



Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

November 2014

PCBS IBC Challenge by Bob Paleczny

Congratulations to Monica Morris & Josie Lowder, winners of Prairie Crossroads Blues Society's Solo/Duo IBC Challenge. The duo from Springfield, IL won the approval of our panel of judges and many of the fans in attendance at our first Solo/Duo competition at Bentley's Pub on Saturday November 1. It was an awesome event with both the fans and competitors enjoying some of the best blues in the area.



Josie Lowder & Monica Morris

The meshing of Monica's acoustic guitar and the sweet tone of Josie's electric guitar work is exquisite. The interplay of Monica's and Josie's vocals is equally outstanding. They will now represent PCBS at the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN in January 2015. We're so proud to have them as our Solo/Duo act!



Robert Russell

Each of the acts were judged in the five categories suggested by the Blues Foundation's scoring; Blues Content, Instrumental Talent, Vocal Talent, Originality and Stage Presence.



Gary Jones & Susan Williams



Jiggy & The Source

Robert Russell got our Challenge off to a great start playing a nice selection of his original compositions. Robert is inspired by the legends of the blues such as Robert Johnson and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Susan Williams on bass and vocals was joined on electric guitar by Gary Jones. They turned in an awesome set showing off some of Susan's new original songs. Jiggy & The Source played an amazing set. Many fans commented they enjoyed the new ideas they brought to the blues. They came in a close second in the judges scoring. Unfortunately Benny Jenkins had to work late at the VA Hospital in Danville and was unable to compete in the Challenge.



Josie Lowder & Monica Morris

Kirk Lonbom of Back Pack Jones, winner s of PCBS 2013 IBC Band Challenge was in attendance as was Jerry Lee Gingery and his lovely wife Leslie who also came to enjoy the competition. Jerry and his band The Juju Kings were the 2012 PCBS Band winners. Artists

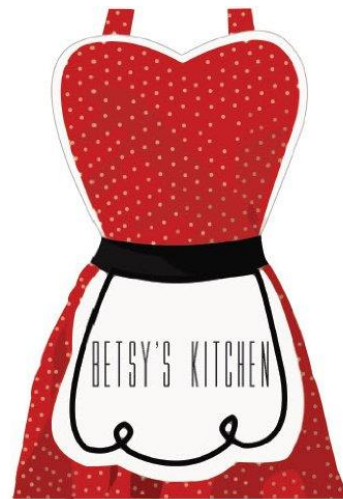
had a chance to network with fellow artists and fans had a chance to chat with the competitors. The amazing event led to a jam later that evening featuring the Susan Williams Band at Huber's. Besides Jiggy & The Source jamming with Susan (and lending some PA equipment to keep the jam going) there were appearances by Mary Jo Curry and Mike Rapier from Springfield, and local guitar wizard Bob Watson.

Thanks again to all you fans who showed up to support the blues! Good luck to Monica & Josie in Memphis.

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

www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/member.html

**PCBS BSPCD Competition
By Bob Paleczny**



BACK PACK JONES

"Betsy's Kitchen"

Congratulations to Back Pack Jones, their "Betsy's Kitchen" CD won our Best Self-Produced CD competition Back Pack Jones is a horn driven, soul and R&B influenced blues band from Springfield. They released their Betsy's Kitchen CD back in November of 2013 the same day they opened for the legendary BB King. They are led by Kirk Lonbom on guitar and feature the vocals of Mike Wallace.

We had five excellent entries in our Best Self-Produced CD competition, I'm sure the judges had a difficult time choosing the best CD. The CD's were scored in five categories with a weighted scoring system that placed the most emphasis on Blues Content. The remaining categories were; Musical Performance, Audio Quality of the Presentation, Cover Art and Design and finally Credits and Liner Information.

Hurricane Ruth's CD "Born on the River" came in a close 2nd in the judges scoring. And an indication to the closeness of the competition, there was a three-way tie for third between Alex Jenkins & The Bombers' "Voodoo You", Black Magic Johnson's "Walk With You Baby" and Jerry Lee Gingery and The Juju King's "Southside of Nowhere".

We're thrilled to have Back Pack Jones' CD as our representative in the Blues Foundation's BSPCD competition. Four copies of their CD have been sent to Memphis to compete in the larger International competition. Thanks to all the competitors for entering, all the CD's were excellent and every one of them would have been a superb choice as the PCBS representative. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and, our website and our Inclusive newsletter, we'll keep you updated on the results

The next meeting of
Prairie Crossroads Blues Society
is 6:30 pm Thursday November 13
at Black Rock Pizza
142 Lincoln Square, in Urbana

Looking Forward – November 2014

by Bob Paleczny

The 6th Annual CU Folks & Roots Festival happens Friday & Saturday November 7 & 8. The Festival features workshops, campfire sing-alongs, dancing and a variety of jams. It offers an opportunity for fans to interact with the performers on a personal basis and take part in many of the performances. PCBS is helping to sponsor Reverend Robert Jones a blues musician from the Detroit area is a singer, storyteller and multi-instrumentalist. As the CU Folk & Roots website describes Robert "he uses folk, blues, spirituals and other American Roots music to champion the beauty and power of our shared culture." Robert is doing a workshop at 8:00 Friday evening in the Landmark Hotel Library, and a performance at 11:15 that evening at The Iron Post. In addition Robert is visiting several local schools on Thursday afternoon. He is going to do an assembly for the 5th and 6th graders at Prairie Elementary and then will do a workshop with the Urbana High School jazz band.

Other artists that will be at the Festival include; Anne Feeney, Bucky Halker, Dom Flemmons of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, Mother Banjo and Woody Pines. Local artists appearing at the fest include; Big Bluestem, Bones Jugs & Harmony, Jiggy & The Source and Joe Asselin. Joe will be leading the blues jam on Saturday afternoon. Check out Folk & Roots Fest website for much more info about the performers and the complete schedule; <http://folkandroots.org/>.

PCBS Member Band, Kilborn Alley Blues Band plays their Juke Joint show at the World Famous D.R. Diggers, on the first Wednesday of every month. After they play the gig on Wednesday November 5, they head down to Clarksdale, MS to play with pal and old bandmate Deak Harp at Deak's Mississippi Saxophone Fest on Saturday, Nov. 8 and play at the legendary Red's Juke Joint in Clarksdale on Sunday night.

Several of our Member Bands are playing gigs in support of their recent releases. Black Magic Johnson's new CD is "Walk With You Baby", Hurricane Ruth's new CD is "Born on the River" and Jerry Lee Gingery and the Juju Kings new CD is "Southside of Nowhere". Be sure to catch these acts at a club near you and pick

up a copy of their new CD! You can also get copies of Alex Jenkins & The Bombers' newest CD, "Voodoo You" when they play shows throughout East Central Illinois and Western Indiana.

There are several other shows we'd like to highlight. From 7:00 to 10:00 pm on Tuesday November 11th Rockin' Jonny Burgin plays a show with many other artists at the Six Strings Club in Bloomington, IL. Proceeds from the show benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Hurricane Ruth will play a CD Release Party with Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet at The Alamo in Springfield on Saturday November 22, Candy Foster & Shades of Blue playing a Thanksgiving Eve show at Boomerangs on Wednesday November 26. Alex Jenkins & The Bombers play at the South Street Saloon in Danville on the 28th and Kicked to the Curb at Third Base Sports Bar in Springfield on the 29th.

Susan Williams is about the hardest working musician and travels wide and far to bring her music to blues fans. She'll play shows from Springfield to Danville and typically plays at Huber's once a month and several shows per month at the Clark Bar. You'll find her playing with her Susan Williams Band and several other duo and trio combinations.

Second Sunday Blues Dancing is back at Memphis on Main. They'll have DJ Spaceage spinning tunes for your dancing and listening pleasure this Sunday November 9 starting at 7:00.

Check PCBS online calendar for all the updated information;

<http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/pcbscal.html>

A final note, our Monthly meeting is Thursday November 13, at 6:30 pm at Black Rock Pizza, 142 Lincoln Square in Urbana. Come out for some delicious food, a beverage or two and contribute your ideas to make Prairie Crossroads an even better Blues Society.

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.

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
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Samuel Music
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President	Bob Paleczny
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PCBS Business

The next Prairie Crossroads Blues Society meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, November 13 at Black Rock Pizza 142 Lincoln Square in Urbana. Join us for a short meeting, some 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 Palecany

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. Check out their CD release party at The Alamo Saturday Nov. 22nd

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 and is available on their web site.

Jimmy Nick & Don't Tell Mama play frequently throughout the Midwest. They have a CD called "Who Ya Kiddin'."

Kicked To The Curb is our newest member band. You can catch their soulful blues with a strong rock feel at Springfield's Third Base Sports Bar, Nov. 29th.

The Kilborn Alley Blues Band will be playing their regular Juke Joint show at D.R. Digger's in Champaign on Nov. 5th and will head to Clarksdale MS to play gigs at the birthplace of the blues.

Matthew Curry play throughout the Midwest and many times open shows for legendary Rock acts for their arena shows.

Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet The band plays regularly in Springfield, IL. Check out their Facebook page for their latest 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. 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. 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

Wednesday, November 5

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

Thursday, November 6

6:00pm - Blues Jam hosted by James Armstrong - Alamo - Springfield, IL

6:30pm - Susan Williams - The Clark Bar - Champaign

Friday, November 7

5:00pm - CU Folk & Roots Fest - Urbana

9:00pm - Alex Jenkins & The Bombers - Beer Cooler - Hillsdale, IN

Saturday, November 8

12:00pm - CU Folk & Roots Fest - Urbana

7:00pm - Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet - Corner Pub - Springfield, IL

7:30pm - Hurricane Ruth, Main Street Brewing Company, Belleville, IL

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

9:00pm - The Mudwinders - Winner's Bar and Grill - Bloomington, IL

9:00pm - Candy Foster & The Shades of Blue - Memphis on Main - Champaign

Monday, November 10

8:00pm - Laura Rain & The Caesars - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Tuesday, November 11

6:30pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - El Toro Bravo - Champaign

7:00 – Rockin' Johnny Burgin Six Strings Club – Bloomington, IL - **Proceeds benefit the Wounded Warrior Project**

Friday, November 14

8:00pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - Huber's - Champaign

Saturday, November 15

8:00pm - Black Magic Johnson - On the Rox - Jacksonville, IL

8:00pm - Billy Galt - New Amsterdam - Peoria, IL

9:00pm - Reverend Raven & The Chain Smokin' Alter Boys - The Muddy Waters - Bettendorf, IA

9:00pm - Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet - Barb's Place - Decatur, IL

Sunday, November 16

3:00pm - Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet - Pop's Place - Decatur, IL

Monday, November 17

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

Tuesday, November 18

6:30pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - El Toro Bravo - Champaign

Thursday, November 20

6:00pm - Blues Jam hosted by James Armstrong - Alamo - Springfield, IL

Friday, November 21

5:30pm - Black Magic Johnson - Robbie's - Springfield, IL

5:30pm - Candy Foster Unplugged - Silver Creek - Urbana

6:00pm - Hurricane Ruth, AIW Hall, Decatur, IL

8:00pm - Billy Galt - The Storm Cellar - Rankin, IL

Saturday, November 22

6:30pm - Susan Williams & Paul Sabuco - The Clark Bar - Champaign

8:00pm - Hurricane Ruth CD Release Party w/Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet - The Alamo - Springfield, IL

9:00pm - Black Magic Johnson - Floyd's Thirst Parlor - Springfield

Monday, November 24

8:00pm - Brother Jefferson Band - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Tuesday, November 25

6:30pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - El Toro Bravo - Champaign

Wednesday, November 26

7:00pm - Candy Foster & The Shades of Blue - Boomerang's - Urbana

Friday, November 28

7:00pm - Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - The Lucky Monkey - Bement, IL

9:00pm - Alex Jenkins & The Bombers - South Street Saloon - Danville, IL

Saturday, November 29

10:00pm - Kicked to The Curb - Third Base Sports Bar - Springfield, IL

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:

prairiecrossoadsblues@gmail.com

with your complete or
partial submission

Monday, December 1

8:00pm - Harper & The Midwest Kind - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Wednesday, December 3

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

Friday, December 5

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

Saturday, December 6

8:00pm - Susan Williams - Hubers - Champaign

Friday, December 12

5:30pm - Candy Foster Unplugged - Silver Creek - Urbana

6:00pm - Hurricane Ruth - AIW Hall - Decatur, IL

10:00pm - Laura Rain & The Caesars - Player's Pub - Bloomington, IN

Monday, December 15

8:00pm - Studebaker John & The Maxwell Street Kings - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Thursday, December 18

6:00pm - Blues Jam hosted by James Armstrong - Alamo - Springfield, IL

Friday, December 19

8:00pm - Candy Foster & The Shades of Blue - Boomerang's - Urbana

9:00pm - Hurricane Ruth - Wilbert's - Cleveland, OH

Saturday, December 20

9:00pm - Kicked to The Curb - Corner Bar - Divernon, IL

Monday, December 22

8:00pm - Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Monday, December 29

8:00pm - James Armstrong - Blue Monday @ The Alamo - The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Wednesday, December 31

9:00pm - Alex Jenkins & The Bombers - American Legion - Georgetown, I

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PCBS Membership. You can do
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