



# Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

July 2011

## Urbana Blues, Brews and BBQ Festival 2011

By Rich Cibelli and Sandy Hannum

Rich's Take:

Fantastic, Amazing, Incredible, Unbelievable. Those were just some of the words I heard this year at the 2011 Urbana Blues, Brews and BBQ Festival. I'm not sure I can come up with something better.

So instead I'll just take a minute to thank Jeff Grant and Perry Davidson and all the staff at Fluid Events who now for the fourth year have successfully produced one of the best blues festivals around.

This community should be thankful for the opportunity to see such top of the line entertainment and the chance to sample an array of locally made BBQ and specialty beverage products.

For me The Urbana, Brews, Blues and BBQ Festival is the place I go to catch up with old friends and establish new relationships. I can't remember all your names, but you know what I'm talking about.

I especially want to thank all our visitors from out of town who choose to come and be a part of this year's festival. I hope you enjoyed yourselves and are planning to come back to visit next year.

However, the most important thing about attending The Urbana, Blues, Brews and BBQ Festival is that I get to join my fellow Prairie Crossroads Blues Society Members at our tent to help promote, preserve and educate everybody we meet about "The Blues." For that, my friends, is what it's all about!

Sandy's Take:

This was a fabulous weekend for the PCBS. We not only enjoyed world-class Blues music in our own back yard, we also reaped some benefits for our society. We got some great publicity, earned \$806, sold some shirts, hats, koozies, and CDs, held a successful raffle for BB King tickets, gained 12 new members and two renewals. Our new members include the band, King's Highway, which kicked off day two of the festival (continued in next column)

on the main stage! These guys have been around for a while, and are very familiar with the other bands in the PCBS. In fact, they have played with many of the members of the other bands at one time or another. Welcome, King's Highway!! I also love the fact that we were able to give away BB King tickets on both Friday and Saturday. The winner on Friday was Mike Meade, and the winner on Saturday was Abraham Johnson. Way to go!



**King's Highway -- new PCBS Members**

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

Our members had a real presence at this fest, in several ways. The most obvious is our corporate sponsors Jeff and Perry who put the whole thing together! Of course, we had our PCBS tent in a prominent location and were able to reach out to all the folks going by. In addition, Joe Asselin of the Sugar Prophets led his popular Blues Harmonica Clinics on both Friday and Saturday afternoons. Bob Paleczny of WEFT fame made several introductions on the main stage. Also note that the kick-off act on Friday was PCBS honorary member, Keith Harden. And last but not least, our president Rich Cibelli was going around making connections. In fact, he met and spoke with Bruce Iglauer, founder of Alligator Records! Bruce really enjoyed the festival, by the way.

What can I say about the music? It was impossible to catch everything that was going on, so I can mention only a few (continued on next page)

highlights. The opening set was Keith Harden playing some old classic blues. Very cool. When Kathy joined him the pleasure more than doubled. She really channeled her inner Memphis Minnie on “Bad Luck Woman,” then she belted out a hot rendition of Koko’s “You’re a Greedy Man.” What fun. Next up was Guitar Shorty. He was really energetic and his music definitely leaned in the direction of blues-rock. “The Blues Done Got Me” was a real danceable one, and several people were doing just that. “Hard Life” was a great bump and grind number. All highly enjoyable. Li’l Ed and the Blues Imperials were rockers too. I was back in the PCBS tent during their set, but I took notice of a great one called “Don’t Lie to Me.”

On Saturday I am sorry to say I got there late. I did get to hear John Primer playing some true Chicago-style blues. Yeah! You could feel the beat all the way through your body. “Let the Good Times Roll” was fabulous, and was exactly what everybody was thinking right at that moment in time. The following act was Jimmy Thackery, who has a style that is so varied and versatile that it is hard to describe. I loved “Bullfrog Blues” and the title cut from his new CD “Feel the Heat.”

This is only a taste of what went on. I hope you were all there for at least some portion of the fest. It is worth joining the PCBS just for sharing good times like these!

### Cold Weather, Hot Entertainment

By Sandy Hannum

It was chilly in Chicago for the first two days of the Chicago Blues Fest 2011, but the music kept everybody warm and happy. The multiple pleasures of the fest are overwhelming and can’t be adequately described on paper, but I will attempt to put forward a few highlights.

The first thing we heard when we walked into Grant Park on Friday was the soulful sound of Erwin Helfer’s sax and Katherine Davis singing “Blues with a Feeling.” Perfect start. Over at the Juke Joint the 6-foot tall Nora Jean Brusco belted out one of the best female blues songs I heard all weekend – “Don’t Sign Up for My Rodeo” (if you don’t know how to ride). Whoa! With her powerful voice she really got the message across. Next up on that stage was the inimitable James “Super Chikan” Johnson. With his home-made guitars and all female back-up this band is a delight to see as well as hear. LaLa on the keyboards is a trip all by herself. They really wailed on “Ain’t Nobody,” and “Low Down Dirty Blues.”

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**James “Super Chikan” Johnson**

Photo courtesy of Juan Vidaurrazaga

The crowd could hardly contain themselves. Then to top it off, we saw our home boys, Kilborn Alley at the Windy City Stage. They started off their set with some songs from their brand new CD. Wow! Josh Stimmel played an impressive guitar solo on “Change My Ways.” They moved seamlessly into some of the old favorites, like the swinging “Foolsville.” Of course, they also had to play “Better Off Now” to keep their salivating fans satisfied. It was all great! One amazing thing is that Chris Breen played it all with a broken index finger.



**The Kilborn Alley Blues Band**

Photo courtesy of Juan Vidaurrazaga

On Saturday we had the pleasure of discovering a new band, just over a year old. It seems that Jarekus Singleton and his cousins put together a band in February 2010 after he came

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back from playing professional basketball overseas. It worked out well, and here they were in the Chicago Blues Fest. The band sounded terrific, and they all seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely too. They really wailed on the classic



**The Jarekus Singleton Band**

Photo courtesy of Jim Hannum

“Born Under a Bad Sign.” There was lots of buzz about Jarekus Singleton throughout the weekend. I have a feeling that they will be back next year. After that we heard the amazing Duwayne Burnside on the Crossroads Stage. What an incredible guitarist and overall great entertainer. The next show we saw was Nick Moss and the Flip Tops with Curtis Salgado. This was a fabulous combination of talent. The audience literally could not stand still. There was a full-fledged dance going on in the street just outside the inner circle of the audience. They really rocked out on “You Were Wrong.”

Sunday the sun came out, and the crowd got a little bigger. Some of the bands played for a second time, including Jarekus Singleton and Nick Moss. We heard Ben Wiley Payton, who plays a Mississippi Delta style of blues, reminiscent of the 40’s and 50’s. It was laid-back and mellow, and very enjoyable.

One of the greatest highlights of the weekend took place Sunday night. Shemekia Copeland performed in the Petrillo Music Shell to a packed audience. She really knows how to get everyone roused up. It was so much fun to hear and watch her perform “Big Lovin’ Woman.” The big surprise came when her set was interrupted by a contingent of women including Joyce “Cookie” Taylor (Koko’s daughter), Marie (Mrs. Willie) Dixon, and her mother Mrs. Johnnie Copeland. Also present was Bruce Iglauer, founder of Alligator Records. Shemekia was named as the new “Queen of the Blues,” by official proclamation of the Chicago Blues Festival, the Governor of Illinois, and the City of Chicago. Cookie Taylor presented her with Koko Taylor’s actual crown. Shemekia was quite taken aback. Her first words to the audience were, “OMG.” She later added that Koko would always be Queen of the Blues in her eyes.

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**Shemekia Copeland crowned “Queen of the Blues”**

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

As you can see, these highlights barely scratch the surface. I could hurl superlatives all day, but it wouldn’t give you the feel of the event. You definitely have to be there. See you next year.

### **Hector Trevino -- Master Guitar Craftsman By Rich Cibelli**

Over the years I’ve had the opportunity to see and meet a few guitar players. Most of the time they’ve played well-known brands like Gibson Les Paul’s or big body ES 345’s. Others that I’ve seen prefer Fender Stratocasters or Telecasters. Some even rely on lesser known brands like Gretsch, Guild and Epiphone models.

Many of these instruments are still made right here in the United States, but some cheaper models come from places like China, Japan and even Mexico. However, each time I hear a guitar played I’m amazed at the sound that is produced.

Some time ago I found out that one of the members of The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society has invented what he believes might be the guitar of the future. It’s called “The Sonic Wind Guitar,” <http://thesonicwind.com/>, and its developer is none other than Hector Trevino, the owner of The Guitar Workshop.

Originally from California, Trevino came to the Champaign–Urbana area in 1972 after playing guitar in several pick up bands out in Los Angeles. Trevino says “he was lucky to be in the right place at the right time,” and his band got to perform with some of the big names in the music industry at that time, including Frank Zappa and even Bo Diddley.

After working for a while at several jobs, including repairing motorcycles, Trevino made the important decision to try his luck at something else. He chose to go back to school with the goal of becoming a machinist.

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Some time later his goal paid off and he landed back on his feet doing what he'd set out to do. In fact, Trevino spent the next 26 years working as a machinist. He told me that the job gave him a chance to be creative and at the same time he would spend a lot of time "daydreaming about building an electric guitar."

Trevino says he has been "tinkering around with guitars since about 1995." He says when he finally retired from his job as a machinist he decided to take another step forward in his life. He decided to open The Guitar Workshop on a part time basis back in 2002 and then decided to make it his full-time occupation in 2008. Trevino says he has "worked on hundreds of guitars." You can read more about Trevino at his web site <http://www.cuguitarworkshop.com/home>.



**Hector working on Rich's Fender**

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

When I visited Hector at his Guitar Workshop some time ago I asked if he would be so kind as to take a look at two of my guitars. For some reason I'd been having a tuning issue with both my 50's Fender Squire Stratocaster & Oscar Schmidt OE30 Delta King.

Once inside Trevino's shop I began to understand why he chose to become a guitar tech. All around were tools and just about anything else that someone would need to fix any guitar. Moreover, I was amazed at how much I learned in just a short time. In my opinion, Trevino is a master at his craft and knows just the right questions to ask his customers. These days very few businesses offer this kind of customer service.

In my case I wasn't giving myself enough length when I put on my new strings and they were slipping. To make matters worse, the intonation on both of my guitars was off slightly. I had Trevino show me what he meant and with the use of an electric tuner he was able to correct the problem in no time at all.

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I must admit I'm still a little unsure about intonation. If you are too, then I suggest you search the web. There are several very good websites that offer step-by-step instructions. I'm happy to report both of my guitars sound much better.

And since I'd come all the way to see him at his shop in Urbana, just to the East of Frasca Field, he took a few minutes to show off his new invention -- The Sonic Wind Guitar. If you're a guitar player you'll be amazed at the quality and sound of this beautiful instrument. It's truly one of a kind.



**Hector and his Sonic Wind Guitar**

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

Trevino explained how he came up with the idea. He even showed me the start of his second model and also explained about how he was working on a patent for the guitar. Trevino is also thinking about taking his "Sonic Wind Guitar," to a few guitar trade shows to see what kind of response he might get.

For now however, Trevino plans to keep doing what he knows best at his Guitar Work Shop. But don't be surprised if some day soon you might hear or read a feature story about a new invention called "The Sonic Wind Guitar." By then I hope you get to meet Hector Trevino and thank him for being a member of the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society.

### **Through These Eyes**

**By Rich Cibelli**

The 2011 edition of the Chicago Blues Festival has come and gone. This year's event like so many before was filled with plenty of great music and an array of interesting exhibits. I particularly liked the free ice tea and energy bar samples.

But the one thing that stands out most from my visit to the city know as the "Home of The Electric Blues," is the people. They came from everywhere. By car, plane, subway, motorcycle, taxi and bike. Some even came to this year's festival riding some contraption with two wheels and a motor. They call it a Segway.

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In this connection, pardon me as I segway into the next paragraph.

Who are these people you ask? The answer my friends is simple. They are white, black, Asian, Hispanic, Greek, Italian, German, short, tall, skinny and fat, young and old. That's who comes to beautiful Grant Park to hear the music they seem to love. I guess they must be blues fans just like me. It can be cold and damp or warm and sunny during the Chicago Blues Festival. My point is the weather in Chicago doesn't stop these folks from enjoying themselves. Never -- they just pack more clothes for the security teams to rummage through.

I've often heard there's something about blues music that makes people get on their feet, sing, clap and dance along with the performers. It seems everybody just likes to have a good time. Moreover, we all seem to want get up close so we can take pictures to put on facebook or some other fashionable social network. Got a minute, you should check out mine!

And just like magic, when the show is over they are the first ones in line to buy a CD and get an autograph from someone they have never heard of before. I must include my wife in this category. Then like clock work and to my amazement, in unison everybody takes out their nicely folded festival schedule to plan their next move.

I swear you can hear them say, "so and so is at the Juke Joint Stage at 3:30 p.m., or we can go check out that guy at the Crossroads Stage." I like to try and listen. Maybe I'll learn something new and exciting. And all of this is going on in between the sounds of blues music or an occasional blaring siren from an emergency vehicle close by.

But wait just one minute. There must be time allowed to purchase the next cold beer or soft drink. Some might even decide to grab a tasty meal from one of many food vendors who fill the festival walkways with the smell of pizza, burgers, ribs, chicken strips and more.

But buyer beware, the festival might still be free, but if you plan to eat or drink anything you better be prepared to dish out a few bucks in the process. This year 12 tickets cost you eight dollars. One beer was 12 tickets, you can figure out the math.

Talk is already swilling around the internet that next year's festival may turn into a pay to enter event. In my opinion, this would do much damage to what has always been one of the largest free blues festivals around.

However, with a new mayor in charge now and several other city events now cancelled, like the annual Fourth of July Fireworks at Navy Pier, there's no telling what will happen to our beloved blues festival. My advice is to stay tuned. And much like the weather in Chicago, "if you don't like it, wait five minutes -- it will change." But hey, this is the Chicago Blues Festival. The one and only. Do I dare say more?

## **The Sugar Prophets**

CD has been nominated for a

### **2011 Blues Blast Award**

in the category of

### **New Artist Debut Release**

**Vote** between July 1 and August 31 on  
<http://www.TheBluesBlast.com>

## **Corporate Memberships**

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

**Memphis on Main** regularly brings impressive Blues talent to Champaign.

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

## **Donors**

We are grateful to the following individuals and businesses that have provided donations to support the work of the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society.

**Cody Sokolski and Marci Dodds**  
**One Main Development, LLC**  
**Slumberland Furniture**  
**SuperValu**

## Band Memberships

**Alex Jenkins & the Bombers** are working on a CD, and we are all looking forward to hearing it. They'll be playing a late night show at the Slippery Noodle in Indianapolis on July 9 that sounds very exciting.

**The Kilborn Alley Blues Band** has also been working on a new CD. Can't wait to hear it. They play a regular gig at D.R. Digger's the first Wednesday of every month, and enjoy food with friends.

**King's Highway** is working on a new CD too. It is great that there is so much new recorded blues coming out soon! They will be playing a benefit for Alex McMahon on July 16 at the Westville American Legion. Please go out and support the family.

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

**The Painkillers** are playing at Alto Vineyards July 30. Go out and enjoy some wine while listening to great blues.

## 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 Josh Spence

## PCBS Business

The next Prairie Crossroads Blues Society Meeting is scheduled for July 20 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 July 26. Please submit articles, ideas, or comments to [smhannum@gmail.com](mailto:smhannum@gmail.com).

## Inclusive Staff

Editor:	Sandy Hannum
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Mojo Tech:	Sherry Cibelli

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

## SUMMER FESTIVALS IN THE MIDWEST

### Mississippi Valley Blues Festival

Davenport IA

Fri – Sun, July 1 – 3 [www.mvbs.org](http://www.mvbs.org)

### Ain't Nothin' But The Blues Festival

Bloomington IL

July 15 – 16 <http://www.aintnothinbuttheblues.com>

## EVENTS

**July 1** – Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials – The Castle Theatre – Bloomington, IL – 8 pm  
**July 2** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Players Pub – Bloomington, IN – 9 pm  
The Sugar Prophets – Alto Vineyards – Champaign – 7:30 pm  
Albert Castiglia – River Bend Bar & Grill – Kankakee, IL – 8 pm  
**July 3** – The Sugar Prophets – Willow Ridge Winery – Shelbyville, IL – 2 pm  
**July 4** – Deb Callahan – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm  
**July 6** – Laurie Morvan Band – Goodfella's Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 7 pm  
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger's – Champaign – 9 pm  
**July 8** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Wilebski's Blues Saloon – St. Paul, MN – 9 pm  
**July 9** – Alex Jenkins & the Bombers – Slippery Noodle – Indianapolis, IN – 9:30 pm  
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Rockford Park District & Charlotte's Web – Rockford, IL  
King's Highway – The Pink House – Ogden, IL – 3-6 pm  
Painkillers – Iron Post – Urbana – 6 pm  
**July 10** – Grand Marquis – Alto Vineyards – 2 pm  
**July 11** – Rockin' Jake – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**July 13** – Reverend Raven & CSAB – River Bend Bar & Grill – Kankakee, IL – 7 pm  
**July 15** – Lizzie Neal Band – Goodfella's Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 7 pm  
**July 16** – King's Highway – Benefit for Alex McMahon – Westville American Legion – Westville, IL  
**July 18** – Chris Bell & 100% Blues – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**July 20** – Rooster Alley Band – Goodfella's Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 7 pm  
**July 21** – Devon Allman's Honeytribe – Blues in Central Park – Decatur, IL – 7 pm  
**July 23** – Soul Creek / The Sugar Prophets – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 8 pm  
**July 25** – Bill Evans Birthday Party – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**July 28** – The Sugar Prophets – Ko Fusion – Champaign – Open Blues Jam – 10 pm  
**July 30** – The Painkillers – Alto Vineyards – Champaign – 7:30 pm  
  
**Aug 1** – Lionel Young Band – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**Aug 3** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D. R. Digger's – Champaign – 9 pm  
**Aug 5** – Johnny Rawls – Goodfella's Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 7 pm  
**Aug 6** – Johnny Rawls – The Apollo Theater – Peoria, IL – 7 pm  
**Aug 8** – Ben Prestage – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**Aug 13** – The Painkillers – Iron Post – Urbana – 6 pm  
**Aug 15** – Bryan Lee – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**Aug 18** – Eddie Shaw & the Wolfgang – Blues in Central Park – Decatur, IL – 7 pm

**Aug 22** – Grady Champion – The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm  
**Aug 23** – Morry Sochat & Special 20's – River Bend Bar & Grill – Kankakee, IL – 7 pm  
BB King – Virginia Theater – Champaign – 7:30 pm  
**Aug 25** – The Sugar Prophets – Ko Fusion – Champaign – Open Blues Jam – 10 pm  
**Aug 26** – King's Highway – Sangamon Valley Music Fest – Mahomet, IL – 5 pm

**Sept 7** – Andrew "Jr. Boy" Jones - Goodfella's Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 7 pm  
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger's – Champaign – 9 pm  
**Sept 17** – Alex Jenkins & the Bombers – Fisher Theatre – Danville, IL – 7 pm  
**Sept 22** – The Sugar Prophets – Ko Fusion – Champaign – Open Blues Jam – 10 pm

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

## Mt. Bluesmore



That Urbana Blues, Brews and BBQ Festival is my kind of party!

Yeah, Muddy. How 'bout that King's Highway!

Hmm mm, Walter. And John Primer is still doin' great. Did you know he used to play wit' me?

I know, I know, Muddy. That's what I like most about these Blues fests. Young and old people together -- all lovin' the same music.