



Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

January 2015

IBC Fundraiser By Bob Paleczny

We encourage all blues fans to come out to Prairie Crossroads Blues Society's Fundraiser for Monica Morris and Josie Lowder, the winners of our IBC Solo/Duo Challenge. We're holding the fundraiser at 5:00 pm on Saturday January 10th at Bentley's Pub, 419 N. Neil St. in Champaign. Come out and show your support and help us raise some money to send them to the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge.



Josie Lowder & Monica Morris
PCBS IBC Solo/Duo Winners
Facebook promo picture

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 performers ready to take their act to the next level. It includes four days of competition, January 21st thru the 24th with acts playing two days of quarter-finals and one day of semi-finals at clubs on historic Beale Street. The finals are

held on Saturday night in the prestigious Orpheum Theatre.

Monica & Josie advanced to the semi-finals at the 2014 IBC and PCBS is excited for their chances this year. The combination of their different guitar styles and sweet vocal harmonies blends together into a superb act. We're sure the judges in Memphis will be as impressed as the judges at our challenge.

Also appearing at the fundraiser will be Jiggy & The Source. They mix blues and roots music and feature relevant lyrics which quickly wins the fans over. 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 extended sets of music. Susan Williams will also be performing at the fundraiser.

We'll have some fun, hear some great music, have a raffle or two and raise some money for our IBC winners. The money raised will help Monica and Josie with hotels, food and other travel expenses. Let's show our support and enthusiasm for our local winners and wish Monica and Josie good luck as they head to Memphis.

As a special treat Monica Morris & Josie Lowder are performing locally on WEFT 90.1 FM radio station this week. Tune into Wednesday's Blues Connection show hosted by Lorri Coey. Monica & Josie will be playing live from WEFT's Great Hall and will do a short interview to promote the Fundraiser. WEFT broadcast blues Monday thru Friday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Monica and Josie are expected to play a little after noon.

Come out to the fundraiser and support live local blues.

2014 Year In Review

By Bob Paleczny

2014 was an amazing year for Prairie Crossroads Blues Society. We brought some spectacular entertainers to the area, presented several educational programs for the area youth and were out at several events to spread the word about the Blues Society to folks in our community.

We kicked off 2014 with a Fundraiser for our IBC representatives, Back Pack Jones. On January 11, PCBS held a fundraiser at Memphis on Main to raise money to help send the great horn driven R&B and soul blues band to Memphis for the challenge. Benny Jenkins bloodline performed as the openers of the show. Their CD "Can't Take The Blues" was our representative in the Best Self-Produced CD competition held by the Blues Foundation. Both bands put on great shows for the fans and we were able to raise a nice amount of money.

We were fortunate to bring in some fantastic bands during the year. On March 24 we brought in the Ori Naftaly Band to play at Memphis on Main. This group of youngsters from Israel features Eleanor Tsaig on vocals and Ori Naftaly on guitar and they played an outstanding show full of energy and passion. On May 18 Jarekus Singleton came to Memphis on Main and rocked the house. Jarekus from Jackson Mississippi had recently been signed to Alligator Records and he put on a sensational show and displayed why he is one of the future stars of the blues world. His dynamic guitar playing and non-stop energy thrilled everyone in attendance.



Gus Wood Teaching at Urbana Free Library

Photo by Bob Paleczny

PCBS also put on several educational programs during 2014. In April and May we presented a three-week Blues In The Schools program at Don Moyer's Boys & Girls Club. Each Thursday our instructors would gather the kids together and teach them a bit of blues history and some basic harmonica skills. Gus Wood, our history instructor, taught them about the beginnings of blues music, the influence of African-Americans on the music and how it impacted their lives. Josh Spence would then distribute the free harmonicas to the kids and teach them some basic harmonica techniques. Some of the kids showed a real talent and enthusiasm to perhaps continue learning and playing the harp. On May 31, the same instructors taught a 90 minute workshop at the Urbana Free Library which was open to all the youth of our communities. PCBS wants to thank Gus and Josh again for their wonderful patience dealing with the kids. It was very rewarding to see the smiles on the children's faces.



Josh Spence Teaching at Urbana Free Library

Photo by Bob Paleczny

In late June PCBS had our tent up at the Champaign Blues, brews & BBQ Fest. We signed up several new members and renewed many other memberships. Dan Jackson won our raffle basket that included several outstanding CD's from local blues bands, a Stevie Ray Vaughan box set, a 64 ounce fill of some great locally brewed beer at Triptych and some PCBS merchandise.

There were several other opportunities for us to spread our message to blues fans. On April 26th we helped Kilborn Alley Blues Band celebrate their 14th Anniversary Party. Kilborn flew in a special guest

vocalist, Jackie Scott from Virginia to help with the party. The interaction between Jackie and Kilborn's featured singer, Abraham Johnson, was something special.

In September we helped our friends at WEFT 90.1 FM during their Fall Pledge Drive. Together we brought in the dynamic Milwaukee based R&B soul blues band Tweed Funk for a show at Memphis on Main. Their original songs and covers of Motown favorites had the place dancing.

We held our IBC Solo/Duo Challenge at Bentley's on November 1st and all the competitors were outstanding. Our judges did an excellent job and the results were very close. The winners were Monica Morris & Josie Lowder. They are going to Memphis later in January to represent Prairie Crossroads Blues Society in the Blues Foundation's International Challenge. Also that evening we announced another panel of judges had chosen Back Pack Jones' CD, "Betsy's Kitchen" to represent us in this year's BSPCD competition.

PCBS wrapped up the year by combining our December meeting with a Holiday Party. We joined Keith & Kathy Harden for an evening of great music, food and merriment at The Clark Bar on December 18th. We handed out some great CD's to raffle winners from among the folks in attendance.

2014 was a great year for Prairie Crossroads Blues Society. We look forward to continuing our mission of preserving, promoting and educating about the Blues!

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

www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/member.html

Looking Forward –January By Bob Paleczny

As some of you are aware I am stepping down as President of Prairie Crossroads Blues Society effective the end of January. I intend to remain as Entertainment Chair to continue to bring great bands and musicians to the Champaign-Urbana area. Heading out entertainment efforts is what I feel I do best and is what I truly enjoy doing. Therefore PCBS is looking for another blues lover to step up and lead our Society onto bigger and better things.

The main responsibilities of a new President are to set the agenda and run our monthly meetings as well as providing a vision for the future and setting the goals for the Society. Here are some of the duties from our bylaws; the President shall preside over meetings of the General Membership and the Board of Directors. The President shall have the authority to sign all contracts and other instruments of writing, which have been approved by the General Membership or Board of Directors. The new President will be ably assisted and advised by the Board, Committee Chairs and some additional core members to carry on the running of the Society.

A few months back I took over as editor of our *Inclusive* newsletter and this is my last issue editing the newsletter on a monthly basis. Plans right now are to perhaps put out an issue every two or 3 months. This is an opportunity for a member with writing or editing talent to continue the newsletter on a monthly basis. It remains one of our primary methods to spread the word about all the exciting events PCBS presents. The new editor will be supported by several members who submit articles on a semi-regular basis.

Anyone with an interest in assuming one of these roles should email prairiecrossroadsblues@gmail.com. We're happy to answer any questions you may have and provide you further information about the duties.

PCBS intends to continue to bring outstanding blues shows to our area. As I mentioned, by stepping back from some of the administrative aspects of the Society, my intention is to focus more of my time and efforts into PCBS hosting great blues acts. We also

have a long history of Educational programs and the Chair of our Education Committee, Sandy Hannum, is currently applying for grants and planning some upcoming events with area grade school teachers.

We'll continue to bring you shows such as the January 10th Fundraiser for our Solo/Duo representatives, Monica Morris & Josie Lowder at Bentley's Pub. Let's raise some money to help send them to Memphis to compete in the International Blues Challenge. You may want to head out and catch the Kilborn Alley Blues Band at the "World Famous" D.R. Diggers, Wednesday January 7th and every first Wednesday. You can catch The Painkillers with their new vocalist Sarah Powers at The Iron Post on January 10th.

Mostly we encourage fans to go out and support live music, especially blues performers at local venues. A couple shows of note are fundraisers for other musicians heading to Memphis to compete in the IBC's. Blues Expressions goes to Memphis representing the Illinois Central Blues Society out of Springfield. They will be playing Blue Monday at the Alamo on January 12th and The Smokers Blues Band plays at Goodfellas in Pekin on Saturday January 17th. The Smokers Blues Band is going to Memphis representing the River City Blues Society in Peoria.

We'd also like to mention that Hurricane Ruth, winners of the first PCBS IBC Band Challenge will be performing in Memphis during this year's IBC's. They are part of the Blind Raccoon showcases on Wednesday January 21st and Friday January 23rd. If you're in Memphis to attend the competition be sure to stop in the Purple Haze Night Club to see this fine rockin' blues band.

And if you are in Memphis for the IBC's be sure to support Monica Morris & Josie Lowder throughout the competition. Support all the local blues bands from Central Illinois.

Check the PCBS online calendar for all the shows in the area;
<http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/pcbscal.html>

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
Eastland Suites
Hohner USA
Louie's Dixie Kitchen & BBQ

Orange Krush Foundation
Samuel Music
Slumberland Furniture
SuperValu

Prairie Crossroads Board of Directors

President	Bob Paleczny
Vice President	Greg Altstetter
Treasurer	Jim Hannum
Secretary	Lorri Coey
At-large Members	Sandy Hannum Phil Hult Tony Odendahl

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 Paleczny

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.

Hurricane Ruth released their second CD "Born on the River" in September. You can catch them at the Blind Raddoon showcase at Purple Haze Night Club in Memphis during the IBC's, January 21 and 23.

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

Jerry Lee & The Juju Kings were the winners of the PCBS 2012 IBC Band Challenge. Their new CD "Southside of Nowhere" was released in September 2014 and is available on their web site.

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 plays their Juke Joint show at the "World Famous" D.R. Digger's on the first Wednesday of every month.

Matthew Curry 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. Check out their Facebook page for other gigs.

The Mudwinders play throughout central Illinois. Check their web site for their latest gigs.

The Painkillers have a regular monthly gig at the Iron Post. Catch them with their new vocalist Sarah Powers. 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

Monday, January 5

8:00pm - Jule House - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Wednesday, January 7

12:00pm - Monica Morris & Josie Lowder - WEFT 90.1 FM - weft.org

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

Friday, January 9

7:30pm - Blues Caravan 2015: Girls with Guitars - Limelight Eventplex - Peoria

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

Saturday, January 10

5:00pm - PCBS Fundraiser for Monica Morris & Josie Lowder - Bentley's Pub - Champaign

6:00pm - The Painkillers with Sarah Powers - The Iron Post - Urbana

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

Sunday, January 11

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

Monday, January 12

8:00pm - Blues Expressions - Blue Monday @ The Alamo - The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Saturday, January 17

7:00pm - The Smokers Blues Band - Goodfellas - Pekin, IL

7:30pm - Tallan Latz - Bloomington Center for Performing Arts - Bloomington, IL

Sunday, January 18

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

Monday, January 19

8:00pm - The Groove Daddies - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Wednesday, January 21

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

Friday, January 23

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

Sunday, January 25

3:00pm - Peter Harper - Pop's Place - Decatur, IL

Monday, January 26

8:00pm - The Greg Glick Blues Band - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Friday, January 30

6:30pm - The Painkillers with Kathy Harden - The Clark Bar - Champaign

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

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:

prairiecrossroadsblues@gmail.com

with your complete or
partial submission

Monday, February 2

8:00pm - Robert Sampson & Blues Junction - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Wednesday, February 4

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

Friday, February 6

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

Saturday, February 7

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

Sunday, February 8

3:00pm - Nigel Mack - Pop's Place - Decatur, IL

Monday, February 9

8:00pm - Nigel Mack & The Blues Attack - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL