



Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

December 2014

IBC Fundraiser by Bob Paleczny

Prairie Crossroads Blues Society is thrilled to host a Fundraiser for Monica Morris and Josie Lowder, the winners of our recent IBC Solo/Duo Challenge. We'll kick off the fundraiser at 5:00 pm on Saturday January 10th 2015. We'll be holding it at Bentley's Pub, 419 N. Neil St. in Champaign. Come out and show your support as we raise some money to send the duo to the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge.



**PCBS IBC Solo/Duo Winners
Josie Lowder & Monica Morris
photo by Alan Welch**

Monica & Josie represented Springfield's Illinois Central Blues Club and advanced to the semi-finals at the 2014 IBC's in Memphis.

PCBS is excited for their chances at the 2015 challenge. The combination of their guitar styles and vocal harmonies are a true joy. The IBC gathers as many as 200 Solo/Duo acts and Bands to Memphis each January to compete for studio time, festival gigs, money and other prizes. The event draws thousands of fans as well as music industry executives who gather to search out the performers ready to take their act to the next level.

The money raised will help Monica and Josie with their travel expenses. The challenge includes four days of competition, January 21 through January 24. Hotels, meals, gas and other expenses make it a genuine commitment from the performers who are lucky enough to represent their local Blues Societies. Let's show our support and enthusiasm for our local winners.

Also appearing at the fundraiser will be Jiggy & The Source. Their blend of blues and roots music combined with their poignant lyrics quickly wins fans approval. If you attended our IBC challenge you know why they finished a close second to our winners. This is a chance to see both acts play an extended set of music.

Susan Williams plans to attend and several other local artists are invited. Come out to Bentley's on Saturday January 10th we'll have some fun, a few raffles and raise a bunch of money for our IBC winners. Support our winners and wish Monica and Josie good luck as they prepare to head to Memphis.

Check out the Blues Foundation's website for info about the IBC's; <http://www.blues.org/international-blues-challenge/2015-international-blues-challenge/>

Holiday Party
The Clark Bar – 6:00 pm Dec. 18th

Come out and celebrate the Holidays with your fellow Blues lovers. PCBS will be combining our monthly meeting with a Holiday Party and we're inviting all our friends to come out and join us at The Clark Bar, 207 W. Clark St. in Champaign, 6:00 pm on Thursday December 18. We'll celebrate an outstanding year of blues in Central IL and look forward to more fun ahead. PCBS Honorary Member Keith Harden will be in town for a series of shows, and Keith and his sister Kathy Harden will be performing at 6:30. They'll be playing some blues classic as well as a few Christmas classics.



Keith & Kathy Harden
Photo from Keith's Facebook page

We had so much fun last year when we held our Holiday Party at the Clark Bar and had several requests to do it again. Come out and enjoy some of the Clark Bar's delicious food, they're famous for their ribs. Enjoy a couple beverages and some outstanding music. Meet your fellow Blues Society members and make some new friends.

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

www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/member.html

Stocking Stuffers
By Bob Paleczny



PCBS members were extremely lucky in 2014 since several of our Member Bands released outstanding CD's this year. All of these disks make great stocking stuffers this holiday season. Buy them for your friends or buy them for yourself!

Alex Jenkins & The Bombers – Voodoo You
Back Pack Jones – Betsy's Kitchen
Black Magic Johnson – Walk With You Baby
Hurricane Ruth – Born on the River
James Jones Trio – Tuned In
Jerry Lee Gingery and the Juju Kings – Southside of Nowhere

Many of the disks are available at your favorite online retailers. However we'd highly recommend you head out and see each of these fantastic bands and pick one up in person. You can even get an autographed copy, what better way to reward yourself or a loved one!

We'd also like to mention that Back Pack Jones' CD "Betsy's Kitchen" won the PCBS Best Self-Produced CD competition and has been sent to the Blues Foundation to compete in the BSPCD contest held in conjunction with the IBC's. Hurricane Ruth's CD "Born on the River" is representing both Springfield's Illinois Central Blues Club and also the Decatur Blues Society. We will update you on both CD's progress through the competition.

Follow the competition at the Blue Foundation's website; <http://www.blues.org/international-blues-challenge/self-produced-cd-official-rules/best-self-produced-cd-entrants/>

The next meeting of
Prairie Crossroads Blues Society
is also our Holiday Party
6:00 pm Thursday December 18
at The Clark Bar
207 W. Clark St. Champaign
Keith & Kathy Harden
play at 6:30

**Make a Tax-Deductible Donation
To the PCBS Education Fund**

You can make a tax-deductible donation to Prairie Crossroads Blues Society's Education Fund. We earmark these funds specifically to our Educational Programs. Visit our Education Page to find out information about the programs we've presented over the last couple years;

<http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/education.html>

On the page you'll find a link where you can make your contribution online using Paypal or major credit card.

Each of our programs included instruction on an instrument as well as a history of blues and some include song structure and music composition. We've offered 6 week after-school programs at local schools such as Thomas Paine, Garden Hills and Wiley Schools. This spring our hard working instructors, Gus Wood and Josh Spence, presented a 3 week class at the Don Moyer's Boys & Girls Club. We've also offered 90 minute sessions at both the Champaign and Urbana Libraries.

Recently we helped sponsor Rev. Robert Jones appearance at the C-U Folks & Roots Fest. On the Thursday afternoon before the Fest officially kicked off Rev. Jones did an assembly for the 5th and 6th graders at Prairie Elementary School and a workshop with the Urbana High School Jazz Band.

Visit our Education Page and read about our programs and use the link to make your tax-deductible donation; <http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/education.html>

**Looking Forward – December 2014
By Bob Paleczny**

Kilborn Alley invites you out to celebrate Josh "The Hitman" Stimmel's birthday, Wednesday Dec. 3rd at the World Famous D.R Diggers. Music kicks off about 9:30 the party lasts all night, there will be birthday cake. Kilborn has gigs throughout the area during December with shows in Champaign, Clinton, Decatur, Ogden and Urbana. Always a hit is Kilborn's celebration of Abraham Johnson's birthday. That happens this year when they play at The Iron Post on Monday Dec. 29th.

Johnny Rawls is playing this Saturday Dec. 6th at the Fat Fish Pub in Galesburg, IL. It would sure be nice to get Johnny back in the Champaign area to play again soon.

Matthew Curry has a show at the beautiful Castle Theatre in Bloomington on Saturday December 13th. Doors open at 7 and the show starts at 8:00, with special guest, Robert Brown.

Also on December 13th you can catch Joni Dreyer & the Maytags at Bunny's in Urbana, Kilborn Alley at Uncle Martin's Sports Bar in Urbana and The Mudwinders at Local on 45 in Mattoon.

Keith Harden will be in town towards the end of December. He plays a series of gigs throughout the area including our Holiday Party/Monthly Meeting at The Clark Bar on December 18th.

Hurricane Ruth opens for Ronnie Baker Brooks at the Limelight Center in Peoria on Friday December 26th.

Our friend Donna Herula has a few exciting things to pass along. First she shares a link of when she was called up to do a "preview" performance before her appearance at the Durban International Blues Festival in South Africa; http://youtu.be/Kb_CZrBTBII. She also opens for Buddy Guy at his Legends Club in Chicago on Saturday January 3rd. It always a treat to see Buddy play at his own club, and certainly a thrill to open for him.

Come out to the fundraiser for our Solo/Duo IBC winners, Monica Morris & Josie Lowder at 5:00 on Saturday Jan 10th at Bentley's Pub, 419 N. Neil St. in Champaign. Monica and Josie have another exciting fundraiser planned from 8:00 to 11:00 on Saturday December 27th. It takes place at Norb Andy's Tabarin, 518 E. Capitol in Springfield. The fundraiser is billed as Candlelight to Memphis and besides Monica and Josie, Mary Jo Curry and Brooke Thomas will be performing with their duos. Both Mary Jo and Brooke Thomas are veterans of the IBC competitions in Memphis.

Second Sunday Blues Dancing is back at Memphis on Main. They'll have DJ Spaceage spinning tunes for your dancing and listening pleasure this Sunday December 14 starting at 7:00.

Check PCBS online calendar for all the updated information;

<http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/pcbscal.html>

And finally a reminder that our monthly meeting is combined with our Holiday Party and takes place Thursday December 18, at 6:00 pm at the Clark Bar, 207 W. Clark St. in Champaign. Come out for some delicious food, a beverage or two and enjoy the music of Keith & Kathy Harden who play at 6:30. Share your thoughts on how we can make Prairie Crossroads an even better Blues Society.

Thanks for everything you do to keep the blues alive.

Corporate Sponsorships

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.

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

www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/member.html

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
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PCBS Business

The next Prairie Crossroads Blues Society meeting will also be our Holiday Party. It will be held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, December 18 at The Clark Bar, 207 W. Clark St in Champaign. Keith & Kathy Harden are playing at 6:30. Join us for some great music, delicious food and a beverage or two.

Inclusive, a newsletter of the PCBS, is always looking for new contributors and submissions of finished or unfinished content.

Inclusive Staff

Editor: Bob Palecany

Writers for This Issue: Bob Paleczny

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. Joni Dreyer & the Maytags play Dec 13th at Bunny's in Urbana.

Hurricane Ruth released their second CD "Born on the River" in September. They are opening up for Ronnie Baker Brooks on Friday Dec. 26th at the Limelight Complex in Peoria.

The James Jones Trio recently released their new CD "Tuned In". They are playing Friday Dec 5th at Fuzzy's in Danville.

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'."

Kicked To The Curb is our newest member band. You can catch their soulful blues with a strong rock feel at The Croner Bar in Divernon, IL on Dec. 20th.

The Kilborn Alley Blues Band will be celebrating some band members birthdays at their Juke Joint show at D.R. Digger's in Champaign on Dec. 3rd. They also celebrate Abraham Johnson's Birthday on Dec. 29th at the Iron Post.

Matthew Curry has a gig at Bloomington's Castle Theater on Dec. 13th. They continue to travel and open for some rock legends at various arena shows.

Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet The band plays regularly in Springfield, IL. They play Blue Monday at the Alamo on Dec. 22nd. Check out their Facebook page for other gigs.

The Mudwinders play throughout central Illinois. They play Friday Dec. 13th at Local on 45 in Mattoon. Check their web site for their latest gigs.

The Painkillers have a regular monthly gig at the Iron Post. Check their Facebook page for details.

The Sugar Prophets are one of our three original member bands. Leader, Josh Spence also performs solo as Jiggy & The Source. Jiggy & The Source are playing at our IBC Fundraiser on Saturday January 10th at Bentley's. Josh is also our Blues harmonica instructor in the Blues in the Schools program.

Susan Williams Band remains one of the most active and well-traveled bands in the area. Check out her Facebook page for all the details.

EVENTS

Wednesday, December 3

9:00pm - Kilborn Alley - D.R. Diggers - Champaign - Juke Joint Show

Thursday, December 4

6:00pm - Blues Jam hosted by James Armstrong - Alamo - Springfield, IL

8:00pm - Billy Galt - New Amsterdam - Peoria, IL

Friday, December 5

6:30pm - Kilborn Alley - The Clark Bar - Champaign

9:00pm - Black Magic Johnson - Trading Post Saloon - Springfield, IL

9:00pm - James Jones Trio w/special guest King's Highway - Fuzzy's - Danville, IL

Saturday, December 6

8:00pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - Bunny's - Urbana

8:00pm - Johnny Rawls - Fat Fish Pub - Galesburg, IL

8:00pm - Susan Williams - Hubers - Champaign

9:00pm - Kilborn Alley - AIW Hall - Decatur, IL

Sunday, December 7

8:30pm - Surreal Deal - The Rose Bowl - Urbana

Monday, December 8

8:00pm - Bobby Messano - Blue Monday @ The Alamo - The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Tuesday, December 9

6:30pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - El Toro Bravo - Champaign

Wednesday, December 10

9:00pm - Surreal Deal - D.R. Digger's - Champaign

Thursday, December 11

8:00pm - Billy Galt - New Amsterdam - Peoria, IL

Friday, December 12

5:30pm - Candy Foster Unplugged - Silver Creek - Urbana

6:00pm - Hurricane Ruth - AIW Hall - Decatur, IL

8:00pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - Huber's - Champaign

9:00pm - Kilborn Alley - Sophie's - Clinton, IL

10:00pm - Laura Rain & The Caesars - Player's Pub - Bloomington, IN

Saturday, December 13

8:00pm - Billy Galt - New Amsterdam - Peoria, IL

8:00pm - Joni Dreyer & the Maytags - Bunny's - Urbana

8:00pm - Matthew Curry - The Castle Theatre - Bloomington, IL

9:00pm - Kilborn Alley - Uncle Martin's Sports Bar - Urbana

9:00pm - The Mudwinders - Local on 45 - Mattoon, IL

Sunday, December 14

2:00pm - Black Magic Johnson - Willow Ridge Winery - Shelbyville, IL

7:00pm - 2nd Sunday Blues Dancing - Memphis on Main - Champaign

Monday, December 15

8:00pm - Studebaker John & The Maxwell Street Kings - Blue Monday @ The Alamo - The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Tuesday, December 16

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www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/member.html

6:30pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - El Toro Bravo - Champaign

Thursday, December 18

6:00pm - Blues Jam hosted by James Armstrong - Alamo - Springfield, IL

6:00pm - PCBS Holiday Party/Monthly Meeting - The Clark Bar - Champaign

6:30pm - Keith & Kathy Harden - The Clark Bar - Champaign

8:00pm - Billy Galt - New Amsterdam - Peoria, IL

Friday, December 19

5:30pm - Keith Harden, solo acoustic happy hour - Silvercreek - Urbana

8:00pm - Candy Foster & The Shades of Blue - Boomerang's - Urbana

8:00pm - Kilborn Alley - Goldy's - Champaign

8:30pm - The Blues Deacons - JP Cool's - Mansfield, IL

9:00pm - Hurricane Ruth - Wilbert's - Cleveland, OH

Saturday, December 20

8:00pm - Billy Galt - Lock Stock and Barrel - Decatur, IL

8:00pm - Keith Harden - Huber's - Champaign

9:00pm - Kicked to The Curb - Corner Bar - Divernon, IL

9:00pm - Kilborn Alley - Wild Dog - Decatur, IL

Sunday, December 21

8:30pm - Surreal Deal - The Rose Bowl - Urbana

Monday, December 22

8:00pm - Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet - Blue Monday @ The Alamo - The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Tuesday, December 23

6:30pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - El Toro Bravo - Champaign

9:00pm - Keith Harden, Keithmas Celebration - The Iron Post - Urbana

Wednesday, December 24

7:00pm - Keith Harden & Paul Sabuco - T'n'T Lounge - Rantoul, IL

Friday, December 26

7:00pm - Kilborn Alley - The Pink House - Odgen, IL

8:00pm - Hurricane Ruth (opening for Ronnie Baker Brooks) - Limelight Complex - Peoria, IL

10:00pm - Surreal Deal - Cowboy Monkey - Champaign

Saturday, December 27

6:30pm - Kilborn Alley - The Clark Bar - Champaign

8:00pm - Billy Galt - The Storm Cellar - Rankin, IL

8:00pm - Monica Morris & Josie Lowder - Norb Andy's

Monday, December 29

8:00pm - James Armstrong - Blue Monday @ The Alamo - The Alamo - Springfield, IL

8:00pm - Kilborn Alley (Abraham Johnson's Birthday) - The Iron Post - Urbana

Tuesday, December 30

6:30pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - El Toro Bravo - Champaign

Wednesday, December 31

9:00pm - Alex Jenkins & The Bombers - American Legion - Georgetown, IL

9:00pm - The Blues Deacons - Fuzzy's - Danville, IL

The *Inclusive* newsletter
is always looking for articles.
Been to a great blues show
or fest lately?

Want to tell our readers
about a new CD you've heard?

Send an email to:

prairiecrossoadsblues@gmail.com

with your complete or
partial submission

Thursday, January 1, 2015

6:00pm - Black Magic Johnson - Kuhl Tyme Korner - Jacksonville, IL

Friday, January 2, 2015

7:00pm - Billy Galt - Walnut Street Winery - Rochester, IL

Saturday, January 3, 2015

8:00pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - Huber's - Champaign

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

9:00pm - Kilborn Alley - D.R. Diggers - Champaign - Juke Joint Show

Friday, January 9, 2015

8:00pm - Black Magic Johnson - AIW Hall - Decatur, IL

Saturday, January 10, 2015

5:00pm - PCBS IBC Fundraiser featuring Monica Morris & Josie Lowder with special guests Jiggy & The Source and Susan Williams - Bentley's Pub - Champaign

8:00pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - Bunny's - Urbana

Sunday, January 11, 2015

3:00pm - Hurricane Ruth - Pop's Place - Decatur, IL

Sunday, January 18, 2015

3:00pm - The Blues Deacons - Pop's Place - Decatur, IL

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

12:00pm - Hurricane Ruth @ Blind Raccoon Showcase - Memphis, TN

Friday, January 23, 2015

12:00pm - Hurricane Ruth @ Blind Raccoon Showcase - Memphis, TN

Friday, January 30, 2015

8:00pm - Hurricane Ruth - Moonshine Blues Bar - St. Charles, MO