



Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

October 2011

PCBS to Hold International Blues Challenge Qualifier

By Bob Paleczny



Prairie Crossroads Blues Society is very excited to hold its first Blues Challenge at Memphis on Main, 55 E. Main St. Champaign, at 3:30 pm on Saturday October 22. As an affiliate of the Blues Foundation, PCBS is one of the many local Blues Societies from around the world who send the winners of their local competitions to the International Blues Challenge on historic Beale Street in Memphis, TN. The band who wins our competition will receive \$1000 in travel assistance to help them on the road to Memphis to represent Prairie Crossroads Blues Society. We've gotten a great response from numerous Illinois-based bands that will compete in our challenge, and we extend a big Thank You to all the bands. It promises to be an exciting day of top-quality performances as the bands vie for the opportunity to advance to Memphis for the 28th IBC Jan. 31 thru Feb. 4, 2012.

http://www.blues.org/#ref=ibc_index

We have seven bands signed up to compete. Bands from throughout Central Illinois as well as Effingham and the Chicago area will be in our IBC challenge. We're happy to have two of our very own PCBS Supporting Bands Competing: Alex Jenkins & the Bombers, and the newest PCBS supporting band, Timmy D and Blind Justice. We have a couple more bands from the Central Illinois area (continued in next column)

who've entered our challenge: The Jamieson Brothers and the Susan Williams Band. We also have Danny & the Devils from Schaumburg, Hurricane Ruth from Springfield, and the Sweet Wood Band from Effingham competing. We want to thank all the bands who signed up, they're what the Blues Challenge is all about.

Blues Foundation affiliated Blues Societies from around the world send the winners of their local competitions to the event in Memphis. The IBC is a search for a blues band ready to take its act to the international stage. In 2011 there were 110 bands and more than 70 solo/duo acts competing for about \$20,000 in cash and prizes. There's five days of competition in Memphis beginning with an International Showcase followed by two days of quarterfinals, a semifinal round and topped off by the finals on Saturday February 4 in the historic Orpheum Theatre.

Thanks to our participating sponsors Memphis on Main, and Liz and Terry Hawkins of Skins-N-Tins Drum Shop who've generously donated a drum set for all the contestants to use throughout the competition. We'll also be asking our PCBS members to help out and volunteer some time so we can make this an outstanding event for all the bands and our guests.

We're still working on the details, but we anticipate our event will start at 3:30 on Oct. 22, with the last of the competing bands wrapping up around 8:30. Ben and the folks at Memphis on Main have signed up a great band from Wichita Kansas, The Terry Quiett Band to entertain us with their rockin' blues right after the competition concludes. A panel of five judges will choose the band that goes to Memphis to represent PCBS. Once the judges' scores have been tabulated, we'll be announcing the winner, and the party will continue to the wee hours of the morning. We're also planning on having something delicious smoking on the grill. Come out for an afternoon and evening of great entertainment, this is something you won't want to miss.

Keith "Kid" Harden Just Keeps Getting Better

By Lorri Coey



Photo by Legends Magazine

LC Ulmer and Keith "Kid" Harden Playing in Clarksdale

"Let's talk deep south, let's talk deep blues, let's talk juke joints and what kinda pigmeat ya want on your egg sandwich for breakfast..let's talk hill country comes to the delta's crossroads..yeah the REAL crossroads at highway 61 and 49..let's talk Clarksdale, Mississippi and the dog days of August.... "

That's what Keith "Kid" Harden wrote about his trip to Clarksdale during the 2011 Sunflower River Blues & Gospel Festival in August (<http://www.reverbnation.com/keithkidharden>). In early

September he was back in Clarksdale where he played outside the Hambone Gallery with Stan Street and then sat in for a set with T-Model Ford at Red's.

Keith started his music career playing blues and folk-Americana around the midwest. In fact, he's opened for performers like Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker and Shemekia Copeland. In Nashville, where Keith relocated in 2007, he concentrated on his songwriting. He was a featured writer at the IBMA World of Bluegrass Songwriter Showcases in 2008 and 2010. He's also produced EPs for Kayla Brown and Julie and John Pennell. (continued in next column)

These days he's wearing his "blues hat" a lot and pursuing gigs in Mississippi where he plays all blues material.

In fact he's headed back to the delta in early October. You can catch him at the King Biscuit Festival on Saturday October 8 at 1 pm on the Rising Biscuit stage. Check out the rest of the festival lineup at:

<http://www.kingbiscuitfestival.com/lineup>. If you make your way to Helena that weekend, keep your ears open. You never know where a jam session might break out and Keith may just be sittin' in.

If you miss him at the Biscuit put his Champaign-Urbana gigs on your calendar. He'll be in town the weekend of October 14 playing at Silvercreek, Bentley's, Hubers and Boomerangs. Check his website <http://www.keithharden.com/> for details.

Keith's blog entry ends this way:

"let's spend some mad money and get Q sauce on our hands let's eat a mess of fried catfish...let's break some guitar strings & let's talk..and talk some more..OR ..maybe we oughta just listen....".

Yeah, be sure to listen.

Through These Eyes

By Rich Cibelli

The 2011 edition of Ellnora - The Guitar Festival has come and gone, and with it another reminder of the great entertainment that visitors to these events are treated to. As I look back at my visit to the festivities I'd like to take a minute and point out some of my favorite activities.

I'll begin with the Tuesday, September 6 early evening performance tapped Local Heroes Night that featured local favorites The Delta Kings and friends. I really applaud the staff at Krannert Center for coming up with this idea.

Among those taking the stage to perform this special night included Andy Baylor and Kathy Harden. This duo performs locally as The Diva and the Dude. Baylor is an exceptional guitar player who for several years performed with the colorful rock band Clockwork Orange. Since then he has put his musical talents to work in composing and performing tracks for the movie industry and also a music production house. Kathy Harden has (continued on next page)

been singing in the area for several years. Besides sitting in with several local bands, she even took her vocal talents to the big stage a while ago. The Station Theater in Urbana was the setting as Harden was featured in the play "Always," where she sang many of Patsy Cline's songs. Folks, this girl can flat out sing.

Another local guitar hero invited on stage was none other than guitarist Lou Dibello. An accomplished guitar teacher, this guy's resume also includes more than 25 years of performing. Lately Dibello has been concentrating on his favorite side project of recording full-length instrumental guitar albums. To his credit, his third is coming out any day now. Back a few years ago Dibello used his skills to create what is thought to be the first online guitar lessons.

Another guy who can really play is Tim Donaldson. Known for keeping an array of guitars and amplifiers, Donaldson is a master of the instrument. From his early days playing in church to his new project titled Timmy D and Blind Justice, Donaldson is a guitar player who can play it all from blues to boogie and everything in between. When Ellnora - The Guitar Festival returns in 2013 I hope we get to see another example of local heroes night. It was a real treat.

Another highlight for me was the chance to see Luther Dickinson and Alvin Youngblood Hart performing an array of Delta blues music on the small stage. This is something I will not forget and want the chance to see again soon. Dickinson was born in Memphis, Tennessee back in 1973 and is a son of the late legendary music producer Jim Dickinson. Besides his work with brother Cody of The Hill Country Revue, and with long-time friend Chris Chew in The North Mississippi All-Stars, Dickinson found some time to tour with The Black Crowes. You can learn much more about Luther Dickinson at: www.nmallstars.com.

Hart, on the other hand, was born in Oakland, California back in 1963. His love of Delta blues comes from the times he often spent with his relatives who lived in Carroll County, Mississippi. However, his family later moved to the suburbs of Chicago. At this point the young Hart began to spend his Sundays down on Chicago's Maxwell Street. There he eventually got to meet many of the blues artists who frequented the area. You can check out more about Hart's career at: www.alvinyoungbloodhart.net.

Throughout their one-hour show, both Dickinson and Hart showed off their master playing skills and even shared a laugh or two with the audience. To their credit (continued in next column)

Dickinson and Hart recently joined with Jimbo Mathus of The Squirrel Nut Zippers fame to form "The South Memphis String Band." I can't tell you how many times I've kicked myself for not having my camera with me. I really wanted to share some of their emotions with you. All I can say is do yourself a favor and try to see Dickinson or Hart sometime soon. If you're like me and you enjoy seeing master performers at work you won't be disappointed.

One thing that really caught my attention at Ellnora this year and left me in total awe was witnessing the world premiere of Bill Frisell with a film by Bill Morrison: "The Great Flood." If you happened to be at Colwell Playhouse on Saturday, September 10 at 1:30 p.m., then you know what I'm talking about. If not, then you really missed a spectacular display of film and music that deserves a second look.

"The Great Flood" recounts the terrible devastation that occurred in 1927 after massive rains in the area of the upper basin of the Mississippi River caused several levees to break. This movie was so interesting that I wanted to find out more. I encourage you to do the same. Here is a website with more information on the Great Mississippi Flood http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Mississippi_Flood_of_1927

What really stood out for me was watching segments of old black and white film at the same time as a live band performed. The timing in this effort was just outstanding as four master musicians played flawlessly for more than an hour. Master guitarist Bill Frisell was joined on stage by Tony Scherr on bass, Kenny Wollesen on drums and Ron Mills on trumpet.

If you are interested you can find out more about filmmaker Bill Morrison at this link: <http://www.movingimagearchivenews.org/bill-morrison-revivifies-decaying-filmstock/>. What you will find is that Morrison has been around for a while and has produced several other quality productions using his unique technique of employing the use of original black and white film. I really was impressed with this since most of what is being produced these days is using special effects which take away from the power implicit in simple filmmaking. Another issue that stood out was how Morrison was able to construct a timetable of events which blended well with various pieces of music. Throughout "The Great Flood" the viewer gets to see first-hand the peril that residents of the Delta (continued on next page)

experienced as their livelihood disappeared in front of them.

Nevertheless while "The Great Flood" had a very emotional impact on me I was also pleasantly surprised to see that Morrison took time in this production to include a little humor. For example, about three quarters through the film Morrison presents a segment called "politicians." This segue immediately produced chuckles from the crowd and the not too distant reminder of political overtones of Hurricane Katrina and its effects, especially in New Orleans.

Another portion of the film that impressed me was the introduction of the 1927 Sears catalog. As the film depicts anything and everything in the path of the great Mississippi was destroyed by ravaging waves of water. Had it not been for the forward thinking team at Sears Roebuck, many if not all the victims of this terrible event would have had nothing except for their clothes on their backs.

In conclusion, "The Great Flood" is just one of the many examples of history that helps define how the music of the Delta slowly moved its way north. In doing so it introduced those living in the upper Midwest to a music of fun and energy that today is still recognized as an American heritage known as "The Blues."

Attention Blues Lovers:

The 9th Annual BLUES FESTIVAL GUIDE magazine 2011 edition is available to read online in Digital Format.... for free! 92 pages packed full of blues for you with entertaining and informative articles by blues top aficionados.

Read it page-by-page in its entirety with a simple click of your mouse. You will find the link at www.BluesFestivalGuide.com

Willie "Big Eyes" Smith Will be Missed By Sandy Hannum



Photo from Willie "Big Eyes" Smith Website
Willie "Big Eyes" Smith

Grammy Award-winning blues musician Willie "Big Eyes" Smith died on September 16 of a stroke after a very long and successful career.

Willie was born in Helena, Arkansas on January 19, 1936. He was raised by his grandmother. While growing up he was a big fan of King Biscuit Time on KFFA radio. Inspired by the musicians on the show, he learned to play blues harmonica as a teenager. In his youth, he was fortunate to meet the legendary Pinetop Perkins. This mentorship and friendship remained important throughout his life.

Smith visited Chicago frequently because his mother lived there. Early in the 1950s on one of his visits to Chicago he saw Muddy Waters perform. In 1954 Smith moved to Chicago and joined the lively music scene there. He formed a trio of his own, and also backed up Bo Diddley on some of his Checker recordings under the name of Little Willie Smith.

As rock and roll was taking off at this point, Smith decided to expand his chances for gigs by working as a drummer as well as a harmonica player. By 1961 he had become a full-time drummer in Muddy Waters' band. From 1964 to 1968, there were some lean years for blues when the (continued on next page)

Beatles first became popular. Smith's career was on hold. He worked as a cab driver and in restaurants. However, in 1968 the Waters band asked him to return as their drummer, and he stayed with them until 1980. He also did some work with Pinetop Perkins on the Boogie Woogie King project.

In 1980 Willie Smith left the Waters band, along with Perkins and two others, and formed the Legendary Blues Band. This band became famous as the street musicians in the Blues Brothers movie, and then went on the road and also produced several successful albums. Nick Moss played bass and guitar with the band for four years, and developed a deep respect for Willie Smith. Moss said, "Some of the best times of my life were spent in that van with Willie. He had horse sense. He could be profound without preaching. To me, Willie's sound is the sound of Chicago blues."

The Blues foundation named Smith as Drummer of the Year so many times that he finally asked to be taken out of the running. In his later years Smith returned to playing blues harp more frequently.

His final project, "Joined at the Hip," won a Grammy Award in 2010. Fittingly, the piece features Smith on harmonica, Pinetop Perkins on piano, and Smith's son Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith on drums. Willie "Big Eyes" Smith will be greatly missed by the blues world.

Corporate Sponsorships

We greatly appreciate our Corporate Sponsors 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.

Skins-N-Tins Drum Shop is providing a drum set for use in the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society IBC challenge on October 22.

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 the Sand Bar in Crawfordsville, IN on October 1. Be sure to catch the show if you are out that way!

The Kilborn Alley Blues Band has been traveling extensively, most recently on the east coast. They will be back in town for their regular gig at D.R. Diggers on October 5, so go over and welcome them home.

King's Highway has just released a 5-song CD called "A Harder Blues." Check it out!

The Sugar Prophets have been playing gigs throughout the midwest. You can see them at Memphis on Main on October 1.

The Painkillers are working on a CD which will come out sometime this fall. You can see them at the Iron Post on October 15.

Timmy D & Blind Justice is our newest member band, and we welcome them to the PCBS. Band leader Tim Donaldson is fresh off of an appearance in the Ellnora Guitar Festival. You can see this group play on October 8 at the Iron Post.

Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

1st Annual Blues Band Challenge Memphis on Main

Oct 22, 2011

Winners will represent **PCBS**
at the
28th Annual
International Blues Challenge

January 31, 2012 – February 4, 2012
on
Beale Street
Memphis, Tennessee

Winners will receive \$1000. in travel assistance.

- Applicants must have a member that is a resident of IL.
- Applicants will need to submit a band photo, biography, and a tape or CD of the band's music (Pic/Recording quality is not a factor)
- Drum kit provided by Skins-N-Tins Drum Shop
- Bands can sell their CD's at the event.

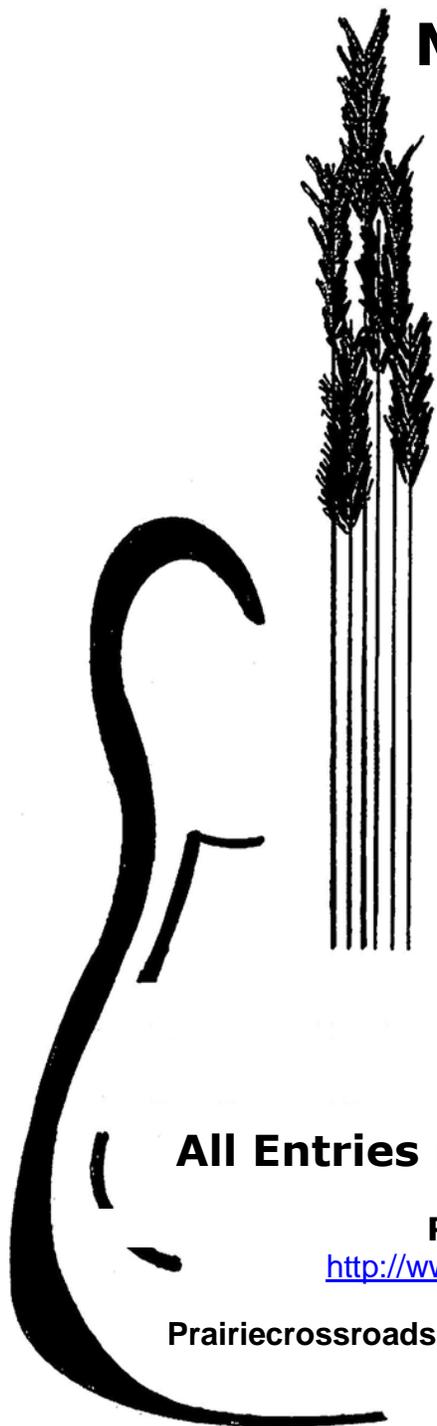
All Entries must be submitted by Sept. 20, 2011

Registration Packet available-

http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/ibc_challenge2012.pdf

Prairiecrossroadsblues.org

www.facebook.com/PrairieCrossroadsBlues



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PCBS Business

The next Prairie Crossroads Blues Society Meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on October 19 at Memphis on Main, 55 E Main St., Champaign.

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 October 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

Oct 1 – Danny & the Devils – The Bourbon Barrel – Decatur, IL – 4 pm
The Diva & the Dude – Sidney Saloon – Sidney, IL – 6 pm
The Sweet Wood Band – Mac’s Uptowner – Charleston, IL – 6 pm
Matthew Curry & the Fury – Castle Theatre – Bloomington, IL – 7 pm
Alex Jenkins & the Bombers – The Sand Bar – Crawfordsville, IN – 8 pm
Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Huber’s – Champaign – 8 pm
The Sugar Prophets – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 9 pm
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Blue 5 Restaurant – Roanoke, VA – 9 pm
Mojo Cats – Mowie’s Cue – Springfield, IL – 9 pm
Oct 2 – Danny & the Devils – Pop’s Place – Decatur, IL – 3 pm
Surreal Deal – The Rose Bowl – Urbana – 8:30 pm
Oct 3 – The Blues Deacons – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
Oct 4 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Oct 5 – The Chicago Kingsnakes – Goodfellas – Pekin, IL – 7 pm
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger’s – Champaign – 9 pm
Oct 6 – King Biscuit Festival – Helena, AR – 11:30 am
The Diva & the Dude – The Pines – Urbana – 6 pm
Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Ansun – Champaign – 7 pm
Oct 7 – King Biscuit Festival – Helena, AR – 11:30 am
The Diva & the Dude – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Oct 8 – King Biscuit Festival – Helena AR – 11:30 am
Keith “Kid” Harden – King Biscuit Festival – 1 pm
Billy Galt – Walnut St. Winery – Rochester, IL – 7 pm
The Sweet Wood Band – Galveston Steak House & Blues Room – Michigan City, IN – 7 pm
The Diva & the Dude – The Lucky Monkey – Bement, IL – 9 pm
The Sugar Prophets – Uncle Buck’s – Mahomet, IL – 9 pm
Timmy D & Blind Justice – The Iron Post – Urbana – 9 pm
Oct 10 – Too Slim & the Taildragers – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
Oct 11 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Too Slim & the Taildragers – Kankakee Valley Boat Club – Kankakee, IL – 7 pm
The Wilders – Independent Media Center – Urbana – 7:30 pm
Oct 12 – The Sugar Prophets – D.R. Digger’s – Champaign – 9:30 pm
Oct 13 – The Diva & the Dude – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Ansun – Champaign – 7 pm
Oct 14 – The Diva & the Dude – The Pink House – Ogden, IL – 5 pm
Keith Harden – Silvercreek – Urbana – 5:30 pm
Billy Galt – Jimmy Ryan’s – Decatur, IL – 6:30 pm
Outlaws – Watseka Theater – Watseka, IL – 6:30 pm
Keith Harden – Bentley’s Pub – Champaign – 8 pm
Reverend Robert – Mattoon VFW – Mattoon, IL – 8 pm
Danny & the Devils – The Harlem Lounge – Berwyn, IL – 9:30 pm

Oct 15 – The Painkillers – The Iron Post – Urbana – 6 pm
 The Diva & the Dude – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm
 Keith Harden – Huber’s – Champaign – 8 pm
 Candy Foster & the Shades of Blue – Cowboy Monkey – Champaign – 9:30 pm
Oct 16 – Keith Harden, Kathy Harden & Andy Baylor – Boomerang’s – Urbana – 6 pm
 Surreal Deal – The Rose Bowl – Urbana – 8:30 pm
Oct 17 – Southside Jonny & Kicked to the Curb – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
Oct 18 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Oct 19 – The Diva & the Dude – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Oct 20 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Ansun – Champaign – 7 pm
Oct 21 – The Diva & the Dude – Huber’s – Champaign – 8 pm
Oct 22 – Prairie Crossroads Blues Society IBC Challenge – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 3:30 pm
 The Diva & the Dude – Sidney Saloon – Sidney, IL – 9 pm
 The Blues Deacons – Trading Post Saloon – Springfield, IL – 9 pm
 The Terry Quiett Band – Memphis on Main – Champaign - 9 pm
Oct 24 – Bruce Katz – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
Oct 25 – Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – El Toro Bravo – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Oct 26 – Eddie Turner – Goodfellas – Pekin, IL – 7 pm
Oct 27 – Blues Blast Music Awards – Buddy Guy’s Legends – Chicago – 5 pm
 The Diva & the Dude – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm
 Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr – Ansun – Champaign – 7 pm
Oct 28 – Billy Galt – Jimmy Ryan’s – Decatur, IL – 6:30 pm
 The Reba Russell Band – Kankakee Valley Boat Club – Kankakee, IL – 8 pm
 The Sugar Prophets – Sliderz – Decatur, IL – 9 pm
Oct 29 – The Diva & the Dude – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm
 The Sugar Prophets – Midway Pub & Grub – Effingham, IL – 8 pm
Oct 31 – Studebaker John & the Hawks – blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm

Nov 2 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger’s – Champaign – 9 pm
Nov 4 – C-U Folk & Roots Festival – Downtown Urbana – 5 pm
Nov 5 – C-U Folk & Roots Festival – Downtown Urbana – 12 pm
 The Sugar Prophets – Pop’s Place – Decatur, IL – 8 pm
Nov 6 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Buddy Guy’s Legends – Chicago
 Surreal Deal – The Rose Bowl – Urbana - 8:30 pm
Nov 7 – John Nemeth – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
Nov 10 – Ivas John Band – Venue TBA – 7 pm
Nov 12 – Candy Foster & the Shades of Blue – Cowboy Monkey – Champaign – 9:30 pm
Nov 14 – Harper – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm
Nov 19 – The Sugar Prophets – Sliderz – Decatur, IL – 4 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 23 – The Sugar Prophets – Uncle Buck’s – Mahomet, IL – 8:30 pm

Dec 1 – Dave Herrero – Kankakee Valley Boat Club – Kankakee, IL – 7 pm
Dec 2 – 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
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



Hey Muddy, this IBC challenge at Memphis on Main is gonna be somethin'to see.

Yeah, Walter. Seven great bands are playing...and they gotta choose just one to send to Memphis. Hmm hmm. It's gonna be a blast!