



# Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

March 2013

## International Blues Challenge

By Bob Paleczny

Gather thousands of blues fans, about 120 great bands, 80 solo/duo acts and combine them with record industry executives, blues artists, some famous Beale Street blues clubs with their delicious BBQ and you have the International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

Start your day with a showcase put on by record labels, promoters, or perhaps the entire Canadian contingent. Attend a Women in the Blues workshop which attracted some of the great female competitors and performers such as Illinois native and former U of I volleyball player Laurie Morvan, Sean Murphy and PCBS' IBC entry last year, Hurricane Ruth. End your day with one of the real treats, the late night jams going on at several clubs. Artists such as Bob Corritore, Eddie Turner, Rich del Grosso, John del Toro Richardson and Cassie Taylor play with many of the competitors until 2:00 or 3:00am. There are numerous other artists in town to perform and soak up the atmosphere such as C-U's own Kilborn Alley Blues Band, the Nick Moss Band and Dave Fields.

The best part is meeting the huge number of blues fans, members of Blues Societies from Central Illinois, across the United States and around the world. There's a buzz on Beale Street as folks share the names of the superb performers they've seen and been excited by. It is an amazing event.

This year was the 29<sup>th</sup> Challenge and the blues industry came together in an attempt to find the next great blues band or performer. It's incredible how many great performers have played the IBC and some of the blues' biggest stars have competed and haven't won. There's so much talent around, it's truly hard to judge who should move on to the semi-finals, the finals, and who should be chosen as the ultimate winner.



**Jerry Lee & The Juju Kings at Rum Boogie**

Photo courtesy of Bob Paleczny

PCBS entry, Jerry Lee & The Juju Kings gave an outstanding performance both nights of the quarterfinals at the Rum Boogie Café on Beale Street. They had the waitresses dancing and boogieing in the aisles and the packed club loved the band. The venue MC commented that they were one of the best dressed bands in attendance. The judges however didn't select the band as one of the few chosen to move on from what was a tough venue. Prairie Crossroads is extremely proud of Jerry Lee & The Juju Kings and thanks them for the fine performances they put on representing our Society.

Other representatives from Central Illinois Blues Societies fared better. Back Pack Jones representing the Illinois Central Blues Society in Springfield, Blues Expressions representing the Decatur Blues Society and Jimmy Nick & Don't Tell Mama representing River City Blues Society in Peoria all advanced to the band semi-finals. Robert Sampson representing Springfield's Illinois Central Blues Club advanced to the finals in the solo/duo category for the second year in a row. Congratulations to all the fine competitors who put their heart and soul into these performances as they pursue their dream.  
(Continued on next page)



**Late Night Jam - Tom Holland with Selwyn Cooper**

Photo courtesy of Bob Paleczny

This year's finals had a different format, alternating between band and solo/duo acts. With two sets of equipment on stage the change overs between acts was quick, and they kept the pledge pitches for donations to a minimum. The finals were an exciting and fast-paced event. The winner of the band competition was the Selwyn Cooper Band, representing the Suncoast Blues Society of Florida. They also made the finals last year and are a well-deserved winner. Selwyn also won the beautiful Gibson ES-335 as the best guitar player. The winner of the solo/duo competition, Little G Weevil was a Memphis favorite. Although he represented the Atlanta Blues Society, he had spent many years playing up and down Beale Street. Little G also won the cigar box guitar presented to the best guitarist in the solo/duo category.

If you have the opportunity to attend a future IBC I'd recommend you go. I'm certainly looking forward to attending the 30<sup>th</sup> challenge next year.

**Blues at the Crossroads 2: Muddy & The Wolf**  
by Rich Cibelli

A light dusting of snow and cold winter temps didn't stop area blues fans from enjoying a night of great music, compliments of Blues at the Crossroads 2: Muddy & The Wolf.

Sangamon Auditorium in Springfield hosted this Saturday, February 2nd show billed as an evening of music recorded by two of the blues world's most renowned artists – Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf. What more could a blues fan ask for?

The Fabulous Thunderbirds with their current line-up of Jay Moeller on drums, Johnny Moeller and Mike Keller on guitar, and Randy Bermudes on bass joined co-founder and original band member Kim Wilson as house band for the event.

And serve they did, by setting the tone for a night of great music. Right out of the gate Wilson and his band showed that they are still at the top of their game having honed their skills with years of constant touring.



**The Fabulous Thunderbirds**

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

After warming the crowd, Wilson introduced the first special guest of the show – Tinsley Ellis. The Southern blues-rocker greeted the crowd with a great rendition of Wolf's "Killing Floor." Ellis, whose resume includes the release of more than 10 albums, continued his part of the show with "Howlin' for My Darling," and then an outstanding acoustic version of "Little Red Rooster."

Steady Rollin' Bob Margolin, the guitar master who from 1973-80 played in the Muddy Waters Band, was next. Not wasting any time Margolin thrilled the crowd with his "Mean Old Chicago." The slide master followed up with the Muddy Waters classic "Gone to Main Street."

Born in Boston in 1949, Margolin first picked up a guitar in 1964 and soon after was playing in rock bands all around the Brookline, Massachusetts area. However, it (Continued on next page)

was on a day in August of 1973 that Margolin went to see Muddy perform, and that changed his life forever. The story goes that after his show, Muddy, having seen the young guitarist from the Northeast perform a few times, asked Margolin if he'd like to join his band. As they say, the rest is history

Back at Blues at the Crossroads 2: Muddy & The Wolf – it was announced that a short break was coming up. Harmonica master Kim Wilson took center stage once again with his band to perform the Sonny Boy Williamson classic “Early in the Morning,” followed by “Kim’s Boogie.” For the 62-year old Wilson it was his time in the spotlight as he commanded a 10-minute plus solo. The guy is truly amazing.

The second half of the show got off to a great start with Wilson and The Fabulous Thunderbirds performing another Muddy Waters hit “Mannish Boy.” Then it was time to bring up yet another legend to the stage. This time it was blues guitar player Jody Williams. Williams’ decades-long career includes playing alongside Hubert Sumlin in Howlin’ Wolf’s first Chicago-based band. (Continued on next page)



**Jody Williams and Randy Bermudes**

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

Born in February of 1935, Williams started out playing harmonica, but after meeting this performer named Bo Diddley decided to give playing guitar a chance. The decision to switch instruments proved to be just the right choice as Williams and Diddley became best friends. In fact it’s Williams’ lead guitar work you hear on the Diddley classic “Who Do You Love?”

This night however, Williams would dazzle the crowd with his outstanding 1957 instrumental “Lucky Lou.” After decades of honing his craft, Williams still travels and plays

at festivals around the world. Yet he still finds time to sit in with his friends around the Chicago area.

The night’s final special guest was the one and only blues legend James Cotton. The native of Tunica, Mississippi was introduced to the sounds of the harmonica at an early age. Unfortunately by the time Cotton turned nine both of his parents had died. This left his life with a void, so he turned his desire to learn to play the harmonica. His interest just grew by leaps and bounds. In fact it was an uncle who took the young James Cotton over to live with another blues legend – Sonny Boy Williamson. The two eventually became like father and son, and soon after hit the road to perform all over the south.

Still too young to get in to perform at juke joints, Cotton would open up for Sonny Boy outside on the front steps and still make pretty good money. But one day Williamson decided he was going to go back to Wisconsin and left the young Cotton to fend for himself. With no one left to help guide him, the teenaged James Cotton decided he’d head to Memphis to become a blues man.

Then out of the blue in December of 1954, Muddy Waters was in Memphis looking for a harp player to play in his band. The story goes that Junior Wells had just left Water’s band. So during a break in one of Cotton’s regular Friday afternoon happy hour gigs Waters walked up and introduced himself. He then proceeded to ask Cotton to join up with him. Cotton agreed and went on to work with Waters for 12 years.



**James Cotton, Bob Margolin and Kim Wilson**

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

Now decades later and having survived throat surgery, radiation treatment and years of touring, Cotton is still at (Continued on next page)

the top of his game. He delighted the crowd with a song of his own called "Creeper." Yes, folks, James Cotton is the real thing.

As Blues at The Crossroads 2: Muddy & The Wolf was coming to a close, all the evening's players joined on stage to perform "Got My Mojo Working," and received a standing ovation. What an incredible night of music of Muddy and The Wolf we were treated to. Moreover, it's one show I'll remember for a long time. I just wish you had been there to enjoy it too!

### **Blues Workshop for Kids at Champaign Library By Sandy Hannum**

On Saturday afternoon February 9 we held the first in our series of Blues workshops for kids at the Champaign Public Library. The Library provided a large comfortable room with excellent audio-visual equipment. Because our order of harmonicas had not yet arrived, Samuel Music generously donated 25 Hohner Pocket Pal harmonicas for the workshop. Doug Schroer had some great recorded harmonica music playing as everyone assembled.

Our presenters were historian Courtney Cain, who is working on a PhD in African-American history, and Doug Schroer, well-known local harmonica musician and instructor. Every child who attended received a harmonica as soon as they came in. It was great to see them immediately start trying them out while waiting for the program to start.



**Courtney Cain teaching history of the Blues**

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

First up was the history portion. Courtney presented a rich powerpoint overview of Blues roots and history with some stunning old photos of Blues legends, and of what life was like in the days when Blues was first being created.



**Doug Schroer teaching Blues harmonica basics**

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

Next Doug got the kids going with some basic harmonica instruction, proper position, inhaling and exhaling and playing notes. They tried making some train sounds, since trains were an important part of the great migration north. They had a blast and learned enough to get excited about trying to learn more at home on their own.



**Kids in workshop try some harmonica techniques**

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

We are grateful to the Orange Krush Foundation for providing the PCBS with funding for the workshop series, and to Samuel Music for the gift of the harmonicas. Remember, there is another workshop planned for Saturday March 30 in the Urbana Free Library, Lewis Auditorium, 1-2 pm.



**There's that train whistle!**

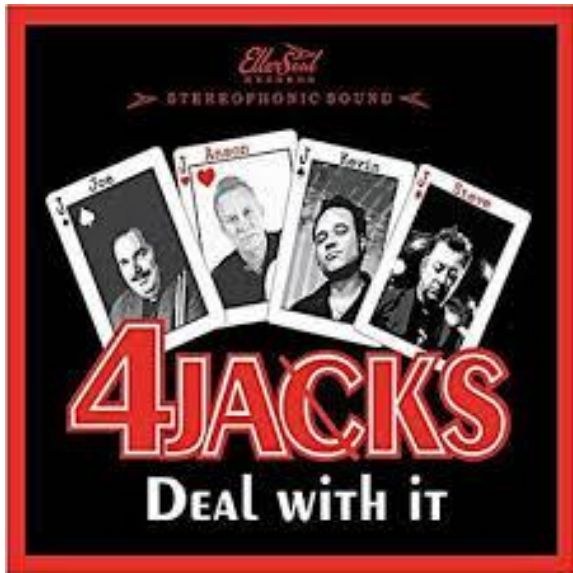
Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

## Place an Ad in the *Inclusive*

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4.5" x 7.5" (1/2 page) ----- \$75/issue (\$250/year)  
10" x 7.5" (full page) ----- \$100/issue (\$325/year)

Contact [smhannum@gmail.com](mailto:smhannum@gmail.com).



### 4 JACKS "Deal With It"

Reviewed by Rich Cibelli

When you put the likes of Anson Funderburgh, Big Joe Maher, Kevin McKendree and Steve Mackey together you know something magical is going to happen. Case in point would be "Deal With It," the 4 JACKS new release on Eller Soul Records.

Texas guitar slinger Funderburgh takes the helm on the opening and title track. It shows his distinctive style that has made him one of the very best around. Add in the fine sounds of a B3 from keyboard master Kevin McKendree and you've got yourself a great combination that is sure to please.

Listeners to music should recognize McKendree's name. He has long established himself alongside another longtime performer a la Delbert McClinton. Since I'm

naming names, he also works on occasion with that "Stray Cat," Gretsch 6-string strummer Brian Setzer.

Listeners to this product will enjoy the snappy sounds of "Have Ourselves a Time." Filled with the sounds reminiscent of older times, the tune while short in length is a perfect example of the 4 JACKS swagger and ability to take a simple message and make it shine.

This 12-song release is full of catchy titles including "I Don't Want To Be President," with its take on the pitfalls of living in the house that occupies 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. And check out "She Ain't Worth A Dime," about a girl with a reputation.

Combined, the four musicians on this release have decades of playing in other bands and music projects, but it's "Deal With It," that really brings all that experience together and the opportunity to gel like a fine tuned music machine.

For example, Funderburgh, like so many blues greats to come out of the Lone Star State before him, is best known for his 30 plus years as part of the "The Rockets." It's here working with long-time friend and band member Sam Myers that helped Funderburgh fuel his march to the top.

I particularly enjoyed listening to "Bobcat Woman," with its hard hitting beat and awesome vocals. Penned by 4 JACKS drummer extraordinaire Big Joe Maher, it's just another reason why this release is a must for blues fans everywhere. Keyboard master Kevin McKendree does another fantastic job of hitting the keys at just the right times.

The rest of the release including "Texas Twister", and the seductive "Ansonmypants," feature the band at ease just hamming it up and jamming away. It's something you've got to hear for yourself to really appreciate.

"Bad News Baby," and "Painkiller," round out this outstanding release. But don't just take my word for it. Do yourself a favor and get a hold of "Deal With It." I think you'll agree the 4 JACKS have come together to record one of the hottest blues releases around!

## Looking Forward By Bob Paleczny

March presents a good time to get out and see many of our member bands at various locations. The Kilborn Alley Blues Band, Susan Williams Band, Hurricane Ruth and Alex Jenkins & The Bombers are all playing at venues throughout the area. Of particular note, Matthew Curry & The Fury are playing Saturday March 2 at The Shady Nook, a great little club in Saybrook, IL. It's a short drive and the young guitar slinger always puts on a rockin' show. It's also great to see The Diva & The Dude back out performing after a short hiatus, they always entertain fans with their high energy performances. Support your local blues acts and go out and see some of the outstanding local music we have in the area.

A couple of touring acts will be passing through our area. Brandon Santini, a superb harmonica player based in Memphis, TN will make a series of appearances next week. He'll be traveling along with his band which includes the fine guitar player Jeff Jensen. They'll play at The Alamo Club in Springfield on Monday March 4 and for The Friends of The Blues on Tuesday in Kankakee. They'll also play live on Dave's Blues show next Tuesday March 5, on WEFT 90.1 FM. Tune in around noon and listen, Brandon will be playing some tracks from his just released CD "This Time Another Year".

You can also catch Ana Popovic, who's been nominated for four BMA's playing in Watseka on March 16. That same night you have a chance to see bass player and Blues Music Award winner Biscuit Miller playing in the area. As always check out the schedule of events in our

newsletter, or the calendar page on our website; <http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/pcbscal.html> Another of the shows we're looking forward to is the Rockin' Johnny Band playing at Memphis on Main on Friday March 22. After about a 10-year absence Rockin' Johnny Burgin is tearing up the Chicago blues scene with his awesome guitar playing. Johnny and his band played behind Willie Buck on his recently released Delmark CD "Cell Phone Man". Another great show promises to be local favorites, The Sugar Prophets, when they play in Kankakee on Thursday March 28 for the Friends of the Blues.

If we have your feet moving with all this great music, get out and learn some blues dancing from the folks at bluesCENTRAL. They have lessons for beginners through advanced levels. PCBS and the dancers encourage all blues fans to head out and enjoy some live local blues music.

We'd also like to remind blues fans about our upcoming **Blues In The Schools** harmonica workshop coming up Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> at the Urbana Free Library. Read Sandy Hannum's excellent article elsewhere in our newsletter about our first event and make plans to bring your youngsters out to our next **BITS** workshop. Kids learn some worthwhile information about the blues and it's place in American history, some basics of harmonica playing and they walk away with their own harmonica to continue to learn and practice with.

**DID YOU KNOW** that every time you attend a Prairie Crossroads Blues Society meeting you have a chance to win the **blues CD giveaway** of the day!

You can donate to our Education Fund  
on our website;  
[prairiecrossroadsblues.org/education.html](http://prairiecrossroadsblues.org/education.html)

## 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.

**Samuel Music** has generously supported our Blues in the Schools programs from the beginning with donated instruments.

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

## 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 this month at Goodfella's in Pekin on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and at the Friendly Tavern in Danville on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Magic Johnson** will be playing at the Long Bridge Golf Course in Springfield on April 5, at the Hill Prairie Winery in Oakford on April 14, at the Illini Country Club in Springfield on April 26, and at Kuhl Time Korner in Jacksonville on April 27.

**The Diva and The Dude** are taking a break. Check their website for future events.

**Full Throttle Band** is one of our newer member bands. Check them out on Facebook.

**Hurricane Ruth** will be playing this month at Crows Mill Pub in Springfield on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The James Jones Trio** has put out a CD. Check it out!

**Jr. & The Blues Rockers** is one of our newer member bands. They plan to have a website soon.

**The Kilborn Alley Blues Band** is playing this month at Wild Willy's in Brocton on the 1<sup>st</sup>, at D.R. Digger's on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and at the Great Northern Blues Society Festival in Wausau, WI on the 9<sup>th</sup>. They have plans to travel to Des Moines and Kansas City this spring.

**Matthew Curry & The Fury** is playing this month at the Shady Nook Pub in Saybrook on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Live at the 5-Spot in Peoria on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**The Painkillers** will be playing this month at the Iron Post in Urbana on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**The Sugar Prophets** will be playing this month at the Kankakee Vally Boat Club on the 28<sup>th</sup>. They put on a great BITS kick-off concert at Garden Hills School and Josh and A-Train are now teaching in the Blues in the Schools program for 8 weeks.

**Susan Williams Band** will be playing this month at Huber's in Champaign on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Clark Bar in Champaign on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Timmy D & Blind Justice** will be playing this month at Gino's in Danville on the 1<sup>st</sup>, at The Old Orchard Inn in Effingham on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and at the Iron Post in Urbana on the 15<sup>th</sup>. They will soon release their debut CD!

**Tombstone Bullet** will be playing this month at Double D's in Edinburg on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

## Prairie Crossroads Board of Directors

President	Bob Paleczny
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## PCBS Business

The next Prairie Crossroads Blues Society meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday March 20 at Crane Alley, 115 W. Main St. #1, 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 March 27. Please submit articles, ideas, or comments to [smhannum@gmail.com](mailto:smhannum@gmail.com).

## Inclusive Staff

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Tech Consultant:	Bob Paleczny and BP Computers
Mojo Tech:	Sherry Cibelli

## Mt. Bluesmore



Hey Muddy! How 'bout that Blues at the Crossroads 2 concert in our honor!

Yeah, Wolf. That makes me feel real good. You know we are a part of something big and great!

Mmm Hmm. The best thing is you know the Blues are alive and well!

## EVENTS

**Mar 1** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Wild Willy's – Brocton, IL – 8 pm

Hurricane Ruth – Crows Mill Pub – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm

Timmy D & Blind Justice – Gino's – Danville, IL – 8:30 pm

**Mar 2** – Susan Williams – Huber's – Champaign – 8 pm

Matthew Curry & The Fury – Shady Nook Pub – Saybrook, IL – 8:30 pm

**Mar 3** – First Sundays at Emerald City – blues dancing with bluesCENTRAL – Emerald City Lounge – Champaign – 6 pm

**Mar 4** – Brandon Santini – WEFT 90.1 FM – Champaign – 12 pm

Brandon Santini – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm

**Mar 5** – Brandon Santini – Kankakee Valley Boat Club – Kankakee, IL – 7 pm

**Mar 6** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger's – Juke Joint Show – Champaign – 9 pm



**Mar 8** – Matthew Curry & The Fury – Live at the 5-Spot – Peoria, IL – 5:30 pm

Timmy D & Blind Justice – The Old Orchard Inn – Effingham, IL – 9 pm

**Mar 9** – Great Northern Blues Society Festival – The Blues Café – Rothschild Pavilion – Wausau, WI – 1 pm  
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Great Northern Blues Society Festival – The Blues Café – Rothschild Pavilion – Wausau, WI – 3 pm

The Painkillers – The Iron Post – Urbana – 6 pm  
Susan Williams – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm  
The Blues Deacons – B.J.'s Pump – Hoopeston, IL – 9 pm  
Tombstone Bullet – Double D's – Edinburg, IL – 9 pm

**Mar 11** – Edie Snow Birthday Tribute w/ Bill Evans – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm

**Mar 13** – Alex Jenkins & The Bombers – Goodfella's Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 7 pm

**Mar 15** – Timmy D & Blind Justice – The Iron Post – 8 pm

**Mar 16** – Anna Popovic – Watseka Theatre – Watseka, IL – 7 pm

Biscuit Miller – The Moose Lodge – Oakwood, IL – 8 pm

**Mar 17** – Alex Jenkins & The Bombers – The Friendly Tavern – Danville, IL – 4 pm

**Mar 19** – Harper – Bradley Bourbonnais Sportsmen's Club – Bourbonnais, IL – 7 pm

**Mar 22** – Rockin' Johnny Band – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 9 pm

**Mar 23** – Crazy Johnny Band – The Pink House – Ogden, IL – 7 pm

Candy Foster & The Shades of Blue – The Iron Post – Urbana – 8 pm

**Mar 25** – J.P. Soars – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm

**Mar 28** – Susan Williams – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm

The Sugar Prophets – Kankakee Valley Boat Club – Kankakee, IL – 7 pm

**Mar 29** – J.P. Soars & The Red Hots – Goodfella's Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 7 pm

**March 30** – Blues in the Library: Harmonica Workshop for Kids – Urbana Free Library – Urbana – 1 pm

**Apr 3** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger's – Juke Joint Show – Champaign – 9 pm

**Apr 4** – Shawn Pittman – The Moose Lodge – Bradley, IL – 7 pm

**Apr 5** – Black Magic Johnson – Long Bridge Golf Course – Springfield, IL – 6 pm

**Apr 6** – Susan Williams – Huber's – Champaign – 8 pm

**Apr 7** – First Sundays at Emerald City – blues dancing with bluesCENTRAL – Emerald City Lounge – Champaign – 6 pm

**Apr 8** – The Blues Deacons – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm

**Apr 13** – Juke Joint Festival – Clarksdale, MS – 10 am  
Black Magic Johnson – Fat Jack's – Bloomington, IL – 3 pm

**Apr 14** – Black Magic Johnson – Hill Prairie Winery – Oakford, IL – 2 pm

**Apr 16** – Matt Hill – Bradley Bourbonnais Sportsmen's Club – Bourbonnais, IL – 7 pm

**Apr 26** – Black Magic Johnson – Illini Country Club – Springfield, IL – 6 pm

**Apr 27** – Black Magic Johnson – Kuhl Time Korner – Jacksonville, IL – 8 pm

**May 1** – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger's – Juke Joint Show – Champaign – 9 pm

**May 2** – Biscuit Miller – The Moose Lodge – Bradley, IL – 7 pm

**May 4** – Hurricane Ruth – Round Barn Blues – Kirksville, MO – 3 pm

The Blues Deacons – Hoopeston's Firemen's Ball – Hoopeston, IL – 8:30 pm

Alex Jenkins & The Bombers – High Street Bar and Grill – Wingate, IN – 9 pm

**May 5** – First Sundays at Emerald City – blues dancing with bluesCENTRAL – Emerald City Lounge – Champaign – 6 pm

**May 9** – Blues Music Awards – Cook Convention Center – Memphis, TN – 5:30 pm

**May 11** – Black Magic Johnson – Kuhl Time Korner – Jacksonville, IL – 8 pm

**May 13** – Tombstone Bullet – Blue Monday @ The Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm

**May 16** – James Armstrong – venue TBA – 7 pm

**May 17** – Matthew Curry & The Fury – Shady Nook Pub – Saybrook, IL – 8 pm

**May 18** – Crazy Johnny Band – The Pink House – Ogden, IL – 7 pm

Tombstone Bullet – Walnut Street Winery – Rochester, IL – 7 pm

The Blues Deacons – Alto Vineyards – Champaign – 7:30 pm

**May 30** – Bryan Lee – Kankakee Valley Boat Club – Kankakee, IL – 7 pm