Hellraisers, and Smokin' Joe Kubeck and Bnois King. In between sets we made our way across LeClaire Park to catch some of the sweet sounds of Paul Rishell and Annie Raines at the tent stage. Put day one in the books.

Day two started with a visit to Ragged Records, one of the local music shops with an outstanding selection. It seems Davenport has attracted a great number of shops that buy, sell and trade new and used vinyl, DVD's and CD's. There's plenty for every taste in this city.

As mentioned earlier, the 2011 MVBF included several free workshops. The first one we attended was "The Way of Blues Revue" and took place in the "Old Freight House," across the tracks from LeClaire Park. "The Way of Blues Revue" featured the likes of several Mississippi Blues Trail musicians including Dr. Alphonso Sanders on sax, trumpet, and flute and also serving as moderator. Joining Sanders for the hour and a half presentation were King Edward on guitar, Mickey Rogers on guitar, Bill Howl-N-Madd Perry on bass and Ricky Lewis on drums.



"The Way of Blues Review" Workshop

Courtesy of Rich Cibelli

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It was amazing to listen as each member of the revue took his turn at the microphone describing how his musical career got started. It seems that these guys have played with just about everybody at one time or another. I recommend trying to see these guys if you ever get the chance, and find their CD's for your blues collection. Most of them still teach or play somewhere in Mississippi, so next time you are down there check to see where they are playing. I guarantee you'll really enjoy yourself.

While I am mentioning the workshops at this year's festival I have to tell you about a great one that we attended. It was called "Koko Taylor Tribute" and was hosted by Cookie Taylor who happens to be the late and great Koko Taylor's only daughter. This workshop featured a few of Koko's closest friends from Chicago including singers Nellie "Tiger" Travis, Chick Rogers, and Delores Scott.

This workshop featured the opportunity to hear stories about Koko's life and how important her friends were to her. Cookie even took time out before the presentation to talk to Sherry about Koko's life. She also sang a few verses from her upcoming debut CD. Later that night Cookie and the girls were joined at the tent stage with some of the members of "The Blues Machine" and special guest Eddie Shaw. What a show! Koko, if you're listening right now, thank you for all you did for blues music.

In between sets at the tent stage we headed back across the field to catch part of the show by Mississippi Heat. This band will be opening up for B.B. King when he comes to Champaign on August 23rd. I think you'll like them. Rounding out Saturday night's music was the always entertaining Joe Louis Walker. What a day of blues.

You'd think maybe we would want to take it easy on Sunday. Well, folks, that was not to be the case, as we once again made our way to LeClaire Park for day three of the festival. What could possibly top the first two days, I asked?

The answer came quickly as we made our way back to the Freight House, in the afternoon to catch another great workshop. This one featured two outstanding musicians from Houston, Texas - Rich DelGrosso and Jonn Del Toro Richardson.

To say that DelGrosso is an accomplished blues mandolin player just doesn't do this man justice. He is a mandolin god. Moreover, Richardson who last played the festival in 2009 with Diunna Greenleaf is a master at his craft. Together these guys playing acoustic or electric are incredible to watch.

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Jon Del Toro Richardson and Rich DelGrosso

Courtesy of Rich Cibelli

I must also mention Studebaker John and the Hawks and Chris Beard and Harper who also put on great shows for the afternoon crowd. The festival wrapped up after sets by the always great Sherman Roberts whose band featured guitarist Shawn Kellerman. This was followed by some beautiful fireworks over the Mississippi River. Closing out this year's festival was the very talented piano player Mitch Woods and his Rocket 88s.

So ended our visit to the 2011 Mississippi Valley Blues Festival. We had a wonderful time and had the chance to meet with so many blues fans from around the area and all parts in between. I don't know about you, but I can hardly wait until I hear what's planned for next year's festival -- and what better place to spend my 4th of July holiday weekend.

Through These Eyes

By Rich Cibelli

The king is coming. The king is coming. What king? someone shouted out. The King of the Blues, of course. Yes, fellow blues fans, The King of the Blues, B.B King is coming to Champaign and will be at the Virginia Theater on Tuesday, August 23. I'll be at the show, will you?

The last time I saw B.B. King was at the Arkansas Blues and Heritage Festival in Helena, Arkansas, way back in October. That festival is now called "The Biscuit," again. Before that was September 13, 2008, the night after his museum opened in Indianola, Mississippi.

I remember that night well as my wife, Sherry and I, along with many other faithful fans stood outside the front entrance of Club Ebony on Hanna Street waiting to see the man called the King of The Blues. I was so excited that night I even called home to tell my good friend Bob Paleczny what I was doing.
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And then like clock work the door to his tour bus opened and down the steps he came. I remember shouting something out to him, but I'm not sure if he heard me or not. It doesn't matter because I was there to see the king. I even took a picture as he made his way to a waiting car that would take him to the back entrance of the club.



BB King Getting Into His Car at Club Ebony

Courtesy of Rich Cibelli

But that was then, and this is now and B.B King is coming to Champaign. We should be honored to get the chance to see him and his wonderful band. So here's an idea. Let's sell out the Virginia Theater to honor the occasion. What do you say, my fellow blues fans? Will you join with me and see that it's done?

B.B. as they call him now was born back on September 16, 1925. That means he'll be celebrating his 86th birthday this year. Moreover, this man has experienced what many of us can only dream of. And it doesn't matter if he's traveling the world, playing for kings and queens and everybody in between, he has always remained a master showman.

B.B. has lived one heck of an incredible life. From his very beginning as a young child growing up in Indianola, Mississippi, to his days playing on Beale Street in the heart of Memphis, and his battle with diabetes, he has endured.

Along the way B.B. has lost many around him including several family members and friends. He grew up under the rules of segregation in the Deep South, and with it the brutality of mistreatment -- all of this because of the color of his skin. Being a white male from the North, I can't even begin to relate to this subject so I won't even try.

So instead let me urge you to read "The Arrival of B.B. King," by Charles Sawyer. This book along with "Blues All Around Me: The Autobiography of B.B. King," by B.B. King with David Ritz, (continued on next page)

will give you greater depth into this man's life than is possible for me to do in the few paragraphs before you.

While I'm making suggestions I'd also recommend that you add a copy of "B.B. King: Indianola Mississippi Seeds," to your blues music collection. While there are so many more titles in his catalog to choose from, this one released on MCA Records Inc., back in 1970 really helps me to better understand the musical influence of B.B. King and why he is considered one of the greatest performers of all time.

I don't know what else I can say except that I hope that you decide to join me on August 23 at the Virginia Theater and witness B.B. King for yourself. If you're like me you'll probably be crying out for more even after the show is over. Maybe you'll even shout out with pride that you too got to see the one and only king of the blues, B.B King!



THE LEGENDARY RHYTHM & BLUES REVUE
Featuring Tommy Castro
ALCD 4943/ 2011 Alligator Records Release

Reviewed By Rich Cibelli

Look out folks, Tommy Castro is at the helm of "The Legendary Rhythm & Blues Revue." But you've got nothing to worry about. Just sit right back and let the sounds of the music take you away.

Recorded live at various locations between April 2010 and February 2011, this edition of "THE LEGENDARY RHYTHM & BLUES REVUE Featuring Tommy Castro," includes 12 songs and times out just over 72 minutes.

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You'll be impressed by this ensemble of long-time gifted musicians who appear on the recording including Michael Burks, Joe Louis Walker, Sista Monica Parker, Rick Estrin, Trampled Under Foot, Janiva Magness, Theodis Ealey, Debbie Davies and the one and only Tommy Castro Band. So let's set sail and get this musical voyage started.

Track #1 kicks off with "Wake Up Call." This selection is highlighted midway by a blistering guitar solo and evenly matched vocals by Castro. Add the always impressive horns section provided by long-time saxophonist Keith Crossan and trumpet player Tom Poole and you've got all the right ingredients for success.

Moving right along, "Gotta Serve Somebody," and Castro's wonderful guitar work reminds me a lot of the great Albert Collins. However, once again it's Castro's band who provide the high energy for this selection. I really enjoyed the work of Ronnie Smith on drums and Scot Sutherland on bass who also provide background vocals.

The always incredible Michael "Iron Man" Burks takes over with his contribution of "Voodoo Spell." While this song starts out as a true "Delta Blues" sound, it doesn't stay there long. Burks shows why he is known as a multi-talented guitarist with his blistering slide work. Burks is joined on keyboards by Tony Stead and Scot Sutherland from the Tommy Castro Band.

Enter Joe Lewis Walker with "It's A Shame," on track #4. There's a little hint of Sly and The Family Stone's "I Want To Take You Higher," at the outset, but it is quickly transformed into something else altogether in a superb arrangement as Walker's outstanding vocals and impressive guitar work take over. It can't be overstated that Walker is a master craftsman of the blues who constantly remains at the top of his game.

Sista Monica Parker slows things down on "Never Say Never." She performs it well in standard blues format with outstanding work on the keyboards by Tony Stead. However, this song gives the listener only a few minutes to hear just how talented she really is. For those unfamiliar with Parker, let me suggest her other releases like "Live in Europe," from 2000 and "Sweet Inspirations" from 2008. Once you do you'll understand while Sista Monica Parker is in a class by herself. All I can say is, you go girl!

Only harmonica player Rick Estrin could come up with a title like "My Next Ex-Wife" for this CD's next song, but don't let that title scare you. Estrin who spent many years on the road as part of Little Charlie and The Night Cats is a master of the blues harp. His vocals and playing fit well together in this snappy little tune about partnership. Chris "Kid" Andersen adds perfectly placed guitar work, but it's Estrin and his distinct sound that steal the show on this one.

The multi-talented Trampled Under Foot are not to be outdone (continued on next page)

with their contribution of "Fog." Highlighted by the outstanding vocals of Danielle Schnebelen and the fiery guitar work of brother Nick, this Kansas City-based and world-traveled blues trio including brother Kris on drums have made a name for themselves in a relatively short time. Winners of the 2008 International Blues Challenge and nominated for a 2011 Blues Blast Award for "Band of the Year," Trampled Under Foot is destined for a long successful career. Their addition to this CD will be well-received.

As we head into song #8, Tommy Castro and his band return for "Painkiller." As the title to his "2007 Blind Pig," release and co written by Gary Nickolson, "Painkiller" is another example of the versatility of Castro and his band. I really enjoy the mixture of guitar and horns on this song and I think you will as well. So play it twice if you need.

Janiva Magness steps in next with "Think." I really like the appeal of this singer's voice and how she shares the spotlight with saxophone player Keith Crossman.

Theodis Ealey follows Magness with the soulful sounds of "This Time I Know." I must admit I hadn't heard of this performer before this release. However, I soon found out that he and his brothers from Natchez, collaborated for a long and colorful history in the music business. Ealey and his smooth guitar playing adds the perfect sound to what has so far been an interesting mix of performers on this release.

"All I Found," is the next to last performance on this disc and after listening intently for more than an hour I find myself at a loss for words in explaining the guitar and vocal extraordinaire that is Debbie Davies. From her younger days on the roads with the late and great Albert Collins, to fronting her own band, Davies is one outstanding performer who can master guitar licks with anybody and she proves it time and time again.

Unfortunately all good things seem to come to an end at some point and in this case "Serves Me Right To Suffer," by The Tommy Castro Band is the final chapter in what is an outstanding release. My congratulations to the folks at Alligator Records for the foresight to assemble this great group of performers. I must also give special mention to sound man Steve Spirn. In my opinion there isn't a harder working sound guy in the business.

If you're like me and enjoy great blues music I suggest you add this disc to your collection. I know you'll enjoy everything you hear.

The Sugar Prophets

CD has been nominated for a

2011 Blues Blast Award

in the category of

New Artist Debut Release

Vote before August 31 on <http://www.TheBluesBlast.com>

Corporate Memberships

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

Memphis on Main regularly brings impressive Blues talent to Champaign.

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

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
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Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

1st Annual Blues Band Challenge Memphis on Main

Oct 22, 2011

Winners will represent **PCBS**
at the
28th Annual
International Blues Challenge

January 31, 2012 – February 4, 2012
on
Beale Street
Memphis, Tennessee

Winners will receive \$1000. in travel assistance.

- Applicants must have a member that is a resident of IL.
- Applicants will need to submit a band photo, biography, and a tape or CD of the band's music (Pic/Recording quality is not a factor)
- Drum kit provided
- Bands can sell their CD's at the event.

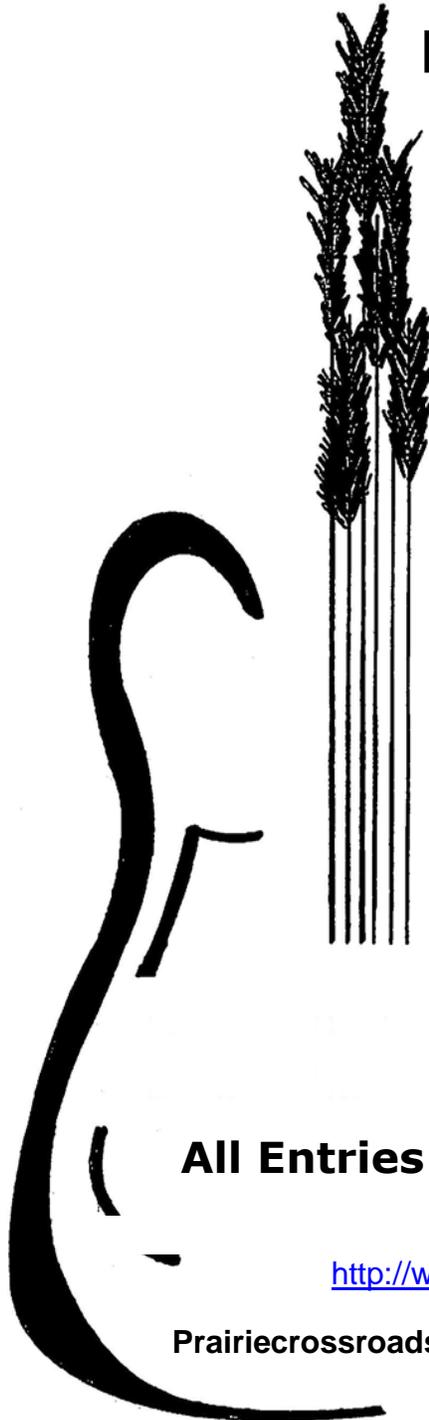
All Entries must be submitted by Sept. 20, 2011

Registration Packet available-

http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/ibc_challenge2012.pdf

Prairiecrossroadsblues.org

www.facebook.com/PrairieCrossroadsBlues



Band Memberships

Alex Jenkins & the Bombers are working on a CD, and we are all looking forward to hearing it. They have several gigs coming up in Danville, Paris, and other points east.

The Kilborn Alley Blues Band has been traveling all over the Midwest – Kentucky, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Missouri, Michigan, and even Illinois once in a while! Catch up with them on their website. They play a regular gig at D.R. Digger's the first Wednesday of every month, but will be gone in September.

King's Highway has just released a 5-song CD called "A Harder Blues." Check it out!

The Sugar Prophets CD has been nominated for a 2011 Blues Blast award in the category of New Artist Debut Release. Be sure to get in your vote! They are hosting regular open blues jams at Ko Fusion on the fourth Thursday of every month. Come out and join in.

The Painkillers often play at the Iron Post, including a gig on August 13. Go out and get a good start to your weekend by listening to some great blues.

Prairie Crossroads Board of Directors

President	Rich Cibelli
Vice President	Steve Stoerger
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Secretary	Greg Altstetter
At-large Members	Sandy Hannum Tony Odendahl Josh Spence

PCBS Business

The next Prairie Crossroads Blues Society Meeting is scheduled for August 17 in Room 222 of the Champaign Public Library.

Inclusive, a newsletter of the PCBS, is always looking for new contributors and submissions of finished or unfinished content. Deadline for the next newsletter is August 24. Please submit articles, ideas, or comments to smhannum@gmail.com.

Inclusive Staff

Editor:	Sandy Hannum
Contributing Writers:	Rich Cibelli Bob Paleczny James Walker Dennis Wismer
Tech Consultant:	Bob Paleczny and BP Computers
Mojo Tech:	Sherry Cibelli

It may be time to renew your membership in the PCBS! Check the date on your membership card. You can renew online using Paypal.

EVENTS

- Aug 1** – Lionel Young Band – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
- Aug 2** – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
- Aug 3** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D. R. Digger's – Champaign – 9 pm
- Aug 4** – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Ansun – Champaign – 7 pm
- Aug 5** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Castle Theater – Bloomington, IL – 7 pm
- Johnny Rawls – Goodfella's Pub & Pizza – Peoria, IL – 7 pm
- Aug 6** – Johnny Rawls – The Apollo Theater – Peoria, IL – 7 pm
- Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Iron Post – Urbana – 9 pm
- Aug 7** – Surreal Deal – Rose Bowl – Urbana – 8 pm
- Aug 8** – Ben Prestage – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
- Aug 9** – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
- Aug 11** – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Ansun – Champaign – 7 pm
- Aug 13** – The Painkillers – Iron Post – Urbana – 6 pm
- The Blues Deacons – Alto Vineyards – Champaign – 7:30 pm
- Alex Jenkins & the Bombers – VFW – Paris, IL – 8:30 pm

Aug 14 – Lake of the Woods Blues Fest – Josie Lowder, Elam McKnight & Bob Bogdal with Kilborn Alley as Headliners – 3-8 pm

Aug 15 – Bryan Lee – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm

Aug 16 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm

Aug 17 – Surreal Deal – Meadowbrook Park – Urbana – 6:30 pm

Aug 18 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Ansun – Champaign – 7 pm
Eddie Shaw & the Wolfgang – Blues in Central Park – Decatur, IL – 7 pm

Aug 20 – The Blues Deacons – Ansun – Champaign – 7:30 pm

Alex Jenkins & the Bombers – Cayuga American Legion – Cayuga, IN – 8 pm

Aug 21 – Surreal Deal – Rose Bowl – Urbana – 8 pm

Aug 22 – Grady Champion – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm

Aug 23 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm

Morry Sochat & Special 20's – River Bend Bar & Grill – Kankakee, IL – 7 pm

BB King – Virginia Theater – Champaign – 7:30 pm

Aug 25 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Ansun – Champaign – 7 pm

The Sugar Prophets – Ko Fusion – Champaign – Open Blues Jam – 10 pm

Aug 26 – Jimmy Warren & Billy Branch – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 8 pm

Aug 26-27 – Urbana Sweetcorn Fest – Urbana – see schedule on urbanabusines.com/archives/1524
Sangamon River Music Festival – Mahomet, IL – see schedule on Mahomet.govoffice.com – Kings Highway playing Friday

Aug 27 – Byron Crossroads Blues Festival – Byron, IL – 1 pm

Alex Jenkins & the Bombers – O'Brien's – Danville, IL – 8 pm

Aug 28 – The Blues Deacons – Sweet Corn Blues Festival – Normal, IL – 2 pm

Aug 29 – R.J. Mischo – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm

Sept 2 – Illinois Blues Festival – Peoria, IL – 7-11:30 pm

Sept 3 – Illinois Blues Festival – Peoria, IL – 1- 11:30 pm – see schedule at: illinoisbluesfestival.com/schedule

Sept 7 – Andrew "Jr. Boy" Jones - Goodfella's Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 7 pm

Sept 8-11 – Ellnora Guitar Fest – Taj Mahal, Luther Dickinson, Rory Block, Alvin Young, Adrian Belew – Krannert Center for the Performing Arts – Urbana

Sept 10 – The Blues Deacons – Pop's Place – Decatur, IL – 9 pm

Sept 16-17 – Earl Roberts Jazz & Blues Fest – Fischer Theatre – Danville, IL – Alex Jenkins & the Bombers play at 7 pm on 17th

Sept 22 – The Sugar Prophets – Ko Fusion – Champaign – Open Blues Jam – 10 pm

Oct 5 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger's – Champaign – 9 pm

Oct 22 – Prairie Crossroads Blues Society IBC Challenge – Memphis on Main – Champaign – time TBA

The Blues Deacons – Trading Post Saloon – Springfield, IL – 9 pm

Oct 27 – Blues Blast Music Awards – Buddy Guy's Legends – Chicago

The Sugar Prophets – Ko Fusion – Champaign – Open Blues Jam – 10 pm

Nov 2 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger's – Champaign – 9 pm

Nov 4-5 – C-U Folk & Roots Festival

Mt. Bluesmore



Hey, Wolf. Did you hear -- Prairie Crossroads is puttin' on an IBC challenge?!

Yeah, Sonny Boy. Sounds real good to me. Maybe you should get in on it.

Heh heh. Too late for me... But I love a good IBC challenge.

You got that right. There's nothin' better than seein' local talent get a big break!