



Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

October 2014

PCBS IBC Update by Bob Paleczny

There have been a few changes to Prairie Crossroads Blues Society's IBC Challenge plans. Rules for Blues Foundation Affiliates require us to hold an open, judged competition to choose a Band to represent us at the International Blues Challenge. We had to cancel this year's Band Challenge because the number of entries didn't meet those criteria. Plans have already begun on holding an IBC Band Challenge next year.



We will instead focus on our Solo/Duo IBC Challenge which will be held at Bentley's Pub, 419 N. Neil St., at 5:00 pm on Saturday November 1. This is the first year that PCBS will be hosting a Solo/Duo IBC Challenge after several years of requests by both artists and fans. We will use The Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge rules and recommended scoring criteria. The acts are judged in five categories; Blues Content, Vocal Talent, Instrumental Talent, Originality and Stage Presence. Prairie Crossroads Blues Society will assemble a panel of judges who choose the best overall act. The winning act will receive \$500 to help defray their travel expenses when they go to Memphis to represent our Society in the International Blues Challenge held in January 2015.

Acts have until October 8 to enter our Solo/Duo Challenge. Visit the IBC Challenge Page of our website; http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/ibc_challenge15.html for complete rules and an entry form. PCBS will conduct a blind draw for the order of appearance and will notify the entrants and fans of the competition schedule soon after that. We're looking forward to a fun and exciting event at Bentley's Pub on November 1.

Prairie Crossroads is also holding a Best Self-Produced CD competition and the winning CD will be sent to the Blues Foundation in Memphis as an entrant in their competition which is held in conjunction with the International Blues Challenge. This contest is open to our member Bands and includes CD's that were released within the last year. As the name suggests, CD's produced by record labels which have previously been nominated for a Blues Music Award (formerly the W.C. Handy Awards) are not eligible. PCBS Vice-President Greg Altstetter is administering the BSPCD competition this year. We are assembling a panel of judges who will evaluate the CD's according to Blues Foundation criteria. The CD's will be judged on five categories which are; Blues Content, Musicianship, Audio Quality, Cover Art & Design, Credits & Liner Information. Entries will be accepted through October 18.

You can get all the information and entry forms on the IBC Challenge Page of our website; http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/ibc_challenge15.html . Feel free to email us with any questions you may have at; prairiecrossroadsblues@gmail.com .

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

www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/member.html

Michael Powers Still Needs Your Help



Folks throughout the Champaign Urbana music community have been giving generously to a fund set up to raise money for the medical bills of Michael Powers. You know Michael as the drummer for The Painkillers, or as the percussionist who played at Urbana's Market At The Square almost every Saturday morning. Michael has been diagnosed with colon cancer and is just starting treatments.

[Give Forward Fundraising Page for Michael Powers](#)

Prairie Crossroads Blues Society has made a small contribution and we'd urge music fans to give what they can as well. It's heartwarming when musicians and fans join together to help each other.

The next meeting of
Prairie Crossroads Blues Society
is 6:30 pm Thursday October 9
at Po' Boys,
202 E. University Ave. in Urbana

SHOULD BAND MEMBERS DRESS UP?

By James "Skyy Dobro" Walker

A recent Facebook post read, "I love going out to hear live music, but if you are in a band and you are on stage, please look like it. I am amazed by the way some group members dress. They look like they just rolled out of bed and threw on their dirtiest pair of jeans and t-shirt. These same people wonder why they have not had the success they think they deserve. Clueless."

This post turned into a Facebook discussion thread about this age-old topic, in which I have considerable interest. Many opinions on both sides were expressed, some vociferously. I enjoyed the arguments and viewpoints, a few of which are shared below.

First, what I mean by the term "Dress Up."

- 1) Put some effort into your appearance.
- 2) Don't show up at a gig looking and/or smelling like a slob.
- 3) Do dress differently from the audience members. Audience members do not want to pay to see someone dressed exactly like them.
- 4) Unless one is performing at a Wal-mart, do not wear pajamas.

(Note: I am leaving out names so this discussion can be concentrated on the issue and not the persons.)

Yes, Dress Up!

The individual who started the conversation stated that band members should dress up for a gig. He referenced the Chicago Blues artists of the Muddy Water(s) era. He pointed out that one would never have seen Muddy looking less than splendid. Secondly, today's mainstream Blues artists in Chicago continue that tradition of looking sharp. "To me [inappropriate attire] is disrespectful of the audience," he opined; dress for respect.

No, Dressing Up Is Not Necessary!

A Champaign-Urbana music artist countered that dressing up is not necessary because the art will neither be enhanced nor hindered by the appearance of the artist. "Respect my art, not my clothes" was the idea. Another artist, one of long-standing and high reputation from Memphis, agreed that encumbrances dictated by the dress police were unrealistic and

unimportant to the music itself.

It seems opinions on this topic would naturally vary depending on one's station in the music scene: artist, fan, record company president, promoter, audience member, CD buyer, and more.

My Opinions:

For argument's sake, I will divide artists into two categories:

Group A) Artists creating music simply for art's sake.

Group B) Artists wanting to be paid for performing their art. Perhaps these artists even want to make a living from their art without a separate "day job".

Regarding Group A:

For artists creating their art simply for art's sake, there does not seem to be any logical reason to dress up. How could a shirt or lack thereof change the lyrics, notes, chord structures, tempo, emotions or ultimate quality and popularity of a song? Art and music comes in different levels of excellence: there is always a large supply of poor and average and a scarce amount of truly creative and innovative. Refusing to dress up will not automatically make one's art first rate. Neither will just dressing up in itself cause excellence.

There are examples of successful groups who did not go to great wardrobe pains. The original Allman Brothers Band members were famous for NOT dressing up. But, they were so inventive and innovative (literally creating the genre that came to be known as "Southern Rock") that appearance didn't seem to matter. How many bands today do you know in that category?

Regarding Group B:

Artists wanting to be paid for performing their songs have now entered a different area where money matters. So, from where does this "money" that artists want derive? In some instances, it comes from the promoter (or bar owner) who got it from audience members who paid for a ticket (cover charge) or bought enough food and drinks to enable payment to the performing artist. Maybe audience members simply put money in a tip jar. Logically then, doesn't this make the audience providing the money most important? As owner and operator of *Dobro in the Sky Promotions*, I feel the audience members are most important simply because, without them, I don't get paid, and neither does the artist(s).

For an audience, the experience of paying to be entertained is both a visual one as well as an aural one. We are all old enough and wise enough to have learned (maybe the hard way) that first impressions matter. The first impression will be what the audience members see; second will be what they hear. Therefore, band appearance matters. What does a paying audience expect? At events that I promote, they can expect a "show," not "just another gig."

Supply and demand should also factor into an artist's attire decisions. The simple facts: there is a huge supply of artists wanting to perform their music for money. And, the demand for performing artists is less than the supply. Therefore, for Group B, why not arrive prepared to put on a show for your paying patrons? It might just earn a return engagement.

Bottom Line: we are in the entertainment business. Dress up to put on a show and entertain the audience that is paying you. Your sharp dressed appearance won't overcome bad art, but a bad appearance can prevent someone from enjoying your art with an open mind.

Next time: When you want to sell CDs, does the appearance of your CD cover matter?

Looking Forward – October 2014 by Bob Paleczny

Keith Harden returns to town and plays a series of shows. Keith and Paul Sabuco play Tuesday October 7 at the T'n'T Lounge in Rantoul. He plays with his sister Kathy at The Clark Bar on Wednesday the 8th and at The Shady Nook Pub in Saybrook on the 9th. Keith will also play at Lu & Denny's in Tolono on Friday the 10th and at Huber's on Saturday the 11th.

Four 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", James Jones Trio's recent CD is "Tuned In" 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!

There are also several noteworthy shows outside the immediate Champaign-Urbana area. Sena Ehrhardt is playing a Friends Of The Blues show at the Moose Lodge in Bradley, IL. Brandon Santini is playing at the Slippery Noodle in Indianapolis. Matthew Curry is playing several gigs at the Back Porch Stage at the House of Blues in Chicago throughout the month of October. Jarekus Singleton is playing Blue Monday at The Alamo in Springfield on October 13th. Be sure to check the online calendar page on our website; <http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/pcbscal.html> for all the dates and times.

CU Bands & Fans is holding their 2nd Anniversary Party/Fundraiser, Sunday Oct. 5, at the Fluid Events Center, 601 N. Country Fair Dr. There are 35 performers scheduled to appear on three stages, a kids carnival, an 18 hole putt-putt golf course, vendors, authors and much more. A \$10 donation is requested and a portion goes to the First Gig Rock N' Roll Camp near Danville. It's an opportunity to enjoy lots of great local music.

The 2014 Blues Blast Music Awards are being held at the Fluid Events Center on Thursday Oct. 23 and blues musicians from around the country will be in town to attend. We've heard of a couple shows taking place around town related to the awards. Josh Hoyer, a great keyboard player and outstanding vocalist from Lincoln, NE is playing a solo gig at The Clark Bar on Wednesday Oct. 22. Also, Jackie Scott, the amazing blues singer from Virginia will be back in town and will join Kilborn Alley at The Iron Post on Friday Oct. 24. If you caught Jackie when she joined Kilborn Alley at their 14th Anniversary Celebration you know it was a great show. If you missed it, here's a chance for you to experience what a special night that was.

Blues Blast Magazine will present awards in 12 categories, honoring the best musicians, songs, DVD's and CD releases of the past year. There is also a Lifetime Achievement Award presented to a blues industry veteran for their years of devotion to the music. Some of the blues performers scheduled to appear at the 2014 Blues Blast Music Awards are; Bobby Rush, Albert Castiglia, Toronzo Cannon, Shaun Murphy, Too Slim & the Taildragers and Dave Riley & Bob Corritore. PCBS Member Band, Back Pack Jones is nominated in the New Artist Debut Album category for

their "Betsy's Kitchen" CD. Tweed Funk who PCBS recently brought to town in conjunction with WEFT 901.FM for a show at Memphis on Main is nominated in the Soul Blues Album category for their "First Name Lucky" CD. Both Back Pack Jones and Tweed Funk are scheduled to appear at the Awards.

You can read the article elsewhere in this newsletter on our IBC Challenge plans as we gear up for our Solo/Duo IBC Challenge at Bentley's Pub, 419 N. Neil St. on Saturday Nov 1. We're really excited to hold our first competition in the Solo/Duo category and sending the winning act to Memphis.

We want to remind our readers that the CU Folk and Roots Festival is coming Friday and Saturday November 7 & 8 at a variety of venues throughout Urbana. Some of the artists performing this year include; The Prairie Dogs, Justin Rondon, Dom Flemons, Anne Feeney and Rev. Robert C. Jones Jr.

Check PCBS online calendar for all the updated information;

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

A final note, our Monthly meeting is Thursday October 9, at 6:30 pm at Po' Boys, 202 E. University Ave. 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.

The PCBS Solo/Duo IBC Challenge
will be held
5:00 pm Saturday November 1
Bentley's Pub
419 N. Neil Street
in Champaign

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
Hohner USA
Louie's Dixie Kitchen & BBQ
Orange Krush Foundation
Samuel Music
Slumberland Furniture
SuperValu

Prairie Crossroads Board of Directors

President	Bob Paleczny
Vice President	Greg Altstetter
Treasurer	Jim Hannum
Secretary	Lorri Coey
At-large Members	Sandy Hannum Phil Hult Tony Odendahl

PCBS Business

The next Prairie Crossroads Blues Society meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, October 9 at Po' Boys, 202 E. University Ave. 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
James "Skyy Dobro" Walker
Lorri Coey

PCBS is accepting entries for our
IBC Solo/Duo Challenge
and Best Self-Produced CD
competition.
Visit our website for details
and entry forms

<http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org>

Band Memberships

Alex Jenkins & The Bombers Their CD "Voodoo You" is available on their web site. They're playing at the annual Knights of Columbus show, Little Beale on Bryan, in Danville, IL on Oct. 11.

Back Pack Jones Their CD "Betsy's Kitchen" has been nominated for a Blues Blast Award in the New Artist Debut Release category! Back Pack Jones will perform at the Blues Blast Music Awards show at the Fluid Event Center on Country Fair Drive in Champaign, IL Oct. 23.

Benny Jenkins Bloodline are playing at Little Beale on Bryan in Danville, IL, on Oct. 11. 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 or look for them at The Trading Post in Springfield, IL, on Oct. 3, Knights of Columbus in Danville, IL on Oct. 11 or Pop's Place in Decatur, IL on Oct. 19.

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 parties: Oct. 3rd at the AIW Hall in Decatur and Oct. 25th at Goodfella's in Pekin or visit their web site to get a copy.

The James Jones Trio released their new CD "Tuned In" and are playing at Krannert Uncorked in Urbana, IL on Oct. 2nd.

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 EZ Street Bar in Taylor Springs, IL on Oct. 11th and at Uptown Saloon in Farmersville, IL on Oct. 25th.

The Kilborn Alley Blues Band will be playing their regular Juke Joint show at D.R. Digger's in Champaign on Oct. 1st and will be at Blue Monday at the Alamo in Springfield, IL on Oct. 6th. On Oct. 24th they're playing at the Iron Post with their very special guest, Jackie Scott.

Matthew Curry will be in Chicago at the House of Blues on October 10th, 16th and 23rd and you can catch him on Halloween in Peoria, IL.

Mary Jo Curry & Tombstone Bullet received two nominations for Best of Springfield: Best Female Singer (Mary Jo Curry) and Best Blues Band. Results will be announced Oct. 30th. 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 plays at in Tilton, IL on Oct. 3rd at Pammy's Place; in Champaign, IL on Oct. 4 at Huber's and Oct. 9th and 18th at The Clark Bar; in Danville, IL on Oct. 11th at the South Street Saloon and in Westville, IL on Oct. 31th at the American Legion. Check out her Facebook page for all the details.

EVENTS

Wednesday, October 1

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

Thursday, October 2

5:00pm - James Jones Trio - Krannert Uncorked - Urbana

7:00pm - Sena Ehrhardt - Friends of the Blues Show - Moose Lodge -

Friday, October 3

5:00pm - David Berchtold - First Friday @ Grey Dove and Wings - Bloomington, IL

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

7:00pm - Billy Galt - Attie's - Urbana

8:00pm - Susan Williams Band - Pammy's Place - Tilton, IL

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

Saturday, October 4

8:00pm - Susan Williams - Hubers - Champaign

Monday, October 6

8:00pm - Kilborn Alley Blues Band - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Tuesday, October 7

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

8:00pm - Keith Harden & Paul Sabuco - T'n'T Lounge - Rantoul, IL

Wednesday, October 8

6:30pm - Keith & Kathy Harden - The Clark Bar - Champaign

Thursday, October 9

6:30pm - Susan Williams Band - The Clark Bar - Champaign, IL

7:00pm - Keith & Kathy Harden - The Shady Nook Pub - Saybrook, IL

8:30pm - Brandon Santini - Slippery Noodle Inn - Indianapolis, IN

Friday, October 10

8:00pm - Keith Harden & Paul Sabuco - Lu & Denny's - Tolono, IL

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

10:00pm - Matthew Curry - Back Porch Stage, House of Blues - Chicago, IL

Saturday, October 11

6:00pm - 3rd Annual "A Little Beale on Bryan" - Knights of Columbus - Danville, IL

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

8:00pm - Keith Harden - Huber's - Champaign

8:00pm - Susan Williams Band - South Street Saloon - Danville, IL

9:00pm - Black Magic Johnson - Knights of Columbus - Danville, IL

9:30pm - Kicked to The Curb - EZ Street Bar - Taylor Springs, IL

Monday, October 13

8:00pm - Jarekus Singleton - Blue Monday @ The Alamo - The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Tuesday, October 14

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

Thursday, October 16

8:30pm - Eddie Shaw & The Wolf Gang - Slippery Noodle Inn - Indianapolis, IN

10:00pm - Matthew Curry - Back Porch Stage, House of Blues - Chicago, IL

Friday, October 17

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

Saturday, October 18

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

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

9:00pm - The Mudwinders - Boondocks Bar & Grill - Gilman

Sunday, October 19

3:00pm - Black Magic Johnson - Pop's Place - Decatur, IL

Monday, October 20

8:00pm - Ghost Town Blues Band - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Tuesday, October 21

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

Wednesday, October 22

6:30pm - Josh Hoyer (solo) - The Clark Bar - Champaign

Thursday, October 23

5:00pm - Blues Blast Music Awards - Fluid Events Center - Champaign

10:00pm - Matthew Curry - Back Porch Stage, House of Blues - Chicago, IL

Friday, October 24

6:00pm - David Berchtold and The Third Wind - Gill Street Sports Bar - Bloomington, IL

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

9:00pm - Kilborn Alley with special guest Jackie Scott - The Iron Post - Urbana

Saturday, October 25

6:00pm - Billy Galt - Baxter's Bar & Grill - Bloomington, IL

7:00pm - Hurricane Ruth - Goodfella's Pub - Pekin, IL

9:00pm - Kicked to The Curb - Uptown Saloon - Farmersville, IL

Monday, October 27

8:00pm - Albert Castiglia - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Tuesday, October 28

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

Friday, October 31

8:00pm - Matthew Curry - Limelight Eventplex - Peoria, IL

9:00pm - Susan Williams Band - Westville American Legion - Westville, 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

PCBS is accepting entries for our
IBC Solo/Duo Challenge
and Best Self-Produced CD
competition.

Visit our website for details
and entry forms

<http://www.prairiecrossoadsblues.org>

Saturday, November 1

5:00pm - PCBS Solo/Duo IBC Challenge - Bentley's Pub -
Champaign

7:00pm - Billy Galt - Walnut Street Winery - Rochester, IL

8:00pm - Susan Williams - Hubers - Champaign

Wednesday, November 5

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

Thursday, November 6

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

Friday, November 7

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

Saturday, November 8

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

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

Friday, November 14

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

Monday, November 17

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

Friday, November 21

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

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

Saturday, November 22

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

8:00pm - Hurricane Ruth CD Release Party - The Alamo -
Springfield, IL

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

[www.prairiecrossoadsblues.org/memb
er.html](http://www.prairiecrossoadsblues.org/member.html)

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