



# Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

January 2012

## And So It Was Keithmas

By Lorri Coey

It's so appropriate that Keith Harden's birthday is only two days before Christmas because his annual Keithmas birthday gig at the Iron Post is just like a great big family Christmas party -- Friends you haven't seen all year, family, memories shared and new memories made.

There's always someone new to meet. This year it was Chris Miller, a singer/songwriter friend of Keith's from Nashville, who we all fell a little bit in love with. He charmed us with a song about seeing one of his songwriting heroes, John Prine, in the checkout line at the Kroger. In fact Keith even told us, "I want to be Chris when I grow up."



**Chris Miller Plays at Keithmas**

Photo courtesy of Lorri Coey

The evening started with a solo acoustic set of all original songs by Keith. He was followed by The Diva, his sister Kathy, and the Dude, Andy Baylor. Keith couldn't stay off the stage for long, joining in for their rendition of Merry Christmas Baby.

By the time Bruiser, Bruce Rummenie of Bruiser and the Virtues, joined in on the suitcase drum kit the place was packed. Jim Cole and George Faber, previously of the Finchley Boys, each did a set. They were joined onstage by a slide guitar player who goes by the name of Catfish. Toward the end of the night Geoff Poor sat in too. The show ended with "Peace and Love Keithmas" with most everyone on stage helping out. If you've been a part of these family reunions for awhile, those names may hold special memories for you as well.

It was a great party. At one point even the musicians taking a break grabbed their cameras and snapped photos to help preserve the memory.



**The Keithmas Party at the Iron Post**

Photo courtesy of Bob Paleczny

If you weren't lucky enough to be there, check out some photos and videos on the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/PrairieCrossroadsBlues](http://www.facebook.com/PrairieCrossroadsBlues) and put this one on your calendar for 2012.

And so it was Keithmas. Happy Birthday Keith, thanks for including us.

**Matt Hill & the Deep Fried Two – First Friday  
WEFT Performance  
By Bob Paleczny**



**Matt Hill & the Deep Fried Two at WEFT Studio**  
Photo courtesy of Bob Paleczny

The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society teamed up with WEFT 90.1 FM to bring Matt Hill and his band the Deep Fried Two, to the Champaign-Urbana area for the initial show in the First Friday series. The Blues Music Award winner treated radio listeners to about a 40-minute set of great music and a short interview broadcast live from the WEFT studios, then Matt and the band moved up the street for a club performance at Memphis on Main.

With WEFT's excellent sound engineers Marc Conley and Mike Feldman providing a great mix, listeners were treated to a couple of songs from Matt's upcoming new CD. Matt and the band also played classics such as "Poor Circle" and "Red Boots" from his first CD. WEFT airshifter Dave Wright interviewed Matt, Joe Meyer and Paul Niehaus IV to provide listeners with some in-depth information about the band, how they began playing together and their upcoming plans.

Since Matt and the band were on a tight schedule after arriving in town from St Louis they played a stripped down setup at WEFT. Both guitarists shared an amp and the drummer simply played a snare, yet they produced a great sound. Due to the tight schedule, PCBS Treasurer, Teri Stoerger treated the band to a home cooked meal, including chicken and noodle soup and a delicious pie. Matt, Joe and Paul were most appreciative, thanking Teri, PCBS and WEFT for the warm hospitality. With a quick tear down of the equipment, they moved up the street for the Memphis on Main portion of First Friday.

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**The Band Admires Teri's Pie**  
Photo courtesy of Bob Paleczny

**Matt Hill & the Deep Fried Two – First Friday  
Memphis on Main Performance  
By Lorri Coey**

Once the band got to Memphis on Main, Hill & the Deep Fried Two kicked up the volume with a highly energetic set. The band played their originals as well as covers from some of Matt's influences such as Jerry Lee Lewis and Howlin' Wolf. One indication of the kind of show you can expect from Matt is the title of his first CD, On the Floor.



**Matt Hill & the Deep Fried Two at Memphis on Main**  
Photo courtesy of Lorri Coey

Matt performed not only on the floor but out the door, working his way through the bar and onto Main Street rocking the house all the way. By the end of the evening Matt was shirtless and smiling and the dance floor was full.

Everyone had a great time from the audience, to the band and PCBS volunteers who helped with the event. Matt told us he'd come back any time, and we'd love to have him. But first we have the second 1st Friday to look forward to: our IBC challenge winner Hurricane Ruth, Jan. 6.

**Hurricane Ruth – First Friday  
Jan. 6, 2012  
by Inclusive Staff**



**Hurricane Ruth Winning the PCBS IBC Challenge**  
Photo courtesy of Sherry Cibelli

Look out Champaign-Urbana, Hurricane Ruth is blowing back into town for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society, Memphis on Main and WEFT's second round of 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Blues on Jan. 6, 2012. Hurricane Ruth will be entertaining radio listeners with a studio performance from WEFT's great hall around 8:15pm. Tune in at 90.1 FM or catch the live stream at [www.weft.org](http://www.weft.org). This time we've got our very own The Diva & the Dude (Kathy Harden and Andy Baylor) playing an opening set at Memphis on Main around 8:30pm. Ruth and the band will be at Memphis on Main around 10 pm for their live performance.

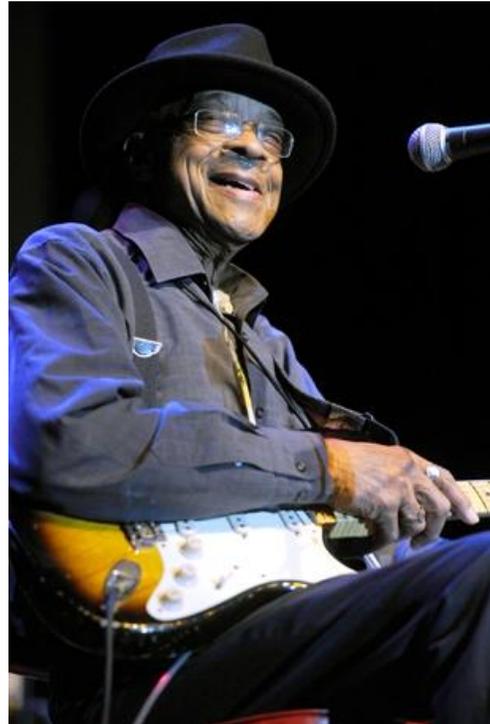
Hurricane Ruth has Ruth LaMaster as lead singer, David Lumsden on guitar, Gary Davis on bass and Jim Engel on drums. They're a powerful blues band and sure to grab your attention from the very first note. They were the highly unofficial fan favorites at our IBC Challenge in October and won our local event. They're headed to Memphis in February to compete in the international event and since this is a fundraiser for the band, we'd love to send them off with a packed house.

**Hurricane Ruth – First Friday  
January 6<sup>th</sup>**

Plays live at WEFT 90.1FM at 8  
Plays live at Memphis on Main at 9:30

**Hubert Sumlin, Master of the Blues Guitar**  
By Sandy Hannum

Blues legend Hubert Sumlin has died at the age of 80. He kept making music and inspiring musicians throughout his long life.



**Hubert Sumlin**

Photo by Tim Mosenfelder/Getty Images

He was born in Greenville, Mississippi in 1931 but grew up in Hughes, Arkansas. He started playing guitar when he was six years old, after his mother spent her entire paycheck (\$5) on a guitar for him. When he was still a young boy he sneaked into a club performance by Howlin' Wolf. When he was about to be thrown out, Wolf allowed him to sit on the stage with him. That was the beginning of a close but contentious life-long relationship.

Wolf ultimately moved Hubert to Chicago to play with his band. The story goes that at one point Wolf threw him off the stage for playing too loud. He told Hubert to lose the picks. That was the beginning of Hubert's unique style of playing with bare fingers. Sumlin is associated with several well-known Blues classics, such as "Little Red Rooster," "Back Door Man," and "Killing Floor." For a few years Hubert played with Muddy Waters, but he returned to Wolf's band. After Wolf's death in 1976 the group stayed together as the Wolf Pack, under the leadership of saxophonist Eddie Shaw.

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Many guitarists have named Sumlin as a key inspiration, including Jimi Hendrix, Frank Zappa, Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page, Bob Margolin, and Keith Richards. The following words are taken from an on-line biography written by Margolin: "As with many Blues legends of his generation, Hubert has been recorded often, both as a leader and as a sideman. Still, Hubert's albums and his gigs frankly brought him more love and respect than fame and fortune." In the late 1990s and early 2000s he received four grammy nominations. He finally was inducted into the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 2008. Unfortunately, at this point he had already developed lung cancer. He continued to perform right up to the end. He died on December 4, 2011. Mick Jagger and Keith Richards paid for his funeral. Hubert Sumlin will be missed by millions of fans throughout the world.

### **Through These Eyes**

By Rich Cibelli

2011 has come and gone, and with it several more important steps forward for The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society. We have achieved much during our society's short existence.

Our organization would not be where it stands now without the continued support and efforts of many who have joined our ranks. Nevertheless, in order for our society to maintain this current level of success it will require us to take a serious look at the challenges that face us and come up with effective strategies to meet our most important objectives.

In my opinion, our society's top priorities must include how we can work together to increase both our general and corporate membership levels. If we are successful in crafting and then executing such a strategy, we will see increased revenue and support. Simply put, increased support and revenues are within our reach and will allow Prairie Crossroads Blues Society the ability to move closer to achieving our organization's goals and activities.

Those goals include continuing events like our brand new First Friday shows and establishing our own Blues in the Schools program. I'd like to address each one of these issues for a moment.

Our First Friday shows are a perfect example of reaching out to our fellow blues musicians who are always looking for a venue to showcase their immense talent. Additionally, these events extend an opportunity to our friends locally at WEFT-90.1 F.M., who support blues music with their outstanding programming of this genre. I urge you to listen whenever possible.

Nevertheless, it would be wrong for our organization not to approach other businesses in our community about hosting or participating in similar events like First Fridays. Moreover, this is another chance for PCBS to introduce itself to others in our community who are looking to support our non-profit organization.

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Additionally, while I wish that we had a Blues in The Schools program already in place now, I understand that programs like these take time to plan and put into motion. I still believe that once established our program will open up many more opportunities to reach those in our community who like you and me understand our mission and want to help us succeed. As I've said many times before, I really believe that our organization has its best days ahead of us. I hope that each one of you agrees with me on this matter. However, I would be wrong to deny that I have not thought about what lies ahead and how we are going to confront the issues before us.

Therefore, I expect that in the days to come you might take time to be thinking of ways that you can contribute to our future plans. There can be no right or wrong answers as each one of us has our own opinions. More importantly, you may also ask yourself these two very important questions: Do I support the cause of PCBS? Am I receiving something back for my contribution and time?

These will not be easy questions to face. I suspect that many of you are also members of other organizations in our community, who are asking you for your support and time to help their mission.

Being part of a team takes time. It takes time to learn who we are and where we fit in. By now you should know that I am a true believer in team effort and want to include everyone's opinion before making decisions that directly affect the future of our organization.

Therefore, if we all work together as a team there is nothing we can't overcome. I hope you agree. On the other hand, if we fail to act by deciding not to address these most important issues, we will find ourselves left without sufficient capital and a lack of support to move our agenda forward. I would hate to see this happen and my guess is that you would too.

You might be asking yourself how you can support our organization. Let me just say that you should make it a point to go out when you can to see local blues shows in and around our area. For the price of a nice dinner out you'll enjoy live music and come away with a great feeling of supporting those musicians who, like our organization, want to give back to the community.

More importantly, volunteer a few hours of your time at one of our First Friday events. This is a great opportunity for you to meet others in our society who may have the same interests as you. Bottom line -- we need your help and I know you are up to the task.

I ask you to consider the mission of PCBS and join with me to bring The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society much success in 2012.

## Thoughts on the Passing of Hubert Sumlin

By Rich Cibelli

By now you have heard about the passing of Hubert Sumlin who died on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. He was considered to be one of the greats of Blues music and an inspiration to many of today's rock guitarists as well.

Much has already been said about Sumlin who was born in Greenwood, Mississippi back in 1931. Nevertheless, it is his contribution to the world of Blues music that will long carry his trademark sound.

Sumlin worked with many in his career, but no more important than the times he worked alongside James Cotton and Howlin' Wolf to create such classic blues standards like "Killing Floor," "Going Down Slow," and even "Wang Dang Doodle." Yes folks, this was a great man who will really be missed by many.



**Hubert Sumlin Playing at the 2009 WC Handy Blues & BBQ Festival in Henderson, Kentucky**

Photo courtesy of Sherry Cibelli

You may remember that Hubert Sumlin became an Honorary Member of the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society on March 8, 2011 when he was a featured artist at the Blues at the Crossroads show that evening at the Krannert Center in Urbana. The honor was all ours.

On a personal note, while I never met Hubert Sumlin I had the opportunity to see him perform many times, including several years in a row at the Memphis in May/Beale Street Music Festival.

If I know anything about Hubert Sumlin, it's that he may be gone, but will never be forgotten. Moreover, wherever he is, I am sure he's still smiling from ear to ear just like the first time I saw him playing on stage.

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

**Skins-N-Tins Drum Shop** provided a drum set for use in the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society IBC challenge.

## 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**  
**Slumberland Furniture**  
**SuperValu**

## Band Memberships

**Alex Jenkins & the Bombers** will be playing at the Castle Theater in Bloomington on January 6 as the featured artists of the Blues Blowtorch Society.

**The Kilborn Alley Blues Band** will be playing in the local area for the next couple of months, so enjoy them while they're close to home! Also, be sure to get their new CD "Four."

**King's Highway** will be playing at The Boomerang in Urbana on January 14, and at Winner's Lounge in Bloomington on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**The Sugar Prophets** will host another Blues Jam at Cowboy Monkey on January 5. Don't miss their afternoon performance at the Champaign Library on January 8. See the calendar for their evening gigs.

**The Sweet Wood Band** is our newest member band. Check them out on Facebook!

**The Painkillers** are working on a CD which will come out sometime soon.

**Timmy D & Blind Justice** will be performing at the Iron Post in Urbana on January 28.

## Prairie Crossroads Board of Directors

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

## PCBS Business

The next Prairie Crossroads Blues Society Meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on January 18 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 December 28. Please submit articles, ideas, or comments to [smhannum@gmail.com](mailto:smhannum@gmail.com).

## Inclusive Staff

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**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

- Jan 2** – Robert Sampson & Blues Gumbo – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**Jan 4** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger’s – Champaign – 9 pm  
**Jan 5** – The Sugar Prophets – Blues Jam – Cowboy Monkey – Champaign – 9:30 pm  
**Jan 6** – Alex Jenkins & the Bombers – the Castle Theater – Bloomington, IL – 7 pm  
The Blues Deacons – The Travel Lodge – Springfield, IL – 8 pm  
The Diva & the Dude – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 8:30 pm  
Hurricane Ruth – WEFT 90.1 FM & Memphis on Main – Champaign – 9:30 pm  
**Jan 8** – The Sugar Prophets – Champaign Public Library – Champaign – 2 pm  
**Jan 9** – The Brandon Santini Blues Band – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm

- Jan 11** – The Brandon Santini Blues Band – Goodfella’s – Pekin, IL – 7 pm  
**Jan 13** – The Blues Deacons – Lock, Stock & Barrel – Decatur, IL – 9 pm  
**Jan 14** – The Blues Deacons – The Pink House – Ogden, IL – 8:30 pm  
King’s Highway – The Boomerang – Urbana – 9 pm  
**Jan 16** – The Groove Daddies – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**Jan 20** – King’s Highway – Winner’s Lounge – Bloomington, IL – 8:30 pm  
**Jan 21** – The Sugar Prophets – Cowboy Monkey – Champaign – 9 pm  
Hurricane Ruth – Crows Mill Pub – Springfield, IL – 9 pm  
**Jan 22** – The Blues Deacons – Pop’s Place – Decatur, IL – 3 pm  
**Jan 23** – Mike Zito – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**Jan 25** – The Sugar Prophets – Goodfellas Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 7 pm  
**Jan 28** – The Sugar Prophets – River Beach Pub – Chillicothe, IL – 8 pm  
Timmy D & Blind Justice w/ That’s No Moon – The Iron Post – Urbana – 9 pm  
**Jan 30** – Tombstone Bullet – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**Feb 1** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger’s – Champaign – 9 pm  
**Feb 3** – The Blues Deacons – The Travel Lodge – Springfield, IL – 8 pm  
**Feb 27** – The Blues Deacons – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**Mar 1** – The Sugar Prophets – Cowboy Monkey – Blues Jam – Champaign – 9:30 pm  
**Mar 2** – The Blues Deacons – The Travel Lodge – Springfield, IL – 8 pm  
**Mar 7** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger’s – Champaign – 9 pm

## Mt. Bluesmore



Hey, Muddy, did you catch the First Friday show?

Yeah, Walter. It was great hearing Matt and the boys on WEFT, then seeing them live at Memphis on Main right after that. I feel like we’re good buddies now.

Heh heh. Not good enough buddies to share their pie with!