



**Inclusive** - a newsletter for the  
**Prairie Crossroads Blues Society**

## October 2015 Edition

### VIEWS

**By: PCBS President Dennis Wismer**

Welcome to sweater weather and the beginning of the indoor party season. Although a little light on live Blues this summer I stocked up on some great Blues albums (vinyl). That being said I was treated to free outdoor shows throughout Champaign Urbana and kicked off fall with a free performance by rootsy performer Valerie June at the Ellnora Guitar Festival . Following that was a week of blues featuring a trip to Alamo Blue Monday featuring The Dennis Jones Band on his coast to coast national tour, Bentley's Blues Jam and the Blues Blast Awards...Wow!!! Three great events sponsored all or in part by three great associations Illinois Central Blues Club, Prairie Crossroads Blues Society and Blues Blast Magazine.

By the time this hits I will have volunteered with some members of PCBS and Crossroads Blues Society out of Rockford to assist in The Blues Blast Awards. I was so impressed with this production last year I felt it my duty to offer mine and any willing PCBS volunteers service to help produce/support this event. With Big Bill Morganfield, Bob Corritore, The Ghost Town Blues Band, AndyT and Nick Nixon, Eddy the Chief Clearwater and Bobby Messano to name several of the 25 performers this is

once again one of the premier Blues events nationally let alone in Champaign Urbana community.

Fortunately starting in May was the Bentley Blues Jam so I was assured one great Blues night a month with multiple performers joining the variety of host performers. With the continuation of the Jam through at least December and the upcoming International Blues Challenge there is more Blues in my future. I anxiously await the performances at the IBC challenge particularly a band bonded through the Bentley's Blues Jam The Squires. Long time PCBS supporter Bill Brown on bass, Mel Hoaks on drums and incredible guitarist's Danny Bornt and Dan Jansen and longtime veteran keyboard player Gordie Wilson.

A great event is the Decatur Sunday 3pm show. I have been tempted by multiple performances they have produced but yet to take the bite.

Within our society we have board seats open, notably Education chair. Fortunately Lori Coey, Bob Paleczny and Greg Alstetter have once again provided leadership to continue our Blues in the Schools program by scheduling the facility, contacting artist and educator and providing harmonicas. We are pleased to announce a Blues in the Schools event November 14th at the Champaign Public Library.

Another event PCBS is pleased to be associated with is the CU folks and Roots Festival 2015 November 3-5 at various venues in Downtown Urbana. Please take time to venture out and support this and all live music which is fortunately plentiful in our area.



The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society has been serving the community for more than four and a half years promoting live Blues music, preserving the heritage of Blues, and educating our young people about the Blues. Perhaps you have stayed on the margins of these efforts and do not realize how satisfying and fun it is to be directly involved. If so, it is time for you to find out!

As noted above by Dennis Wismer, several of our board members have stepped down and we need some of you to step forward to help run the society. Don't be shy! Prairie Crossroads Blues Society is a great group of people to work with and an interesting way to get to know the various Blues musicians in this area. The positions that will be open are listed below. Can you commit some of your time to take over one of these jobs for the next year? Those who are leaving positions will be glad to provide some orientation to new volunteers.

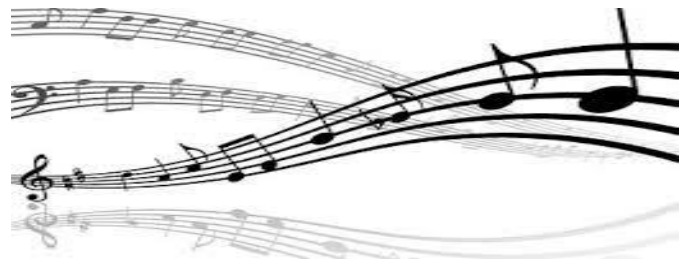
**Open positions:**

**Education Committee Chair:** Makes arrangements to provide Blues in the Schools programs to local schools, and Blues workshops for children in libraries, Boys and Girls Club, etc.

**Marketing Chair:** Publicizes upcoming events for the society through a variety of media outlets, and promotes the mission of PCBS in general

**Web maintenance Chair:** Keeps the PCBS website up to date by posting the calendar, meeting minutes, special events, articles of interest, and information about member bands. May also use Facebook for interaction with members.

If you are interested in helping to lead Prairie Crossroads Blues Society, please send your name to Greg Altstetter (galtstet@yahoo.com) along with a note about the position you would be willing to take on. Thank you for considering joining us in serving PCBS!!



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

[www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/member.html](http://www.prairiecrossroadsblues.org/member.html)

## CD Reviews and News

Written by James "Skyy Dobro" Walker

Reggie Wayne Morris – *Don't Bring Me Daylight*

Blue Jay Sound

[www.rwmband.com](http://www.rwmband.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/RWMBLues/timeline>

11 tracks; 46:05 minutes; suggested

Styles: Electric Blues, "Boogie Woogie Rhythm & Rockin' Blues"

"How can this guy be this good and not be nationally and internationally festival-famous?"

These words are rarely spoken by this reviewer and Blues radio show programmer about a new CD, but in the case of Reggie Wayne Morris, they are true.

One can imagine the large number of CD submissions received by the few radio stations that actually broadcast Blues music over the airwaves. Way too many of them leave us lamenting, not lauding.

Typically, our number one complaint about an unfamiliar artist is "can't sing." Here, on Morris's third release, *Don't Bring Me Daylight*, the smooth vocals are first rate. Secondly, too many CDs sent to our "Blues" radio show are not "Blues." Morris's album avoids any criticisms on that front by providing solid contemporary Blues as one will hear.

Raised on his grandparents farm in Charlottesville, Virginia, guitarist/singer/songwriter Reggie Wayne Morris is now based in the Baltimore, Maryland area. He was reared on Gospel and Blues, learning the guitar at an early age from musical family members.

Reggie's up-tempo guitar style developed from listening to Jimi Hendrix and B.B. King and fusing their influences with his own unique approach to create his "Boogie Woogie Rhythm & Rockin' Blues" that allowed him to tour Italy, France, Hawaii, and the U.S. with an appearance at

Carnegie Hall as a "career milestone." He has the distinction of being the only artist to perform at the Baltimore Blues Society Festival nine consecutive years, having the unique opportunity to be both the opening and closing act on one particularly memorable occasion.

His current CD *Don't Bring Me Daylight* pays homage to the past by showcasing contemporary, witty and humorous lyrics that speak to listeners of today with all original songs composed by himself and Gerald "Gypsy" Robinson, with one track by Ceophus Palmer. Joining Morris's guitar and vocals in the studio are: drummers Chuck Fuerte and Ezell Jones, bass players Vinny Hunter, Pete Kanaras, Chris Sellman, and Ray Tilkens, along with keyboardists – Mark Stevens and Bob Borderman.

Cleverly switching an old cliché (son of a blues "man"), Reggie kicks off his set with "Son of a Blues Fan." It is right from the opening piercing guitar notes that listeners are introduced to real deal, modern sounds that are upbeat, full in production, and thoroughly enjoyable. Morris sings with aplomb, "I was sitting on my daddy's knee; he was listening to 'The Things I Used to Do'". Meanwhile, Stevens' organ is pumping the melody under Morris's guitar, all propelled by Jones on drums and Sellman on bass.

Attention new "Blues" artists: it is still ok to play actual 12 bar Blues! If you need tutoring, just listen to "I used to have a Woman" with its authentic feel and theme. Stevens' organ is again nicely utilized on "Sign My Check" as Morris invokes the humor in the lyrics and punctuates it all on swinging guitar. Reflecting some influence from fellow Baltimore area Bluesman, Charles "Big Daddy" Stallings, Morris brings smiles on a wonderfully bouncy "Another Can of Worms."

The title track is another example of Morris's clever turn of a phrase. When a lover is out for the evening with friends and running late, what is the absolute last thing the partner wants brought home? According to Reggie, "... bring it on home on time ... don't bring me 'daylight'; you know I won't understand!"

Slowing the tempo and pouring on the Southern Soul, Morris tells it straight about his devotion to his woman on "Ball & Chain." Similar in musical style, "Too Many Cooks" echoes the familiar theme found in the old classic song "Too Many Drivers at the Wheel."

Full of traditional sounds, this CD excels in expressing contemporary topics and issues by using bright new musical approaches. There is even a soulful ballad, "Meet Me," and a surprising Reggae style on the closing "God Loves You."

It is so refreshing to receive a new CD full of infectious passion, charm, and humor. With his knack for incredible, modern, real deal Blues music, Reggie Wayne Morris should soon be "nationally and internationally festival-famous!"

## **PCBS Local IBC Blues Challenge By Bob Paleczny**



Come out to Prairie Crossroads Blues Society's local IBC Challenge on Saturday October 17 at Memphis on Main in Champaign. This is always one of our most exciting events of the year as enthusiastic blues fans pack Memphis on Main and we choose an act to represent us in the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge. Other Blues Societies throughout North America and Europe have been holding their own competitions to choose their local band. We're looking for the best blues band in our area to head to Memphis and take on all their challenges.

The 32nd IBC takes place in January of 2016 in Memphis, TN. It is a search by The Blues Foundation and its affiliated Blues Societies to find

the best blues band ready to take its act to the international stage. In 2015 over 250 acts competed in the clubs on historic Beale Street. It is a judged "Battle of the Bands" and competitors in Memphis win cash, musical equipment, promotional assistance, studio time and festival appearances. As a proud affiliate of The Blues Foundation, Prairie Crossroads Blues Society is thrilled to participate again.

We're assembling our panel of judges who'll score the acts using the same scoring system recommended by the Blues Foundation for the competition in Memphis. Each act is scored on a 1 to 10 scale in five categories which are weighted and listed here in the order of importance; Blues Content x 4, Instrumental Abilities x 3, Vocal Abilities x 3, Originality x 2 and Stage Presence x 2.

Many of the current stars in blues music have competed in the IBC's as they built their careers. Performers such as Tommy Castro, Grady Champion, Valerie June, Jarekus Singleton, Super Chikan, Susan Tedeschi, and Watermelon Slim have played in the IBC's. Who's going to be the next artist to raise their game to another level and win this year's challenge? Come to Memphis on Main, 55 E. Main St. in Champaign on October 17<sup>th</sup> to see the best blues acts this area has to offer. Bands from Champaign-Urbana as well as bands coming from throughout Central Illinois entered our challenge. Watch our website and Facebook pages for details about all the bands and the competition schedule.

Be there to cheer for your favorites. The challenge kicks off at 6:00 and each band has 25 minutes in which to play their best blues songs and impress the fans and judges. The winning act receives a cash prize from PCBS to help with their travel expenses to Memphis. The last performer takes the stage at 8:30 and the winners will be announced shortly after the competition wraps up at 9:00. The cover is only \$5 and that entitles you to see several great blues bands playing their best material.

PCBS wants to thank Memphis on Main for providing us an excellent venue to hold our challenge. We also want to thank Terry Hawkins and the folks at Skins-N-Tins Drum Shop who

provide us with a drum kit for all the competitors to use throughout the competition.

The classic rock band ESP featuring the great guitar work of Lou DiBello is the headline act at Memphis on Main that night and takes the stage at 9:30. You'll want to come out and attend this fun event featuring our IBC Challenge and one of the great rock bands in the area.

**Next meeting of PCBS:**

Thursday, October 8, 2015 6:30 pm

Po'Boys,

202 E University Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

**Blues Blast Music Preview & Awards  
By Bob Paleczny**

Blues fans were treated to a couple special shows last Friday, September 25th. The Blues Blast Magazine, a free weekly online blues magazine presented their Awards Ceremony Friday evening at the Fluid Events Center in Champaign. Prior to that, local radio station WEFT 90.1 FM provided fans with a preview show during their afternoon blues programming. Blues stars from across the country gathered in Champaign, both at the radio station and the Awards Ceremony.



**The Duo-Sonics (Bobby Parker & David Berntson)**  
(All photos by Bob Paleczny)

WEFT Community Radio hosted a Blues Blast Awards Preview show featuring live performances by several of the artists either nominated for Awards or featured performers at the evening's ceremonies. The afternoon show at WEFT began with the Duo-Sonics, Bobby Parker on guitar and David Berntson on vocals and harmonica playing some of their roots blues. David Berntson was also one of the emcees for the evening's Awards show. The Duo-Sonics had driven up from Tulsa Oklahoma and arrived in town on Thursday evening when they joined the Kilborn Alley Blues Band at a Blues Blast Showcase gig at local watering spot, The Clark Bar. At WEFT they were joined by Kilborn Alley's Chris Breen on bass and Aaron "A-Train" Wilson on drums. As a special treat John Ginty had managed to maneuver his Hammond B3 organ and Leslie speaker in to WEFT's Great Hall to join the ensemble. The group played several great tunes together.



**John Ginty, Slam Allen & Jimmy Bennett**

After a short break in the live music a new group of musicians was in place and set to entertain the radio listeners. John Ginty on his B3 was joined by his band featuring Jimmy Bennett on guitar, special guest guitarist Slam Allen sat in with them. John was rockin' his B3 back and forth on two legs and the band joined him playing several rousing blues tunes. Slam Allen displayed his amazing guitar work and vocals playing some of his signature songs to complete the set.



**Bob Corritore, Andy T & Nick Nixon**

Next to perform at WEFT was Chicago native and current resident of Phoenix Arizona, Bob Corritore on harmonica, joined by the Andy T – Nick Nixon Band. Andy T is a guitar player from California who plays in that smooth West Coast style and Nick Nixon is a vocalist and music educator from Nashville Tennessee. Together they played an outstanding set of blues tunes for the listeners both on the radio and the station's webstream at [new.weft.org/listen](http://new.weft.org/listen).



**Matt Isbell & Josh Roberts  
of Ghost Town Blues Band**

The last act to perform live at WEFT was the Memphis, TN based Ghost Town Blues Band. Ghost Town is led by Matt Isbell on a variety of instruments including standard and cigar box guitars, and the sweet guitar work of Josh Roberts. Ghost Town also features Suavo dancing and twirling his slide trombone throughout the songs. They played another amazing set for the listeners. Throughout the afternoon WEFT was filled with musicians enjoying each other's performances.

WEFT wants to thank all the performers who went way out of their way to entertain the listeners.

John Ginty proved that, yes you can fit a Hammond B3 organ in WEFT's Great Hall. Several bands enjoyed the "great vibe" as they waited for their turn to play a set. A special thanks goes out the Kilborn Alley guys for providing the amps used by all the bands and playing along with a few of the artists. WEFT's blues crew also thanked Craig Koslofsky who gave up some of his World Music show time which allowed the blues to go into overtime and gave all the musicians a chance to play.

During the breaks in live music, WEFT air shifter Lorri Coey kept the music flowing from the Front Studio playing CD's by many of the artists performing at WEFT and at the evening's Awards show. Huge thanks goes to Mike Feldman, WEFT's ace sound engineer, who did a remarkable job of swiftly getting each band set up and sound checked and ready to go on the air. WEFT blues DJ, Dave Wright also treated the listeners to an outstanding interview with the legendary Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater. Andy Duncanson of Kilborn Alley, as well as a WEFT air shifter, interviewed Matt Isbell of the Ghost Town Blues Band during one of the breaks in live music. Bob Paleczny conducted other interviews on the phone with ex-WEFTie Dave Specter and in the studio with David Berntson, prior to the start of live music. It was a remarkable afternoon for blues fans who tuned in to WEFT.



**Mud Morganfield  
with Bob Corritore, Andy T and Dave Specter**

The Blues Blast Music Awards themselves took place that Friday evening at the Fluid Events Center in Champaign and more than 20 acts performed throughout the ceremony. Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater and Jay Sieleman, retired President and

CEO of the Blues Foundation, received Lifetime Achievement Awards. In addition to the performances, awards were presented in 12 categories such as Male and Female Blues Artist, and Contemporary, Traditional, Soul, Rock and Acoustic Blues Albums. One of the highlights, at least for me, was the appearance of Mud Morganfield. He looks and sounds so much like his Dad that it sent chills down many blues fans spines.



**Lifetime Achievement Award Winner  
Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater  
With Bob Corritore and Dave Specter**

Another highlight was Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater accepting his "Lifetime Achievement Award" and later playing "Came Up the Hard Way" with Chicago natives Bob Corritore and Dave Specter. It was another treat to see Dave Specter playing back in Champaign since he attended the U. of I. in the mid 80's.

Several incorrect winners were announced during the Awards ceremony. Over the weekend it was revealed that the Blues Blast voting site had been hacked. By Monday the correct vote totals were announced.

And The Winners Are...

**2015 Lifetime Achievement Awards**

Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater  
Jay Sieleman

**Contemporary Blues Album**

Elvin Bishop – Can't Even Do Wrong Right

**Traditional Blues Album**

Mud Morganfield & Kim Wilson - For Pops

**Soul Blues Album**

Otis Clay & Johnny Rawls - Soul Brothers

**Rock Blues Album**

Tinsley Ellis - Tough Love

**Acoustic Blues Album**

Steve Earle & The Dukes - Terraplane

**New Artist Debut Album**

Magnus Berg - Cut Me Loose

**Live Blues Album**

John Mayall - Live in 1967

**Historical / Vintage Album**

John Mayall - Live in 1967

**Blues Band**

Mississippi Heat

**Male Blues Artist**

Elvin Bishop

**Female Blues Artist**

Marcia Ball

**Sean Costello Rising Star Award**

Selwyn Birchwood

**Prairie Crossroads Blues Society**



Champaign-Urbana IL

**Executive Board**

President - Dennis Wismer  
Vice President - Greg Altstetter  
Treasurer – Jim Hannum/Zach Widup  
Secretary - Lorri Coey

**At-Large Board Members**

Sandy Hannum - Phil Hult - Tony Odendahl

## **Committee Chairs**

Membership - Phil Hult  
Merchandise - Greg Altstetter  
Marketing - by Committee  
Education - Sandy Hannum  
Newsletter Editor - Elaine Schneider  
Entertainment - Bob Paleczny  
Web Team - Lorri Coey, Bob Paleczny

## **Corporate Sponsors**

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

## **Band Memberships**

**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.

**Jackie Scott** won a Blues Blast Magazine award in 2010. Check out her website for more on our newest member band

<http://jackiescottandthehousewreckers.com/>

**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’.”

**Kilborn Alley** played their 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show on Thursday April 30, 2015 at The Iron Post. Nick Moss was one of the featured guests!

#### **Mary Jo Curry and Tombstone Bullet**

Tombstone Bullet made a mark during the 2012 International Blues Challenge, being recognized as the fan favorites at their venue and moving forward to the 2012 Beale Street Blues King fan favorite competition.

#### **Matthew Curry and the Fury**

<http://www.matthewcurry.com/>

#### **Susan Williams**

<http://www.reverbNation.com/susanwilliams>

### **Upcoming Events**

Sunday, October 4

2:30pm

Alex Jenkins & The Bombers - Von Jakob Winery - Carbondale, IL

Monday, October 5

8:00pm

Nigel Mack - Blue Monday @ The Alamo -The Alamo - Springfield, IL

Tuesday, October 6

6:30pm

Billy Galt & Jeff Kerr - El Toro Bravo - Champaign

Wednesday, October 7

7:00pm

Kilborn Alley - Pipa's Pub {formerly D.R. Diggers) - Champaign - Juke Joint Show

Thursday, October 8

4:30pm

Lizzi Neal Band w/Anthony Gomes - Fat Fish Pub - Galesburg, IL

6:30pm

PCBS Monthly Meeting - Po' Boys - Urbana

7:00pm

Billy Galt - New Amsterdam - Peoria, IL

#### **Saturday Oct. 17**

**6:00pm – PCBS Local IBC Challenge – Memphis on Main** – come out and cheer for your favorites!

Blues is easy to play, but hard to feel. - Jimi Hendrix

