

In This Issue...



Welcome Back to Bill Mattocks! (Photo by Denise Hathaway)



John Kessler at the Highway 99 Blues Club (Photo by Vic Wright - The Wright Image)

8

9

9

10

11

- 2 Holiday Party Preview
- 3 December Blues Bash Preview
- 6 Flat 5 Blues Cartoon 7
- Top Blues CDs & Live Shows for 2015 8
- Congratulations to Muddy Award Winners



Sherri Greimes (Photo by Denise Hathaway)

4th Annual Jones Family Christmas!	11
John Kessler: The Man Behind the Mic	12
Membership Opportunities	14
A Special Thank You to 2015 Supporters	14
White Rock Blues Society Show Review	16

Letter from Washington Blues Society President Tony Frederickson

Hi Blues Fans.

It seems like we never slow down! This month is full of great events with tons of music! We kick the month off with the Annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 6th at the Drift on Inn in Shoreline. We have the Mark Riley Trio and the Polly O'Keary Band lined up to play. Our Music Director Janice Gage has also lined up Cory Wild to host a jam, so all you musicians bring your gear and let's have some fun. This is a fun day and a chance to touch base with friends, celebrate the past year and start making plans for the coming year. See the ad in this edition of the Bluesletter and clear your calendar and make plans to come on down to the party! Tons of free parking, good food, refreshing beverages, dancing, and great music!

The Drift on Inn is easy to get to. From the South just off I-5 via 145th Westbound, turn right onto Aurora Avenue. Then, turn right on to 167th into the club the right or from the North take 170th Westbound, then turn left into Aurora Ave and turn left on 167th into the club. The entrance to the club is at the rear of the building and the entire parking lot is available for parking!

On Tuesday, December 8th is our monthly Blues Bash. Our Music Director has lined up some great talent this year and we have been having some fun in our new home (The Drift on Inn) for these monthly Blues Bashes and this month promises to be another one. I suspect that once members see this club at the Holiday Party we will have a few more regulars showing up and our monthly audience of 65 to 90 plus will grow even more. With a 7:00 pm start and a 9:00-ish ending time this is a fun event to lighten the work week and still let you get plenty of sleep for work the next day. Plus we have a free drawing for CDs and other fun items during the set change! See the preview article in this issue for this month's Blues Bash.

On Sunday, December 13th we will be having a fundraiser for Nick Vigarino at the Highway 99 Blues Club. He has had a tough year with an early health scare at the first of the year, then he broke his left arm helping a friend this past summer, and just recently, he lost a tangle with a log splitter on his right hand. It is real tough on a musician's income flow when they lose so much time to recovery and can't play. Nick has had his three bad things this year so hopefully he will have a run of good luck for a while and we can kick it off with some funds to get him through the time needed for recovery from this latest mishap.

On Sunday, December 20th we will be holding our second International Blues Challenge in support of our two acts, Ben Hunter & Joe Seamons and the

James Howard Band. We did very well at the Blues Invasion this last month, but we still have a way to go towards meeting the financial goal we need to meet to send our representatives to Memphis. We have had a change of venues and are putting the final touches on this fundraiser and could not meet the deadline for this edition of the Bluesletter.

We will be posting the details on our Facebook page, on the wablues.org website and in our monthly email blast.

So, please look for the lineup and other details on our website and on social media. This should be a good one with new talent that many of you may have not seen.

This month and next, please come and support the great musicians we are sending to Memphis this next year for the International Blues Challenge: Ben Hunter and Joe Seamons in the solo/duo category and The James Howard Band in the band category.

Until next month, please keep supporting live music and save a seat for me!

Tony Frederickson, President Washington Blues Society Board of Directors, Blues Foundation



JW Jones at the White Rock Blues Society! (Photo by Eric Steiner)

Artists' Perspectives: Highway 99	17
A Sad Farewell	17
CD Reviews	18
Celebrating the Highway 99 Blues Club	20
December Blues Calendar	22



Keith Scott: The Fishing Bluesman (Photo Courtesy of Keith Scott)

23

24

25

26

27

Thanks to 2015 Blues Bash Artists	
Blues Society Membership Form	
Washington Blues Jams & Open Mics	
Washington Blues Venue Guide	
Washington Blues Talent Guide	



Stacy Jones on the Red Carpet! (Photo Courtesy of Stacy Jones)

- Keith Scott's Road (and River) Stories28Keith Scott @ the Highway 99 Blues Club29Blues Society Board Voting Ballot30December Blues Bash Reminder!302016 BB Award Nomination Form31
- Eric Steiner's Letter from the Editor

Thank you for reading the December Bluesletter. th This issue features blues travelogues from K Washington Blues Society members, and al nationally touring blues performers Keith Scott and Stacy Jones, and a celebration of Seattle's Highway 99 Blues Club. I am pleased that Steve Sarkowsky and Ed Maloney's club will remain open for at least another two years. This issue also previews the upcoming December Blues Bash, congratulates the 2015 recipients of the Muddy Awards from the Cascade Blues Association, and in keeping with honoring Seattle's blues clubs, several notable musicians offer their observations on the juke joint across from Seattle's aquarium along the waterfront.

This issue also contains two different ballots: the first provides members with an opportunity to vote for candidates for Board of Directors positions nominated at our November Blues Bash at the Drift on Inn Roadhouse in Shoreline. The second is the first of three nomination ballots for the 2016 Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues ("BB Awards") which will return to the Kirkland Performance Center in downtown Kirkland on April 3rd. Please exercise the privilege of membership by voting for the 2016 elected Board of Directors as well as nominate your favorite bluesman, writer, blueswoman or graphic artist in our annual awards process.

During this month's "deadline dash," I learned that the University of Washington had acquired KPLU-FM from Pacific Lutheran University. I also received a survey about musical programming on the newly-acquired station, and this survey included a number of different musical options. The list I saw, however, was missing one particular genre of music. Blues music. I encourage each and every Washington Blues Society member and Bluesletter reader to express their desires for continued blues programming on the station at 88.5 mHz on the FM radio dial. There's a strong jazz presence at KPLU-FM - especially with the 24-hour streaming jazz site. I hope that the new management of this station would take the lead of my alma mater, Illinois State University's WGLT-FM, and begin programming blues music 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We are fortunate to have Keeping the Blues Alive Award recipient John Kessler, host of KPLU-FM's "All Blues" radio program in our community. Speaking of John, he's featured in this issue in conversation between award-winning writer, and Washington Blues Society Vice President, Rick Bowen.

As always, there's probably several things either I, or our proofreaders, have missed. I'd appreciate any constructive feedback or suggestions for improvement at <u>editor@wablues.org</u>

One of the more persistent challenges I face as

Bluesletter editor is the general lack of awareness among many musicians, publicists and wellmeaning blues fans about pictures and graphics that I receive every month. Regrettably, over 90% of the images I receive are not suitable for print media: just because an image looks good online does not mean that is suitable for print. Print media requires high resolution images, whereas online media can effectively show images that have typical resolutions at 72 dots per inch. Our partners at Pacific Publishing Company use the print industry standard of 300 dots per inch for all graphics and pictures. If I receive an image at 300 dots per inch, I can save it as a .TIF file in one of two formats: CMYK for color (that's a four-color process using Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black colors) or grayscale for black and white.

Please help me help you, your artist friends and clubs: please send me high resolution images for consideration in these pages. I want to build a better Bluesletter. With your help, I can.

Until next month,

Go see live blues (especially at Seattle's Highway 99 Blues Club).

Eric Steiner, Editor Washington Blues Society Board Member, Board of Directors, The Blues Foundation (2010-2013)

Hi Bluesletter Readers,

Washington Blues Society Proud Recipient of a 2009 Keeping the Blues Alive Award

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Mission Statement: The Washington Blues Society is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote, preserve, and advance the culture and tradition of blues music as an art form. Annual membership is \$25 for individuals, \$35 for couples, and \$40 for overseas memberships. The Washington Blues Society is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization and donations are tax-deductible. The Washington Blues Society is affiliated with The Blues Foundation in Memphis, Tennessee.

> Washington Blues Society P.O. Box 70604 Seattle, WA 98127

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Bluesletter Advertising Discounts: 20% off - 12 month pre-payment 15% off - 6 month pre-payment 10% off - 3 month pre-payment

On the Cover: The Highway 99 Blues Club

(Special Thanks to photographer Alan Lawrence for permission to reprint this cover image of the Highway 99 Blues Club sign http://www.alanlawrencephotography.com/#!/index)





3 - 4:30 - Mark Riley Trio 5:00 - 6:30 - Polly O'Keary and the Rhythm Method 7:00 - 9 or 10 - Jam with host Cory Wilds All Ages - Public Welcome 55 suggested donation -full menu available

Blues Jam Review: Bill Mattocks and Mark Riley at the Madison Avenue Pub

By Malcolm Kennedy

Long-time Seattle area bluesman Bill Mattocks returned to the Pacific Northwest for a short visit from his new home in Asheville, North Carolina this past October. Bill was a busy bluesman this trip: he joined Chester Dennis Jones on Sunday night for the weekly jam at the Sound Check Bar & Grill in Lynnwood, played a wedding gig, did a Friday night show at his old stomping grounds at the Oxford Saloon in Snohomish, and on Wednesday, October 21st, Bill was the featured artist at the jam at the Madison Avenue Pub with special guest Mark Riley.

You know it's going to be a hot set when the band opens with a J.J. Cale song: that night at the Madison Avenue Pub, they opened with "Crazy Mama." Bill was playing a red Telecaster and Mark Riley was playing slide on a blond, semihollow R&B Custom guitar based on a Gibson ES 335. This was followed by a rousing version of "Messin' with the Kid," with Bill on blues harp. Mark called out a blues rhumba in "A" and sang "Crosscut Saw," and then Bill, back on rhythm guitar, sang the old Marshall Tucker Band classic from the 1970s, "Can't You See." When they finished, Bill said that since was "from the South, he had to play a southern song." Mark was back on vocals for Muddy Waters' "You Need Love," then Bill sang "Just A Little Bit," followed by Mark returning to the mic on Robert Johnson's "Kind Hearted Woman." Mark and Bill finished their set with another JJ Cale song, "Magnolia," a beautiful slow song from J.J. Cale's debut album, Naturally, first released on Leon Russell's Shelter label in 1972.

The format for the Unbound Jam at the Madison Avenue Pub in Everett is to start the show with a special invitational guest playing a brief set with their band, and/or members of Unbound, followed by the jam with Paul Quilty and Willow Stone orunning the jam sign-up and performances. This Wednesday the jam portion of the evening's entertainment started with CD Woodbury, then Kader Sundy (also known as AEK), and followed by Chester Dennis Jones, who played with "Uncle" Doug Cooper on bass and vocals and blues harp by Rick Harvey (a relative newcomer to the Pacific Northwest from Austin, Texas). Chet walked the dance floor while he performed "Why You Treat Me like You Do," and they rocked the Bo Diddley beat with Rick on vocals doing an original, "Here Chicky Chicky." Bill and Mark returned for a jam set during which Mark simply incinerated Rory Gallagher's "Road to Hell" on slide guitar.

Dancers, danced; Rob kept the sound dialed in, the musicians rocked the house and a good time was had by all at the weekly Wednesday blues jam at the Madison Avenue Pub in Everett.



Top: Bill Mattocks and Mark Riley Bottom: Mark Riley (Photos by Denise Hathaway)

Celebrate Live Blues at the Madison Park Pub's Wednesday Night Jam With Unbound!

December 2 Unbound with el Colonel & Mary De La Fuente December 9 Unbound with Kader Sundy December 16 Unbound with Rick Harvey and John Gulla December 23 Unbound with Randy Oxford & Willy Straub December 30 Unbound with Stacy Jones & Kevin Sutton

By Stacy Jones

I recently got to spend some time trekking through the Appalachians with all their fall colors; it was not only beautiful, it was an experience. With the new album, *Whiskey, Wine, & Water*, I've heard many comments about Nashville, and several people have told me that I should pay "Music City" a visit. So, I did just that: drove from Atlanta to Nashville, with a stop on the way to visit my old best friend from high school.

Nashville provides an endless supply of "real deal musicians" with polished licks and spot-on vocals. They play all the covers you hear on all the Nashville radio stations flawlessly. If you would be okay with setting aside your original music to play seven days a week to packed houses, then this could potentially be the greatest city in the world for you. I have a huge respect for that. I was, however, hoping to find something a bit more original.

I searched on my second night, and was at a bit of a loss. I know it exists, I just didn't find it. I will need to spend more time in the future navigating Nashville's music scene, but there are some things are really took from this experience. We are truly blessed in the Pacific Northwest, and it took a trip to Nashville to realize how many opportunities we have to experience live, original music. We have so many fantastic songwriters, and we have fans that come to see us perform our original music. We have musicians who live up to the Nashville standard and we can see them play songs that are truly meaningful to them. We have some of the greatest recording studios around, like Litho and Robert Lang to name just a couple, with

Tennessee Roadtrippin' engineers that actually care about the people they

engineers that actually care about the people they are working with. Nashville was a fantastic city to experience, and I would go back in a heartbeat, but I definitely appreciated the new outlook. This was a great primer for the second half of my trip.

The next leg of my journey brought me back to Marietta, Georgia for the International Music and Entertainment Association awards. I checked into my hotel, the same one each of the other nominees were staying in and I quickly got my red carpet attire on. I headed to the lobby to see if I might spot and make friends with other nominees. This is where I ran into my new friends from Amsterdam, who were kind enough to let me ride with them to the awards show. The red carpet was a bit intimidating, but I had rehearsed my pose for three days straight (so I think the pictures came out OK). The awards show itself was truly international as it featured performers from Sweden, Brazil, the Netherlands and all across the United States. I made several new friends who were also from the Pacific Northwest, and experienced a true melting pot of performers in folk, country, pop, hip-hop, and theater. It was a room full of creativity in so many different forms. I had such a wonderful time, and I now know how to say "we come from Seattle, we have no money, please buy our CDs" in Dutch!

Last but certainly not least, I came home with a little gem of an award for Best Blues Song, "Can't Do Nothin' Right." The real irony is in the song title, and the joy is in knowing that "Can't Do Nothin' Right" is my own original music. I was truly honored to receive this award, and I also felt very fortunate to also receive a nomination in the Blues Artist of the Year category as well. In fact,



Kathy Boyd and Phoenix Rising winner of Bluegrass Group of the Year from Portland, with Melissa Ostman and Stacy Jones (Photo Courtesy of Stacy Jones)

I heard that John Kessler was playing "Can't Do Nothing Right" on his award-winning All Blues radio program on KPLU-FM, but I couldn't listen because I was on the red carpet at the awards show. International Music and Entertainment Association President and Producer Colt Chambers has created a wonderful association for artists, and the entire event was class act. It was truly a joy to be a part of it.



Holiday Party Artists: The Cory Wilds Band and the Mark Riley Trio and Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm Method!

The Cory Wilds Band - Blending American roots music with modern tones is essential to the Cory Wilds Band's sound. Three vocals, guitar, drums and bass complete the power trio that has led many to be amazed by the full sound they create. With well over a thousand shows under their belt in the Northwest alone, their sound has been honed by real experience on the bandstand that can't be replicated any other way.

"Were excited to be hosting the 2015 Washington Blues Society Holiday Party Jam at the Drift on Inn Roadhouse in Shoreline on Sunday December 6th. We currently host a Blues Jam each Tuesday at the J&M Cafe in Seattle's historic Pioneer Square as we have for most of the last four years. Our Tuesday jam is always a great party and everyone is welcome. We've been in the studio recently and were looking forward to sharing some new sounds soon."

Cory Wilds is the guitarist, lead vocalist and primary songwriter in the band. For the last fifteen years Cory has taught guitar by day at A Sharp Music Co. located in his hometown of Renton. Des Moines' Mark Fluegel heads the rhythm section on bass and provides backing vocals. Kent's Ronnie Muir is the power house of the band on drums. He also handles harmony vocal duties with ease. Years ago they were introduced by a fellow local musician that they were backing up, and when that stint ended they continued on as the Cory Wilds Band. They haven't looked back since.

Mark Riley Trio - Mark Riley (song writer, guitarist, and vocalist): For the past 14 years the Mark Riley Trio has played music to blues fans everywhere, all the while Mark has been appearing and recording with most of the bands in the Northwest Blues scene, as well as bands of other genres. Mark has 20 "Best of Blues" awards from the Washington Blues Society and the "Bluesman of the Year 2001" "Summy" award from the Tacoma Music Association. Mark has released five CD recordings; Lead Suit, Leap of Faith, Love & Trouble, Confessions of a Madman, and Do You Think I Can Hit It From Here. With 54 years of music making, Mark Riley is a consummate musician and artist who in addition to building guitars, and teaching music, has been a powerful presence in the regional music scene.

Martin Vadalabene (drummer and keyboardist). Martin is from St. Louis. As a young man Martin moved to Ellensburg to join the band Got. He's recorded and toured with Cajun fiddle player and Warner Brothers artist, Doug Kershaw. Martin also appeared on Network TV with Merv Griffin, Mike Douglas, Dinah Shore, and PBS Sound Stage. Martin's talent is impressive, and includes performing at a variety of venues like Farm Aid, New Orleans Jazz Fest, Grand Ole Opry, and New York's Lincoln Center.

Tom Erak (bassist, vocalist, and producer). Tom takes a unique approach to his music. As a vocalist and bass player he brings a purity of presence to his work. Mark Riley first worked with Tom Erak with the Seattle Women in Rhythm & Blues, since then Mark has learned that Tom has toured with everybody from Randy Meisner to Barry Manilow and all points in between, as well as recording with numerous high profile artists.

Editor's Note: Polly O'Keary and the Rhythm Method will follow the Mark Riley Trio at this year's party on December 6th at the Drift On Inn Roadhouse. The party begins at 2:00 PM!

Special Thanks to Our November Blues Bash Performers! Stanislove (right) and Bobby Holland & The Breakdline (below)





December Blues Bash Electric Act: The 44th Street Blues Band

Leonard Daniel on drums, Greg Johnston on guitar, Billy Lovely on lead guitar and Bill Davis on harp.



December Blues Bash Acoustic Act: Sheri Roberts Greimes



Blues Bash Preview: Tuesday, December 8th at the Drift On Inn Roadhouse in Shoreline!

Acoustic Act: Sheri Roberts Greimes (Photo by Denise Hathaway)

Learning to play the piano at age 3, Sheri Roberts Greimes has become a respected singer and musician throughout the Pacific Northwest, starting her career in piano-bars at the age of 15.

Sheri moved to Nashville in 1986 and quickly became a favorite songwriter/singer in Nashville, playing showcases and events in the prestigious Blue Bird Café, Douglas Corner, The Cannery, The Stockyard and Nashville Palace. Sheri continued to perform throughout the U.S. at the state and county fair circuits, as well as clubs in Las Vegas; such as Vegas World, The Gold Nugget, the Aladdin, and the Flamingo. She released her first album, Good Night Texas, in 1990 and had some independent radio success.

Sheri moved home in 1993 to Washington to go to college and played in local bands while raising her son. Graduating with a medical degree, Sheri continued to perform with local bands Borderline, PF Flyer, Mustard Seed and many more. She rereleased her album retitled "Family Tree" and is currently showing favorably on Reverbnation.

Sheri suffered a severe physical challenge in 2012 and was unable to sing for almost three years. Building her vocal strength back, she pursued

her musical career with a vengeance, determined to give it a second chance. Though she is on continuous oxygen therapy, she still sings with the dynamics and strength of a seasoned professional.

Venturing into the blues scene, she is working on recording her first blues album of new songs.

She currently plays with two bands: One Nite Band and Scratch Daddy Band, as well as a solo artist. Being featured in local venues, Sheri continues to share her music with the community, playing anywhere and anytime she can. Look for her next performance near you!

Electric Act: The 44th Street Blues

Band(Photo Courtesy of Leonard Daniel)

The 44th St. Blues Band was founded by the drummer Leonard Daniel in 2011, and has been playing fun, danceable blues at various clubs and events ever since.

Leonard started playing in church at age 12 and in gospel groups in the south as a youngster. Leonard is inspired by drummers like Bernard Purdie, Clyde Stubberfield, Steve Gadd and Dave Wekel.

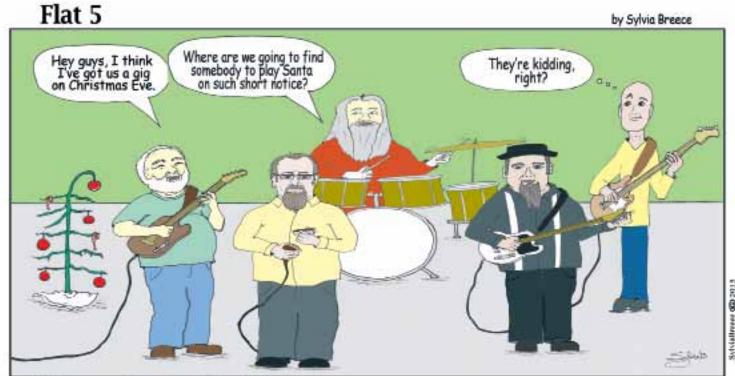
Kevin Kolbeck, the original bass player, is a former owner of Guitarville. Kevin played guitar throughout his life.

Billy Lovy, on lead guitar, started singing at age five, playing guitar at age 17, played in a number of bands, including Liberty, Byron ST. Funk, Scanners, Jo Mama, Spex and Jeff and the Jet City Flyers. Billy co-produced, arranged and played guitar and vocals on the Washington Blues Society's best blues CD of 2077. He is fortunate to have performed with many of the Pacific Northwest's finest players. Billy is influenced by Great Excelsior Jazz Band, BB King, Jimi. & T Bone.

"Music is here and now, not now and then," says Billy.

Greg Johnston is on on guitar and vocals. His father was a radio DJ at KGEZ in Kalispell, Montana and is influenced by all styles of music. Greg has been playing in bands since 1966 as a drummer and started playing guitar and singing in bands in the early 2000s.

Bill Davis sings and plays harmonica. Bill has been playing blues harp in the Pacific Northwest for 30+ years, and has been nominated by members of the Washington Blues Society as "Best Harmonica Player" three times. Bill has played in bands across a variety of genres including country, bluegrass, folk, and, of course, the blues.



Wishing you and yours a Happy Blues Year!

Top Blues CDs and Live Blues Shows of 2015!

Editor's Note: I solicited input from a number of blues fans regarding their opinions of top releases of 2015. The following contributions reflect CDs released, and shows performed, between January 1, 2015 and the December Bluesletter deadline of November 5, 2015. These lists aren't intended to be comprehensive; instead, they provide insights on what some blues fans consider to be the top blues experiences (so far) in 2015. – Eric Steiner

Greg Johnson, President Cascade Blues Association

- Doug MacLeod, *Exactly Like This* (Reference Recordings)
- James Clem, *Road's Gettng' Muddy* (Self-Produced)
- Karen Lovely, *Ten Miles of Bad Road* (Self-Produced)
- Billy Price & Otis Clay, *This Time For Real* (Bonedog Records/VizzTone)
- Wee Willie Walker, *If Nothing Ever Changes* (Little Village Foundation)
- Andy T Nick Nixon Band, *Numbers Man* (Blind Pig)
- Ben Rice Trio, *Live* (a) *The Purple Fox Loft* (Self-Produced)
- Kevin Selfe, Buy My Soul Back (VizzTone)
- Voo Davis, *Midnight Mist* (Butter & Bacon Records)
- Ghost Town Blues Band, Hard Road to Hoe (Self-Produced)

Eric Steiner, Editor, Washington Blues Society Bluesletter

- Cash Box Kings, Holding Court (Blind Pig)
- Various Artists, *Muddy Waters 100* (Raisin' Music)
- Shemekia Copeland, *Outskirts of Love* (Alligator)
- Doug MacLeod, *Exactly Like This* (Reference Recordings)
- Sonny Landreth, Bound by the Blues (Provogue)
- Kevin Selfe, Buy My Soul Back (VizzTone) Harrison Kennedy (with Colin Linden), This is
- From Here (Electro-Fi) Amy Black, The Muscle Shoals Sessions (Reuben Records)

Robin McKelle & The Fly Tones, *Heart of Memphis* (VizzTone)

Bettye Lavette, Worthy (Cherry Red)

Eric Steiner's Top Live Blues Shows of 2015

- Taste of Music in Snohomish: Washington Blues Society International Blues Challenge State Finals, Snohomish, Washington
- Chicago Blues Festival: Shemekia Copeland, The Cash Box Kings, Chainsaw DuPont, Chicago, Illinois
- Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout with Billy Boy Arnold (Bluebird Records Tribute) at Jazz Alley, Seattle, Washington
- Ben Hunter & Joe Seamons at the Blues Bash at the Red Crane Restaurant, Shoreline, Washington
- Michael "Hawkeye" Herman's Blues Workshop 10

at the Northwest Folklife Festival, Seattle, Washington

- JW Jones, The Rhumba Room at the Pacific Inn and Resort, South Surrey, British Columbia
- Janiva Magness' "Original" Preview, Wurlitzer Manor (Happy Birthday Amanda Gresham), Gig Harbor, Washington
- Lee Oskar, Westport Blues Festival, Westport, Washington

Dana Fuchs, Jazz Alley, Seattle, Washington

Rod Dranfield, President, White Rock Blues Society, White Rock British Columbia

Colin Linden, *Rich in Love* (Stony Plain Records) André Bisson, *Left With the Blues* (Self-Released) Jack de Keyser, *Voodoo Boogie* (Blue Star

Records)

- Anthony Gomes, *Electric Field Holler* (Up 2 Zero Entertainment)
- Mud Bay Blues Band, Colebrook Road (Self-Released)

Rod Dranfield's Top Live Blues Shows of 2015

- The Naughty Blokes, Mount Baker R&B Festival, Deming, Washington
- Angel Forrest & Paul Deslauriers, Live Love Tour at the Blue Frog Studios, White Rock, British Columbia
- Jimmy D Lane/Headliner at the White Rock Blues Society Blues Challenge by the Sea/ White Rock, White Rock, British Columbia
- Harpdog Brown & Little Victor, Pacific Inn Resort, South Surrey, British Columbia
- JW-Jones, Pacific Inn Resort, South Surrey, British Columbia

Malcolm Kennedy, Frequent Bluesletter Contributor, Washington Blues Society Bluesletter

Malcolm's Disclaimer: I don't receive or hear all releases, so my lists are typically made from CDs I have reviewed. That said, invariably I hear additional releases from a given year that would have made my list had I heard them earlier (which is the nature of the beast)

Andy T/Nick Nixon Band, *Numbers Man* (Blind Pig)

- Charlie Musselwhite, *I Ain't Lyin*, ' (Henrietta Records)
- Christian Collin, *Spirit of the Blues* (C-Train Records)
- Brandon Santini, *Live & Extended* (Vizztone) Igor Prado Band & the Delta Groove All-Stars,
- *Way Down South* (Delta Groove) Sugaray Rayford, *Southside* (Delta Groove)

Henry Gray/Bob Corritore, Vol. 1: Blues Won't Let Me Take My Rest (Delta Groove Music)

Andy Santana, *Watch Your Step* (Delta Groove) Anthony Geraci & the Boston Blues All-Stars,

Fifty Shades of Blue (Delta Groove)

Kevin Selfe & the Tornadoes, *Buy My Soul Back* (Vizztone)

Malcolm Kennedy's Honorable Mention Department ("Top 14")

Chris James/Patrick Rynn, Trouble Don't Last (Vizztone)

Andy Paxon, *Must Be Crazy* (EllerSoul) Colin Linden, *Rich in Love* (Stony Plain) Albert Cummings, *Someone Like You* (Blind Pig) Ghost Town Blues Band, *Hard Road to Hoe* (Ghost Town Music)

Rocky "Rock Khan" Nelson, Frequent Contributor, Washington Blues Society Bluesletter

- Zac Harmon, *Right Man Right Now* (Blind Pig Records)
- Shemekia Copeland, *Outskirts of Love* (Alligator Records)
- Tinsley Ellis, Tough Love (Heartfixer Music)
- Mud Morganfield and Kim Wilson, For Pops (Severn Records)
- The Rolling Stones, *Sticky Fingers (Reissued)* (Rolling Stones Records).

The Blues Boss

Ian Siegal, One Night in Amsterdam (Nugene Records)

Steve Earle & the Dukes, *Terraplane* (New West) Sonny Landreth, *Bound by the Blues* (Provogue) Victor Wainwright, *Boom Town* (Blind Pig)

Joel Fisk & the Breakdown, The Well (Self-

Produced)

Dave & Phil Alvin, Lost Time (Yep Roc)

The Blues Boss' Top Live Blues Shows of 2015 John Nemeth @ Jazz Alley, Seattle, Washington

North Bend Blues Walk, North Bend, Washington

Rick Bowen, Vice President, Washington Blues Society

Beth Hart, Better than Home (Provogue)

Eric Bibb and JJ Milteau, *Lead Belly's Gold* (Stony Plain)

Stacy Jones, *Whiskey, Wine & Water* (EZ money) Bros Landreth, *Let It Lie* (Slate Creek Records) Danielle Nicole, *Wolf Den* (Concord)

- The Jimmy's, Hot Dish (Brown Cow Productions)
- JJ Appleton and Jason Ricci, *Dirty Memory* (Old Boy Network)
- The Reverend Shawn Amos, *The Reverend Shawn* Amos Loves You (Put Together)
- Ian Siegal, *One Night in Amsterdam*, (Nugene) Sonny Landreth, *Bound by Blues* (Provogue)

Rick Bowen's Top Live Blues Shows of 2015

- Beth Hart, American Music Hall, San Francisco, California
- The Stacy Jones Band CD Release Party, easy monkey Tap House, Shoreline, Washington with Rick Bowen, Tom Jones, Stacy Jones, Sean Denton, Mark Riley and Kevin Andrew Sutton.
- Dana Fuchs, Jazz Alley, Seattle, Washington (Continued on Next Page)

Congratulations to all the 2015 Cascade Blues Association Muddy Award Recipients!

Contemporary Blues Act – Kevin Selfe & The Tornadoes "Lloyd Jones" R&B Act – Norman Sylvester Band Traditional Blues Act – Ben Rice Trio Regional Blues Act – Ty Curtis Band New Blues Act – Bottleneck Blues Band "Duffy Bishop" Female Vocalist – Rae Gordon "Curtis Salgado" Male Vocalist – Andy Stokes Electric Guitar – Phil "Suburban Slim" Wagner "Terry Robb" Acoustic Guitar – Alan Hager Bass – John Mazzocco "Jimi Bott" Drums – Brian Foxworth Harmonica – Mitch Kashmar Keyboards – Dover Weinberg Horns – Peter Moss Venue – Blue Diamond NW Recording – Rae Gordon – Dirty Flowers National Recording – Sugaray Rayford – Southside The Hurley Award (for behind the scenes stage crew personnel) – Steve Gross Performance of the Year – Christone "Kingfish" Ingram at the Waterfront Blues Festival NW Blues Event – Bronze Blues & Brews Festival Back What You Believe In – Rae Gordon Lifetime Achievement – Linda Hornbuckle

Rae Gordon, the night's biggest winner, was also inducted into the Cascade Blues Association Muddy Awards Hall of Fame for receiving the "Duffy Bishop" Female Vocalist award three consecutive years!

4th Annual Jones Family Christmas!

On Saturday, December 4th, The "Jones Family Christmas - Toys for Tots" show, will return to the Old Village Pub in Lynnwood. Over the past four years, this show has become an annual tradition and a very successful holiday event. Five years ago Seattle musician Stacy Jones had this idea to join forces with Mel's Old Village Pub in Lynnwood, Washington and the U.S Marine Corps and their annual "Toys for Tots" drive and turn it in to a concert event. The twist is that all of the acts have to have the name Jones in their title.

The annual host band is Stacy Jones and the Stacy Jones Band. This year's featured acts will be Wes Jones who leads his own working country band, and from the south sound the fabulous Heather and Donny Jones our new found blues cousins

Jones Family Christmas Performers: Clockwise: Stacy Jones (Dave Corry Photo), Heather Jones, Chester Dennis Jones (Photo by Bill Kuder) and Wes Jones

Top Live Blues Shows of 2015! (Continued from Page 10)

Rick Bowen's Top Live Blues Shows of 2015

- Kim Archer with the Stacy Jones Band at the Northwest Folklife Festival Fountain Stage, Seattle, Washington
- Tersea James and the Rhythm Tramps. Blues Bash at the Red Crane Restaurant in Shoreline, Washington
- Southern Troubadours Paul Thorn, Ruthie Foster & Joe Ely, Edmonds Center for the Arts, Edmonds, Washington
- Eric Bibb with Michael Browne, Jazz Alley, Seattle, Washington
- Beth Hart, Neptune Theatre, Seattle, Washington Ben Hunter & Joe Seamons, International Blues
- Challenge Finals at the Taste of Music, Snohomish, Washington
- Dudley Taft, Conway Muse, Conway, Washington

from Flint Michigan. Of course the show will feature a set by bluesman "Uncle" Chester Dennis Jones who joins the family tradition every year. A donation of either \$10 or a new unwrapped toy is requested as an entrance fee. Join the fun and help "The Jones Family" give to those kids who are in need this holiday season.



John Kessler: The Man Behind the Mic on KPLU-FM's "All Blues"

By Rick J. Bowen

John Kessler, the host of All Blues on Seattle's KPLU, has spent his life in pursuit of the muse and has developed a worldwide following for his weekly radio shows. Kessler received the prestigious Keeping the Blues Alive award from the Blues Foundation in 2009 and the "Best Blues DJ" award five times from the Washington Blues Society. On his show, Kessler goes into great depth about the music selections but very rarely reveals anything about himself. I sat down with John to get more of his story and his take on what makes good radio and the State of the Blues.

Rick J Bowen: How long have you been at KPLU?

John Kessler: I'm in my seventeenth year. I started in 1999, do the math.

RJB: You've won several Best of the Blues awards for best radio DJ from the Washington Blues Society- you stopped accepting the nomination.

JK: I'm the only paid Blues DJ in the area. I'm paid to do my job and all the other stations, like KSER and KBCS are all volunteer. How can you put a professional and a volunteer in the same category for awards? Frankly I thought the other stations deserve recognition. It's not all about KPLU. We are kind a like the whale in the pond. I felt it was better to spread it around to people like Leslie and Clancy, and people I respect. It means a lot to them. It's the only recognition they get.

RJB: What did you do before KPLU?

JK: I was a professional musician from age 20 to 40 and I had some interesting jobs. One of the main gigs I had was with a public radio show called Mountain Stage: a live music program that's been on since 1983 and still on hundreds of NPR Stations. The format is a two hour live show with four or five guests and a house band. I was the bass player and music director. When Dr.John would come on the show I would call his manager and ask "what songs is he gonna do? Three weeks from now?" they'd be like "we don't know just learn a bunch of them." So I'd pick the likely candidates and chart them out and in those days it was making cassette tapes for everyone to do their homework. There was very little rehearsal on show day. I got to work with hundreds of acts, a lot of blues people. I played with Gatemouth Brown, Pinetop Perkins, Johnnie Johnson, Taj Mahal.

RJB: The Cavalcade of Stars.

JK: Yes. Also country and bluegrass people. Shawn Colvin, Sara McLaughlin, Joan Osborne, The Band, I played with them. These people were my heroes and so it was like "You better not screw up."

RJB: If you're touring the east coast you want to do that show.

JK: That was an education in music, and because of my role it was necessary for me to suspend judgement about certain types of music. Things like Bluegrass and such that don't appeal to me personally, but here I am playing with an internationally famous bluegrass band and I'm gonna play the right note. That was a real lesson for me as a young musician. If a bass player plays a wrong note, everyone in the band turns around and looks and me. It was trial by fire.

Along the way I was touring with bands and became interested the recording process and I interned with some big studios. I learned how to be a recording engineer and did that for four or five years very intensively. I had my own studio on the east coast for several years before I came to Seattle. It was great, but your clients are poor musicians, so it's a tough way to make a living. It was right at the time when digital was coming in. I produced a bunch of local bands at that time. We called them "Flannel Bands." It wasn't "Grunge," yet it was the late 80's and early 90's.

RJB: The east coast version of Grunge.

JK: Yes exactly, I took several of those bands on tour. Then I worked with Steve Ferguson, one of the original guitar players of NRBQ. I toured with Steve for three years and made a record with him. That was amazing. It was a real on the road hard blues band. A down and dirty, gritty nasty ass blues and R&B band. After that band broke up I moved to Seattle because my older brother was here. I'd been on the road since I was twenty, I didn't have a penny to my name, no insurance, no family. I knew I needed to do something. I didn't know I was coming out here to do radio, but I immediately volunteered at KBCS. I started a show called "Roots and Braches." Without it being a conscious direction for me I was obviously drawn to be in radio. I wasn't just a bass player, I was also involved in arranging, and producing and recording music. I had a sense of all the things that go into making a successful song, or album or show. Being a radio DJ is a logical extension of the things I was doing as a musician. The blues part of it maybe wasn't conscious either, although I've been magnetically drawn to it my whole life without being aware of it. When I first started listening to music it was The Allman Brothers, The Rolling Stones, and Jim Hendrix, it was the blues bands.

I didn't know what I was hearing was blues. When I heard the Allman Brothers do "One Way Out," I didn't know it was a Sonny Boy Williamson tune. Or "Stormy Monday"- oh, that's T Bone Walker- I had no sense of it. When Cream did "Crossroads" did I know it was a Robert Johnson tune? Hell, no. I was just naturally drawn to it. When the opportunity to come to KPLU presented itself I said "I could do that." It was kind of random. There was an ad in the Sunday paper. "Part time Jazz and Blues host wanted,"

RJB: Super! (Laughs) An ad in the classifieds. DJ wanted, Low pay, nights, weekends, no glory, those interested please apply.

JK: Right you're gonna have no social life, be all alone on weekends, working at night.

RJB: You and two other crazy people applied.

JK: There were a couple other crazy people there back then. Robin Lloyd was an early blues host. Ned Neltner from Junior Cadillac, who is now semi-retired was there also.

RJB: You are known for having an encyclopedic knowledge of the blues. How did that develop?

JK: When I started I was no encyclopedia. I was pamphlet. I have grown into the job. I was forced to. At first it was four hour shows three nights a week; it's still twelve hours- over two nights, the same amount of music. It's a lot to keep track of and there's no short cuts. For me it was total immersion. KPLU has a fantastic blues library. thanks to Juliet Zentellis and Marllee Walker who preceded me. I didn't have to start from scratch. It was like "oh good, here's the complete Muddy Waters Collection, here's the complete Howlin' Wolf Collection." What else do you need? I did get help from the music director at KPLU. When we realized that we could take this to another level, we got a little more serious. We started to identify what is the brand, what does a blues show need to have in it for six hours. You can't just play Robert Johnson all night or Skip James or Blind Willie Johnson. Its great blues but it doesn't make for a good radio show. That's when we started fleshing out what it takes.

The average person listens to radio for twenty or thirty minutes at a time. You have to keep that in mind when you are putting together a show. If you do a theme show people aren't going to get the theme if they only hear a little sliver of it. For every fifteen or twenty minute segment you want to show some variety.

RJB: Did you model the show after classic blues stations of the south?

JK: Not at all. Nick Morison, who has been at KPLU for over twenty years as music director, production director, and jazz and blues host: the

(Continued on Page 15)





Left: John Kessler at KPLU-FM (Photo by Aaron Hushagen) Middle Left: At the Highway 99 Blues Club Below: John Kessler on Bass Bottom: With Dudley Taft at the Highway 99 Blues Club (Photos by Vic Wright - The Wright Image)





Washington Blues Society New Membership Opportunities!

By Eric Steiner

At a Board meeting earlier this year, the Board of Directors of the Washington Blues Society decided to offer two new membership levels: one for corporate and business members and one for blues acts (Duos and Bands). Contributions may be taxdeductible; please check with your tax preparer to see which new opportunity is right for you.

Each corporate, business or band membership includes a blues society membership card (with discounts!), a subscription to the Bluesletter, and nominating and voting privileges for the annual Best of the Blues ("BB Awards") awards celebration.

Corporate and Business Memberships: these opportunities have been designed to attract for-profit businesses to support the mission of the Washington Blues Society. Modeled after similar membership opportunities available from The Blues Foundation or the Cascade Blues Association, this is the Washington Blues Society's inaugural attempt at providing a range of benefits to Gold, Silver and Bronze business members. **Corporate and Business Membership Levels**

Gold

One monthly color business card-sized ad, a passthrough link to the Washington Blues Society website, and four voting memberships. Dues donation: \$1,000.

Silver

One bimonthly color business card-sized ad – that's six placements per year, plus four voting memberships. Dues donation: \$600.

Bronze

One quarterly business card-sized ad – that's four placements annually, plus four voting memberships. Dues donation: \$400.

Blues Performer Memberships

Band Membership

The following example is for a four-piece blues band: \$25 annual dues for the first member; each additional member, \$20 (for a total of \$85 – that's a \$15 savings off the standard membership rate!). When personnel members change, replacement members will pay \$20 and each original member will continue to enjoy their membership for the duration of their membership.

Duo Membership

Duo acts will be similarly priced: dues for the first member is \$25 with the second half of the duo paying \$20 – the same replacement membership discounts as in the Band Membership category will apply.

Please see our revised membership page on page 24!!

Update on International Memberships

Due to rising postage costs and delays associated with international mail, all international memberships will receive the Bluesletter electronically effective immediately. International subscribers' dues will be the same as USA members' dues - \$25 for a single membership and \$35 for a couple's membership. As an added bonus, international subscribers will receive the link from the Bluesletter editor on the 1st of the month. International members will nominate and vote in the BB Awards process electronically.

A Special Thank You to Washington Blues Society Donors and Supporters!

Thank you to the following blues supporters for their generous donations to the Washington Blues Society in 2015 to the Passing the Torch Youth Education Program (PTT), the Musicians Relief Fund (MRF) and the Okanagan Fire Relief Fund (OFRF).

Passing the Torch Youth Education Program (PTT)

Albert Snow Anthony Frederickson Brian Lee Christopher D Rose Frank Holman Frederick Rivera Hank Yanda Jay Mabin Jeff Herzog Kevin Sutton Mia Vermillion Mike Lynch Mona R Hewett (PTT & MRF) Myrna L Boswick Rick Bowen Russ Kammerer

Steve Yonck Timothy Maher (PTT & MRF) Timothy Rourke (PTT & MRF) Todd & Bobbie Beese (PTT & MRF) Tom Jones Will Morgan (PTT & MRF)

Musicians Relief Fund (MRF)

Clara & Robert Manny Dan O'Connor Darlene Sievert David Almvig & Catherine Jolley Denis Ray Kurth Diane A Frauenholtz Donna & Jack Coke Eric Madis James & Kathy Thomas John Coffey Kathryn L Hettel Liz Caraway Mary McPage Paul Brown Rene Anderson Sally Orlob Steve & Michelle Gill

Steven & Lenora Autio Susan & Donald Beranek Susan Segalla Tacoma Pierce County Crime Stoppers Thomas J Flora Winthrop Music Association

Okanogan Fire Relief Fund

M Schlacter Mike Cook Pat Bershauer Todd & Monica Lawrence

Custom Hoodies & Ts Rick Nolan



The Man Behind the Mic (Continued)

(Continued from Page 12)

sound is the result of the work he and I did in theearly two thousands, with the help of Robin Lloyd. We identified all the artists that need to be in there. We need to be playing Howlin' Wolf and John Lee Hooker. You can't do a proper show without including them at some level. The show is not totally random what you hear. I don't just pull out 80 songs. A lot of thought goes into it. I think about tempos, I think about subject matter, I think about geography and eras. I don't want to play three tracks from the 1950's in the same set. Because if someone doesn't like what they hear they're gone. I may play a two minute Memphis Slim song from the 50's but then follow it up with Ry Cooder from the 90's. I think about all that stuff. After so many years it's become instinctual. After 10 years I came to a point where I said to myself, "You know, you have this," and I've been following my instincts and its working.

RJB: The lost art of a live on air DJ; just like a musician you are playing the station or show as your instrument.

JK: Exactly. I know every note of every song on my show. I listen to them very carefully.

RJB: You're not just an announcer, or On Air personality.

JK: Hopefully. It is certainly easy to do that. It's that way on corporate radio. We don't have that machine at KPLU. We make our own play lists. I can't give you facts and figures, but several NPR stations have gone dark. Big ones like in Chicago, Boston, and Pittsburgh. Major stations just gone, or changed to talk format, which is easier to program. It is definitely labor intensive to have live music DJs in the studio the whole time, but we still do it.

RJB: With the Internet radio explosion happening, many changes are coming, too.

JK: There is a lot of uncertainty, but terrestrial radio is going down very slightly. It's still here, people are still driving around in their cars listening to radio. That's one of the things in the music business right now. The ability to produce and distribute your own product. You weren't able to do that when the so called corporate labels controlled everything. You either were on the inside or the outside. The competition now is, for a lack a better word just "The Noise." You are competing against a thousand bands with product versus just ten in your market. There are still brilliant genius musicians making brilliant music-it is just more difficult for them to rise through the noise.

RJB: Do you feel you get to help people rise through the noise?

JK: I would hope. I'm a filter. That's what was good about the corporate era of rock. If someone was a legitimate act, they had gone through many levels of proving themselves. Image people, producers. It's a very different situation now. There is a lot more mediocre product.

This is something I wanted to say. How do I know a song is good and how do I pick what to play?

It's got to have three things. It doesn't matter if you're famous or not, or a legend or not, these three things apply to everyone.

One: it's got to have a good overall arrangement. That happens to be, yes, radio friendly. A sevenminute, eight-minute song has got be exceptional beyond your wildest dreams to get on. Give me a three minute song. With a nice tight arrangement. Don't make me wait a minute to get to the lyrics. Because I'm gonna flip to the next song. There's a lot of great songs I wouldn't play because they're not radio friendly. Amazing records, yes; but not for radio.

The second thing is, the singer has to have a voice you really want to hear. Bob Dylan not withstanding you've got to be able to really sing. It's hard to qualify, the voice can be gnarly, gravelly Ian Siegal-type of voice. It doesn't have to be beautiful; it just has to be right.

The third thing, and this is the most difficult one: the composition has to be strong. So very often I will get song with the first two categories. A great singer with a kick ass band. But the song has just nothing there. There is no substance.

RJB: There needs to be a story.

JK: Yeah, maybe there is story but they didn't tell it right. I can critique each one on a song to song basis and tell you what they missed. In short those are my three things. Consider this, Muddy Waters has recorded maybe 500 songs. I'm only playing 50 of them.

RJB: B.B King recorded over 50 albums

JK: Yes and I'm only playing 25 B.B King Songs out of hundreds. That's all part of the deal.

RJB: Can give us your take on the state of blues music.

JK: It's changing in front of our ears. In the last 10 years we've seen the turning of the page. We've seen B.B King go. Buddy Guy is 79 years old. James Cotton is 80 years old, Billy Boy Arnold is 84. When these guys are all gone, what will blues mean? I don't really know because we're not there yet. There will be people coming up to take their place. And there are some bright, amazing young

acts. I think my favorite unique artist of the last couple years is Jarekus Singleton. I play him on the show, he's has those three things. He's on fire. He's not playing twelve bar blues but it's totally rooted in the blues 100%. I love Gary Clark Jr. But he's either doing blues or "not blues." I love Alabama Shakes. They're what a lot of young people think is the blues now a days. You ask what's the next version of blues gonna be? It'll be these types of people who are not really playing straight blues but are dancing around the edges of it. And young people will call it blues; older people will say "kids these days."

RJB: Haven't we done that for 60 years now?

JK: There are still tons of blues festivals all over the world, and blues magazines. Dedicated blues societies and associations and blues radio. It's not all people fifty and older. We have younger artists coming up. Several like Shemekia Copeland in her early 30s. We have to support the careers of these artists and talented young people they are the future.

Luckily there are enough young bands to keep it going. It is not getting any easier to make a living in music or the arts in general. Especially in the US. In Canada and Europe the arts are supported more. In Europe people are crazy about this music. They've got tons of blues club there, much more than here. There's hope. But it's not gonna happen without people paying attention and paying money. Go to the festivals, go to the clubs, and buy albums while you still can.

RJB: And listen to your show.

JK: There's no barriers to entry to my show. People send me music, and I listen to everything. When people make requests I do not blow those off. I follow up every one. I may think they're crappy but I follow up. Listeners have turned me onto some amazing stuff over the years. I spend most of my time when I'm not on the air auditioning music. It's not pretty.

RJB: You have a standard to maintain. You could start a second show.

JK: Well I'll drop this idea: I am hoping that KPLU will be doing a 24hr Blues Stream in the future. We have Jazz 24 and it's doing very well, people all over the world are listening. It's in the long range plans that I've been pushing for years now. If we do this, we could open the door even wider. I would love that. I told my boss we could start tomorrow.

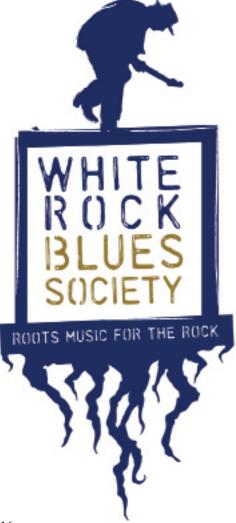
All Blues with John Kessler is Saturdays and Sundays from 6pm to midnight on 88.5 KPLU, and streaming at KPLU.ORG

Blues Show Review: JW Jones at the Pacific Inn with the White Rock Blues Society!

By Eric Steiner

I had the pleasure of going to the White Rock Blues Society's 100th show in October. It's hard to believe, but I've known President Ron Dranfield for nearly eight years: he's developed opportunities for blues musicians to play, and blues fans to experience live blues, less than two miles of the USA-Canada border.

This show in the Rhumba Room at the Pacific Inn and Resort in South Surrey featured Blind Pig recording artist – 2015 Juno nominee - JW Jones. I'd seen JW in Memphis several years ago and he always impressed me as a bluesman steeped in the history of the blues. The versions of "Dimples" and several other classic blues songs in the Rhumba Room were spot-on. He brought longtime bass player Laura Greenberg and drummer Mike St-Jean, and in the middle of the second set, they each traded instruments! Laura moved to center stage on JW's golden Gibson while Mike picked up her bass. JW sat down behind the drum kit and together, this trio looked like they were having a lot of fun!







Clockwise from Upper Left:

Bass Player Laura Greenberg on Lead Guitar, JW Jones on Drums, Drummer Mike St-Jean on Bass and Two Drummers! (Photos by Eric Steiner)







Artists Perspectives on Seattle's Highway 99 Blues Club

(Editor's Note: Special thanks to Kevin Selfe, Kim Field, Duffy Bishop and Chris Carlson, and Jeff "Drummerboy" Hayes for their contributions honoring the Highway 99 Blues Club, below).

I moved to the Pacific Northwest eight years ago from Virginia and have had the opportunity to play lots of great clubs around the country. And I can honestly say Highway 99 Blues Club is hands down at the top of my list. It's a funky, greasy, awesome, juke joint that oozes creativity and I every time I walk in there it feels like home to me. So, when I heard Ed and Steve were essentially getting kicked out, I took it personal, like many others in the community. Our home was being taken away! The last 6 months have been full of public outcry, behind the scenes struggles, unwavering dedication, and lots of patience. And now to hear the great news in the 11 o'clock hour that the club is sticking around... it is a true victory not only for Ed, Steve, the staff, musicians, and patrons, but for the community as a whole. There is magic at Highway 99 Blues Club, and this little miracle goes to prove it! Kevin Selfe

Music is a three-legged stool. You need at least one musician, at least one listener, and some kind of a venue. I'm here to tell you that that last ingredient is the rarest of the three. Some of the best shows I've ever heard took place in living rooms, but, for me, you can't beat a classic dance hall. I've been lucky to have played in a bunch of them—places like

A Sad Farewell...

During the production of this Bluesletter, the world lost two uniquely American artists: Allen Toussaint (January 14, 1938 - November 10, 2015) and "Smokin' Joe" Kubek (November 30, 1956 – October 11, 2015). I had the pleasure of attending the 2012 Blues Foundation Hall of Fame Dinner at which Allen Toussaint was honored.

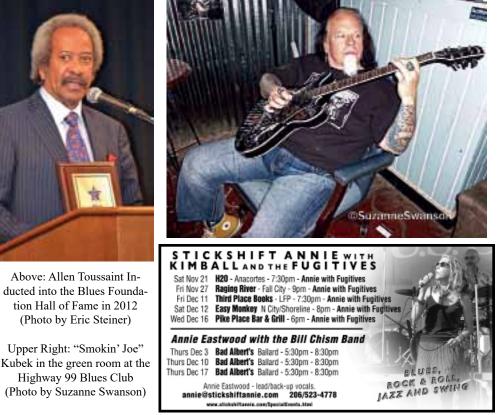
I marveled at how he signed autographs until the last fan left; Mr. Toussaint was very gracious with his time that evening.

While I did not have the pleasure of seeing "Smokin' Joe" Kubek perform live, I really enjoyed his 2015 CD with B'nois King on Blind Pig, Fat Man's Shine Parlor.

Special thanks to Suzanne Swanson for this photo of "Smokin' Joe Kubek in the green room at the Highway 99 Blues Club with "Southside" Johnny's well-traveled guitar signed by many bluesmen and blues women. – Eric Steiner the Broken Spoke and Antone's in Austin, and the old Parker's Ballroom and the Fabulous Rainbow in Seattle. Those places weren't great venues just because they sold cheap beer and had sizeable dance floors. They were magnets for musicians and fans alike because they were run by people who wanted to run a great music club. People who often suffered in a brutal business but persevered because they loved the music, the players, and the patrons. These five-star venues have been dving like flies over the past few years. I'm thrilled that the Highway 99 Blues Club now has-literally-a new lease on life in their famous location on the Seattle waterfront. I've launched two bands at the Highway 99, done a slew of gigs there, and sat in the audience for some killer shows, too. This club has been successful because the Maloney brothers, Steve Sarkowsky and their great staff understand what it means to have a world-class music club and they've done the hard work to make it happen. Seattle's music fans just got a huge piece of good news. - Kim Field

So many memories! Who knew that old Godfathers basement would present some of the best blues music of the 21st century? The intimacy of the place is what makes it magic. The performers can see the entire audience and their reactions to the music. This creates a feedback loop - the more the crowd digs the music, the more the intense the performance will be. We've seen this happen so many times, from both sides of the stage. So many memories, the bands, Jam 4 Cans, The Blue Velvet Revue and the memorials for departed comrades. So many memories, and now, thanks to the new lease, many more are about to be made. *Duffy Bishop and Chris Carlson*

A few years ago Starbucks attempted to market itself as a "Third Place", with home and work being places #1 & #2. But they were too late for me. I found my third place years ago when The Highway 99 Blues Club opened. From the very first time I descended the steps into the Highway 99 Blues Club down from Alaskan Way and left reality behind I knew I had found my home away from home. And as the Club has matured and evolved over the years, it has become better in every way. Steve Sarkowsky, Ed Maloney, and the entire past and present staff have always treated me as family and with a level of respect and dignity that other music clubs only aspire to, but never achieve. It's always been my goal to play every show like it's my last and the Highway 99 Blues Club provides me with the atmosphere that's conducive to that lofty goal. And even though I know that I have yet to play my best show, the amazing fans that frequent this "joint" treat me as though I did. So it's with great pride and joy that I hear that we will have this wonderful place for at least another couple of years. That should be enough time to get this deserving establishment a "Best Blues Club" award from the The Blues Foundation, don't you think? Jeff "DRUMMERBOY" Haves



Foghat Not Live at the BBC (Foghat Records)

Not Live at the BBC was recorded in 2007 for New York DJ Mark Klein's Long Island Blues Warehouse Radio Show and released in 2010. The band was mid-tour promoting Foghat Live II and sharp edged and had their live sound mixer Carl Davino at the controls. Another version of this recording has been released in 2009 as Live at the Blues Warehouse; this 2010 release features three bonus tracks; but not the band interviews of the 2009 CD. The song selections features all of Foghat's biggest hits "Fool for the City," "Drivin" Wheel," Willie Dixon's "I Just Want to Make Love to You" and "Slow Ride." The set opens with "Home in my Hand" from the Energized album followed by an energetic take on "Fool" and "Drivin' Wheel" from Night Shift. The bonus tracks include one by the current line-up filled with familiar Foghat riffs, "California Blues" from their new live release and both Robert Johnson's "Terraplane Blues" and Elmore James' "Shake Your Money Maker." For me the highlight is "Chateau Lafitte '59 Boogie" from my favorite Foghat album Rock & Roll Outlaws. The sound is clean, clear and live in the studio, so no crowd interplay or energy; yet the band are clearly amped up and ardent and lay down a solid set. Malcolm Kennedy

Foghat

Live in St. Pete (DVD) (Foghat Records)

Live at St. Pete was recorded in 2011 at Jannus Landing, St. Petersburg, Florida and released in 2013 and shows why Foghat are the kings of full tilt boogie rock. As with many rock bands (Cream, Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Allman Brothers, George Thorogood to name a few) Foghat has put their own rocking stamp on a number of blues and R&B songs and although they a clearly a rock band (and never claimed anything else) the blues clearly permeates Foghat's sound to the core. They save all the big hits for last getting the crowd warmed up with "Road Fever," "Stone Blue," "Take Me to the River" and "My Babe" among the selections. There are plenty of camera angels, pans, zooms in and out and the editing is exceptional. Bryan cuts loose on the slide guitar showcase "Bottle Neckin" and the show really jumps into high gear with the medley of Muddy Waters' "Rollin' & Tumblin'" with Willie Dixon's "You Need Love" followed by Robert Johnson's "Terraplane Blues," "Fool for the City," "I Just Want to Make Love to You" and closing with an encore of "Slow Ride." The current line-up featured on Live at St. Pete is founding member Roger Earl on drums, Craig MacGregor on bass, who first joined the band during their mid-1970s heyday and double platinum live album from 1977, then again for several stints between 1984 and 1991 and 2005

Blues CD Reviews

to present. Lonesome Dave Peverett replaced Rod Price with Bryan Bassett (Wild Cherry, Molly Hatchet). When Lonesome Dave passed away from cancer in 2000 Charlie Huhn (Ted Nugent, Humble Pie) joined the band on vocals, rhythm and lead guitar; so this is no one-off release; this line-up has been rocking together for over 10 years. Malcolm Kennedy

The Steepwater Band Live & Humble/Diamond Days: The Best of Steepwater 2006-2014 (Diamond Day Records)

Formed as a trio in 1998 by Jeff Massey on vocals and guitar, Joe Winters on drums and Tod Bowers on bass, The Steepwater Band was joined by Eric Saylors on second guitar in 2012 and Live & Humble is the first of their 10 releases going back to 2000 to include the four piece line-up. After touring the Midwest for several years, they have toured Europe several times. They have shared stages with a wide array of top rock talent and in 2010 did a two week tour with Gov't Mule. The have performed at the Chicago Blues Festival many times and played at the Mt. Baker R&B Festival in 2014 and were invited back by popular demand in 2015. As with many rock bands, The Steepwater Band started as a blues cover band, and then started writing their own material and incorporated some of their wide influences of rock, blues, Americana and country into form their own unique, roughhewn sound. The standouts on Diamond Days were "Revelation Sunday" the title track from their 2006 release. A brisk driving beat broken by slow passages and a tortured guitar solo with Massey singing, "come on babe home/ no need for you to roam/out there/alone." "Hard as Stone" has a touch of twang accentuated by the style of the slide guitar. "Lord Knows" is a rock anthem reminiscent of the Black Crowes and "High & Humble" is a muscular rocker that recalls Physical Graffiti era Zeppelin with a ponding beat and bristling slide. Of the 10 cuts on the 2006-2014 hits release only four are found on the live release, three from the 2011 release Clava. Live & Humble was recorded live April 20, 2013 in Chicago at the Ace Bar and opens with the brooding rocker "Remember the Taker" and is followed by the vibrant "Off the Rails." A barn storming version of "High & Humble" falls in the middle of the set and the twin guitar interplay rips. Interestingly they chose to change the pace by putting in the power ballad "Meet Me in the Aftermath" before amping things back up with an extended medley of Hooker's "Boom Boom" and Led Zeppelin's "How Many More Times" with ferocious guitars that had the crowd screaming for more as they close out their first set. Live & Humble closes with the bluesy slow paced "World Keeps Moving On" on song about the pitfalls one stumbles through in life that builds to a mighty crescendo of bristling guitars. If straight ahead old school rock played with passion is what you like look no further than

both *Dancing Days* and *Live & Humble* and I recommend you get both. Malcolm Kennedy

Charlie Musselwhite I Ain't Lyin' (Henrietta Records)

With a career spanning over 50 years Charlie Musselwhite needs no introduction, in short he is truly a living legend. Musselwhite's new live release I Ain't Lyin' was culled from a show last year: in Sonoma at the Valley of the Moon Festival in and the gems from this set are many. Interestingly, Charlie didn't select any cuts from his recent highly-acclaimed studio releases from the last 10 years. Musselwhite's impeccable harp tone and slightly gruff vocals are instantly recognizable as he opens I Ain't Lyin' with "Good Blues Tonight." Matt Stubbs' (John Nemeth, Janiva Magness, Junior Watson) slinky guitar lines shine brightly and the rhythm section of June Core on drums and Steve Froberg on bass are dialed in tight. Of the 11 tracks, all; but two are originals: Elmore James' "Done Somebody Wrong" and Charlie's signature song all the way back to his first release in 1967 Duke Pearson's "Cristo Redentor." The jaunty shuffle, "Long Lean Lanky Mama," surely fills dance floors and "My Kinda Gal" is a double time strut as Charlie sings "when it comes to lovin'/she loves to take her time." Stubbs bends plenty of notes with a tasty well-formed guitar solo and Charlie lays down a pair of greasy sols as well. The funky vibrant groove of "Long Leg Woman" makes it one of the standout cuts. I never tire of the seductive and emotive minor key lament that is "Cristo Redentor" and Charlie lays down a primo version here. I Ain't Lyin is a tough live set from an American blues treasure and I give it my highest recommendation. - Malcolm Kennedy

Jay Gordon & Blues Venom Woodchoppers Ball (Shuffle Music)

Aggressive, incendiary guitars and blistered fretboards set up the opening cut, "The Stinger," and the slow blues "Hobo Hilton" is no less blazing. The aptly-named "Chainsaw Boogie" cuts and slashes; it's actually played an operating chainsaw made into a guitar. The pace doesn't slacken up on Elmore James' "Stranger Blues" and Koko Taylor's "Voodoo Woman," which features Sharon Butcher on bass and vocals. Gordon changes to acoustic slide for Robert Johnson's "Travelin' Riverside Blues," and returns with searing guitars on "Pain" which has a medium slow beat. "Message to Collins," with its distinctive guitar lines, could easily have been titled "Message to Hendrix." My favorite track is the slow burning "Drippin' Blues" which features some tasty slide guitar licks. "Pure Grain Alcohol" is a piano driven blues shuffle with a lightly seared solo. The tour-de-force is the nine minute plus "Blue Venom," a slow paced shuffle with Bunsen

burner intensity guitar solos that features Richie Valens' younger brother, Mario Ramirez, on harp and Rich Wenzel on B-3. The final cut, "Original Sin," also clocks in at nine and a half minutes and is a Hendrix-esque slow blues replete with tortured strings. Jay Gordon is endorsed by Gretsch Guitars, performed at Eric Clapton's 2004 Crossroads Guitar Festival, and among other awards, received a pair of 2012 Los Angeles Music Awards including the Producers' Choice Award for Guitarist of the Year. For take no prisoners, loud, in-your-face 198 proof hard rocking blues with flames burning, *Woodchoppers Ball* fills the bill. Malcolm Kennedy

Mick Kolassa Ghosts of the Riverside Hotel (SwingSuit Records)

Mick Kolassa gathered a fine and talented bunch of friends as a supporting cast for his new SwingSuit Records release Ghosts of the Riverside Hotel, starting with producer and top drawer guitar slinger Jeff Jensen. Victor Wainwright adds piano to three selections including the humorous and smooth Tin Pan Alley revived song covered by many, and a hit for Josh White, "One Meat Ball" with Mick singing "little Nat felt so very bad/one meat ball was all he had/and in his dreams he heard that call/you get no bread with one meat ball" and the back-up singers chiming in "that's what he ordered/he could afford it/only one." The 12 selections feature eight originals interwoven with some interesting covers like Hank Williams Sr's "Ramblin' Man" Brandon Santini plays on three cuts, including "Trouble" penned by Alt-Country, Americana singer/songwriter Todd Snider. Kirk Smothers' sumptuous and jazzy sax lines give "Nothin' Left to Lose (Robin's Blues") added kick, and Wainwright's piano and Eric Hughes' blues harp add spark to "If I Ain't Fishin."" Randy Newman's "Mama Told Me Not to Come," (the 1970 Three Dog Night hit) also benefits from Santini's harp in this inspired blues arrangement. One of my favorite cuts is the original "Mama's Got a Mojo" with its cool, percolating groove, organ wash and textured guitar solo and fills. Mick closes with "Delta Town" featuring Watermelon Slim on Dobro and harmonica. Thoroughly enjoyable from start to finish, I highly recommend Ghosts of the Riverside Hotel. Malcolm Kennedy

Andy T. /Nick Nixon Band Numbers Man (Blind Pig Records)

The Andy T-Nick Nixon Band stormed onto the blues scene a few years ago and with *Numbers* Man, their third major blues label release, offers plenty of evidence why they have quickly become a top international blues act. *Numbers Man* is the follow-up to Andy, Nick and Co's Blues Music Award and Blues Blast Award nominated *Livin' It Up* and is worthy of many more accolades as well. On straight-up blues songs like "Shut the Front Door," which features producer Anson

Funderbrugh's lead guitar, and "Deep Blue Sea," each of these songs has the zydeco stylings of "Tall Drink of Water" with Christian Dozzler on accordion and Zeke Jarmon on rub board. The Texas Horns of Kaz Kazanov of tenor sax: Al Gomez on trumpet and John Mills on baritone sax are featured throughout the CD, especially with Kaz' exceptional solos on the upbeat "Pretty Girls Everywhere." The medium-paced shuffle, "Sundown Blues," features the impeccable harp playing of special guest Kim Wilson and Christian and Zeke bring back their accordion and rub board for "What Went Wrong." Jump blues enthusiasts will enjoy "Tell Me What's the Reason" and another instant classic is "This World We Live In," which features Steve F'dor on piano and the B-3 player who seems just about everywhere, Kevin McKendree. Numbers Man is one of the best albums of the year and I give it my highest recommendation. Malcolm Kennedy

Mitch Woods Live from Club 88 on the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise (Club 88 Records)

Club 88 is the piano bar on the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, and these recordings were captured live "somewhere in the Caribbean" in January earlier this year with boogie Woogie maestro Mitch Woods at the helm and a host of top cruise talent sitting in. The 17 tracks include Mitch sharing stories in the piano bar and an engaging set of live music. Since there are different jammers on each track, every cut deserves some kind of mention opening with the crowd-pleasing sing along, "Big Mamou," with members from Roomful of Blues, followed by a lively take on "Ain't Nobody's Business" with Victor Wainwright and Julia Magness. Tommy Castro and members of Roomful put their stamp on "Rip It Up," with Tommy on vocals. The multi-talented Lucky Peterson sings "Big Lights Big City" with help from members of Roomful. Zydeco Hellraiser Dwayne Dopsie puts some Louisiana hot sauce all over "Jambalaya" and "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On," playing a very lively accordion. Harp ace Billy Branch was trying to pace himself and go to bed; but he ended up at Club 88 along with some of those cats from Roomful on "Eyesight to the Blind." Popa Chubby played some tasty guitar licks onto "I Want You to Be My Baby" and "Wee Wee Hours," and Coco Montoya puts the spice on "Rock Me Baby." Victor's back for "Wine Spo Dee O Dee" and "Mitch plays "Broke" singing "broke, broke ain't got no dough" without any special guests, but I'm sure there were a lot of carrying-on in the piano bar! Jammin' On the High C's is a CD to own for blues cruisers and blues fans alike. Malcolm Kennedy

Chris James/Patrick Rynn Trouble Don't Last (Vizztone Records)

Stripped down and dirty as a basic four- piece

outfit with June Core on drums and either Rob Stone or Aki Kumar on blues harp, Chris James on vocals and guitar and Patrick Rynn on bass lay down some tough post-war Chicago style blues on their new Vizztone Records release Trouble Don't Last. The 10 selections feature six originals penned by Patrick, Chris and Rob and the balance of well-chosen covers like Calvin Frazier's "Lily Mae," which showcase some of Aki's impassioned harp work. Another is Freddie King's "Lonesome Whistle Blues" featuring the harmonica interplay of Rob and Aki. On the acoustic "A Good Idea at the Time" Chris sings "sittin' here in jail, I didn't commit no hagin' crime/I don't know why I did it/seemed like a good idea at the time" and Rob blowing gritty, reed bending harp. Aki's nasty harp solos on "Hard to Keep a Dollar" alone is enough to put him on the radar of blues fans and festivals like. One of the standout cuts is the storming instrumental, "Steady Goin' On," with steamy harp interplay between Aki and Rob and Chris' sinuous guitar. Trouble Don't Last closes with Sunnyland Slim's "Roll, Tumble and Slip" with a propulsive beat and swampy guitar and harp. Patrick and June keep the pocket deep, and Chris is a paragon of supple excellence on guitar, and add to that plenty of greasy harp, this CD features a winning combo with a veteran cohesiveness of grit and depth. Trouble Don't Last cooks at high heat from open until close and I recommend it very highly. Malcolm Kennedy

Morry Sochat & The Special 20s Dig In (Galaxie Records)

Chicago bluesman Morry Sochat (pronounced "socket") and his Special 20s have released their fourth CD and it's an exceptional collection of contemporary, swing and traditional Chicago blues. With Dig In, the band is celebrating its 10th anniversary: not an insignificant feat in a very crowded music market as well as a decade that included the dark economic clouds of The Great Recession. Dig In blasts off with the uptempo, jump blues of "Pine Box" followed by the elegant "Little Melody" that floats above Chris Neal and Doug Corcoran's saxophones and Shoji Naito's and Billy Flynn's light touch on lead guitar. "Little Melody" would be right at home on jazz radio as well as blues playlists, too. Fueled by Morry Sochat's fat-toned chromatic harp, "Rodeo Gal" has more off-color double entendres than any bawdy song from Alberta Hunter and "Big Red Rooster" artfully presents a blues archetype with lap steel (and I could hear influences of Hawaiian slack key on this song, too). Other players on this CD are in-demand musicians throughout the Chicago area, and in addition to listening to Naito and Flynn on guitar, it was a treat to listen to the rhythm section of Marty Binder on drums and Ted Beranis on upright bass. Dig In features nine originals and two classic covers: I really enjoyed the way the band updated Joe Liggins' "The Honeydripper" and Jimmy Dooley's "The Last Time." Fans of swing blues will dig Dig In. - Eric Steiner

Celebrating Seattle's Blues Club: The Highway 99 Blues Club
and Jolly Roger burnt down in that era, too.By Eric Steiner (with background from Malcolm

Kennedv)

As I approached the "deadline dash" about this article on the Highway 99 Blues Club, it was with considerably mixed feelings. Mixed feelings, because I read in the local press that the Highway 99 Blues Club was slated to close its doors on New Year's Eve. This year.

Boy, was I bummed. I've enjoyed countless great nights of live blues at this club. Celebrating Little Bill and the Blue Notes, Canada's The Twisters, Rick Estrin and the Nightcats, Janiva Magness, Keith Scott, Terry Evans, a burlesque show now and then, many outstanding rockabilly experiences, plus benefits that supported local musicians in need - this news really rocked my blues world. Not in a good way. I wondered where I could experience live music, and great food, like I had at the Highway 99 Blues Club.

However - and, this is a big "however," I learned just days before I sent this file to our partners in publishing at Pacific Publishing that the Highway 99 Blues Club will not close - and I was positively giddy. Giddy for the fact that the venue's menu will continue to offer up one of the most creative menus this side of the French Quarter. Absolutely elated that Seattle's only blues club will continue.

So, that means one thing: each and every Bluesletter reader should support this club and experience live blues in Seattle's only blues club.

The Washington Blues Society Board of Directors has unanimously voted to nominate the Highway 99 Blues Club in the Blues Club Category for a Keeping the Blues Alive Award in the prestigious annual awards competition of the Blues Foundation. While this award stresses the importance of a nominee's long-time legacy serving the blues community, I hope that the blues society will, again, nominate the Highway 99 Blues Club for a Keeping the Blues Award on its 20th anniversary (hey, I can dream, can't I?).

It was just 11 years ago in the summer of 2004 that Seattle's very own juke joint, the Highway 99 Blues Club Cool Joint, opened its doors. The plan was hatched two to three years earlier when Steve Sarkowsky got the idea and began to line up a building and recruit partners who shared his passion for blues music.

In 2004, Seattle's live music scene was very much in flux, and many clubs that were once blues stalwarts in Pioneer Square and Ballard were booking other genres of music. Even the Fabulous Rainbow, home to touring blues artists like Buddy Guv and John Lee Hooker, started experimenting with house and hip-hop. The fabled Scarlet Tree 20

Over the years, the club's seating and décor changed, but the changes always resulted in improved sight lines. In the club's early days, there was original art by Eric "Two Scoops" Moore and Phil Chesnut for sale and Highway 99 Blues Club T-shirts and other items featuring the club's distinctive logo.

Speaking of the décor, they went straight to juke joint funky. As in South Side Chicago Blues juke joint or Clarksdale, Mississippi juke joint. From Alaskan Way, the entry way descends down to what seems like a basement. The photos and blues art gracing the walls more than make up for the lack of windows, and the soft lighting keeps the room from feeling like a cave. The bar is made from three second hand antique doors and the bar lights are mechanics' drop lights. Since it was originally a warehouse, there are large roughhewn beams and posts supporting the building above. The walls have many photos of blues performers and local photographers Jef Jaisun, the late Tom Hunnewell, Phil Chesnut and the Sheriff have all had their work on display.

The Highway 99 Blues Club has been a strong supporter of the Washington Blues Society and the regional blues community. It's been home to a number of semi-final International Blues Challenge competitions, and the club continues to book blues bands that call the Evergreen State home.

The club has also hosted benefits for the Tipitina Foundation after Hurricane Katrina, and donated the space (and costs) to help local bluesmen Hans Ipsen and Mark Whitman with special benefit shows. The club hosted the Greg Thompson: Celebration of Life for their much loved sound man, and have been the home of fundraising events for United by Music, the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Home Alive, the National Organization for Women, the American Burn Foundation, the Seattle Fire Department, the American Cancer Society, Toys For Tots, Ronald McDonald House and numerous others charities across the Pacific Northwest.

The Highway 99 Blues Club is also home to the annual Jam for Cans event, which supports Northwest Harvest each November. This event has been a perennial choice by Washington Blues Society members for Best Non-Festival event. In fact, the Highway 99 Blues Club gives back more than five percent of its annual sales to the community through use of the facility by local organizations for fundraising events.

Ed's brother Eric Maloney (a frequent Best of the Blues Awards Nominee for Best Blues Writer) handles their far-reaching social media presence, blog, marketing, web content. Eric also formats the playlists for the music that that streams through the PA when the bands aren't playing.

Since so many national artists have performed in front of the distinctive Highway 99 Blues club logo on the wall behind the drummer, this club has been an integral part of America's blues community, thanks to the visionary blues leadership from Steve Sarkowsky, Eric Maloney, and Ed Maloney.

The pictures that accompany this article are merely a teaser: Next year, the Bluesletter will feature a more substantive feature that will include contributions from the many photographers who have captured the magic that has happened on the stage of Seattle's blues club.

Stav tuned.

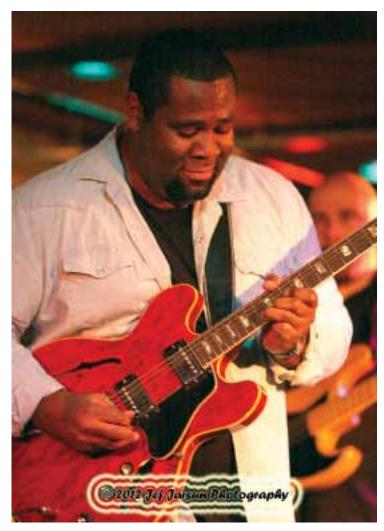
While this article was originally intended to be an obituary or post-mortem of the Highway 99 Blues Club, I am pleasantly surprised that the leadership team at the Highway 99 Blues Club has rescued this important Seattle cultural landmark to continue keeping the blues alive in the Pacific Northwest.

Below: The Highway 99 Blues Club Sign (Photo by Suzanne Swanson)

> Terry Evans at Home at the Highway 99 Blues Club (Photo by Eric Steiner)





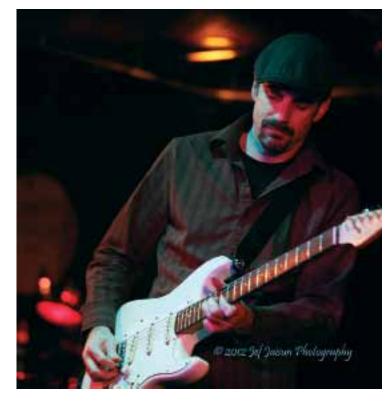




Clockwise:

Top: Kirk Fletcher Upper Right: Kevin Selfe Right: Jimi Bott Above: Erika Olsen

(Photos by Jef Jaisun)





December Washington Blues Society Bluesletter Calendar

Note: Please confirm with each venue the start time and price. We also apologize in advance for any errors as we depend on musicians and venues to send in their information and sometimes, changes happen after we go to press.

Tuesday, December 1

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Tierney Sutton Band 7:30PM Bake's Place, Bellevue – Gotz Lowe Duo 6PM

Wednesday, December 2

Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – Drummerboy w/Tommy Wall & Big Road Blues 8PM Engels Pub, Edmonds - Dave Miller Band 8PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Tierney Sutton Band 7:30PM Bake's Place, Bellevue – Javier Anderson 6PM

Thursday, December 3

Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – Daniel Castro Band 8PM Bad Albert's, Ballard - Annie Eastwood, Larry Hill & Tom Brighton w/Beth Wulff 5:30PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Roy Hargrove Quintet 7:30PM Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle – Zolton's 3-B Kombo 8PM

Friday, December 4

Easy Monkey Taphouse, Shoreline – Little Bill & the Blue Notes 8PM Sapolil, Walla Walla - Shanks Pony 9PM Jazzbones, Tacoma – Daniel Castro Band & Junkyard Jane 8PM Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – DoctorfunK 8PM Conway Muse, Conway - Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm Method 7PM Engels Pub, Edmonds - The Knuckleheads 9PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Roy Hargrove Quintet 7:30PM & 9:30PM Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle – Billy Reeds B-Day Party 8PM

Saturday, December 5

Sapolil, Walla Walla - Coyote Kings 9PM Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle - Lisa Mann & Her Really Good Band 8PM Madison Ave Pub, Everett - Manuel Morais, Jay Mabin, Dave McCabe & Paul Quilty 7PM Wild Hare, Everett - Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm Method 9PM Engels Pub, Edmonds - Tweety & the Tom Cats 9PM Emerald City Harley Davidson, Lynnwood -Stacy Jones 5PM Scotch & Vine, Des Moines - Brian Lee Trio 7PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle - Roy Hargrove Quintet 7:30PM & 9:30PM Bake's Place, Bellevue - Ventura Highway Revisited 7PM & 9:45PM

32Imon Bay Eagles, Seattle – Roy Kay Trio 8PM

Sunday, December 6

Johnny's Dock, Tacoma – Little Bill Trio 5PM The Swiss, Tacoma – Friends of the Holiday w/ Billy Stoops & the Dirt Angels, Heather Jones & the Groove Masters, Brian Lee & the Orbiters, Twain Junkies 2PM

Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – EveryLeaf 5PM

The Spar, Tacoma – Brian Lee & the Orbiters 7PM

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Roy Hargrove Quintet 7:30PM

Drift On Inn Roadhouse, Shoreline – WBS Holiday Party w/Mark Riley Trio 3PM, Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm Method 5PM, Jam w/Cory Wilds 7PM Pacific Inn Resort - Rhumba Room, South Surrey, British Columbia: 9th Annual Yuletide Blues Food Bank Fundraiser Doors at 6:00 PM

Monday, December 7

88 Keys, Seattle - Blues on Tap 7:30PM

Tuesday, December 8

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Matt Wison Christmas Tree-O 7:30PM Bake's Place, Bellevue – Gotz Lowe Duo 6PM Drift On Inn Roadhouse, Shoreline – Washington Blues Society All-ages Blues Bash w/Sherry Roberts Greimes & 44th Street Blues Band 7PM

Wednesday, December 9

Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – Son Jack Jr's House of Bourbon w/Jimmy D, The Total Experience Gospel Choir & Michael Wilde 8PM Engels Pub, Edmonds - Black Velvet Band 8PM Jazzbones, Tacoma - Maia Santell & House Blend 7PM

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Matt Wison Christmas Tree-O 7:30PM

Thursday, December 10

Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – Kevin Andrew Sutton & the Northwest All-Stars 8PM Bad Albert's, Ballard - Annie Eastwood & Larry Hill, Tom Brighton w/Bill Chism 5:30PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Average White Band 7:30PM Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle – Little Sara & the Night Owls 8PM

Friday, December 11

J&M Café, Seattle - Suze Sims, Jim King, Rod Cook & Toast 9PM Patterson Cellars, Woodinville – Leanne Trevalyan 6PM Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – David Raitt & the Baja Boogie Band 8PM Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park - Stickshift Annie w/Kimball Conant & the Fugitives 7:30PM The Repp, Snohomish – Randy Norris & Jeff Nicely 6:30PM Engels Pub, Edmonds - Moon Daddy Band 9PM Buzz Inn, Arlington - Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers 8PM Rhythm & Rye, Olympia - Stacy Jones 9PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Average White Band 7:30PM & 9:30PM The Red Dog Saloon, Port Orchard - The Cadillac Jack Revue w/Paul Green 8PM Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle – One Night Band 8PM

Saturday, December 12

The Repp, Snohomish – Rod Cook solo 6:30PM Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – Candye Kane 8PM

Easy Monkey Taphouse, Shoreline - Stickshift Annie w/Kimball Conant & the Fugitives 8PM Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park - Little Bill & the Blue Notes 7PM

Conway Pub, Conway – Blues Playground 9PM Engels Pub, Edmonds - The Dogtones 9PM Lake Trail Taproom, Kenmore - Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers 6PM Mel's Old Village Pub, Lynnwood -Jones Family Christmas/Toys For Tots - Stacy Jones, Chester Dennis Jones, Heather Jones, Wes Jones 8PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Average White Band 7:30PM & 9:30PM

Bake's Place, Bellevue – David Raitt & the Baja Boogie Band 9PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle – Hugh's Blues 8PM H2O, Anacortes - The Rafael Tranquilino Band 7:30PM

Sunday, December 13

The Tripledoor Musicquarium – Brian Lee Trio 8PM

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Average White Band 7:30PM

Monday, December 14

88 Keys, Seattle - Blues on Tap 7:30PM

Tuesday, December 15

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Charlie Hunter Trio 7:30PM

Bake's Place, Bellevue – Gotz Lowe Duo 6PM *Wednesday, December 16*

Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – Big Road Blues w/Randy Norris 8PM Pike Place Bar & Grill, Seattle - Stickshift Annie w/Kimball Conant & the Fugitives 6PM Engels Pub, Edmonds – Tranyne Reek 8PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Charlie Hunter Trio 7:30PM

Thursday, December 17

Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – Trailer Park Kings 8PM Bad Albert's, Ballard - Annie Eastwood & Larry Hill, Tom Brighton w/Bill Chism 5:30PM Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle - Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 8PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – New York Voices

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – New York Voices 7:30PM

Bake's Place, Bellevue – Tingstad & Rumbel Christmas Show 8PM

Friday, December 18

Dawson's Bar & Grill, Tacoma – Little Bill & the Blue Notes 9PM Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – Bump Kitchen

8PM

Duff's Garage, Portland OR - Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm Method 9PM Engels Pub, Edmonds - Guy Johnson Band 9PM

Jazzbones , Tacoma - Stacy Jones 8PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – New York Voices 7:30PM & 9:30PM

Bake's Place, Bellevue - Shaggy Sweet 9PM

Saturday, December 19

H20, Anacortes – Rod Cook & Toast 7:30PM Little Roadside Tavern, Everson – Kenova 9PM Shuga Jazz Bistro, Renton – Lady A, Dexter Allen & Josephine Howell 8PM Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – Andy Stokes Band 8PM

Grinders, Shoreline - Little Bill & the Blue Notes 8PM

The Birk, Birkenfeld OR - Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm Method 7PM

Engels Pub, Edmonds - Who's Ur Daddy 9PM The Conway Muse, Conway – Brian Lee & the Orbiters 8PM

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – New York Voices 7:30PM & 9:30PM Bake's Place, Bellevue – DoctorfunK 9PM

Sunday, December 20

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Tacoma – Blues Vespers/Little Bill's Big Band w/Heather Rayburn 5PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – New York Voices 7:30PM Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle - 2015 International Blues Challenge fundraiser and party featuring a special Pacific Northwest blues

music showcase! Start time: 4PM (Plan to Hit the Highway!) Monday, December 21

88 Keys, Seattle - Blues on Tap 7:30PM

Tuesday, December 22

Destination Harley-Davidson, Tacoma – Little Bill Trio 1PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – The Senate 7:30PM Bake's Place, Bellevue – Gotz Lowe Duo 6PM

Wednesday, December 23

Destination Harley-Davidson, Tacoma – Little Bill Trio 1PM Engels Pub, Edmonds - El Colonel 8PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – The Senate 7:30PM Bake's Place, Bellevue – Geoffrey Castle's Celtic Christmas Celebration 8PM

Saturday, December 26

Vino Bella Wine Bar, Issaquah – The British Beats w/Rod Cook 7:30PM Doyle's, Tacoma –Billy Stoops & the Dirt Angels 10PM Highway 99 Blues Club, Seattle – Randy Oxford's Annual Day After Xmas Blues Bash 8PM Engels Pub, Edmonds - The Shortcutz 9PM Wild Hare, Everett - Stacy Jones 9PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band 7:30PM & 9:30PM Bake's Place, Bellevue – Mark Dufresne Band 9PM

Sunday, December 27

Johnny's Dock, Tacoma - Maia Santell & House Blend 5PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band 7:30PM

Monday, December 28

Swiftwater Cellars, Cle Elum – Four w/Rod Cook 7PM 88 Keys, Seattle - Blues on Tap 7:30PM

Tuesday, December 29

Swiftwater Cellars, Cle Elum – Four w/Rod Cook 7PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band 7:30PM Bake's Place, Bellevue – Gotz Lowe Duo 6PM

Wednesday, December 30

Engels Pub, Edmonds - Mary McPage & the Assassins 8PM Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle – Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band 7:30PM

Thursday, December 31

Pybus Public Market, Wenatchee – Junkyard Jane w/Junkbelly 7PM Highway 99 Blues Club. Seattle – 10th Annual New Year's Eve Hayride to Hell w/The Forty Fours, Kevin Selfe, The Wicked Pissa Big Band Revue, Nick Vigarino, Chebon Tiger, Amanda Hardy, Steve Sarkowsky & Calvin Conway 8PM Engels Pub, Edmonds - Dirty Rice Band 9PM Johnny's Dock, Tacoma - Maia Santell & House Blend 8:30PM The Scotch & Vine, Des Moines – Brian Lee Trio Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Seattle - Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band 8:45PM & 11PM Bake's Place, Bellevue - Nearly Dan 7PM & 10:30PM Pacific Inn Resort - Rhumba Room, South Surrey, British Columbia - New Year's Eve Celebration Southern Style - Doors at 6:00 PM featured artists The Bill Johnson Blues Band

ATTENTION MUSIC PEOPLE!

If you would like to add your music schedule to our calendar, please send in your information by the 10th of the month to wbscalendar@yahoo.com in the following format: (Please, very important! No bold or ALL CAPS)

Date - Venue, City - Band Name Time

Special Thanks to our 2015 Blues Bash Performers!

2015 International Blues Challenge Representatives: Nick Vigarino and The Rafael Tranquilino Band

Ben Hunter and Joe Seamons The CC Adams Band Hambone Wilson The Cadillac Jack Revue Star Drums & Lady Keys The Charlatones Heather & Donny Jones Teresa James & the Rhythm Tramps Chebon Tiger Andrew Norsworthy Mia Vermillion Too Slim & The Taildraggers Annie O'Neill Larry Mitchell Chris Eger Mojo Cannon JP Hennessy Mary McPage Power Trio Stanislove Bobby Holland and the Breadline Sheri Roberts Greimes The 44th Street Blues Band

(Editor's Note: If I missed you, please let me know at editor@wablues.org)



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Washington Blues Society Blues Jams & Open Mics!

SUNDAYS

Anchor Pub, Everett : Open Jam Hosted by Leah Tussing & Rafael Tranquilino – 2-5pm 2nd Sunday of the month- All Ages

Conway Pub: Gary B's Church of the Blues 6-10pm Dawson's, Tacoma, Tim Hall Band 7pm La Connor Pantry and Pub, la Connor, CC Adams 4-6pm Raging River Café', Fall City, Tommy Wall 7pm Sound Check Bar & Grill, Lynnwood 730P Chester Dennis Jones Wild Hare, Everett; T-N-T Jam w Teri Wilson & Tommy Cook, 7-10pm

Westside Lanes, Olympia w Blues Bentley, 7pm Royal Bear, Algona, 7pm Shuga Jaxx Bistro, Renton: Eric Verlinde Trio – Live Jam

Tuesdays

88 Keys, Pioneer Square Seattle : Sea Town All Stars ,8pm
Antique Sandwich Co. open mic, Tacoma 7pm
Elmer's Pub, Burien w Billy Shew 7pm
Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Lou Echerverri, 8pm
Peabo's (formerly Baxter's) Taylor Tuesday Jam w Michelle Taylor Band, 730pm-11pm
J&M, Pioneer square Seattle, Seth Freeman, 9PM
Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Acoustic Blues Jam hosted by Kevin Sutton or Nick Vigarino (alternating jam hosts)
Razzal's Smokin' Blues Jam, Smokey Point, hosted by Rick Bowen and Sean Denton, 7 -11pm
Sound Check Grill, Lynnwood; Doug McGrew; 8pm
The Q Café, Seattle, open mic 630pm
Tim's Tavern, Seattle, open mic 7pm
Tweede's Café North Bend, open mic 630pm

Thursdays

- The Austin Bar and Grill, Everett; School of Jam all ages 7-11pm Bad Albert's, Ballard/Seattle: Invitational w Annieville Blues 530-9pm
- The Dog House Bar & Grill, Seattle: Blues Jam W/The Uptown All-Stars, 7PM
- The Junction, Centralia w Blues Bentley 630pm

The Stanwood Hotel and Saloon, Stanwood, The Sean Denton Band jam, 8 - 11pm

The Village Inn Pub, Bellingham; w Jimmy D, 8pm

The Old Village Pub, Lynnwood (3rd Thursday of the month); Chester Dennis Jones Band



Mondays

Cafe' Mele, Wenatchee, 7Pm (first Monday of the month) 88 Keys, Pioneer Square Seattle: Blues On Tap, 7pm Swim Deck, Port Orchard The The Malcolm Clark Band's t Monday night blues jam 6-9 every Mac's Triangle Pub, Seattle 8pm Mo Jam Mondays, Nectar lounge Seattle 9pm Red Dog Saloon, Maple Valley: Scotty FM & The Broadcasters, 7 PM Wild Buffalo, open mic, Bellingham 8pm

Wednesdays

Blue Moon tavern Seattle, open mic 8pm
Celtic Bayou, Redmond, open mic 8pm
Collector's Choice Restaurant, Snohomish, The Sean Denton Band jam, 8 - 11pm
Darrel's Tavern, Shoreline, open mic 830pm
Half Time Saloon, Gig Harbor
Madison Ave Pub, Everett; Unbound Blues Jam 730pm
Wed Dec 2 Unbound with el Colonel & Mary De La Fuente Wed Dec 9 Unbound with Kader Sundy
Wed Dec 16 Unbound with Rick Harvey and John Gulla
Wed Dec 23 Unbound with Stacy Jones & Kevin Sutton
The Mix, Seattle, open mic 8pm
Skylark Café, West Seattle, open mic 8pm
Yuppie Tavern, Totem Lake/Kirkland; Heather B Blues Acoustic Jam 8pm

FRIDAYS

Urban Coffee Sumner, open mic 7pm

SATURDAYS

Old Village Pub, Lynnwood: Lou Echeverri & Friends



Low rates, full bar, wood dance floor & more Contact the Salmon Bay Eagles (206) 783-7791



Washington Blues Society Venue Guide

(Please Note: Our listings sections are under construction. The following features opportunities to hear live music in downtown Seattle, South Sound, the East Side and the North Sound).

Seattle: Downtown/West Seattle

Bad Albert's Tap and Grill (206) 789-2000 Barboza (206)-709-9442 Ballard Elks Lodge (206) 784-0827 Bastille Cafe & Bar (206)-453-5014 Blue Moon (206) 675-9116 Café Racer (206) 523-JAVA Capitol Cider (206) 397-3564 Café Solstice (206) 675-0850 Central Saloon 206.622-0209 Connor Byrne Pub (206) 784-3640 Columbia City Theater 206 722 3009 Club Hollywood (206) 546-4444 China Harbor (206) 286-1688 C&P Coffee House (206) 933-3125 Darrell's Tavern (206) 542-6688 East Lake Zoo Tavern (206)329-3977 Easy Monkey Tap house (206) 420-1326 Eighty-Eight Keys/ 88 Keys (206) 839-1300 Egan's Jam House (206) 789-1621 El Corazon (206) 262-0482 El Gaucho (206) 728.1337 EMP (206) 770-2700 Fiddlers Inn (206) 525-0752 Hard Rock Café Seattle (206) 204-2233 High liner Pub (206) 216-1254 Highway 99 Blues Club- (206) 382-2171 J&M Café- Pioneer Square (206) 402-6654 King Street Bar (206) 749-9890 Little Red Hen (206) 522-1168 LUCID (206) 402-3042 Mac's Triangle Pub (206) 763-0714 Mr. Villa (206) 517-5660 Nectar (206) 632.2020 Neptune Theater (206) 682.1414 Neumos (206) 709-9442 North City Bistro (206)365-4447 Owl and Thistle (206) 621-7777 Paragon (206) 283-4548 Rendezvous (206) 441-5823 Salmon Bay Eagles (206) 783-7791 Scarlet Tree (206) 524.6221 Seamonster Lounge (206) 992-1120 Serafina (206)323.0807 Skylark Cafe & Club (206) 935.2111 Ship Canal Grill (206) 588-8885 Slim's Last Chance Saloon (206) 762-7900 St. Clouds (206) 726-1522 Stone Way Café' (206) 420-4435 Studio Seven (206) 286-1312 The Barrel Tavern (206)246-5488 The Crocodile (206) 441-4618 The High Dive (206) 632-0212

The Moore (206) 682-1414 The Ould Triangle (206) 706-7798 The Paramount (206) 682.1414 The Mix (206) 767-0280 The Royal Room(206) 906-9920 The Tractor Tavern (206) 789-3599 The Triple Door Theater and Musicquarium (206) 838-4333 The Shanty Tavern (206) 526-9854 The Sunset Tavern (206) 784-4880 The Showbox (206) 628-3151 The 2 Bit Saloon 206-708-6917 Tim's Tavern (206) 789-9005 Town Hall (206) 652-4255 88 Keys (206) 839-1300 Third Place Books (206)366-3333 Thirteen Coins /13 Coins (206)682-2513 Tula's Jazz Club (206) 443-4221 Vera Project (206) 956.8372 Vito's (206)-397-4053 White Center Eagles (206) 248-1400

South Sound

B Sharp Coffee House, Tacoma 253-292-9969 Bob's java jive (253) 475-9843 CC's Lounge, Burien (206) 242-0977 Capitol Theater Olympia 360.754.6670 Cascade Bar and Grill, Vancouver 360-254-0749 Charlie's Bar and Grill, Olympia (360) 786-8181 Culpeppers, Graham (253) 271-6527 Emerald Queen Casino, Tacoma (253) 594-7777 Elmer's Pub, Burien (206) 439-1007 Dave's of Milton, Milton (253) 926-8707 Dawson's, Tacoma 253-476-1421 Delancy's on Third -Renton (206) 412-9516 Destination Harley Davidson, Fife 253) 922-3700 Doyle's Pub, Tacoma (253) 272-7468 Draft Choice, Auburn 253.858.4980 Forrey's Forza, Lacey 360 338-0925 Gloria's, Maple Valley (425) 432-6880 Gonzo's, Kent 253.638.2337 Great American Casino, Lakewood (253) 396 0500 Iron Horse Casino, Auburn (253) 833-7100 Jazz bones, Tacoma (253) 396-9169 Johnny's Dock, Tacoma (253) 627-3186 Junction Sports bar, Centralia 360.273.7586 Louie G's, Fife 253-926-9700 Lucky Eagle Casino, Rochester 1-800-720-1788 The Matrix Coffeehouse, Chehalis 360.740.0492 Mint Alehouse, Enumclaw (360) 284-2517 Monte Carlo Tavern, Kent (253) 852-9463 Muckle Shoot casino, Auburn 800.804.4944 Nikki's Lounge, Covington (253) 981-3612 Nisqually Red Wind Casino, Olympia 1-866-946-2444 Northern Pacific Coffee, Tacoma (253) 537-8338 The Northern, Olympia 360 - 357 - 8948

Oasis café, Puyallup, (253) 840-2656

O'Callaghan's, Key Center 253-884-9766 Pickled Onion Pub, Renton (425) 271-3629 Performance Grill, Auburn (253) 939-9851 Rhythm & Rye, Olympia (360) 705-0760 Riverside Golf Club, Chehalis (360) 748-8182 Royal Bear, Algona (253) 222-0926 Scotch and Vine, Des Moines 206-592-2139 Silver Dollar Pub, Spanaway (253) 531-4469 Stonegate, Tacoma (253) 473-2255 Shuga Jaxx Bistro, Renton (425) 274-3074 The Spar, Tacoma 253 627 8215 The Swiss, Tacoma 253-572-2821 Uncle Sam's, Spanaway (253) 507-7808 World OF Beer - Renton (425) 255-0714 Wurlitzer manor, Gig Harbor 253.778.6831 Y Sports Bar, Spanaway (253) 655-5350 Yella Beak Saloon, Enumclaw 360-825-5500

East Side

Alexa's Café, Bothell (425) 402-1754 Bakes Place, Bellevue 425.454.2776 Beaumont Cellars, Woodinville 425-482-6349 Cypress Wine Bar at Westin, Bellevue (425) 638-1000 Central Club, Kirkland (425) 827-0808 Crossroads Center, Bellevue 425-402-9600 Cypress Wine Bar, Bellevue (425) 644-1111 Finaghty's Snoqualmie Ridge 425.888.8833 Grazie, Bothel 425-402-9600 Ground Zero Teen Center, Bellevue 425-429-3203 Horseshoe Saloon, Woodinville (425) 488-2888 Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland 425.893.9900 Lake Trail Tap Room, Kenmore, 425-424-2337, Mt Si Pub, North Bend (425) 831-6155 Noble Court, Bellevue (425)641-6011 North Shore Performing Arts Center, Bothell (425) 984.2471 Northwest Cellars, Kirkland (425) 825-9463 Pete's Club, Carnation (425) 333-4300 Pogacha of Issaguah, Issaguah 425-392-5550 Raging River Café, Fall City 425.222.6669 Second Story Hideaway, Redmond 425-881-6777 Sky River Brewing, Redmond (425)242-3815 Snoqualmie Casino, Snoqualmie 425-888-1234 Soul Food Books &.Café, Redmond (425) 881-5309 Chateau Ste. Michelle Woodinville (425) 488-1133

Chateau Ste. Michelle Woodinville (425) 488-1133 Black Dog, Snoqualmie 425-831-DOGS (3647) The Den Coffee House, Bothell 425-892-8954 Twin Dragon Sports Bar, Duvall 425) 788-5519 Village Wines, Woodinville 425-485-3536 Vino Bella, Issaquah (425) 391-1424 Wild Rover, Kirkland (425) 822-8940

Please send any venue guide additions, deletions or corrections to editor@wablues.org and we'll do our best to update the venue guide next month!

Washington Blues Society Talent Guide

A.H.L. (206) 935-4592 Richard Allen & the Louisiana Experience (206) 369-8114 AlleyKattz (425) 273-4172 Annieville Blues (206) 994-9413 Author Unknown (206) 355-5952 Baby Gramps Trio (425) 483-2835 Back Porch Blues (425) 299-0468 Backwoods Still (425) 330-0702 Badd Dog Blues Society (360) 733-7464 Billy Shew Band (253) 514-3637 Billy Barner (253) 884-6308 Bay Street Blues Band (360) 731-1975 Norm Bellas & the Funkstars (206) 722-6551 Black River Blues (206) 396-1563 Blackstone Players (425) 327-0018 Blues Bentley Band (360) 701-6490 Blue 55 (206) 216-0554 Blue Healers (206) 440-7867 Blues on Tap (206) 618-6210 Blues To Do Monthly (206) 328-0662 Blues Playground (425) 359-3755 Blues Redemption (253)884-6308 Blues Sheriff (206) 979-0666 Boneyard Preachers (206) 755-0766/ (206)547-1772 Bill Brown & the Kingbees 206-276-6600 Brian Lee & the Orbiters (206) 390-2408 Bump Kitchen (253) 223-4333, (360) 259-1545 Nate Burch Band (425)-457-3506 Brian Butler Band (206) 361-9625 CC Adams Band (360) 420 2535 Charlie Butts & the Filtertips (509) 325-3016 Ellis Carter - 206-935-3188 Malcolm Clark Band (253) 853-7749 Colonel (360) 293-7931 Kimball Conant & the Fugitives (206) 938-6096 Jack Cook & Phantoms of Soul (206) 517-5294 Rod Cook & Toast (206) 878-7910 Coyote Blues (360) 420-2535 Crooked Mile Blues Band (425) 238-8548 John Scooch Cugno's Delta 88 Revival (360) 352-3735 Daddy Treetops (206) 601-1769 Dudley Taft (513) 713-6800 Julie Duke Band (206) 459-0860 Al Earick Band (253) 278-0330 Sammy Eubanks (509) 879-0340 Richard Evans (206) 799-4856 Fat Cat (425) 487-6139 Kim Field & the Mighty Titans of Tone (206) 295-8306 Gary Frazier (206) 851-1169 Filé Gumbo (425) 788-2776 Jimmy Free's Friends (206) 546-3733 Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek (206) 588-1924 Paul Green (206)795-3694 Dennis "Juxtamuse" Hacker (425) 423-9545 Heather & the Nearly Homeless Blues Band (425)576-5673 Tim Hall Band (253) 857-8652 Curtis Hammond Band (206) 696-6134) Hambone Blues Band (360) 458-5659 Terry Hartness (425) 931-5755

JP Hennessy (425)-273-4932 Ron Hendee (425) 280-3994 ID Hobson (206) 235-3234 Bobby Holland & the Breadline (425)681-5644 Hot Wired Rhythm Band (206) 790-9935 James Howard (206) 250-7494 David Hudson / Satellite 4 (253) 630-5276 Raven Humphres (425) 308-3752 Hungry Dogs (425) 299-6435 Brian Hurst (360) 708-1653 K. G. Jackson & the Shakers (360) 896-4175 Jeff & the Jet City Fliers (206) 818-0701 The Jelly Rollers (206) 617-2384 Junkyard Jane (253) 238-7908 Stacy Jones (206) 992-3285 Chester Dennis Jones (253)-797-8937 James King & the Southsiders (206) 715-6511 Virginia Klemens Band (206) 632-6130 Bruce Koenigsberg / Fabulous Roof Shakers (425) 766-7253 Lady "A" & the Baby Blues Funk Band (425) 518-9100 Steven J. Lefebvre (509) 972-2683, (509) 654-3075 Scott E. Lind (206) 789-8002 Little Bill & the Bluenotes (425) 774-7503 Dana Lupinacci Band (206) 860-4961 Eric Madis & Blue Madness (206) 362 8331 Albritten McClain & Bridge of Souls (206) 650-8254 Doug McGrew (206) 679-2655 Jim McLaughlin (425)737-4277 Mary McPage Band (206) 850-4849 Scott Mallard (206) 261-4669 Miles from Chicago (206) 440-8016 Reggie Miles (360) 793-9577 Dave Miller Band (805) 234-7004 Michal Miller Band (253) 222-2538 The Mongrels (509) 307-0517, 509-654-3075 Moon Daddy Band (425) 923-9081 Jim Nardo Blues Band (360) 779-4300 Keith Nordquist (253) 639-3206 Randy Norris & The Full Degree (425) 239-3876 Randy Norris & Jeff Nicely (425) 239-3876/ (425) 359-3755 Randy Oxford Band (253) 973-9024 Robert Patterson (509) 869-0350 Dick Powell Band (425) 742-4108 Bruce Ransom (206) 618-6210 Mark Riley (206) 313-7849 RJ Knapp & Honey Robin Band (206) 612-9145 Gunnar Roads (360) 828-1210 Greg Roberts (206) 473-0659 Roger Rogers Band (206) 255-6427 Roxlide (360) 881-0003 Maia Santell & House Blend (253) 983-7071 \$cratch Daddy (425) 210-1925 Shadow Creek Project (360) 826-4068 Doug Skoog (253) 921-7506 Smokin' J's (425) 746-8186 Son Jack Jr. (425) 591-3034 Star Drums & Lady Keys (206) 522-2779 John Stephan Band (206) 244-0498

Chris Stevens' Surf Monkeys (206) 236-0412 Steve Bailey & The Blue Flames (206) 779-7466 Steve Cooley & Dangerfields (253)-203-8267 Steven J. Lefebvre (509) 972-2683, (509) 654-3075 Stickshift Annie Eastwood (206) 523-4778 Alice Stuart & the Formerlys (360) 753-8949 Suze Sims (206) 920-6776 Kid Quagmire (206) 412-8212 Annette Taborn (206) 679-4113 Leanne Trevalyan (253)238-7908 Tim Turner Band (206) 271-5384 Two Scoops Combo (206) 933-9566 Unbound (425) 231-0565 Nick Vigarino (360)387-0374 Tommy Wall (206) 914-9413 Charles White Revue (425) 327-0018 Mark Whitman Band (206) 697-7739 Michael Wilde (425) 672-3206 / (206) 200-3363 Willie B Blues Band (206) 451-9060 Hambone Wilson (360) 739-7740 C.D. Woodbury Band (425) 502-1917 The Wulf Tones (206) 367-6186 (206) 604-2829 Tommy Cook Trio (206)-384-0234 Michelle D'Amour and the Love Dealers (425)761-3033 Polly O'Kerry and the Rhythm Method (206)384-0234 Rosewood Embargo (206) 940-2589 West Coast Women's Blues Revue (206)940-2589 Kim Archer Band (253)298-5961 Cheatin River (425-334-5053 The Wired Band (206) 852-3412 Chester Dennis Jones (253)797-8937 Groove Tramps (720)232-9664 Rafael Tranquilino Band /Leah Tussing (425) 329-5925 Mustard Seed (206) 669-8633 Jeff Menteer and the Beaten Path (425)280-7392 Chris Eger Band (360) 770 7929

Please send updates to editor@wablues.org by the 5th of the month. We'll do our best to update your listing!

ATTENTION MUSIC PEOPLE!

If you would like to add your music schedule to our calendar, please send in your information by the 10th of the month to wbscalendar@yahoo.com in the following format: (Please, very important! No bold or ALL CAPS): Date - Venue, City - Band Name Time.



A Fishing Bluesman's Road (and River) Diary

By Keith Scott

As a trout fisherman and musician, I recently had the opportunity to visit the Smithers area in Northern British Columbia for 10 days this past September. My friend from Seattle, Mark Ormiston, set me up playing at the Hudson Bay Lodge, and I was fortunate to add on Blue Fin Sushi and Sherwood Mountain Brewpub in nearby Terrace to complete my music schedule.

Upon arrival from Chicago I was shocked by the beauty of the Bulkley Valley in Central British Columbia (even on a cloudy day). En route, I happened to sit next to the renowned outdoor writer Peter McMillan who assured me that I would have a great trip. The first person I met at the airport was Pierre Clegg, owner of the Babine Steelhead Lodge in Pritchard in who offered up some great fishing tips. After picking up my car from Thrifty, I checked into the Twin Valley Motel and headed to Oscar's Source of Adventure in Smithers to purchase a fishing license.

In British Columbia, steelhead rivers are off limits to US citizens without guides on the weekends, so I headed to Chapman Lake on Babine Lake Road. The day cleared up and the yellows and greens of the forests were ablaze with color. Chapman Lake sits at KM 38 and the Chapman River flows out of it at the bridge crossing. After putting on my waders and rigging up my fly rod, I started catching beautiful cutthroat trout on dry flies. That's only two hours after I landed in Vancouver! It was a great afternoon and I was back to the Twin Valley Motel for some great Chinese food.

Monday was my first day to attempt to catch (and release) steelhead on the Bulkley, up past Telkwa. After four hours of great scenery, but no fish, I decided to check out the Telkwa River Road, Round

and Call lakes. It wasn't the best fishing day, so I packed up and drove on to Prestige Hotels and Resorts' Hudson Bay Lodge to meet my friends from Seattle there for dinner. On Tuesday morning, I met Shane, the owner of McDonald's and he sent me to the cement run in Telkwa on the Bulkley River. While it was another morning without fish, I went on to beautiful Helen Lake on Hungry Hill. After a great lunch I backtracked to Irrigation Lake where the cutthroat and rainbow trout were most cooperative. Then, it was back to the beautiful Hudson Bay lodge to start my three nights of performing: a surprising number of locals and tourists responded enthusiastically. After a great night rest at the Lodge I went to Babine Lake for fishing. After a somewhat sketchy drive, I arrived at the Cheslatta Carrier Nation First Nations community and ate with welcoming community members. I double checked the fishing regulations and parked by the bridge. There were sockeye salmon everywhere: I was able to land a few on a buck tail pattern and decided to try for the wild rainbow trout, they were on the feed but very strong (and I had trouble landing the larger fish). The drive back to Smithers was much more enjoyable with views of Tanglechain and Doris lakes, I was invited on a jet boat on Thursday, and so I headed up to Walcott Road early in the morning. I managed a nine inch small rainbow, but no steelhead. In Telkwa I came upon a delicious bakery run by two gentlemen from the Yukon, I decided to enjoy the rest of day by the river and take a break from the fishing

On Thursday night, the support for the music was once again strong and the president of the Bulkley Folk Society attended! After breakfast at Louise's on Friday morning it was back with my friend Jack to Irrigation Lake. Jack is a retired government employee and really knows the area: we had pontoon boats for the day and caught plenty of fish. Blue Fin Sushi was packed on Friday night and it was a great time performing and eating expertlyprepared sushi. On Saturday, it was back to Babine Lake. As there were no logging trucks sharing the road with me this time around, this made for a much easier drive. I had a chance to fish with some locals and the trout were hungry, they took egg patterns behind the salmon which had developed lockjaw.

My drive to Terrace on Sunday was cloudy. I met a miner named Reggie who recommended Hazelton, a village located at the junction of the Bulkley and Skeena Rivers. Hazelton is home the Gitxsan First Nation community and I saw many historic totem poles and historic buildings from this village founded in the 1860s. I played at the Sherwood Mountain Brewhouse in Terrace to a packed house and I was pleasantly surprised there were many audience members from the USA.

I finished this trip at Mountain Eagle Books and the local museum. I was pleased to meet a new photographer friend, Curtis Cunningham (thanks to Curtis and his son who are fans of my music!) and reconnect with the manager of the Hudson Bay Lodge (special thanks for that ride to YVR!).

It was a long haul across Canada from Vancouver to Montreal, and then down home to Chicagoland, but it was an exceptional experience in Northern British Columbia.

But make no mistake: I'll be back soon!

Editor's Note: Washington Blues Society member (and frequent visitor to the Evergreen State) Keith Scott returned to the Lower Mainland for a show on November 8th for the Fraser Valley Blues Society in Abbotsford. For more information: Keithscottblues.com or call (773) 213-3239.





Above: Keith Scott at Seattle's Highway 99 Blues Club

Upper Right: Keith Scott and Jonathan "Oogie" Richards at Seattle's Highway 99 Blues Club

(Photos by Eric Steiner)





Vicki Welter, CPA vicki@welter-consulting.com

206-605-3113



Washington Blues Society 2016 Board of Directors Election

Note: All dues-current members of the Washington Blues Society are eligible to vote for the following elected officers to serve a one-year term on the Board of Directors. All ballots must be received no later than, or at, the December 2015 Blues Bash at the Drift On Inn Roadhouse in Shoreline, Washington, the blues society's PO Box or a member of the 2015 Board of Directors.

Please circle one nominee in each of the following five categories. Each of the nominees below were nominated by Washington Blues Society members at the November 2015 Blues Bash at the Drift On Inn Roadhouse in Shoreline, Washington

President:

\

Tony Frederickson

Rick Bowen

Vice President:

Rick Bowen

Carolyn Palmer Burch

Secretary:

Mary McPage

Carolyn Palmer Burch

December Blues Bash Reminder:

Tuesday, December 8th at the Drift On Inn Roadhouse in Shoreline!

Acoustic Act: Sheri Roberts Greimes

Electric Act: The 44th Street Blues Band

See You There!

Treasurer: Zab

Chad Creamer

Bluesletter Editor:

Sheri Roberts Greimes

Eric Steiner





2016 Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues ("BB Awards) Nomination Ballot

Deadline for Nominations: Tuesday, February 9th (The February Blues Bash). All nomination ballots must be received on or before this date in our PO Box or given to a 2016 Washington Blues Society Board member.

Mark Dufresne Male Vocalist	Blues Club:
Blues Female Vocalist:	Blues Writer:
Electric Blues Guitar:	Blues Image:
Slide Blues Guitar:	Blues Graphic Artist:
Blues Bass:	Blues DJ:
Chris Leighton Blues Drummer	Keeping the Blues Alive Award:
Blues Horn:	Lifetime Achievement Award:
Paul Green Blues Harmonica:	Washington Blues Society Hall of Fame:
Blues Piano / Keyboard:	Best Non-Festival Blues Event:
Acoustic Blues Guitar:	Best Regional Blues Festival:
Blues Instrumentalist - Other	Best Community Blues Festival:
Blues Act:	Open Blues Jam:
Traditional Blues Act:	Save the Date!
Solo/Duo Blues Act:	2016 BB Awards
New Blues Band:	Sunday, April 3, 2016
Blues Performer:	Kirkland Performance Center
Blues Songwriter:	Downtown Kirkland! www.kpcenter.org
Washington Blues Recording:	



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AND CURTIS FOWLKES

Dec 10-13

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2016

DECEMBER

dec 15-16

TURNET SOTTON BAND: A CENTREE OF SIMATRE DEC 1-2 ~ ROT HEASTONE QUARTET BEC 3-6 -MATT WUSON CONISTMAT INTE-O DEC 8-9 - NEW YORK VALES DEC 17 - 20 -PONCHO SAMENET LATIN JATT BAND DEC 26 - 30 - PONCHO SAMENET NYE DEC 31-

HARMONICA BLOWOUT

PAUL SUNAL OFFENSION COLUMN