



Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

February 2014

IBC 2014

By Bob Paleczny

The Blues Foundation promotes the International Blues Challenge as “Five Days of Blues and Schmooze”, and it certainly is. It’s a chance to discover new bands and network with fellow Blues Society members and people from throughout the music industry. You can see record company executives cutting deals with young musicians destined to be future Blues stars as well as a band of 15 year olds from Croatia performing in the Youth Showcase.

This year’s Challenge was the 30th annual event held each January in Memphis. There were over 225 acts registered for this year’s challenge. The competition starts with two nights of Quarterfinals on Wednesday and Thursday. Performers and fans are packed into clubs up and down historic Beale Street. Scores are tabulated Thursday night and a select group of competitors advance to Friday’s Semifinals when the acts are shuffled off to new venues. Once again fans pack into the clubs and a new set of judges scores each of the acts in the Semis. Late Friday night the 8 solo/duo acts and 9 bands are announced that will move onto Saturday’s Finals at the beautiful Orpheum Theater. It’s one of the challenges the performers must overcome competing on both the small crowded stages in Beale Street clubs as well as the spacious theater setting.



Back Pack Jones – 2014 IBC Quarterfinals
Photo by Bob Paleczny

Prairie Crossroads Blues Society is extremely proud of our representatives. Back Pack Jones played two outstanding sets in Wednesday’s and Thursday’s Quarterfinals. They played their soulful R&B infused blues originals. The tight band features powerful vocals supplemented by their massive horn section. Unfortunately the judges selected other bands to move on to the next round. Their venue, The New Daisy Theater was stacked with stellar bands. Three bands from their venue made the Finals, two of which went on to finish 2nd and 3rd in the band category.

Central Illinois was well represented with excellent performers in both the band and solo/duo categories. Springfield’s Illinois Central Blues Club was represented by Brooke Thomas & The Blue Suns in the band competition, and Monica Morris & Josie Lowder in the solo/duo category. Bret Bunton Project represented Peoria’s River City Blues Society in the band challenge. All the performers were excellent with Monica Morris & Josie Lowder advancing to the Semifinals.

Tim Williams was the winner in the solo/duo category. Tim is a US native who moved to Canada in the 70’s and represented the Calgary Blues Music Association. He’s a veteran of 40 years as a performer, who’s a story teller and entertainer as well as a great musician. He’s a superb finger-pickin’ guitar player who also showed skills on the dobro and mandolin. He won the St. Blues Cigar Box guitar for being the best guitarist in solo/duo category. Second place went to Lucious Spiller from the Ozark Blues Society of Western Arkansas who put on an emotion filled performance.

The winner in the band category was Mr. Sipp from the Vicksburg Blues Society. He looks a little like Steve Urkel, dances on stage like Chuck Berry and plays a mean guitar. Mr. Sipp, who’s real name is Castro Coleman, won the Gibson Custom ES-335 guitar and Category 5 amp for best guitarist among the bands in the finals. Second place went to home town favorites, Ghost Town Blues Band. They made the finals last year and if you see them you’ll
(Continued on next page)

be captivated by the dynamic slide trombone player. Third place went to Billy The Kid & The Regulators from Western Pennsylvania. They feature a nice mix of a guitar slinger backed by great keyboards and smooth horns.

The entire weekend is a chance to immerse yourself in the blues. There are seminars about musicians and the business of being a Blues Society. Record labels and promoters put on showcases throughout the day that feature both competitors and established stars. There's artwork on display and discussions on books about musicians. The Canadian contingent always puts on a showcase to highlight the Canadian performers. There's a Women In Blues showcase, which was hosted this year by Shaun Murphy.

Have I mentioned the late night jams? After the competition is over each night several venues host jams. You can see established blues artists such as John Richardson, Sean Carrney, Rich del Grosso, Tom Holland, Dave Fields, Dennis Jones and Brandon Santini. They're joined on stage by competitors like Billy The Kid, Jarekus Singleton and Hank Mowery.



Jarekus Singleton & Dennis Jones – IBC Jam
Photo by Bob Paleczny

Everyone's a winner. Take for instance Jarekus Singleton, the dynamic 29 year old singer, songwriter and guitarist from Jackson MS. He didn't advance to the finals, being outscored by Ghost Town Blues Band in the Semifinals at B.B Kings club on Friday night. However Alligator Records announced on Monday following the challenge that Jarekus was signed to a recording contract and his CD "Refuse To Lose" will be released in May.

The fans are the real winners. A chance to see the best up-and-coming talent that blues has to offer alongside established stars. Add in the opportunity to meet new friends and renew acquaintances with friends from

around the world. It's a chance to soak up a lot of knowledge about the blues. You can see and hear the next generation of the blues, enjoy some of today's current stars or attend a symposium of one the legends that passed on. It's something every blues fan should experience at least once in your life. If you ever get a chance, I'd recommend you go.

Cold Weather and Hot Blues By Dennis Wismer

January in Illinois brings cold weather and hot Blues. 2014 was extreme on both counts as Back Pack Jones headlined a show to help raise funds for their journey to Memphis representing the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society in the annual International Blues Challenge competition. Also on the bill was Benny Jenkins Bloodline who represented PCBS in the self-produced CD contest in conjunction with the IBC's.

The fundraiser was an opportunity for the bands to play full sets at Memphis on Main where they had competed as part of the IBC qualifier. For fans of the Blues many of which were PCBS members and WEFT DJs this event was a time to dust off their boots and heat up on the dance floor.



Benny Jenkins Bloodline at the IBC Fundraiser
Photo by Zack Widup

Benny Jenkins Bloodline kicked things off featuring songs from their CD "Can't Take the Blues." The CD was judged by an expert panel to be the best CD submitted locally of four stellar titles. This selection proved worthy as the band's CD advanced two more rounds after being sent to the Blues Music Foundation based in Memphis. Benny Jenkins Bloodline represented themselves and PCBS strongly but fell short of making the finals. The exposure and credibility earned from this competition should not (Continued on next page)

be taken lightly, as bands from all over the world submitted entries including local rising star Matt Curry.

Benny Jenkins Bloodline's performance started off nicely and finished strong as they performed their versatile, swinging rockabilly tinged Blues to the enthusiastic and growing crowd. They featured songs in a variety of tempos and styles including the slow driving "2 More Steps" with its ominous tale and tasty guitar licks. The upbeat swinging, "Jumpin' on Maxwell" with its rollicking backbeat and soaring leads and the pleading bluesy anthem "Bring Back the Blues To My Radio." The latter laments what many bluesmen and fans, notably Buddy Guy and Jimmy Johnson, in my experience feel, while paying homage to many of the bluesmen that influenced this family-based quartet.

The vibe started to build as Back Pack Jones band returned from dinner at Dublin O'Neil's full of energy and needing to warm up from the midwest cold that was settling in. The area near the stage started to crowd as the band, ten members-strong, assembled and prepared for the show. This was a rare opportunity to see a five-piece horn section in the intimate bar setting of Memphis on Main. It is telling that three of the most prominent presences up front and center during this performance were WEFT host of Monday Night R 'n' R, rocking blues fan and PCBS supporter Tammy the rocking DJ, singer songwriter and IBC semi- finalist Monica Morris, and swingin' stand up bassist for Benny Jenkins Bloodline Todd Gallagher!



Mike Wallace of Back Pack Jones

Photo by Zack Widup

Having already seen Back Pack Jones in three previous IBC qualifiers, I was prepared to be amazed. The second two performances I was fortunate to witness consisted of a supersized horn section presently part of the band. "Big" Mike Wallace and lead guitarist Kirk Lonbom put a twist on my expectations opening up with a cover of reggae/Eric Clapton song, "I Shot the Sherriff." And BOOM it was on. I am a big proponent of an opening song that allows band and crowd to transition from pre-show excitement to show time, fun time. Something conducive

to getting warmed up and settled in. And contrast, I love contrast so this double-edged whammy got the joint jumping from the start.



Kirk Lonbom of Back Pack Jones

Photo by Zack Widup

And while on the topic of contrast I want to address one of my observations on Back Pack Jones. Wallace's smooth soulful voice and poignant delivery provides the perfect foil for Lonbom's tight clean Stratocaster guitar leads, providing a sonic depth that can meander one moment and traverse the universe the next. Their timing and nuances provide an eloquent professionalism to this double quintet, is deca-ent a word? Then you add a three piece rhythm section and decadent five-piece horn section and you have created a band rarely seen this day in a bar setting . The horn section that makes this band unique is Jim Culbertson – trumpet; Anders "AJ" Good – trumpet; Jarrod Hill – saxophone; Archer Logan – saxophone; and Larry Niehaus – trombone. The way these components meld is simply amazing. A good example is the song "I'm Just a Man." Wallace leads from the start of this tale from their debut album "Betsy's Kitchen" segueing into Wendall Day's keys taking over the lead for a time who then acquiesces to Lonbom. All this progresses as the horns concurrently soar in and out of the pocket being put down by the remaining rhythm members Mike Baier on bass and Harvey Horton on drums.



The Horn Section of Back Pack Jones

Photo by Zack Widup

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Crowd favorite “Fixin’ to Leave” advises one to take care of yours while still yours or someone else will. And that someone might be the protagonist. The age old Blues adage is given the Back Pack treatment. After a guitar intro worthy of BB King in both tone and style the band brings the dynamics down as Wallace gives his advice in a straight-forward Blues style.



Harvey Horton and Wendall Day
Photo by Zack Widup

Getting back to the contrast theme Back Pack Jones band plays a kid-friendly themed song written specifically for the children they educate and entertain at Blues in The Schools performances. This song, the fun danceable “Hey Diddle Riddle” playfully intersperses nursery rhymes, lessons and observations in a jazzy sophisticated arrangement.



Mike Baier of Back Pack Jones
Photo by Zack Widup

My first opportunity to enjoy a full Back Pack Jones show was overwhelming. This band has a growing repertoire and these guys just flat out know how to put it down, get their point across and entertain!

IBC News from a Friend in the Blowtorch Blues Society By Mary Dellorto

I have been going to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee since 2007 after going to many local contests and wondering what came next for the bands. If you have never gone, I strongly recommend it. For \$100, you get a pass that lets you into all of the venues all week. The week feels like a grown-up summer camp – well, less this year – as it was cold in Memphis. This year marked the 30th challenge. 255 acts registered this year.

The festivities start Tuesday night with the international showcase in the New Daisy Theatre. This year 12 bands played. They hailed from The Netherlands, The Philippines, Israel, Denmark, Germany, Canada, Croatia, Spain, Italy, Poland, Australia, and France. The Beale Street restaurants provide a free buffet to attendees.

Wednesday and Thursday were the quarterfinals. Ten to eleven bands or 12-13 solo/duo acts play in each venue. The same acts play both nights, but in a different order each night with different judges. Four acts are chosen from each venue to advance to the semi-finals on Friday. The competition is fierce in some venues. I saw Back Pack Jones, the band sent by the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society, on Thursday. They gave a great performance in the New Daisy Theatre. However, of the four bands that advanced to the semi-finals from that venue, three continued to advance to the finals. One of these, Ghost Town Blues Band from Memphis, came in second overall in the challenge, and another one, Billy the Kid & the Regulators, came in third overall.

After Friday performances occur, one band and two solo/duo acts from each venue advance to the finals which take place Saturday at the Orpheum Theatre. The solo/duo winner was Tim Williams from Calgary; Lucious Spiller was second place winner. Mr. Sipp from Vicksburg, Mississippi took the band competition with Billy the Kid & the Regulators coming in second.

Besides the main competition, there is music in the afternoon everywhere. Memphis has many of its own attractions to keep attendees busy. Clarksdale and the crossroads are a short trip away. It is definitely worth the drive and a must do for blues fans.

**Boca Sunshine Music and Blues Festival,
a Country Girl's First!
By Anita Marshall**

Yes, it is true that the special blend of mesmerizing folk, rock, and Memphis soul has become somewhat of an obsessive niche in my life now with my boyfriend, Tony. However, those that know and appreciate the traditional along with the odd journey to contemporary Blues will understand the need to travel for great and continually evolving entertainment.

It would not be considered necessarily out of the ordinary to board a four-hour flight to venture away from the Chicago-style for a weekend of jazz and rhythm in the Deep South. The Sunshine Music and Blues Festival in Boca Raton offered all the talent and the added bonus of escaping the freezing temperatures in the Midwest. I considered that a much welcomed retreat along with all the promises of the brilliant chord and lyrical strategies, although I will admit it took some convincing because I hate to fly. I am of the belief that if you can drive it, then do so. I do not like the feeling of having no control over the controls.

Unfortunately, the first vocals I heard came from a very bland, yet authoritative, airport announcer reporting that our connecting flight would be delayed. Eventually our connecting flight from Charlotte, NC was cancelled but arrangements were made to arrive in Orlando prior to the final destination in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The seemingly simple trek across a few states turned into a nightmare spanning almost into 13 hours. As my boyfriend kept laughing and saying "piece of cake" I kept thinking we should've driven!

Blues music actually saved my sanity through this unbearable path to our final destination blaring through headphones. This allowed me to just smile while bad news kept being announced. I just nodded agreeably with no clear notion of what anyone was saying. It was

certainly the best survival plan to slowly sway with the bass beat with jerking head movements from time to time. Listening to any more directives or boring information was counterproductive at best and potentially psychosis-inducing at worst. I sure was glad my boyfriend brought his IPOD I guess I could've been nice and let him listen to some or taken turns but after all HE was the one who wanted to fly...because it saves sooo much time. Of course we finally did make it to Ft. Lauderdale, and it only took 13 hours by plane.

In Boca Raton on Friday night Tommy Castro and the Pain Killers were performing at the Funky Biscuit. Now something I guess I should share with readers is that I am new to the Blues. Growing up in the South, I have been around and love music. It has been a large part of my life all of my life. Music was always playing in our house, but mostly folk and country and bluegrass music. This would be the second time I had experienced live Blues, the first being the fund raiser for Back Pack Jones. So that being said, let's just say I am hooked. I loved it. The whole weekend was wonderful. Certainly some hiccups here and there, but overall great!

The Sunshine Music and Blues Festival presented a tremendous display of performers. JJ Grey was one of my favorites. Look if someone can get on stage with just their voice and one instrument and entertain a crowd and do it wonderfully, to me that is talent. There was another aspect I noticed about the Blues. These performers sound almost exactly the same live as they do on their recordings. In other venues that is not always the case.

The finale with Tedeschi Trucks Band was really great, although (I wanted to ask them if they literally had a few trucks so I could hitch a ride back home instead of getting back on an airplane). Anyway, thousands of people gathered to celebrate the continual display of exceptional performers. Now you remember the hiccups I mentioned – Here is one: there were also some impromptu side-line acts which I have never seen before. This was not a result of the incredible music, but the bizarre, human-nature type instincts that we exhibit due to the need to release bodily fluids. Obviously, planning on one port-a-potty per 400 individuals is a risky investment, especially when additional drinks are available. There were only nine port-a-pots for this huge crowd, and one VIP restroom for each gender, which closed down half way through the night. Now that was bad planning, folks!

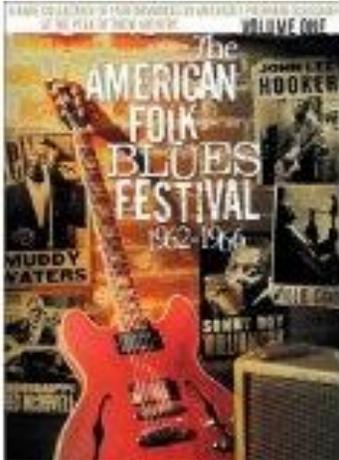
The festival is certainly an admirable display overall and represents a memorable occasion chocked full of non-stop action for fans.

I would only recommend advanced travel, a change of clothing and black spandex clothing to cover the bases. (Dark apparel does not show moisture or stains).

Happy Ventures and Good Listening!!

DVD Review: The Greatest Blues DVDs Ever Released

By James "Skyy Dobro" Walker



Volume One

*THE AMERICAN FOLK BLUES FESTIVAL 1962 – 1966
VOLUMES 1 & 2*

Each includes: 24-page booklet and video "Photo gallery"

Format: Color, NTSC, Black & White, Full Screen (crystal clear)

Audio: Pristine monaural

Language: English

Region: Region 1 (U.S. and Canada only)

Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1

Number of discs: 1 each volume

Studio: Hip-O Records

Original DVD Release Date: August 26, 2003



Volume 2

In this new year, every person about whom you care enough to buy a gift will be having another birthday. If you are like me, when it comes to gift giving - you are looking for simple. I look for the perfect gift that can be ordered from home and delivered right to the mailbox. Remember how the invention of turkey hot dogs

simplified Thanksgiving dinner? This is even better! The perfect gift for Blues lovers can be ordered over the internet and might even be delivered early. Perhaps, the most amazing part: I saw a used one on amazon for \$9.00 and a new one was only 12 bucks.

There are five DVDs available that are the greatest Blues DVDs ever released. In this review, I'll look at the first two. Titled "The American Folk Blues Festival 1962 -1966: Volumes 1 & 2," these German-produced television shows have crystal clear, black and white video with pristine mono sound. They run 76 minutes and 70 minutes respectively, contain 18 complete performances each, and feature a pantheon of the greatest American Blues artists of the 1960s, most performing in their prime years.

There are artists I had never seen until these DVDs. For example, in 1972 an Allman Brothers Band record announced the song "Stormy Monday" by "T-Bone Walker," but I had never experienced T-Bone on anything but vinyl until now. The only known existing video of Little Walter is contained in Volume 3 and another DVD from these tours (but more on that in the next review).

Showcasing full length songs, these are NOT talking heads documentaries where one typically sees 20 seconds of concert footage and 180 seconds of an expert talking about it. Thanks to a couple of young promoters, Horst Lippman and Fritz Rau, who brought the musicians to Europe, we get absolutely the greatest of Blues men and women: Muddy Waters, Lonnie Johnson, Howlin' Wolf, Sonny Boy Williamson II, Otis Spann, Big Mama Thornton, Otis Rush, John Lee Hooker, Little Brother Montgomery, Magic Sam, Willie Dixon, Lightnin' Hopkins, Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, Big Walter Horton, T-Bone Walker, Earl Hooker, Sippie Wallace, and more Blues stars. "AFBF 1962-1966, Volume One" was nominated for a 2004 Grammy award, and both Volumes One and Two received, in Memphis, The Blues Foundation's 2004 Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) Award.

The AFBF was an annual event that featured the cream of American Blues musicians barnstorming their way across Western Europe every fall. These performances were shot in German television studios using high grade German television cameras and camera work. These are performances unseen for 40 years and never shown in the US. After sitting in a vault for those decades, they feature interesting all-star combinations of "musicianers."

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- Sonny Boy Williamson II gives a heart-full-of-respect introduction to already-legendary-by-the-1960s, Lonnie Johnson. Later we see Muddy Waters beaming with joy at being on the same stage with his idol, Johnson.
- Otis Rush, sharply attired in sweater, tie, and dress slacks, performs the perennial favorite “I Can't Quit You Baby” backed by Jack Myers and Fred Below - sans horns, thankfully. The image of Otis while he delivers an impassioned, sweat-drenched vocal is earth-moving. During segment after segment, one will grasp how fortunate he/she is to be seeing these videos.
- Junior Wells, working with Otis Rush rather than Buddy Guy, delivers a passionate version of “Hoodoo Man Blues” that may leave one speechless. Wells was a master of phrasing and delivery and a harp player of equal ability to anyone, and to see him in his 30s is absolutely thrilling.
- A young Buddy Guy is barely visible but clearly in full grasp of his masterful guitar skills backing up Eddie Boyd on “Five Long Years.”
- And, for one song, we see Willie Dixon playing acoustic guitar (instead of bass) and singing.
- T-Bone Walker backs Memphis Slim on piano.

The bonus footages of Earl Hooker (Vol 1) and Magic Sam (Vol 2), are bonus with a capital “B.” In these segments, the amps are cranked to the max, and in this remarkable footage, they're as alive as they can be.

Scant, but somewhat valid, criticism of these DVDs centers around the backdrops and laughable stage props in sets created for some performances. For example, T-Bone Walker plays guitar on a fake porch with a woman knitting next to him. And, given the historical period, one will need to forgive some distasteful racial stereotypes. Also, the Blues artists play either to a television camera or to a formal audience in white shirts and ties who listen quietly and attentively, applauding only at the end of each song. Totally lacking is any exciting interplay between the Bluesmen and their audience.

This has to be one of the finest Blues collections ever assembled on video. Europeans have long held an interest in Blues while white Americans in the past did little more than ignore it. Because of racial barriers, often adult subjects, and the raw power of Blues, American television in the 1960s wanted nothing to do with its own Blues performers. Captured during their heyday in an era of scant video documentation, these DVDs are truly one of the most unique and precious visual documents of the

most significant group of Blues artists ever assembled! Interestingly, Germany's Lippman had been arrested by the Nazi Gestapo only 18 years earlier for listening to music made by African-Americans.

Imagine how grateful someone (or yourself) will be receiving either of these remarkable examples of just how powerful Blues was in the 1960s. While the footage is decades old, it's as clear as if it were shot yesterday and a lasting tribute to just how deserving of care these people were and will always be.

Looking Forward By Bob Paleczny

PCBS Is planning some exciting new education and entertainment events. We are in discussions about dates and locations for our winter/spring Blues in the Schools programs. Last year we had a couple of one-hour workshops at local libraries that taught kids blues history and beginning harmonica playing. We plan to do some similar events this year. We are also in discussions regarding a few touring acts that we hope to be able to confirm soon. Watch our website and Facebook pages for upcoming announcements.

We're excited to hear about a couple of Blues Jams that are happening in the area. The first Sunday of every month there's an open jam from 2:00 to 6:00 pm at the I & I Stateline Tavern, on Route 136 East of Danville. Also the folks at the new Fluid Events Center who put on the Champaign Blues Brews & BBQ Fest have announced BluesDay Tuesday! They'll have alternating house bands, Johnnie Mae and Surreal Deal who'll play the first set and then open it up to a jam. Doors open at 8:00 and the music starts at 9:00 and there's no cover charge. If any individuals or bands are interested to be a part of this, please contact Michael Galloway at bluesdaytuesday@fluidevents.org or 217-359-6960 ext 4.

The bluesCENTRAL dancers have plans for a couple of exciting events during the month of February. On Friday February 14 from 7:00 to 11:30 pm they'll have a dance featuring the Susan Williams Band at the Illini Union Courtyard Café. It is their Spring Kickoff Dance “A Night of Blues” and features a blues dance demo, beginner shufflin' lessons and live music by the Susan Williams Band, all for only \$5. They've also restarted their 4th Sunday Blues Dances, now happening at Memphis on Main. This month, it's February 23, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and features a lesson at 6:00 and the dancing starts at 7:00.

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Here are a couple of shows which I think may interest you. James Armstrong is playing Thursday February 6 at Casey's Pub in Springfield. James just released his brand new CD "Guitar Angels", it's on Catfood Records and is an excellent disk. Pick one up at his show.

Friday February 7 features a number of superb shows in the area. Susan Williams plays in the Williams-Doty Band at The Winner's Lounge in Bloomington. James "Super Chikan" Johnson will be up from his home club of Ground Zero in Clarksdale, MS to play at The Muddy Waters in Bettendorf, IA. Closer to home, Candy Foster & The Shades of Blue play at Memphis on Main, and also that night the Blues Deacons play at Dublin O'Neils. Wow that's four great shows to choose from!

Saturday February 8, PCBS member band, Alex Jenkins & The Bombers play at The Shady Nook, a neat little club in Saybrook, IL. Later that month, on February 24, Alex Jenkins & The Bombers play Blue Monday at The Alamo in Springfield, IL.

John Nemeth is playing Sunday February 9 at Casey's Pub in Springfield, IL. You may remember John put on a great set at the Champaign Blues Brews & BBQ Fest in 2012. Linsey Alexander brings his band down from Chicago and plays Saturday February 15, at Sophie's Bar, a cool venue in Clinton, IL that's been hosting a lot of blues shows lately.

Check our online calendar;
<http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/pcbscal.html> and we suggest you check with the venue for all the latest information.

Finally a reminder that we'll be holding our Monthly Meeting Thursday Feb. 13, at 6:30 pm at Black Rock Pizza, the old 88 Broadway location in Lincoln Square in Urbana. Come out for a bite to eat and contribute your ideas to make Prairie Crossroads your Blues Society.

Thanks for everything you do to keep the blues alive.

Errata

In the January *Inclusive* article about donors to the Blues in the Schools fund, we misspelled the name of donor **Barbara Wleklinski**. We apologize!

Mt. Bluesmore



Hey, Sonny. I sure am tired of this cold winter weather! I've had enough!!

Yeah, Muddy. You can say that again. I need to get myself into a cozy Blues bar!

You got that right! Nothin's warmer than a bar full of Blues music and good friends.

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.

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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Samuel Music
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PCBS Business

The next Prairie Crossroads Blues Society meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 13 at Black Rock Pizza in Lincoln Square, Urbana. Join us for a short meeting, then stick around and enjoy some food and drinks together.

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 February 25. Please submit articles, ideas, or comments to smhannum@gmail.com.

Inclusive Staff

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Band Memberships

Alex Jenkins & The Bombers will be playing this month at the Shady Nook Pub in Saybrook on the 8th, and at Blue Monday@ the Alamo in Springfield on the 24th. Their new CD "Creepin After Midnight" is now available!

Back Pack Jones represented PCBS at the IBC in Memphis, and did us proud! See the articles in this newsletter. Thanks, guys!!

Benny Jenkins Bloodline will be playing at BB's Jazz, Blues & Soups in St. Louis on March 29. Their CD "Can't Take the Blues" was well-received in the Blues Foundation competition for self-produced CDs.

Black Magic Johnson has produced a CD entitled "Call Me" which you can download from their website. They will be playing at the Trading Post Saloon in Springfield on March 7, at Pop's Place in Decatur on March 9, and at Robbie's Restaurant in Springfield on March 14.

The Diva and The Dude are pretty darn spontaneous. Check out their Facebook page for up-to-date information. Kathy has a gig with brother Keith at The Clark Bar in Champaign on March 19.

Full Throttle Band will be playing at Wizzy's in Farmer City on March 15, at Uncle Buck's in Mahomet on April 12, and at the Sidney Saloon in Sidney on April 15.

Hurricane Ruth will be playing at the Shady Nook Pub in Saybrook on March 29, and at Pop's Place in Decatur on April 6. They are working on a new CD which will be released early this year.

The James Jones Trio has a website which allows you to download their music. Check it out.

Jerry Lee & The Juju Kings were the winners of last year's local IBC challenge, and are an exciting blues-rock, highly danceable band. Check out their website and their CD.

Jimmy Nick & Don't Tell Mama is one of our newest member bands. They have a CD called "Who Ya Kiddin'." Check out their website.

The Kilborn Alley Blues Band continue to play their regular juke joint shows at D.R. Digger's the first Wednesday of every month. They will also be playing at the Iron Post in Urbana on February 15.

Matthew Curry will be playing this month at Gig's Place in Fairbury, IL on the 8th, and at Major Leagues in Taylorville on the 15th.

The Mudwinders will be opening for The Marshall Tucker Band in the Watseka Theater on February 15, and will be playing at Proud Mary's in Tuscola on March 1.

The Painkillers have an exciting new female vocalist, Karen Jenkins! They will be playing at The Iron Post on February 8.

The Sugar Prophets will be playing this month at Rock's Par-a-Dice Casino in East Peoria on the 1st, and at the Mansfield VFW on the 15th.

Susan Williams Band will be playing this month at The Clark Bar in Champaign on the 6th, at Winner's Lounge in Bloomington on the 7th and 15th, at Huber's in Champaign on the 21st, and at Bentley's in Champaign on the 28th.

Timmy D & Blind Justice is an exciting blues rock band based in Champaign. Check out their website.

Tombstone Bullet has been playing in the Whirlwind Bar Tour for central Illinois tornado relief. Check their Facebook page for further news.

EVENTS

Feb 1 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Huber's – Champaign – 8 pm
The Sugar Prophets – Rock's Par-a-Dice – East Peoria, IL – 9 pm

Feb 2 – Blues Jam – I&I Stateline Tavern – Danville, IL – 2 pm

Feb 3 – Southside Johnny & Kicked To the Curb – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm

Feb 4 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm

Feb 5 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger's – Juke Joint Show – Champaign – 9 pm

Feb 6 – Susan Williams – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm

James Armstrong – Casey's Pub – Springfield, IL – 7 pm

Feb 7 – Susan Williams w/Williams-Doty Band – Winner's Lounge – Bloomington, IL – 8 pm

The Blues Deacons – Dublin O'Neil's – Champaign – 9 pm
Super Chikan – The Muddy Waters – Bettendorf, IA – 9 pm

Feb 8 – The Painkillers – The Iron Post – Urbana – 6 pm
Matthew Curry – Gig's Place – Fairbury, IL –

8 pm

Alex Jenkins & The Bombers – Shady Nook Pub – Saybrook, IL – 8:30 pm

Feb 9 – John Nemeth – Casey's Pub – Springfield, IL – 7 pm

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

Feb 10 – Dave Lumsden Factor – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm

Feb 11 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm

Feb 12 – The Surreal Deal – D.R. Digger's – Champaign – 9 pm

Feb 14 – bluesCENTRAL dancing featuring Susan Williams Band – Illini Union – Urbana – 7 pm

Feb 15 – The Mudwinders – Watseka Theater (opening for Marshall Tucker Band) – Watseka, IL – 7 pm

The Sugar Prophets – Mansfield VFW – Mansfield, IL – 7 pm

Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Bunny's Tavern – Urbana – 8 pm

Linsey Alexander – Sophie's – Clinton, IL – 8 pm

Susan Williams w/Crazy Johnny Band – Winner's Lounge – Bloomington, IL – 8:30 pm

Kilborn Alley Blues Band – The Iron Post – Urbana – 9 pm

Matthew Curry – Major Leagues – Taylorville, IL – 9 pm

Feb 17 – Anni Piper w/ Brent Johnson & The Call-Up – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm

Feb 18 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm

Feb 21 – Susan Williams Band – Huber's – Champaign – 8 pm

Matthew Curry – The Washington – Burlington, IA

Feb 22 – Billy Galt – Walnut Street Winery – Rochester, IL – 7 pm

Matthew Curry – The Nook – Saybrook, IL – 8:30 pm

Feb 23 – Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet – Sunday Blues @ Pops – Decatur, IL – 3 pm

4th Sunday Blues at Memphis – Blues dancing – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 6 pm

Feb 24 – Alex Jenkins & The Bombers – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm

Feb 25 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm

Feb 28 – Susan Williams w/Todd Kester – Bentley's – Champaign – 7 pm

Mar 1 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Huber's – Champaign – 8 pm

The Mudwinders – Proud Mary's – Tuscola, IL – 9 pm

Mar 2 – Blues Jam – I&I Stateline Tavern – Danville, IL – 2 pm

Mar 4 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm

Mar 5 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger’s – Juke Joint Show – Champaign – 9 pm
Mar 7 – Susan Williams w/Crazy Johnny Band – Urbana VFW – Urbana – 7 pm
Alex Jenkins & The Bombers – Brackins Blues Club – Maryville, TN – 9 pm
Black Magic Johnson – Trading Post Saloon – Springfield, IL – 9 pm
Candy Foster & The Shades of Blue – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 9 pm
Mar 8 – Matthew Curry – River Beach Pub – Chillicothe, IL – 8:30 pm
Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – The Lucky Monkey – Bement, IL – 9 pm
Mar 9 – Black Magic Johnson – Pop’s Place – Decatur, IL – 3 pm
The Surreal Deal – The Rose Bowl – Urbana – 8:30 pm
Mar 11 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Mar 12 – The Surreal Deal – D.R.Digger’s – Champaign – 9 pm
Mar 13 – Billy Galt – Baxter’s Bar & Grill – Bloomington, IL – 6 pm
Mar 14 – Black Magic Johnson – Robbie’s Restaurant – Springfield, IL – 5:30 pm
Mar 15 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Bunny’s Tavern – Urbana – 8 pm
Full Throttle – Wizzy’s – Farmer City
Matthew Curry – Pour House – Wyoming, IL – 9:30 pm
Mar 18 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Mar 19 – Keith & Kathy Harden – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Mar 20 – Keith Harden & Bob Watson – The Shady Nook – Saybrook, IL – 7 pm
Mar 21 – Billy Galt – Silvercreek – Urbana – 5:30 pm
Keith Harden & Bob Watson – Black Rock Pizza – Urbana – 6 pm
Mar 22 – Billy Galt – Walnut Street Winery – Rochester, IL – 7 pm
Keith Harden – Huber’s – Champaign – 8 pm
Susan Williams Band – The Pink House – Ogden, IL – 8 pm
Alex Jenkins & The Bombers – Sophie’s – Clinton, IL – 9 pm
Mar 23 – The Surreal Deal – The Rose Bowl – Urbana – 8:30 pm
Mar 24 – The Blues Deacons – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
Mar 25 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Mar 28 – The Blues Deacons – JP Cool’s – Mansfield, IL – 8 pm
Mar 29 – Susan Williams – Urbana VFW – Urbana – 6 pm

Benny Jenkins Bloodline – BB’s Jazz, Blues & Soups – St. Louis, MO – 7 pm
Hurricane Ruth – Shady Nook Pub – Saybrook, IL – 8:30 pm

Apr 2 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger’s – Juke Joint Show – Champaign – 9 pm
Apr 6 – Blues Jam – I & I Stateline Tavern – Danville, IL – 2 pm
Hurricane Ruth – Pop’s Place – Decatur, IL – 3 pm
Apr 12 – Susan Williams w/Todd Kester – Huber’s – Champaign – 8 pm
Full Throttle – Uncle Buck’s – Mahomet, IL
Apr 15 – Full Throttle – Sidney Saloon – Sidney, IL
Apr 19 – Susan Williams w/Crazy Johnny Band – Winner’s Lounge – Bloomington, IL – 8:30 pm
Apr 27 – The Surreal Deal – The Rose Bowl – Urbana – 8:30 pm

Check out the online version of our calendar
We try to keep it updated in the event of changes

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

We always recommend you call the venue ahead of the show to confirm the bands and times

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