



Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

November 2011

PCBS International Blues Challenge Is Huge Success

By Lorri Coey



Little did we know when PCBS took on the task of holding a Blues Foundation International Blues Challenge competition that it would be a challenge for the blues society as well as for the bands competing.

Hours of hard work, organization and even a little nail biting went into creating the event. Would any bands sign up? Would we have qualified judges? Would we get enough volunteers? Would the fans come out? The answer to all those questions was a resounding "Yes!"

Seven bands signed up to compete. The Entertainment Committee got five generous individuals from other blues societies to spend their Saturday working as judges for the event. Volunteers were on hand to man the door, act as timekeepers and help the bands load their equipment. The competition ran smoothly because of their hard work.

Memphis on Main opened their doors early for us and lent us their incredible sound engineer, Steve Lemke, who did an amazing job setting up sound for all those bands in less than 20 minutes between acts. And the audience was fantastic. At 3:30 on a beautiful fall Saturday afternoon we had enthusiastic blues fans filling Memphis on Main.

What an awesome day for the blues in central Illinois.

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Timmy D. & Blind Justice got off to a rocking start and blew everyone away. These guys haven't been on the music scene as a group for all that long, but they played like they've been there done that before, taking the entire 25 minutes to rock the house. We couldn't have written a better scenario to get our inaugural IBC event off to a great start.

Next up was the Susan Williams Band. Susan started her set with Chain of Fools. That girl can sing. She brought along band mates from the Chicago area and they kept the audience enthralled throughout their set. That is one tight group of musicians.

Alex Jenkins & the Bombers brought along a devoted following of fans from the Danville area and beyond. People have been listening to some of these guys play since the Jenkins' brothers' dad was fronting the band. Nowadays that's Alex's job and he's great at it. The band played several original tunes and when Alex asked how much time was left, promptly launched the band into "a little bit of something."

Then along came Hurricane Ruth. I don't know where or when she got that name but it certainly fit on Saturday night. This woman is a ball of fire and she belts out the tunes. Her band is great fun to watch and the audience really responded to them. In fact, they were the winners of our highly unofficial fan favorite poll.

Band number five, can you believe the work these judges had to do? Band five and all of them rocking the house. Band number five was the Sweet Wood Band. This was a sweet set showing off the band's versatile style and everyone enjoyed it. The Jamieson Brothers took the stage next. This is a band that hasn't been in existence very long, they told the audience that this was about the sixth time they'd even played together, but you'd never know it from the performance they gave Saturday night.

The final competitors were Danny & the Devils. If we couldn't have imagined a better start to the competition, we certainly couldn't have written a better ending either. Danny brings a lot of energy to the stage. I heard him described as an explosion waiting to happen and this band delivered.

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Wow, and at the end of it all Hurricane Ruth was announced as the winner.



Hurricane Ruth Wins International Blues Challenge

Photo courtesy of Sherry Cibelli

But just because the competition ended didn't mean the night was over. The Terry Quiett Band, from Kansas, took over from there. They finished out the night playing their rocking blues. At one point they had the dance floor full. And when Josh Spence, from The Sugar Prophets, joined them with his harmonica for an impromptu jam session, it was all smiles from the stage and the audience.

So PCBS, despite our inexperience and doubts, went forward believing that this event would come together, so much so that we even called it our annual competition, which just means we should be back with another event next year. As great as this one was, I'd suggest you make that a definite plan for next fall. Better yet, get involved with PCBS and see what the IBC is like from the inside. You won't be disappointed.

Thank You
by Bob Paleczny
PCBS Entertainment Chair

Prairie Crossroads Blues Society wishes to congratulate Hurricane Ruth, the winner of our IBC Blues Challenge that took place Saturday October 22 at Memphis on Main. They will be representing PCBS in the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge Jan. 31 thru Feb. 4, 2012 in Memphis, TN.

We want to send out a big Thank You to all the participating bands, it was an extremely close competition as all the bands performed excellently. We'd also like thank our stellar panel of judges who came from throughout Central Illinois. We know it was a difficult decision to pick a winner. We'd like to thank our sponsors, Memphis on Main for the great venue, and Skins-N-Tins Drum Shop for the use of a drum kit throughout the competition. We'd like to send a personal thanks to the

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soundman, Steve Lemke, who did a superb job all day working with the bands to get them sounding great with very little time. Thanks also to the folks from Holy Smoke BBQ who provided the delicious food for everyone. We'd also like to thank all the PCBS volunteers who made it such a fun day for all involved. Mostly we'd like to thank the fans who came out and cheered enthusiastically for their favorites. It was a lot of fun and the fans and the bands are what made the event a great success.

Don't forget Prairie Crossroads Blues Society is a co-sponsor of Donna Herula and the blues events happening at The Iron Post as part of the CU Folk and Roots Festival going on Saturday November 5. Joe Asselin of The Sugar Prophets is hosting an acoustic blues jam from 2:00 to 3:00 pm at The Iron Post Saturday afternoon. Then Saturday evening you can see Blind Boy Paxton, Donna Herula, Reverend Robert, and The Viper and His Famous Orchestra at the Iron Post. Donna Herula will also hold a Delta Blues guitar workshop Saturday afternoon at Corson Music at 1:00. Here's the entire schedule: <http://folkandroots.org/site/festival/2011-schedule>. See you there!

Other PCBS upcoming events include a Kilborn Alley Blues Band CD release party Tuesday November 29 at The Iron Post as Kilborn celebrates the release of their new CD "Four". On Friday December 2, Blues Music Award winner Matt Hill will perform live on WEFT 90.1 FM around 8:00 and then move up the street to play that night at Memphis on Main in a show hosted by Prairie Crossroads Blues Society.

Through These Eyes **By Rich Cibelli**

There's an old adage that goes something like this: plant a seed and watch it grow. For me, The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society is the seed that was planted more than a year and a half ago. Through these eyes, it continues to grow with no end in sight. I can tell you, it's an awesome sense of pride to watch this organization mature.

Case in point is our just completed 1st International Blues Challenge. What a great event all around. Great bands, great food, a great crowd and best of all a great group of volunteers who came together to help plan and make sure the event went on without a hitch. Putting on an event of this magnitude is no simple task as there is much to consider.

To tell you the truth, I can't say for sure how many people came up to me to tell me how much they enjoyed attending our blues challenge, but it was several. I hope those same individuals spread the word about what we are doing.

Moreover, it was an event like this that gives our blues society the opportunity to reach out and attract new members to join our ranks. I am pleased to report that we succeeded in that

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objective. So please allow me to welcome The Sweet Wood Band and all of our other new members to the PCBS family. In the coming days our organization will get the chance to shine again as we will be participating in several events in our area. I'd like to say few words about each of them.

First up is the Champaign-Urbana Folk and Roots Festival. This event takes place on Friday and Saturday November 4 and 5 at various locations in Urbana. PCBS is proud to join our friends at WEFT-90.1 FM in co-sponsoring the Iron Post stage on Saturday night, as mentioned in Bob's article above.

Be sure to check out the Delta blues guitar workshop held by Donna Herula at Corson's Music in downtown Urbana at 1:00 p.m. Right after that, guitar and harmonica player Joe Asselin of The Sugar Prophets will host an open blues jam at The Iron Post. There you have it -- a great day of musical entertainment and fun. I hope to see you there.

Since I mentioned great music, did you know The Kilborn Alley Blues Band has a new CD coming out on the Blue Bella Records label? It's called "Four." Moreover, the band has asked Prairie Crossroads Blues Society to join them on Tuesday, November 29th at the Iron Post for a CD release party.

It's worth noting that The Kilborn Alley Blues Band was the very first band to join our blues society. We cannot thank them enough for their continued support and dedication to our community and blues music. I know this will be a special event that you won't want to miss. Do yourself a favor and mark it on your calendar right now.

PCBS will introduce a brand new series of concerts on Friday, December 2 called First Fridays. These events are a collaboration between WEFT-90.1 FM and Memphis on Main. Matt Hill, an up-and-coming blues artist from the Piedmont area of North Carolina will help us kick off this new series.



Matt Hill at 2011 Blues Blast Awards

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

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Just think about this for a second -- not only will you get the chance to hear a great live performance on the radio, but a short time later you'll be able to go and see the performer in person. I want to say thank you to all the hard work that went into making this type of event possible in our community. So there you have it -- three more terrific opportunities for The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society to reach out to blues music lovers in our community. In the coming months more events like the ones I mentioned will occur. Once again the members of PCBS will be joined by others in our community who not only enjoy, but support blues music now and forever!

As a side note, Sherry and I attended the 2011 Blues Blast Awards Show at Buddy Guy's in Chicago this past Thursday. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit Guy's new club, I encourage you to do so. I was impressed by all the memorabilia that adorn the club.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Lifetime Achievement Award which was given to Michael Frank. He is best known to the blues community through his friendship with the late David "Honeyboy" Edwards as well as starting the Earwig Records label back in 1978.



Michael Frank Wins Lifetime Achievement Award

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

Overall I really enjoyed the event as it gave me the chance to see some of the best blues bands from around the country. Moreover, the evening was a great opportunity to meet others in the industry, from record company executives to event promoters, music reviewers and many professional photographers whom I had previously only heard of.

I was particularly pleased that the late Robin Rogers was given the award for Best Female Blues Artist. Even more pleasing was the wonderful set performed by Robin's husband, Tony along with Bob Corritore and Sharrie Williams.

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Sharrie Williams, Tony Rogers, and Bob Corritore

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

We also got a chance to see The Sugar Prophets perform at the awards, as they were nominated in the New Artist Debut Recording category. I am sorry that they did not come home with the award for new artist debut recording, but they did make a great showing and continue to be extremely successful.

For more than six hours, bands from all over the blues spectrum strutted their stuff for the standing room only crowd. Buddy Guy who wound up winning three different Blues Blast Awards took time to share a few stories and thank the crowd for all of their support during his career.



Buddy Guy Wins Three Blues Blast Awards

Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

In particular, Guy told the crowd that he built his club for them. He went on to invite anybody who could play an instrument back to play at his regular Monday night blues jam.

In short, I want to commend everybody involved in putting on The 2011 Blues Blast Awards for a great evening of music and fun and look forward to next year's event and another chance to see some of the best the blues music industry has to offer.

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 are playing at Crash McLain's in Crawfordsville, IN on November 5. Be sure to catch the show if you are out that way!

The Kilborn Alley Blues Band will be traveling back to the Netherlands and the UK again this month. Then they will have a CD release party at the Iron Post on November 29. Be there to celebrate!

King's Highway will be performing at the Pink House in Ogden on November 23.

The Sugar Prophets have several gigs coming up in Decatur and the surrounding communities. They will be back at Memphis on Main on December 9.

The Sweet Wood Band is our newest member band. Welcome to the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society! We are looking forward to a long and enjoyable connection.

The Painkillers are working on a CD which will come out sometime this fall. You can see them at the Iron Post on November 12.

Timmy D & Blind Justice will be performing at the Pink House in Ogden on December 17.

Prairie Crossroads Board of Directors

President	Rich Cibelli
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At-large Members	Sandy Hannum Tony Odendahl Josh Spence

PCBS Business

The next Prairie Crossroads Blues Society Meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on November 16 in room 215 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 November 28. Please submit articles, ideas, or comments to 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

- Nov 1** – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Nov 2 – Big Dog Mercer – Goodfella’s Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 7 pm
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger’s – Champaign – 9 pm
Nov 4 – C-U Folk & Roots Festival – Downtown Urbana – 5 pm
Bruiser & the Virtues – Huber’s – Champaign – 8 pm
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – 88 Broadway – Urbana – 11:30 pm
Nov 5 – C-U Folk & Roots Festival – Downtown Urbana – 12 pm
Alex Jenkins & the Bombers – Crash McLain’s – Crawfordsville, IN – 8 pm
Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Huber’s – Champaign – 8 pm
The Sugar Prophets – Pop’s Place – Decatur, IL – 8 pm
Kilborn Alley – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 9 pm
Nov 6 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Blue Star Benefit - Buddy Guy’s Legends – Chicago – 7 pm
Surreal Deal – The Rose Bowl – Urbana - 8:30 pm
Nov 7 – John Nemeth – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
Nov 8 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Nov 10 – Ivas John Band – Bradley Bourbonnais Sportsmen’s club – Bourbonnais, IL – 7 pm
Nov 11 – The Diva & the Dude – The Pink House – Ogden – 5 pm
Billy Galt – Jimmy Ryan’s – Decatur, IL – 6:30 pm
Nov 12 – The Painkillers – The Iron Post – Urbana – 6 pm
Alex Jenkins & the Bombers – VFW – Paris, IL – 8 pm
Danny & the Devils – The Walnut Speakeasy – Elgin, IL – 9 pm
Candy Foster & the Shades of Blue – Cowboy Monkey – Champaign – 9:30 pm
Nov 13 – Bruce “Bruiser” Rummenie – The Iron Post – Urbana – 3 pm
Nov 14 – Harper – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
Nov 15 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Nov 17 – Cash Box Kings – Goodfella’s Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 7 pm
Danny & the Devils – Buddy Guy’s Legends – Chicago – 8 pm
Nov 18 – Surreal Deal – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 9 pm
Nov 19 – The Sugar Prophets – Sliderz – Decatur, IL – 4 pm
Alex Jenkins & the Bombers – Westville American Legion – Westville, IL – 8 pm
The Impalas – Boomerangs – Urbana – 8 pm
Billy Galt – The Berg – Arthur, IL – 9 pm
Danny & the Devils – The Uptown Tavern – Westmont, IL – 9 pm
The Sugar Prophets – Wild Dog Saloon – Decatur, IL – 9:30 pm
Nov 20 – Surreal Deal – The Rose Bowl – Urbana – 8:30 pm
Nov 21 – Big Jeff Chapman – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
Nov 22 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Nov 23 – Billy Galt – Jimmy Ryan’s – Decatur – 6:30 pm

King's Highway – The Pink House – Ogden, IL – 7 pm
The Sugar Prophets – Uncle Buck's – Mahomet, IL – 8:30 pm
Nov 26 – Alex Jenkins & the Bombers – Ike's Bar – Danville, IL – 8 pm
Billy Galt with the Dan Rivero Trio – Nakomis Bowl – Nakomis, IL – 9 pm
Nov 29 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – CD Release Party – The Iron Post – Urbana – 8 pm
Nov 30 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Goodfella's Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 7 pm

Dec 1 – Dave Herrero – Kankakee Valley Boat Club – Kankakee, IL – 7 pm
Dec 2 – The Diva & the Dude – Emerald City Lounge – Champaign – 5 pm
Matt Hill – WEFT & Memphis on Main – Champaign – 8 pm
Dec 3 – The Blues Deacons – Barb's Place – Decatur, IL – 9 pm
Dec 5 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
Dec 7 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger's – Champaign – 9 pm
Dec 9 – The Sugar Prophets – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 9 pm
Danny & the Devils – Indian Lakes – Bloomingdale, IL – 9:30 pm
Dec 10 – Danny & the Devils – The Uptown Tavern – Westmont, IL – 9 pm
Dec 12 – Nick Moss & the Flip Tops – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
Dec 17 – The Blues Deacons – Bourbon Barrel – Decatur, IL – 4 pm
The Sugar Prophets – Midway Pub & Grub – Effingham, IL – 8:30 pm
Timmy D & Blind Justice – The Pink House – Ogden, IL – 8:30 pm

Jan 4 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger's – Champaign – 9 pm

Mt. Bluesmore



Man, Walter. That Prairie Crossroads IBC Challenge was the best.

Yeah, Muddy. I can't even remember the last time I had so much fun. It's good to know that Blues is alive and well in Central Illinois.

No, Walter... I would say it is more like Alive and KICKIN'!