

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

Bluesletter

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FEBRUARY 2018

JAM KING
RANDY OXFORD

Honoring
Michael Kinder's
Legacy

Blues News & Reviews!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Blues Fans,

First of all, please save Sunday, February 18th for an ongoing and special event for the Washington Blues Society. We are going to have our annual Musician's Relief Fund benefit at the Historic Everett Theatre, the same venue we used for last year's show for Jim McLaughlin. There is so much need in our community and we need your help to continue this important aspect of the blues society. Our Musician's Relief Fund has been very active the

last few years helping musicians in need: from an artificial limb to new teeth, a hip replacement, and more. We are putting a great show together for this event and will have several special guests, silent and live auction items and other opportunities to help. So check out the advertisement in this edition of the Bluesletter and check the Facebook and www.wablues.org for updates for a fun filled and fulfilling day! Donations may be tax deductible, so plan on coming and supporting our local music community!

The Best of the Blues Final ballot is in this edition of the Bluesletter on page 31. And what a job the membership did! There were over 540 different nominations over 30 different categories. I must say that the membership took their nominations seriously. You will have all of February thru March 13th to make your final selections and get your ballots turned in. You can mail them in, give them to any board member, turn them in at the Blues Bash, or scan them in to your computer and send to president@wablues.org.

You will find a very important announcement from the Highway 99 Blues Club in this issue. I have kept in touch with Ed Maloney, and he and Steve Sarkowsky have great news regarding the club. They have signed a new lease and will keep bringing us great shows for the next year or so. This is the only true blues club we have in our area and the only juke joint most of us will ever experience. Great food, cold drinks and hot music! Well worth the trip into Seattle!

Next month, I hope to have very promising news from this year's International Blues Challenge in Memphis!

Tony Frederickson, President
Washington Blues Society
Member, Board of Directors, The Blues Foundation (2013-2016)

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

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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, and \$35 for couples. 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.

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Please Note: Deadline is March 13, 2018

This month, blues content displaced our venue guide. The venue guide with 325 live music venues is online at <https://wablu.es.org/music-listings/live-music-venues/>



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It's time to jam! This month, Robin Mahaffey celebrates Randy Oxford's work on the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, Rocky "Rock Khan" Nelson sends a Valentine's message from Southwest Washington and the Bluesletter honors the life of Michael Kinder.

COVER IMAGE: Randy Oxford at the Big Blues Bender by Paul Citone

Stickshift Annie with Kimball and the Fugitives
 Sun Jan 28 **The Spar Tavern** Old Town Tacoma - 7pm - 10pm
 Sat Feb 3 **Third Place Commons** Lake Forest Pk - 7:30pm - 9:30pm
 Fri Feb 9 **Easy Monkey** North City/Shoreline - 8pm - 10pm

Annie Eastwood and Kimball Conant Duo
 Sat Feb 17 **Elliott Bay Pizza & Pub** Mill Creek - 7pm - 9pm

Annie, James Bernhard, Rod Cook and Chris Leighton
 Sat March 10 **Graze Ristorante** Bothell - 7pm - 10pm

Annie & Friends with Featured Guest 5:30pm to 8:30pm
 Thurs Feb 1 **Bad Albert's** Ballard, featuring Beth Wulff on keys
 Thurs Feb 8 **Bad Albert's** Ballard, featuring Billy Stapleton on guitar
 Thurs Feb 15 **Bad Albert's** Ballard, with special guest on guitar
 Thurs Feb 22 **Bad Albert's** Ballard, featuring Kimball Conant on guitar

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BLUESLETTER DEADLINES

Ad Reservations 5th of the month
 editor@wabluessociety.org

Calendar 10th of the month
 Please submit @ www.wabluessociety.org

Editorial 5th of the month
 editor@wabluessociety.org

Camera-Ready Ad Art 12th of the month
 editor@wabluessociety.org

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please only send attachments.

Please do not embed in emails.

Photos: High-res PDF, tiff, or jpg—

300dpi, CMYK (for color) or grayscale (for B&W).

Articles: Plain text (.txt) or Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)

AD SPECS & COSTS

SIZE	B/W	COLOR	HT x W in mm
full pg	\$300	\$375	238 x 187.3
½ pg vertical	\$175	\$220	238 x 91.3
½ pg horizontal	\$175	\$220	116.66 x 187.3
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1/6 pg vertical	TBA	TBA	116.66 x 59.3
1/12 pg square	TBA	TBA	56 x 59.3
business card	\$30	\$38	56 x 91.3

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20% off 12-month pre-payment
 15% off 6-month pre-payment
 10% off 3-month pre-payment



Hi Bluesletter Readers!

This month, I am pleased to welcome Rocky Nelson and Kathy Rankin back to the Bluesletter. Rocky's Valentine's Day article from Southwest Washington and Kathy's work capturing the 2017 Cascade Blues Association holiday party are two of the many highlights of this issue.

I am also pleased that first-time contributor Robin Mahaffey's article celebrates Randy Oxford's tenure as jam host on the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise.

This issue of the print Bluesletter, thanks to stalwart Washington Blues Society volunteers on the high seas, will land in each cabin on this month's cruise. Last month, we featured the Alan and Katy Edwards' excellent article on their inaugural sailing on the cruise, and if blues cruisers haven't seen it yet, they should click on www.wablues.org and check it out!

This issue also honors a true legend of the Pacific Northwest music community, Michael Kinder. He touched many performers and fans as a drummer and as an interventionist for individuals impacted by substance abuse. I am honored to run his long-time partner's fond

remembrance in this Bluesletter.

I am always surprised by how creative regional festival directors can be here in the upper left hand corner of the country. It's a lot of work getting a national act to play in our region from Dallas, Kansas City or Florida!

That said, I hope readers will appreciate previews of two regional festivals that have continued to attract national talent year after year: This issue features previews of the Coeur D'Alene Blues Festival in Idaho and the Walla Walla Guitar Festival (celebrated in one of the sunniest cities of the Evergreen State).

Finally, I'll close with a loud shout-out to president Tony Frederickson and music director Amy Sassenberg for helping the Washington Blues Society land at our new home for our Blues Bash: Collector's Choice Restaurant in Snohomish, Washington: Great food, great people and great music (and no cover charge. Ever!). Alex Brikoff's photos from the January Blues Bash hint at the fun that this new Blues Bash venue offers blues musicians and fans alike.

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

Invite Me to Your Gig: Stories From the Bandstand

"Singing Me Arse Off"

By Sheri Roberts Greimes

When I was asked to write an article for this new Bluesletter feature that includes stories from the bandstand by musicians like me, I thought about why someone should come to my gig. In 250 words or less.

Is 250 words even enough for someone like me who doesn't like to talk about myself? Where to start? I'll probably undersell myself and not want to seem like a diva. In my life, I always have tried to be humble and kind.

What I do each and every time that makes people want to see me, I strive to make fans feel the raw emotions and energy of the songs and the music. I sing my ass off every song as if it were my last song.

Being tied to an oxygen tank, I can't dance around the stage. So, I get fans' attention through my voice and my music. It really is a thrill for me to watch the dancefloor fill up

from behind my keyboard. I prefer to sing originals, but complement my shows with "not your average typical girl songs" (let alone blues songs). High energy keeps me up and the crowd going! I pride myself in offering diverse sets of music, and more often than not, I include a few surprises in each set.

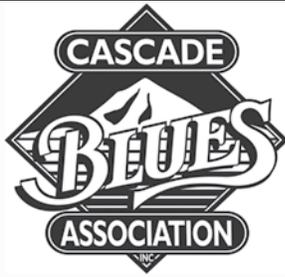
I'm not just a blues singer. I do it all: blues, jazz, country, rock, folk, Americana, funk; everything but rap. I perform solo, with my trio, Two Guys & a Broad, and my band, "JoMomma." I am one of the luckiest, and busiest, musicians in the Pacific Northwest.

Check out my schedule to find a show near you and come see what everyone is talking about!

www.sherirobertsgreimes.com
www.facebook.com/SingingMeArseOff



Sheri Roberts Greimes at the Madison Pub!
(Photo by Denise Hathaway)



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2018 Walla Walla Guitar Festival

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AND THEN THERE'S THAT ONE WEEKEND IN MARCH WHEN IT ALL BREAKS LOOSE...

On March 9, 10, and 11, the Walla Walla Guitar Festival kicks off the 2018 festival season in downtown Walla Walla. It features performances by 25 national, regional, and local blues, funk, rock, and roots stars with clinics, workshops and a youth seminar in multiple venues and all within a four block radius of the hotel.

This year, the festival is centered at the historic Marcus Whitman Hotel, with Friday's Opening Concert with Hamilton Loomis, Saturday's LARGE Show with the legendary Curtis Salgado, The LaRhonda Steele Band w/Peter Dammann & Lloyd Jones, and Coyote Kings w/Tiphony Dames & Too Slim, and The Sunday Gospel Brunch with LaRhonda Steele all in their ballroom. The *Motel/Fest Package includes lodging and breakfast at The Whitman!

After Thursday's Pre-fest Jam at Club Sapolil, hosted by Robin Barrett and Randy Oxford, the Friday Kick-Off Party, (following the Opening Concert) will be held in three venues near the hotel, with Lightnin' Willie, Rust On The Rails, JunkBelly, Donna Donna, Iguana Hat and Diego & The Detonators.

On Saturday, The Acoustic Showcase will feature The Wasteland Kings and Billy Stoops & Leanne Trevalyan, followed by The LARGE Show at the Whitman from 3PM to 8PM and then The Guitar Crawl from 8:30 to midnight in Sapolil, The Eagles, The VFW and the Whitman with Kevin Selfe & The Tornados, The Stacy Jones Band, The Randy Oxford Band's 15th anniversary, Be Tricky, Los Rusteros, and Gary Winston & The Real Deal.

On Sunday morning, the Gospel Brunch will feature a gourmet breakfast buffet and music by LaRhonda Steele. Jazz at the Fest cools down the weekend after the brunch at the Marriott with Gary Hemmenway, Gary Gemberling and Doug Scarborough.

Add to this more shows by more artists in more venues, the festival is a weekend filled with music, food, music, libations, and more music! We highly suggest that you shake off your cabin fever and take your vitamins... It's gonna be a LARGE time!

*Weekend music passes, motel/fest pkgs, and tickets for individual shows are on sale now at <https://wallawallaguitarfestival.com>. Washington Blues Society members are invited to use the discount code COYOTELUV for a 6% discount on select tickets.



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2/28 Randy Oxford and Hambone Wilson

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Best of Luck to our IBC Representatives!

Photos by Tina Brikoff (upper photos) and Alex Brikoff (lower photos)



Thanks to the CD woodbury trio and the Benton-Townsend duo for performing at the Jan 2018 Blues Bash at the Collector's Choice Restaurant in Snohomish, Washington on the Second Tuesday of January! Best of Luck in Memphis!

By Eric Steiner



A colorful advertisement for Jeff Herzog and the Jet City Fliers. The text reads: "JEFF HERZOG AND THE JET CITY FLIERS AMERICANA AND ROOTS MUSIC". It includes contact information: "For Bookings & Info 206-818-0701 JETCITYJEFF@AOL.COM". There is a circular inset photo of Jeff Herzog wearing a black hat and a dark jacket, holding a microphone.

An advertisement for Amazon Smile. It features the Amazon Smile logo and text: "Support The Washington Blues Society by Shopping at Amazon Smile Use our unique link http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-3093057 Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of all eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to the Washington Blues Society".



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Valentine's Greetings from "Rock Khan..."

By Rocky Nelson

Happy New Year to all of you Bluesletter readers and lovers of blues music! As I did the "deadline dash" for this issue for our editor, Eric "Mr. Wizard" Steiner, I would like to begin by saluting each reader who has loved ones to cherish for Valentine's Day. Just a few folks I would like to mention from my association with the Washington Blues Society: Happy Valentine's Day to Marcia ("Kitchen Wench"), Mary, Suze, Maridel, Cleone (Al's Wife), Georgia, Vickie, Dee, Dana, Cory, Cindy, Stephanie, Marianne and Brenda. I know I have so many, many more to give my blessings of love in knowing them (and for those friends not mentioned, know that I love you, too).

I would also would like to congratulate our blues society's representatives in this year's International Blues Challenge. As of my deadline, I understand that Polly O'Keary's CD, *Black Crow Callin'*, made it to the top five CDs in the Best Self-Produced CD Competition. Outstanding Polly!

I am confident that the CD Woodbury Trio and the Townsend-Benton Duo will have "testified" to Washington State's exciting blues power as they played on Beale Street! I chatted up young Benton at the Yakima Semi-finals where I was a judge and told them they had the "stuff" to take it to the IBC and win it.

I need to explain something to our readership here. You may be curious as to why there's been so much interest in recent Bluesletter articles on Eagles Clubs throughout the USA.

There's a straightforward and practical answer to that question. I will let a musician speak on this point.

On New Year's Eve at the Chehalis Eagles Club, Aerie #1550, Bruce Maier of the Bruce Maier Band explained it to me as clear as day (or as clear as the full moon that night).

"We are very pleased to be working at all," said Bruce. "It's tough out there for live music and we are grateful to the Chehalis Eagles for this gig!"

From my perspective as a five-decade veteran of the music industry, knowing varied and professional musicians, it seems these days it's rare to find live entertainment without it being some kind of "headliner" type concert. Service organizations such as the Eagles, Elks, Moose, American Legion, casinos, festivals and in the "big cities" or the occasional tavern or lounge, seem to be the only places for musicians to be heard live.

Live entertainment is very hard to come by. Sadly, wages musicians typically receive aren't even close to a living wage. It's a crying shame, truly for good musicians not to be able to be heard or earn a living with their hard-earned talents when it's "the economy"

"It's all about the music," explained Bruce. "Music is what keeps me alive.

or a "bean counting" company that refuses to pay for talent. For me, live music is best. But, it's only my opinion (but one that I hope is shared by many Bluesletter readers).

I visited the Chehalis Eagles as some very dear friends of mine were playing on New Year's Eve. Since the weather was not cooperating and it's always a notorious "amateur night" for the Washington State Patrol on the roads, I went early to have dinner, left early to get back home and spoke with the band before their gig. That night, there was a full moon out shining down through the ground-hugging foggy night that hid dreaded "black ice" down here in Lewis County.

You just don't mess with Mother Nature, superstitions nor a potential trip to the ER. The perfect blend of stacked odds for chaos, loony behavior and driving accidents, or worse, happens on full moons! Weighing my odds, I figured my life just isn't that "charmed" and settled on a report from friends playing live nearby.



The Bruce Maier Band consists of Mike Lacey on drums (who played with the "Mossyrockers" at one of my going-away parties at the Salmon Bay Eagles that included Bruce Maier and Buck England), Mike "Dr. Silk" (because he plays so smooth) Shea on sax, Bobby Connors on bass guitar and vocals and Duane Bryant on percussions and vocals. Bruce has been playing professionally for almost 50 years. Mike Lacey also played on the very last Aerie #1 live gig when it closed their doors for good with Patty Allen and the lineup included the Drifters.

Our conversation quickly got around to the "how's and why's" of today's music scene. "It's all about the music," explained Bruce. "Music is what keeps me alive. I am always working towards being a better musician, producer and songwriter."

I asked him to elaborate to get a feel of what drives people who have that talent to musically express themselves, "well, isn't that what live music and being a musician is really all about anyway? Doing what you love?"

"Yes, it certainly is," he summed up my observation proudly. "It's about a constant and never-ending self-improvement path. You never stop trying to improve to be a better musician."

Thinking how far music production has progressed just in my lifetime, I countered "there is always something more to learn about music and technology isn't there?"

"It changes so fast these days," He lamented, agreeing with me. "Some good and some not so much but blues and rock are our gold standard and I'm proud to be able to keep that going with such a great group of craftsmen around."

Bruce recently finished production on a video that celebrates a local musician he

Continued on page 28

Mark Whitman's Thursday Night Blues Jam at the Salmon Bay Eagles

By Glen Stewart

The Salmon Bay Eagles in Ballard has hosted blues music for the last 28 years. It's a gathering place for all types of music lovers. Mark Whitman has been hosting the jam at the Eagles on the last Thursday of the month, for a number of months now. On December 28th, Mark performed with his band an opening set, and afterwards I had a chance to ask him some questions. That night, his band members were Mark Riley on guitar and vocals, "Country" McDaniels on bass, Matt Williams on drums, Jeff Mason on trombone and harp, Ron Hende on trumpet, and of course, Mark on keyboards and vocals.

GS: How long have you been playing in the Pacific Northwest?

MW: Since the 70s. Some of the bands were Springfield Rifle, Sweet Talking Jones, Bitterroot and Duo Glide. I also worked with Lonnie Williams, who did a "B.I.G. Band" thing with Fat James and Dick Powell. I also sat in with Dave Conant and Les Clinkenbeard in various groups.

GS: How long have you been doing jams?

MW: Since the 80s at some of the Pioneer Square clubs, including Larry's Greenfront, Charlie's, Central Tavern, J&M Café and the New Orleans.

GS: Where were you raised? Did it influence your musical style?

MW: Walla Walla and Texas. After high school I worked as a band boy for Don and the Goodtimes. I met Larry Coryell and Joe Johansen, who were major influences on my playing.

GS: Who are some of your other musical influences?

MW: In addition to Larry Coryell, I admired Rich Dangel & The Reputations. When the Beatles toured Seattle, one of the main things George Harrison wanted to do was meet Rich Dangel. Rich was a Northwest music icon and original member of The Wailers.

GS: Have you taken music lessons?

MW: I took some classes at Columbia Basin Community College where I studied theory, solfeggio, and piano.

GS: What did you do for a day gig when you started out?

MW: I painted houses and worked at the shipyard.

GS: Do you have any favorite gigs?

MW: I played with Koko Taylor, and the Women of Rhythm & Blues Revue. One gig that really stands out was with Lily Wilde.

GS: You are very courageous to keep going after your stroke in 2007. What were your thoughts afterward, and how did you find the inspiration to keep going?

MW: I was pretty despondent. I would have shot myself but I couldn't load the bullet in the gun. Some friends, Darius Lindgren and Pat Hughes, got a rebuilt organ for me and I started playing again. I told my wife Maridel, as long as I could play, things will be all right.

GS: What else would you like to share that people may know about you?

MW: I'm working on an album and have one album in the can. It's tentatively titled "XXXX" or "Unfinished Symphony." Some of the standout songs are "Out Go the Lights" and "6345789" featuring Dick Powell on the Hammond B-3.

A funny story I like to tell is about a chair that I used to sit on with the springs coming through and poking me in the ass. Nowadays I struggle with lyrics, changes, and other things. When I was sick about a month ago with pneumonia, I didn't have enough air. I need to practice every day to keep things together. As we wrapped up our conversation, Mark had a lot more history to relate. He has been a fixture of the Pacific Northwest music scene for a few decades, and has been hosting blues jams for as long as I can remember. I recall playing at one of his jams several years ago, and his amplifier blew up while I was on stage. I don't think he has forgiven me yet.

For more information and sound bites please check out his website at www.markwhitman.com



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About that 1954 Fender Telecaster

By Little Bill Englehart and Billy Stapleton

To do this story justice, it will be told by myself and Billy Stapleton.

The year was 1962 and the “Bill’s gonna be a Star!” bubble had busted. I decided to go back to how I had started playing music in the first place, being a guitar player. Small problem, I didn’t own an electric guitar at the time.

I made the drive out to South Tacoma and bought a 1954 Fender Telecaster for peanuts, couple hundred bucks, maybe.... I don’t remember how much it cost.

It didn’t matter. All I knew is that I was about to start my next, “god I hope I can pull this one off,” musical adventure.

At the time drummer Tom Morgan, B3 player Buck England, saxophonist Frank Dutra and I were putting together a group and had our eyes set on playing clubs in Seattle. For some reason it was decided that since Buck was playing keyboard, I would play bass. This, of course, put my guitar playing on hold.

So, the newly-acquired Telecaster just sat in the corner of our modest little house. I actually never played the guitar in public.

When we moved to Southern California, the Tele went with us and found itself back in yet another corner. Now this is the beginning of when things got strange.

My old running buddy, the incredible guitarist Joe Johansen, had secured a job as a session player in Los Angeles.

Joe played a giant Gibson Super 400CES, but producers then and now all prefer a Fender off some kind for rhythm tracks. One evening when Joe came by the house in Anaheim, he was explaining this to me so I asked him if he wanted the Fender. Of course he said “sure!” (It WAS a ’54 Telecaster for gosh sakes) and that was the last time I ever saw the guitar.

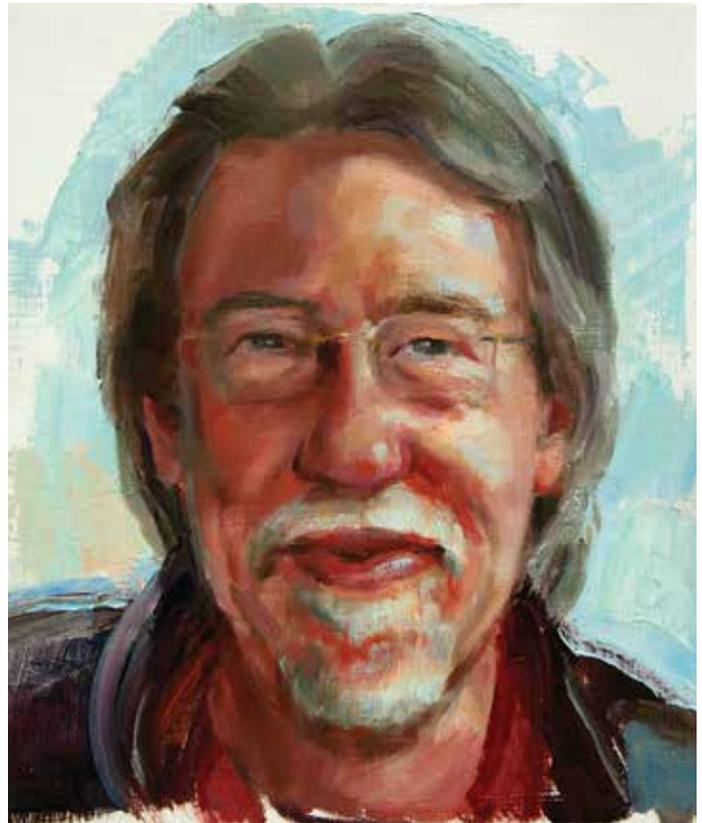
At this point, I need to tell you that I had never met, or for that matter, heard of Billy Stapleton. Some 40+ years later when I was looking to replace the guitar player in my band, Stapleton auditioned for the chair and got the job. Now Billy will tell you the rest of the story.

I came to the Pacific Northwest in 1986 to work in management at American Music in the Fremont district. Things went very well, the business prospered and lots of new and used guitars passed through the store.

One of my favorite customers was a young guitar collector/dealer, Rick King. Rick now owns “Guitar Manics” in Tacoma, a fabulous vintage guitar shop.

I received a bonus of \$3,500 one year and decided to treat myself to an old Telecaster if I could find one. I phoned Rick and asked him if he knew of a “black guard Telecaster” for sale.

He told me he had a spectacular lightweight one that for some reason Keith Richards had passed on just the day before, the price was the size of my bonus and I bought a great 1954 Fender Telecaster that I’ve used on every rhythm track since 1986.



Painting of Billy Stapleton by Cheryl Davis

Studio engineers routinely comment on how good that guitar sounds.

Fast forward to around 1999, I have the great honor of joining Little Bill and The Bluenotes, with Bill, Dick Powell and Tommy Morgan. In the course of recording for Little Bill and the Blue Notes, I used the Telecaster, but Little Bill really didn’t pay much attention to it.

Then, about five years later I acquired a Gibson Super 400CES, similar to the one Joe Johansen had played.

I even found an 8x10 black and white picture of the great guitarist playing his Super 400 and kept it in the huge case along with posters, and other road memorabilia that I picked up over the years. Rick King came to a Sons of Norway Swing Dance in Ballard to buy an old Fender Esquire guitar from me that I had found in a pawn shop in Bremerton.

I proudly showed him my Super 400, and he noticed the picture of Joe Johansen in my guitar case. Little Bill was watching the transaction go down, and Rick announced, “Joe Johansen? I know that name, I bought guitars from his parents after he passed away, as a matter a fact, that TELECASTER I sold you came from Joe Johansen!!”

Now what are the chances of that?

Yes, I still have it, and no, I don’t keep it at my house.

New Year? New Venue!

The Blues Bash at the Collector's Choice Restaurant in Snohomish

Text & Photos by Amy Sassenberg

The Washington Blues Society has found a new home for our monthly Blues Bash. Collector's Choice Restaurant in Snohomish, otherwise known as CCR, has generously offered to host us in 2018. By the time this is published, many of you will have already experienced the first Blues Bash of 2018 in January with our International Blues Challenge representatives, The CD Woodbury Trio and the Benton & Townsend Duo.

On February 13, the Blues Bash will feature the Paula Boggs Band and The River Rats.

Owner Barry Galen took over the the space next door to the restaurant last year and finished the complete build-out in March 2017.

Everything is brand-spankin-new with custom built details like the hand-hewn bar made from full Douglas Fir logs and a bank of 40 beer taps and their own brews! It has an upscale but friendly sports-bar feel with several big screens, electronic dart boards and pool

...large portions of delicious comfort food and great service. A hallway between the restaurant and lounge, with double doors on either side, helps keep the live music separate from the dining area, but the bar has a dedicated kitchen that cooks up amazing appetizers.

tables, with gaming on one side and the stage, main bar, and open kitchen on the other. Out-fitted with a new music lounge area and dance floor with state-of-the-art staging and equipment, it is audience and band friendly. The place was already popular with blues audiences, and the former smaller bar got so packed on jam night, it may have helped Galen make the decision to expand.

The restaurant and food is an added bonus, with large portions of delicious comfort food and great service. A hallway between the restaurant and lounge, with double doors on either side, helps keep the live music separate from the dining area, but the bar has a dedicated kitchen that cooks up amazing appetizers.

Plenty of close parking surrounds the venue, too.

Galen's well-known as one of the most musician-friendly owners in the local blues scene. He's installed a permanent ramp to the new stage for heavier equipment, and hosts a popular blues jam on Wednesday nights with the house band, The Usual Suspects.

The Washington Blues Society Blues Bash is the second Tuesday of each month. Come check it out.



The Usual Suspects at the Wednesday night blues jam



Happy Birthday, Barry!



The Stacy Jones Band with Jim McLaughlin at CCR

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w/Curtis Salgado

**Friday
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Concert**
w/Hamilton Loomis

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Guitar
Crawl**

***Friday
Kick-off
Party**

**Saturday
Youth
Workshop**

**Sunday
Gospel
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***Saturday
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**Sunday
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Award-Winning Highway 99 Blues Club to Get Lease Extension!

Great news for the blues in the Pacific Northwest!

Highway 99 Blues Club founder Steve Sarkowsky announced today that the club has secured its current (and original) location for another 12 months as of JANUARY 1, 2018. After months of negotiation with the property's landlord and watching for the release of the dates for the planned deconstruction of the Alaska Way Viaduct, the long running blues club will stay in its original home for at least one more year.

"Our hope is that we can get the full year before the viaduct is scheduled to be demolished" Sarkowsky said. "There are so many moving parts, that it was hard to know what we would be able to do and also for the landlord to make a commitment with things not being known."

Highway 99 Blues Club has been in business for nearly 14 years, in that time they have won numerous awards with the highlight coming in 2017 when it received the international "Keeping The Blues Alive" award from the International Blues Foundation based in Memphis, Tennessee.

Proprietor Ed Maloney said, "It is our plan to keep the doors open and the business running at 100% for as long as we are able."

"We have had to deal with lots of distractions and interruptions for a number of years now, and we think we have gotten pretty good at dealing with it."

Highway 99 is one of the few remaining blues clubs on the West Coast. A number of clubs have closed in the past few years which has made the challenges of running a blues club even more so.

"We depend on touring acts for many of our shows" said Sarkowsky, who also books the club. "Without them being able to work through to the Northwest, it really becomes hard to present the types of shows that we are known for."

For now, and the coming year, blues and live music fans can still find Highway 99 Blues Club in its original location – 1414 Alaskan Way – just about under the famous viaduct.

For further information please contact either Ed Maloney or Steve Sarkowsky at 206.382.217

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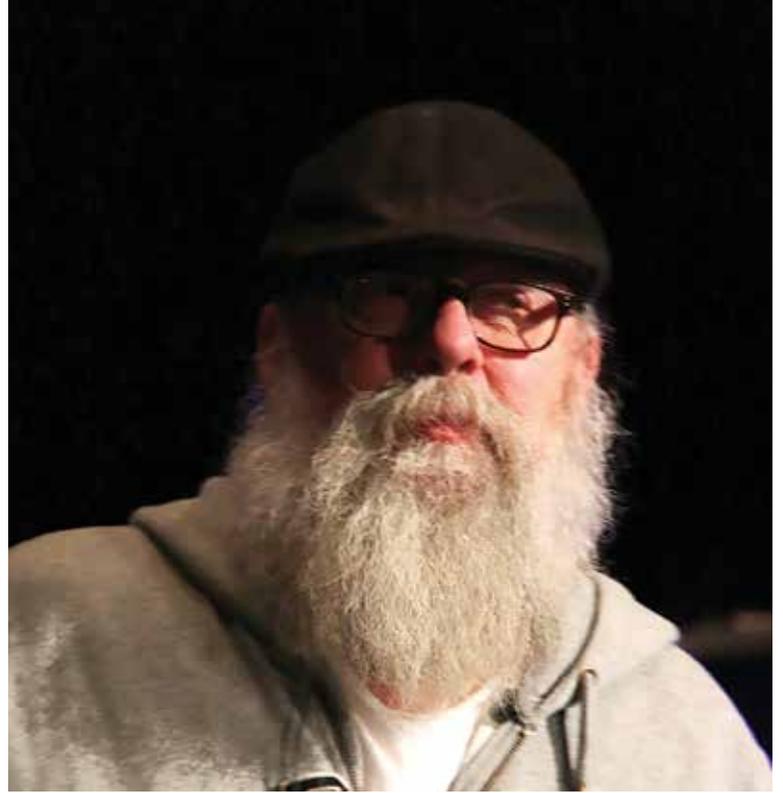


Photo by Blues Boss

Honoring Michael Kinder's Legacy

*By Jenny Beaulac Kinder
Photos by Blues Boss & ML Sutton*

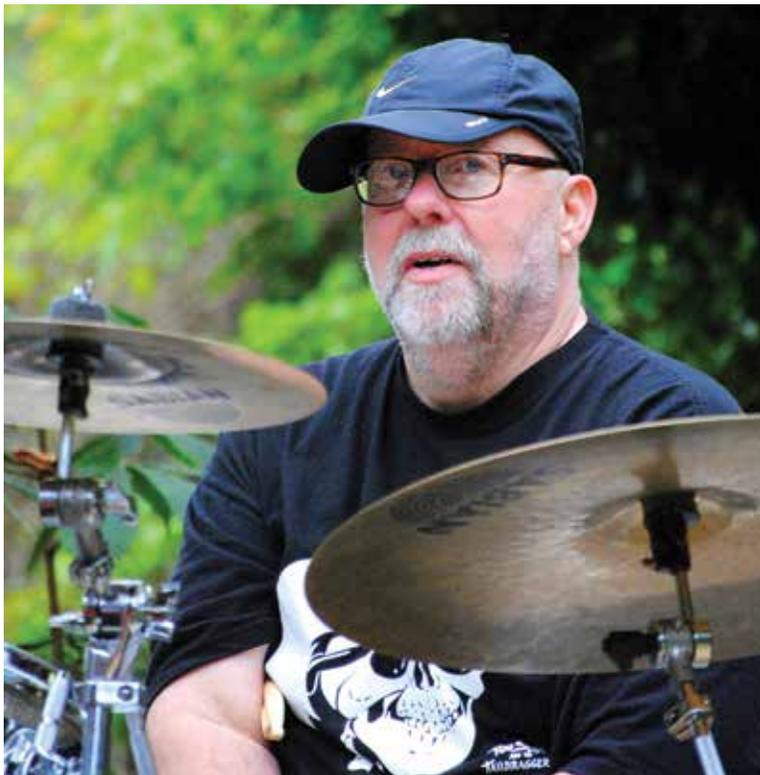


Photo by ML Sutton

Michael Kinder played the drums for 40+ years. He is most well-known for giving an in-the-pocket groove to whatever musical project he did. He had experience playing every type of music, he delivered the beat for any musical genre and he tended to give it a loving pull toward the soulful side. He was solidly booked, did a lot of booking himself and many other well-known Pacific Northwest bands.

Born left-handed on August 6 in Centralia, Washington, Michael was the fourth of five children. His mother was his first musical influence as she played the piano and sang “torch songs” at family gatherings. Michael was given piano lessons at age nine, but was dismissed for biting the teacher on the hand. His first drum kit was created out of a set of encyclopedias stacked around his bedroom.

“Sent up” at age 15, Michael played upside-down ash cans at the reformatory for boys whose parents couldn’t handle them. A local band who was invited to play at the institution let Michael sit in on their real drum kit. That band included Frank Butorac, who later would play with Michael in the 70s hit band, Gabriel. At 17, Michael began drumming in Tacoma until his mother called the liquor board and he was fired for being underage at a gig. He entered the Marine Corps and attended the Naval School of Music at Little Creek. He was discharged in 1969 and immediately began drumming for several Pacific Northwest bands in the ever-evolving regional musical community of that era.

What evolved from that community was the band Gabriel -- and a roller coaster ride on the early 70s music scene, complete with hit records and touring across the United States and Canada. In the years following Gabriel, Michael wore a number of hats as a promoter, session musician, club drummer and troublemaker. In 1984, he gave up the trouble-making, but not the drumming. He also went back to school to become a certified drug and alcohol counselor. Since 1984,

He’d give you the last \$5 in his wallet because he believed there will always be more.

he connected many musicians to treatment and recovery services through local nonprofit resources as well as the nationwide Music-Cares program of the Grammy organization. Many musicians owe their recovery to Michael’s work as a compassionate interventionist: He focused on helping people help themselves. He led open and closed meetings frequently and was a revered and respected resource in the regional addiction community.

Michael began a long-standing gig with the Blues Power Revue featuring The New Blues Brothers in 1984. He was the funky foundation for the Blues Power Revue for 28 of their still-going-strong 30+ years. Since 1997, he has also served as the drummer for ButterBean, a B-3 jazz/blues trio originally led by guitar legend Rich Dangel. After Rich’s sudden death in 2002, ButterBean continued to cook its soul stew with Dean Reichert. The trio continues to play and record in the Seattle/Tacoma area.

Michael hooked up with Tim “Too Slim” Langford for some “fun on the side” whenever Too Slim was back in town. He was also tapped by rock ‘n roll legend Merrilee Rush (“Angel of the Morning”) whenever she played to sold-out crowds throughout the Pacific Northwest. In recent years, Michael locked it down for well-received reunion shows of his recorded bands, especially Gabriel and Big Nasty. He could always be found in one or another of his bands at Pacific Northwest festivals and local jams or fundraisers.

He also played more recently with the Linda Myers Band, Heather Jones & the Groovemasters and several other regular gigs.

If you ask Michael Kinder what he did, he’d have told you that he was a drummer -- which he was. He’s played the drums for respected bands all over the Pacific Northwest since he was 14. That’s how a lot of people knew Michael.

But he also was a full-time drug and alcohol intervention specialist who was sought out nationally to help families help their loved ones. He also was a music promoter, booking agent and was the MC for his bands and was always ready with a joke or story for the crowd. He raised funds for local and national musicians who faced a range of needs and he always gave of his time and talent. He was an activist for issues affecting chemical dependency and musician’s interests. He was the guy who spent hours hooking up friends, families, and community members with resources of all kinds.

He blew out his Bluetooth regularly, didn’t always eat right or get enough sleep. He’d give you the last \$5 in his wallet because he believed there will always be more. And, he had another very telling characteristic: Michael maintained long-term friendships... friendships that spanned two, three, even four decades. He’s was always quick to give credit to those who have gone before him. Michael marched to his own funky beat and invited everybody along to join the parade.

Michael was a connector -- of people to people; people to resources; and people to live “deep-in-the-pocket” music from his website michaelkinder.com which is currently being overhauled as his music legacy site to honor his memory.

Michael was exceptional in each role: Whether patiently helping a young blues band learn a traditional 1-4-5 progression from behind the drum kit or identifying treatment resources for a musician in need in the wee hours of the morning after a gig, Michael Kinder was there.

Supportive, faithful and focused on a positive future.

Editor’s Note: I edited this remembrance with Jenny Beaulac Kinder, Michael Kinder’s partner of 15 years and feel privileged to have contributed to Jenny’s observations on one of the most impactful members of the Pacific Northwest blues community. For over 40 years, Michael’s work as a musician touched not only countless numbers of bands, jam nights and concerts (not to mention his years on the road in North America in the 1970s), but also numbers of individual musicians who sought Michael’s help as an alcohol and drug interventionist. He quietly and compassionately opened doors to treatment and recovery resources for musicians in need.

– Eric Steiner



Randy Oxford

Better Than Bacon!

By Robin Mahaffey

Photo by Paul Citone

Have you ever heard the saying that “everything’s better with bacon?” Well, I say that when it comes to a professional, high energy and highly entertaining performance, “everything’s better with Randy Oxford!” Sorry for the non-vegetarian reference Randy, but as both a performer and an audience member over the years, that’s my observation. If you want to kick up the energy in a room, put Randy on stage and let him do his thing. Who knew a guy with a trombone could be the lead in a blues band? That’s what happens if you have Randy Oxford behind the ‘bone. And it’s not just about his great talent as a musician and entertainer that forms this opinion; it’s also about how Randy holds no ego ahead of any other performer. This means his band gets a great leader, Jammers get a fun experience onstage and the audience gets a great show.

This month, Randy is appearing on his 18th Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, which is his 17th time as both a performer and a jam

host, for its sizzling, must see Pro-Am Jam. In 2006, on the inaugural west coast sailing out of San Diego, he made the most of the cruise by jamming day and night with everyone possible. In keeping with the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise slogan, “it’s a life changing experience,” Randy knew he was hooked for life. During this cruise, he came to the attention of Roger Naber, who asked him to come back the following year as one of their Pro-Am Jam hosts. Here he is 12 years later, still “BLUESIN’ ON THE HIGH SEAS”. If you ever talk to Randy, you know that he loves promoting the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise, wherever he goes, throughout the year. Give him 30 seconds and he’ll tell you why you don’t want to miss the next sailing. He is credited with bringing more than 100 virgin cruisers on board over the years (so far).

Another great place you can catch Randy, is every September at the Big Blues Bender in Las Vegas, where for four consecutive

years he has performed as a regular member of the Bender Brass Band. He credits the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise for getting this gig because he met sax man Jimmy Carpenter there, and Jimmy suggested him to AJ Gross for the Big Blues Bender position. Randy also credits both the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise and the Big Blues Bender for the opportunity to play on stage with the likes of Bobby Rush, Delbert McClinton, Los Lobos, Taj Mahal, Tommy Castro, Jimmy Thackery, Marcia Ball, Lee Oskar, Chubby Carrier, Elvin Bishop, Sista Monika, Curtis Salgado, Chico Banks and dozens more Blues legends. As a Trombone player, Randy tirelessly spreads the word that he has two of the best annual gigs in the world playing at the Big Blues Bender and on the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise.

Not only is Randy celebrating his birthday on this year's cruise this month on February 8th, but 2018 also marks his 15th anniversary as a band leader. His Randy Oxford Band features core band members Aury Moore on lead vocals, Lissa Ramaglia on bass, Eddie Mendoza on drums, Joel Gamble on seven string electric violin, Willy Straub on guitar and Randy himself on trombone. They tour with him, and are also involved in his All-Star Slam, occasionally featuring special Pacific Northwest guests, including New York percussionist LA Smith, 2009 Keeping the Blues Alive Award recipient John Kessler, Angelo Ortiz, Honey Robin Mahaffey, RJ Knapp, Linda Carroll, Kim Workman, Rae Gordon, Patrick McDanel, Deb Rhymer, Hank Lionhart and CD Woodbury. We often find him busy in the studio recording on various projects for other bands, as well as for his own CDs, featured at therandyoxfordband.com.

When Randy is not on the blues cruise or in Vegas, Panama, Canada... or where ever the music takes him, he is regularly and nationally showcasing dozens of musicians through his "Randy Oxford's All-star Slam" project. Randy features anywhere from eight to 12 musicians at each two plus hour, high energy show. Tons of fun! He is also busy with his company, Oxford Entertainment, through which he helps book other bands; organize festivals and offers event planning services. He loves being involved in MUSIC4LIFE, an instrument donation program to help kids in need through their school music programs. With his help and others, hundreds of used instruments have been put into the hands of kids.

His great Pacific Northwest connection started in Seattle in 1986 while working with the amazing guitarist Mark Whitman, leading to several other sideman jobs. In 2005, Randy Oxford and Mark Whitman received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Washington Blues Society, and one year later, the blues society recognized Randy Oxford with a Keeping the Blues Alive Award.

The legendary bluesman Little Bill hired Randy, where he spent eight years with Little Bill and the Bluenotes.

"Little Bill taught me how to become a real bluesman and a good band leader," said Randy. "This year, he approaches 79 and he is still my main influence and musical mentor! He is a huge inspiration to so many of us!"

Before his tenure as a Blue Note, Randy's first real blues band experience was with the Broadway Blues Band in Santa Cruz performing at the 25th annual Monterey Jazz Festival in California. He went on to play with other Pacific Northwest greats, such as Jr. Cadillac, Nicole Fournier, Fat Cat, and Junkyard Jane, before starting his own band in 2003, never looking back.

Randy's Seattle/Tacoma based band, was one of eight finalists at the

If you want to kick up the energy in a room, put Randy on stage and let him do his thing.

International Blues challenge in Memphis a few years back, bringing many new offers for touring. The Randy Oxford Band toured the U.S., Canada and central America playing at festivals and venues that include the North Atlantic Blues Festival in Rockland, Maine, Festival international du blues de Tremblant in Quebec, Canada, the legendary Blue Note Jazz Club in New York, the San Diego Blues Festival, the Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival in Portland and the Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival in the Methow Valley in the Evergreen State, the Boquete Jazz and Blues Festival in Panama, the Kalamazoo Blues Festival and countless others...

We regularly catch Randy locally at his home base blues venue, the nationally-recognized Highway 99 Blues Club, "Seattle's Home of the Blues." The club received the 2017 Keeping the Blues Alive Award from the Blues Foundation in Memphis, and for the past 15 years, founder Steve Sarkowsky and current owner Ed Maloney have been bringing in the best blues, zydeco, roots, honky-tonk and Americana from all over the country and beyond. The Highway 99 Blues Club also supports the best regional talent that the Pacific Northwest has to offer.

"This is my favorite Blues club - a genuine juke joint type of club - that is a must stop for anyone visiting Seattle," said Randy. Throughout his travels around the world, Randy tells everyone he meets about Seattle's award-winning waterfront blues club. "And by the way, they also offer some of the finest Cajun cuisine in all the land."

As a regular performer at the Highway 99 Blues Club, Randy appears with the Randy Oxford Band, the Hwy. 99 All-Stars and the Randy Oxford All-Star Slam that recently featured Wee Willie Walker. It's no wonder this great club has been nominated Best Blues Club numerous times by the members of the Washington Blues Society and received the "BB Award" in the blues club category more than any other blues venue in the history of the Washington Blues Society

Randy feels lucky to do what he does, but it's not luck that a trombone player named Randy Oxford became a great band leader and jam host. It's his passion, hard work, positive attitude and tons of talent that brought him to the blues scene.

Randy Oxford is a recognized and highly-respected member of the blues community, which he considers his extended blues family... Wherever he travels.

Blues you can use...



**Savoy Brown
Witchy Feeling
(Ruf Records)**

As I listened to *Witchy Feeling*, I really wanted to write “Savoy Brown fans rejoice” – but I couldn’t. *Witchy Feeling* is a Savoy Brown album in name only, because Kim Simmonds owns the name and has used it over the years with an ever-changing cast of characters. But this disc bears at most a passing resemblance to the Savoy Brown of old. That being said, *Witchy Feeling* is not all bad. Simmonds is a quality guitarist with a fairly recognizable style. What’s missing is the urgency and raw quality that were the hallmarks of the early Savoy Brown from the early incarnations of the group during the first British blues invasion. Nonetheless, it’s an enjoyable waning years’ project by an elder statesman. *Witchy Feeling* is a stripped down three-piece format with some layering of guitars, mostly striving for a swampy blues feel and occasional Trower-esque grooves. Simmonds’ voice has mellowed and sounds uncannily like Mark Knopfler’s these days. From the opening track, “Why did You Hoodoo Me” to the closing “Close to Midnight,” there’s a sameness to the songs: A guitar hero’s sensibility and a striving for authenticity that is competent but not convincing. If you want to revel in classic blues guitar lines and grooves whilst pounding a few brews, this album is worthwhile. But if you want fire and creativity, you’d be better off dropping back 40 years to listen to what Savoy Brown was in its heyday – not nearly as polished, but far more urgent and compelling.

Dave Albert



**Curtis Salgado and
Alan Hager
Rough Cut
(Alligator Records)**

Curtis Salgado’s third release on Alligator pairs the award-winning soul blues singer with long-time Rose City guitarist Alan Hager. Together, Curtis and Alan work through seven inspired blues covers and six originals on a CD that will likely land on many blues writers’ “Top 10 acoustic blues CD” lists of 2018. Curtis’ mournful wail informs Son House’s “Depot Blues” and the traditional reading of Muddy Waters’ “I Can’t Be Satisfied” is an exceptional nod to an American blues giant. The traditional Gospel-tinged blues of “Morning Train” (also known as “Get Right Church”) features Portland’s “First Lady of the Blues,” Larhonda Steele, as a guest vocalist along with drummer Brian Foxworth. While I enjoyed each of the six originals, two particularly stood out for me: the infectious call and response of “One Night Only” with Jim Pugh on piano and Jimi Bott on drums and the wry observations of “Hell in a Handbasket” with Curtis himself on piano. Last year, Curtis received three Blues Music Awards: Soul Blues Album of the Year for his 2016 Alligator CD, *The Beautiful Lowdown*; Song of the Year, “Walk a Mile in My Blues” (co-written by Salgado, David Duncan and Mike Finnegan), and the Soul Blues Male Artist of the Year statuette. This year, Curtis Salgado returns to the Soul Blues Male Artist of the Year nomination list. *Rough Cut* is one of the best acoustic blues records I’ve heard in a long, long time.

Eric Steiner



**Ronnie Earl & the
Broadcasters
The Luckiest Man
(Stony Plain
Records)**

Christmas came early when I opened my mail last December to find the latest offering by Ronnie Earl & the Broadcasters, *The Luckiest Man*, Earl’s 23rd solo studio release plus a handful of live and compilation albums. Additionally, Earl spent nearly 10 years with Roomful of Blues and is a three-time recipient of the Guitarist of the Year Blues Music Award among other accolades. Ronnie Earl’s blues verge right on the edge of jazz and his playing is always deft and silky smooth. Earl regularly dedicates a song to a blues legend and on his latest CD, the sumptuous instrumental “Blues for Magic Sam” honors the memory of that Chicago blues pioneer. Other Chicago blues connections on *The Luckiest Man* include Diane Blue’s vocals on “So Many Roads,” a song made famous by Otis Rush, and a strong version of Fenton Robinson’s “You Don’t Know What Love Is.” The plaintive instrumental “Jim’s Song” and the album are dedicated to the late Jim Mouradian, long time bass player in the Broadcasters. *The Luckiest Man* title also comes from Jim who was known to say, “I’m the luckiest man you know, and I don’t even know who you know.” The album opens with Bobby Bland’s “Ain’t That Loving You” with Diane Blue on vocals. Another thing Earl is well known for is his instrumentals and “Southside Stomp” is yet another fine example of his expertise. Sugar Ray & the Bluetones join Ronnie on “Long Lost Conversation” with Sugar Norcia on harp and vocals, Mudcat Ward on bass and Anthon Geraci on piano, and each of these players were all Broadcasters on the first 1983 release *Smokin’*. Very highly recommended.

Malcolm Kennedy



**North Mississippi
Allstars
Prayer for Peace
(Songs of the
South/Legacy)**

I’ve long been a big fan

Continued on page 30

EDITOR’S NOTE

On Sunday, February 4th, Curtis Salgado, Alan Hager and Friends will play Seattle’s Triple Door at 8pm and on Saturday the 10th, Curtis Salgado plays the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon (special thanks to the Rick Epting Foundation for the Arts and Ray and Margaret Horak for co-sponsoring the Lincoln Theatre show in Skagit County).

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Tickets \$ 35

Silent and Live Auction

All Ages Welcome

All proceeds go to the Musicians Relief Fund



February 2018 Washington Blues Society 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.

FEB 1 Thursday

Nickerson Street Saloon: Sheri Roberts Greimes w/ Two Guys & A Broad 8pm
Bad Albert's Tap & Grill: Annie Eastwood & Friends 5 pm
The Bartlett: Spokane Arts BASE Songwriting Workshop 5:30 pm
Gordon & Purdy's: The Groovetramps 7pm
Madison Ave Pub: Two Guys & A Broad 7pm
The Oxford Saloon: Haunting Rock Jam Hosted by Cuzin's Of Itt 7pm
Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Chick Corea Trio 7:30pm
Tractor Tavern: KEXP Presents: Kyle Craft Album Release w/ The Shivas & Ghost Foot 8pm
Salmon Bay Eagles-FOE#2141 McPage & Powell Duo 8pm
The Royal Room: Matrio & Resonant Bodies 8pm
The Triple Door: Booker T Jones 7:30pm
Parliament Tavern: West Seattle Soul 830pm

FEB 2 Friday

The Triple Door: Eric Johnson "Ah Via Musicom" w/ special guest Arielle 6:30pm
Anelias Kitchen & Stage: Sheri Roberts Greimes 7pm
192 Brewing / Lake Trail Taproom: The Groovetramps 7pm
Brewminatti: Seth Walker 7pm
Third Place Commons: \$cratch Daddy LIVE! 7:30pm
The Bartlett: The Original Wailers 8pm
Easy Monkey Taphouse: Madison Ave Blues Revue 8pm
Scuttlebutt Taproom & Brewery: FvMF18 Lineup Announcement Party 8pm
Rocko's Fireside: Soundbeats Tribute to The Beatles 9pm
Village Taphouse & Grill: Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm Method 9pm
J & M Café: Alec Shaw & Guests 9pm
The Brick Saloon: Chance McKinny 9pm
Highway 99 Blues Club: Curly Taylor & Zydeco Trouble 8pm
Engels Pub: 44th Street Blues Band 8pm
The Tractor Tavern: Polecate & 45th Street Brass 8pm
Salmon Bay Eagles: Town Hall Brawl 8pm

FEB 3 Saturday

The Emerald of Siam Thai Restaurant & Lounge: The Sweet Lillies - Bluegrass from CO 5 pm
Pub 282: CD Woodbury Trio 7pm
Third Place Commons: Stickshift Annie w/ Kimball & the Fugitives 8pm
Highway 99 Blues Club: An Evening w/ Seth Walker 8pm
Moore Theatre: Drive-By Truckers 8pm
Neptune Theatre: Antonio Sanchez - Birdman Live 8pm
The Old Edison: The Dizzys 8pm
Easy Monkey Taphouse: Stacy Jones Band 8pm
The Royal Room: Warren Dunes featuring Julia Massey, Sidecar, & Tim Kennedy 8pm
Stockton's: Fabulous Roof Shakers 9pm
The Showbox: Elephant Revival 9pm
Stewart's Place Tavern: The Jimmy Wright Band 9pm
J & M Café: The True Romans 9pm
Engels Pub: Red Classic 9pm
Madison Pub: The Tonic 730pm
The Brick Saloon: Bottoms Up 9:30pm
Sapolil: The Lance Dana Duo 6-8pm

FEB 4 Sunday

The Oxford Saloon: Mike Eytcheson's Sunday Dinner Variety Show 6pm
The Triple Door: Curtis Salgado, Alan Hager & Friends 8pm

FEB 5 Monday

Oxford Saloon: Sheri's Monday Piano Bar Dinner Show 5pm
Madison Ave Pub: Monday Blues Review 7pm

FEB 6 Tuesday

The Cottage: New Date Pairings & Painting Night 6:30 pm
Madison Ave Pub: Jazz Tuesday w/ Leah Tussing 7pm
The Oxford Saloon: Acoustic Open Mic Jam 7pm
Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Laila Biali 7:30pm
Engels Pub: Open Mic Night w/ Dan & Friends 8pm
Nickerson Street Saloon: open mic w/ guest host Cats Cradle 9pm

FEB 7 Wednesday

The Spar Tavern: Little Bill Engelhart/ Rod Cook Duo 7pm
Neptune Theatre: Beth Hart 8pm
Highway 99 Blues Club: Drummerboy featuring Joel Astley 8pm
Engels Pub: One River 8pm

FEB 8 Thursday

Anacortes Family Center: Dine Out to End Homelessness 7 am
Bad Albert's: Annie Eastwood & Friends 5pm
The Oxford Saloon: Haunting Rock Jam Hosted by Cuzin's Of Itt 7pm
Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Judy Collins 7:30pm
Neptune Theatre: Destroyer 8pm
Conor Byrne Pub: Nathaniel Talbot, Fellow Pynins & Daniel Ullom 8pm
The Showbox: Dark Star Orchestra 9pm
Vintage Café: Sheri Roberts Greimes 7pm
The Showbox Market: Dark Star Orchestra 7pm
Salmon Bay Eagles: File Gumbo 8pm

FEB 9 Friday

The Restaurant at Rhodes River Ranch: The Jimmy Wright Band 6pm
Brewminatti: Planes on Paper 7pm
Easy Monkey Taphouse: Stickshift Annie w/ Kimball & the Fugitives 8pm
Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Judy Collins 7:30pm
The Bartlett: Runaway Symphony 8pm
Neptune Theatre: Mike Gordon 8:30 pm
Rocko's Fireside: Klepto is Back at Rocko's 9pm
The Lime: Hall Pass Band 9pm
The Shanty Tavern: Petunia & The Vipers 9pm
Stewart's \$cratch Daddy LIVE! 9pm
Village Inn Taphouse & Grill: The Stacy Jones Band 9pm
Engels Pub: Tim Turner Band 9pm
Highway 99 Blues Club: Chris Eger w/ The Baby Cakes 8pm
Peabo's Michelle Taylor Band 9pm
Salmon Bay Eagles: David Christian-son & Boogaloo Deluxe 8pm

FEB 10 Saturday

The Swiss Restaurant & Pub: Winter Blues & Rhythm Festival Noon - 9:30pm
Swimdeck: Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 7pm
Decibel Brewing: Birthday Bash w/ Electric Sidecar 7pm
Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Judy Collins 7:30pm
Everett Eagles F.O.E. #13: \$cratch Daddy LIVE! 7pm
Phinney Neighborhood Association: Seattle Folklore Society Presents: Dan Weber 7:30pm
Louie G's Pizza: Dr. Crüe & Almost Human RAWK Louie G's! 8pm
Neptune Theatre: Jesse Cook 8pm
Highway 99 Blues Club: Live Blues w/ Lloyd Jones Struggle 8pm
The Royal Room: Caribbean Carnival Fête 8:30 pm
Conor Byrne Pub: Strong Suit & Guests 9pm
Salmon Bay Eagles: Jeff Herzog & the Jet City Fliers 8pm
Tractor Tavern: Ten Miles Wide w/ Devils Hunt Me Down, Chrome Lakes & Pachinko Royale 9pm
Darrell's Tavern: 8 Year Party w/ Zeke, The Lucky Boys, & Kings of Cavalier 9pm
Doyle's Public House: Valentine's Weekend Heartbreak Party w/ Jordani & Smoke Perkins 10pm
Sapolil: The Lance Dana Duo 6-8pm
Engels Pub: Dog Tones 9pm
The Lincoln Theater: Curtis Salgado 730pm

FEB 11 Sunday

Johnny's Dock Restaurant & Marina: Dave Roberts Band 5 pm
The Oxford Saloon: Mike Eytcheson's Sunday Dinner Variety Show 6pm
Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Judy Collins 7:30pm
The Shakedown: New Kingston, The Late Ones 8pm
Neumos: Kimbra 9pm

FEB 12 Monday

Oxford Saloon: Sheri's Monday Piano Bar Dinner Show 5 pm
Madison Ave Pub: Monday Blues Review 7pm
Tractor Tavern: STG Presents: Clap Your Hands Say Yeah w/ Steady Holiday 8pm

FEB 13 Tuesday

Collectors Choice Restaurant: Paula Boggs Band Plays WBS February Blues Bash 7pm

Madison Ave Pub: Jazz Tuesday w/ Leah Tussing 7pm

The Oxford Saloon: Acoustic Open Mic Jam 7pm

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Mindi Abair 7:30pm

FEB 14 Wednesday

The Cottage: Valentine's Day at The Cottage! 5:30 pm

Vintage Café: Valentine's Show w/ Sheri Roberts Greimes 7pm

The Bartlett: The Wind + The Wave 8pm

Engels Pub: Soulful 88's 8pm

Nickerson Street Saloon: Open mic w/ guest host Timberfoot 9pm

Jazz Alley: Mindi Abair 7:30pm

FEB 15 Thursday

Bad Albert's: Annie Eastwood & Friends 5:30 pm

The Oxford Saloon: Haunting Rock Jam Hosted by Cuzin's Of Itt" 7pm

The Showbox: Ron Pope 8pm

Tractor Tavern: 91.3 KBCS Presents: : Dave Alvin & Jimmy Dale Gilmore + Christy McWilson 8pm

Salmon Bay Eagles: All Stars & No Stripes 8pm

John's Alley Tavern: Zach Deputy LIVE in Moscow, ID 8pm

FEB 16 Friday

Rhodes River Ranch Restaurant: Sheri Roberts Greimes 6pm

Wildflower Wine Shop: Small Town Soul Band 7pm

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: The Jazz Epistles featuring Abdullah Ibrahim & Ekaya & Hugh Ma 7:30pm

Showbox SoDo: Judah & The Lion 8pm

The Triple Door: Los Lobos 8pm

Highway 99 Blues Club: Highway 99 All Stars 8pm

Evelyn's Tavern: \$cratch Daddy LIVE!

Rocko's Fireside: 80's Night 9pm

Angel of The Winds Casino Resort: The Jimmy Wright Band Returns 9pm

J & M Café: Purple Mane (Prince Tribute) + Killer Workout + Moon Dial 9pm

Jack London Revue: Delvón Lamarr Organ Trio 9pm

CCR: Michelle Taylor Band 8pm

Engels Pub: Short Cutz 9pm

Rhythm & Rye: The Skerick Band 8pm

FEB 17 Saturday

Elliott Bay Pizza & Pub: Stickshift Annie w/ Kimball Conant 8pm

Cultura Event Center: Tommy Castro & The Painkillers 8pm

The Triple Door: Los Lobos 8pm

Highway 99 Blues Club: Live Blues w/ The 44s 8pm

Wild Buffalo: The Thurston Moore Group 9pm

Tractor Tavern: KEXP Presents: Delvon Lamarr Organ Trio (release) w/ General Mojo's & Cody Ray 9pm

The Brick Saloon: The Hipsters at The Brick in Roslyn! 9pm

Engels Pub: Chester Dennis Jones 9pm

CCR: Junkyard Jane 8pm

Sapolil: The Lance Dana Duo 6-8pm

FEB 18 Sunday

Historic Everett Theater: WBS Musicians Relief Concert 4 pm

Johnny's Dock Restaurant & Marina: Little Bill Trio 5 pm

Neptune Theatre: Jacob Sartorius 5:30 pm

The Oxford Saloon: Mike Eytcheson's Sunday Dinner Variety Show 6pm

Nectar Lounge: An Evening w/ the Neil Youngs & the Harvest Moon Band 7pm

The Conway Muse: Tommy Castro & the Painkillers 7pm

The Triple Door: Los Lobos 8pm

The Spar: Brian Lee & the Orbiters 7pm

FEB 19 Monday

Oxford Saloon: Sheri's Monday Piano Bar Dinner Show 5pm

The Triple Door: Tommy Castro & the Painkillers 7pm

Madison Ave Pub: Monday Blues Review 7pm

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Bill Frisell & Thomas Morgan Duo 7:30pm

FEB 20 Tuesday

Madison Ave Pub: Jazz Tuesday w/ Leah Tussing 7pm

The Oxford Saloon: Acoustic Open Mic Jam 7pm

The Triple Door: Karla Bonoff at The Triple Door - Mainstage 7:30pm

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Tinsley Ellis at Jazz Alley 7:30pm

The Royal Room: Nick Mardon Blues Trio 8:30 pm

John's Alley Tavern: The Jauntie in Moscow, ID 9pm

FEB 21 Wednesday

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Tinsley Ellis at Jazz Alley 7:30pm

Tractor Tavern: KEXP Presents: : The Album Leaf w/ Guests 8pm

Engels Pub: Town Hall Brawl 8pm

Highway 99 Blues Club: Fabulous Roof Shakers 8pm

Nickerson Street Saloon: Open mic w/ guest host Tim Smith 9pm

FEB 22 Thursday

Bad Albert's: Annie Eastwood & Friends 5:30 pm

Brewminatti: Tinsley Ellis 7pm

The Oxford Saloon: Haunting Rock Jam Hosted by Cuzin's Of Itt" 7pm

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Joey Alexander Trio 7:30pm

Conor Byrne Pub: Hi Crime & Guests

Tractor Tavern: Sean Hayes w/ Guests

Salmon Bay Eagles: Mark Whitman 8pm

Hyatt Regency Bellevue: Wintergrass Music Festival 5pm

FEB 23 Friday

Life Care Center of Kirkland: Mary, Jevon & Rob 2pm

Doe Bay Resort & Retreat: MAI Festival 2.0 at Doe Bay 5pm

Neumos: Grace VanderWaal 7pm

Moore Theatre: Miles Electric Band

SoulFood Coffee House & FairTrade Emporium: Amy Bleu Live 8pm

Salmon Bay Eagles: Pourboys 8pm

Big Lake Bar & Grill: The Jimmy Wright Band Feb 8:30 pm

Tim's Tavern: Sheri Roberts Greimes w/ JoMomma 9pm

Wild Buffalo: The Crystal Method at Wild Buffalo 9pm

Rocko's Fireside: The Silverbacks 9pm

Dawson's Bar & Grill: Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 9pm

Buzz Inn Granite Falls: Scratch Daddy LIVE! 9pm

The Shakedown: The Roost Presents: Sean Hayes 9:30pm

Engels Pub: Shadrack 9pm

CCR: Randy Oxford Band 8pm

The Wild Rover: Son Jack Jr 8pm

Hyatt Regency Bellevue: Wintergrass Music Festival 5pm

FEB 24 Saturday

The Royal Room: Women in Music – Film Screening & Community Panel 6pm

Doyle's Public House: Dain Norman 6pm

Edmonds Center for the Arts: ECA Presents: Michael Feinstein 7:30pm

Salmon Bay Eagles: Country Dave & the Pickin Crew 8pm

CCR: Scratchdaddy 8pm

The Sunset: The Tractor Presents: : Ha Ha Tonka w/ Guests 9pm

Dawson's Bar & Grill: Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 9pm

Highway 99 Blues Club: The Hank Shreve Band 8pm

Sapolil: The Lance Dana Duo 6-8pm

Hyatt Regency Bellevue: Wintergrass Music Festival 5pm

FEB 25 Sunday

Johnny's Dock Restaurant & Marina: Maia Santell & House Blend 5pm

The Emerald of Siam Thai Restaurant & Lounge: The Jauntie 6pm

The Oxford Saloon: Mike Eytcheson's Sunday Dinner Variety Show 6pm

Phinney Neighborhood Association: Gangspil at Seattle Folklore Society 7pm

The Triple Door: Mandy Harvey 7:30pm

Neptune Theatre: Margo Price 8pm

Moore Theatre: Snarky Puppy 8pm

Hillman City Collaboratory: Rev Sekou w Ben Hunter & Joe Seamon 7pm

Hyatt Regency Bellevue: Wintergrass Music Festival 5pm

FEB 26 Monday

Oxford Saloon: Sheri's Monday Piano Bar Dinner Show 5pm

Madison Ave Pub: Monday Blues Review 7pm

The Triple Door: Idan Raichel 7:30pm

The Showbox: Tune-Yards 8:30 pm

FEB 27 Tuesday

Madison Ave Pub: Jazz Tuesday w/ Leah Tussing 7pm

Oxford Saloon: Acoustic Open Mic Jam 7pm

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Dr. Lonnie Smith 7:30pm

Neptune Theatre: Bahamas 8pm

Elmers Pub: Brian Lee & Billy Shew 8pm

FEB 28 Wednesday

The Bartlett: The Travelin' McCourys 6pm

North City Bistro & Wine Shop: Small Town Soul Band 7pm

The Triple Door: Shovels & Rope 7:30pm

Tractor Tavern: An Evening w/ Tom Russell *Seated* 8pm

Engels Pub: Big Sir 8pm

Nickerson Street Saloon: Open mic w/ guest host Carol Holst 9pm



Whom to Hire, Get in Touch

Please send any updates, additions or corrections to both Editor@wabluess.org and ericrichd@aol.com. We're working to build a better Bluesletter!

#

44th Street Blues Band 206.714.5180 or 206.775.2762

A

A.H.L. 206.935.4592
Al Earick Band 253.278.0330
Albritten McClain & Bridge of Souls 206.650.8254
Alice Stuart & the Formerlys 360.753.8949
AlleyKatz 425.273.4172
Andrew Norsworthy andrewnorsworthy@yahoo.com
Annette Taborn 206.306.3398
Annieville Blues 206.994.9413
Author Unknown 206.355.5952

B

Baby Gramps Trio 425.483.2835
Back Porch Blues 425.299.0468
Backwoods Still 425.330.0702
Badd Dog Blues Society 360.733.7464
Bay Street Blues Band 360.731.1975
Bill Brown & The Kingbees 206.276.6600
Billy Barner 253.884.6308
Billy Shew Band 253.514.3637
Black River Blues 206.396.1563
Blackstone Players 425.327.0018
Blue 55 206.216.0554
Blue Healers 206.440.7867
Blues Bentley Band 360.701.6490
Blues on Tap 206.618.6210
Blues Playground 425.359.3755
Blues Redemption 253.884.6308
Blues Sheriff 206.979.0666
Blues To Do Monthly 206.328.0662
Bobby Holland & The Breadline 425.681.5644
Boneyard Preachers 206.755.0766 or 206.547.1772
Brian Butler Band 206.361.9625
Brian Hurst 360.708.1653
Brian Lee & The Orbiters 206.390.2408
Bruce Koenigsberg / Fabulous Roof Shakers 425.766.7253
Bruce Ransom 206.618.6210
Bump Kitchen 253.223.4333 or 360.259.1545

C

C.D. Woodbury Band 425.502.1917
CC Adams Band 360.420.2535
Charles White Revue 425.327.0018
Charlie Butts & The Filtertippers 509.325.3016
Chester Dennis Jones 253.797.8937
Chris Egar Band 360.770.7929

Chris Lord 425.334.5053
Chris Stevens' Surf Monkeys 206.236.0412
Coyote Blues 360.420.2535
Crooked Mile Blues Band 425.238.8548
Curtis Hammond Band 206.696.6134

D

Daddy Treetops 206.601.1769
Dana Lupinacci Band 206.860.4961
David Hudson / Satellite 4 253.630.5276
Dennis "Juxtamuse" Hacker 425.423.9545
Dick Powell Band 425.742.4108
Doug McGrew 206.679.2655
Doug Skoog 253.921.7506
Dudley Taft 513.713.6800

E

El Colonel 360.293.7931
Ellis Carter 206.935.3188
Eric Madis & Blue Madness 206.362.8331

F

Fat Cat 425.487.6139
Filé Gumbo 425.788.2776

G

Gary Frazier 206.851.1169
Greg Roberts 206.473.0659
Groove Tramps 720.232.9664
Gunnar Roads 360.828.1210

H

Hambone Blues Band 360.458.5659
Hambone Wilson 360.739.7740
Heather & the Nearly Homeless Blues Band 425.576.5673
Hot Wired Rhythm Band 206.790.9935
Hungry Dogs 425.299.6435

J

Jack Cook & Phantoms of Soul 206.517.5294
James Howard 206.250.7494
James King & the Southsiders 206.715.6511
JD Hobson 206.235.3234
Jeff & The Jet City Fliers 206.818.0701
Jeff Menteer and The Beaten Path 425.280.7392
Jeremy Serwer 520.275.9444
Jill Newman Band 206.390.2623
Jim McLaughlin 425.737.4277
Jim Nardo Blues Band 360.779.4300
Jimmy Free's Friends 206.546.3733
Joe Cook Blues Band 206.547.1772

Joel Astley 206.214.7977
John "Scooch" Cugno's Delta 88 Revival 360.352.3735
John Stephan Band 206.244.0498
JP Hennessy 425.273.4932
Julie Duke Band 206.459.0860
Junkyard Jane 253.238.7908

K

K. G. Jackson & The Shakers 360.896.4175
Keith Nordquist 253.639.3206
Kevin & Casey Sutton 314.479.0752
Kid Quagmire 206.412.8212
Kim Archer Band 253.298.5961
Kim Field & The Mighty Titans of Tone 206.295.8306
Kimball Conant & The Fugitives 206.938.6096

L

Lady "A" & The Baby Blues Funk Band 425.518.9100
Leanne Trevalyan 253.238.7908
Lissa Ramaglia 206.650.9058
Little Bill & the Bluenotes 425.774.7503

M

Maia Santell & House Blend 253.983.7071
Mark A. Noftsger 425.238.3664
Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 206.588.1924
Mark Riley 206.313.7849
Mark Whitman Band 206.697.7739
Mary McPage 206.850.4849
Michael 'Papa Bax' Baxter 425.478.1365
Michael Wilde 425.672.3206 or 206.200.3363
Michal Miller Band 253.222.2538
Michelle D'Amour and The Love Dealers 425.761.3033
Miles from Chicago 206.440.8016
Moon Daddy Band 425.923.9081

N

Nick Vigarino 360.387.0374
Norm Bellas & the Funkstars 206.722.6551

P

Paul Green 206.795.3694
Polly O'Kerry and The Rhythm Method 206.384.0234

R

Rafael Tranquilino Band /Leah Tussing 425.329.5925
Randy Norris & Jeff Nicely 425.239.3876 or 425.359.3755



Randy Norris & The Full Degree 425.239.3876

Randy Oxford Band 253.973.9024

Raven Humphres 425.308.3752

Red House 425.377.8097

Reggie Miles 360.793.9577

Richard Allen & The Louisiana Experience
206.369.8114

Richard Evans 206.799.4856

Right Hand Drive 206.496.2419

RJ Knapp & Honey Robin Band 206.612.9145

Robert Patterson 509.869.0350

Rod Cook & Toast 206.878.7910

Roger Rogers Band 206.255.6427

Ron Hendee 425.280.3994

Roxlide 360.881.0003

Rusty Williams 206.282.0877

S

Sammy Eubanks 509.879.0340

Scott E. Lind 206.789.8002

Scratch Daddy 425.210.1925

Shadow Creek Project 360.826.4068

Sheri Roberts Greimes 425.220.6474

Smokin' J's 425.746.8186

Son Jack Jr. 425.591.3034

Stacy Jones 206.992.3285

Star Drums & Lady Keys 206.522.2779

Steve Bailey & The Blue Flames 206.779.7466

Steve Cooley & Dangerfields 253.203.8267

Steven J. Lefebvre 509.972.2683 or 509.654.3075

Stickshift Annie Eastwood 206.941.9186

Suze Sims 206.920.6776

T

Terry Hartness 425.931.5755

The Bret Welty Band 208.703.2097

The EveryLeaf Band 425.369.4588

The Fabulous MoJo Kings 206.412.9503

The Jelly Rollers 206.617.2384

The Mongrels 509.307.0517 or 509.654.3075

The Nate Burch Band 425.457.3506

The Naughty Blokes 360.393.9619

The Rece Jay Band 253.350.9137

The Soulful 88s/Billy Spaulding 206.310.4153

The Tonic 206.214.7977

The Wired Band 206.852.3412

The Wulf Tones 206.367.6186 or 206.604.2829

Tim Hall Band 253.857.8652

Tim Turner Band 206.271.5384

Tommy Wall 206.914.9413

Two Scoops Combo 206.933.9566

U

Unbound 425.231.0565

V

Virginia Klemens Band 206.632.6130

W

West Coast Women's Blues Revue 206.940.2589

Willie B Blues Band 206.451.9060

Willie & The Whips 206.781.0444

PICTURED ABOVE:

Little Smokey Smothers and Elvin Bishop at the Chicago Blues Festival (Photo by Eric Steiner)

Rod Cook at The Swiss (Photo by Alex Brikoff)

Blues Selfie: Rocky Nelson & Cedric Burnside

Merrilee Rush (Photo by The Blues Boss)

Janiva Magness (Photo by Jef Jaisun)

Son Jack Jr. & Michael Wilde (Photo by Daniel Sheehan)

Shemekia Copeland and Rocky Nelson (Photo by Eric Steiner)

PICTURED RIGHT:

Robert Tafteson in Panama at first township burned down by Pirate Captain Morgan (Photo by Pirate Rocky Nelson)

Rocky Nelson and "Sunshine" Sonny Payne at KFFA in Helena, Arkansas (Photo by Phil Chesnut)

Jim McLaughlin and Kevin Sutton: See accompanying article on page 29. (Photo by Denise Hathaway)



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- 10% discount at the Westport Inn (Westport, WA)
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Go Out and Support Local Live Music!

Jam hosts listed and Open mics are either blues-friendly or full band-friendly

SUNDAY

192 Brewing, Kenmore: 192 Blues Jam with The Groove Tramps, 3–7pm (All-ages & Schedule may be changed to accommodate Seattle Seahawks football!)

Anchor Pub, Everett: Open Jam Hosted by Leah Tussing & Rafael Tranquilino (Second Sunday of the month), 2–5pm, all ages

Anchor Pub Jazz Jam: Third and fourth Sunday of the month, 5–8pm, all ages

Blue Moon Tavern, Everett: Jam hosted by The Moon Dogs, 7–10pm

Couth Buzzard Books Espresso Buono Cafe, Seattle: Buzzard Blues Open Jam hosted by Kenny Mandell, 7–9pm (first Sunday of each month)

Dawson's, Tacoma: Tim Hall Band, 7–11pm

Peabo's Bar and Grill, Mill Creek: Peace N Love Jam with Tommy Cook, Eric Rice & Scotty Harris, 7–10pm

The Royal Bear, Auburn: Sunday Unloaded Jam Session, 6–10pm

Darrell's Tavern, Shoreline: Jazz Jam, 7–10pm

MONDAY

Mac's Triangle Pub, Seattle: 8–10pm

Nectar Lounge, Seattle: Mo Jam Mondays, 9–11pm

Emerald of Siam, Richland: Open Mic/Band showcase hosted by Barefoot Randy/ Dirty River Entertainment 8pm (all ages until 10:45pm)

Dawson's, Tacoma: Music Mania Jam, 7–11pm

The Swiss, Tacoma: Open Mic hosted by Chuck Gay, 7–10pm

Red Dog Saloon, Maple Valley: Jam with Scotty FM and the Broadcasters, 7–10pm

Riverside Pub, Wenatchee: North Central Washington Blues Jam (second and fourth Mondays of the month), 7–10pm

The Village Taphouse and Grill, Marysville: Jam Night with Scotty Harris and Tommy Cook, 7–10pm

TUESDAY

Royal Esquire Club, Seattle: Sea-Town All-Stars, 8–10pm

Antique Sandwich Co., Tacoma: Open Mic, 7–10pm

Dave's of Milton: Blues and Beyond Jam, 7–10pm

Elmer's Pub, Burien: Jam with Billy Shew, 7–11pm

Pogacha, Issaquah: Open jam Hosted by Doug McGrew, 8pm, 21+

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Jam night with Dano Mac, 8–11pm

Poppe's 360 Neighborhood Pub, Bellingham: Open Mic Night with Brian Hillman, 6:30–9pm

Oxford Saloon, Snohomish: Acoustic Open Mic Jam, 7–10PM

J&M Café in Pioneer Square, Seattle: Blues Jam with Cory Wilds, 9–11pm

Stoneway Cafe, Seattle: Acoustic Open Mic, 7–10pm

Tim's Tavern, Seattle: Open Mic, 7–10pm

Tweede's Café, North Bend: Open Mic, 630–930pm

North End Social Club, Tacoma: Open Mic Tuesdays with Kim Archer, 8–11pm

Ben Moore's, Olympia: Open Mic, 7–10pm

The Cherry Bomb, Port Angeles: Blues Jam with Big Al and the Gang, 7–10pm

WEDNESDAY

Blue Moon Tavern, Seattle: Open Mic, 8–11pm

Collectors Choice Restaurant, Snohomish: Blues Jam with Usual Suspects, 8–11pm

Couth Buzzard Cafe, Seattle: Open Mic, 7:30–10pm

Dawson's, Tacoma: Linda Myers Wicked Wednesday Jam, 8–11pm

Darrell's Tavern, Shoreline: Open Mic, 8:30–11pm

Grumpy D's Coffee House, Seattle: Open Mic, 6:30–9pm

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Unbound Blues Jam, 7:30–11pm

The Mix, Seattle: Open Mic, 8–10pm

Old Triangle, Seattle: with Jeff Hass Jam, 8–11pm

Rocko's Fireside, Everett: Pole Cat's All Star Open Jam, 730–11pm

Skylark Café, West Seattle: Open Mic, 8–11pm

Sapolil Cellars, Walla Walla: Open Mic, 7–11pm

Tony V's Garage, Everett: Open Mic, 9–11pm

The Tin Hat, Kennewick: Open Mic & Jam with Mondo Ray Band, 7–11pm

The Living Room Coffee, Marysville: Open Mic, 6–9pm

The Locker Room Tavern, Seattle: Open Jam Hosted by Power Cell 8–11pm

Oxford Saloon, Snohomish: Open Mic & Jam hosted by The Shortcuts, 830–1130pm

Rhythm and Rye, Olympia: Open Mic Night hosted by Scott Lesman, 8–11pm

The Roadhouse, Spokane: Open Jam, 730–11pm

THURSDAY

Anchor Pub, Everett: Open Mic, 9–11pm

Dog House Bar and Grill, Seattle: Blues Jam with Up Town All-Stars, 730–11pm

Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Open Mic, 630–930pm

Dave's of Milton: Open Jam with Power Cell, 8–11pm

Dawson's, Tacoma: Blues Jam with Billy Shew, 730–11pm

Oxford Saloon, Snohomish: Haunting Rock Jam, 730–11pm

The Village Inn Pub, Bellingham: Jam with Jimmy D, 8–11pm

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Blues Jam with Mark Whitman (last Thursday of the month), 8–11pm

Sapolil Cellars, Walla Walla: Jam Night, 8–11pm

Slippery Pig Brewery, Poulsbo: Blues and Brews Jam Night with Thys Wallwork (all ages), 7–11pm

Gordon & Purdy's Pub, Sumner: Open Blues Jam, 7–11pm

Stewarts, Snohomish: Open Jam w Pole Cat and Co. 7 PM

Stoneway Cafe, Seattle: Acoustic Open Mic, 7–10pm

Loco Billy's Wild Moon Saloon, Stanwood: Tightwad Thursday Jam, 8–11pm

The Hungry Pelican, Snohomish: Open Mic Acoustic Night with Jeff Crookall and Friends, 630–10pm

Rhythm and Rye, Olympia: Olympia Jazz Jam hosted by Tarik Bentlemsani, 7–9pm

The Dam Bar, Port Angeles: Blues Jam with House Band: Jeff Dale, Randi Bennett, Harry Bidasha, Al Owen, 7–10pm

Lee's Brickhouse Pub, Kirkland: Open Mic with Heather B Blues, 7–10pm

FRIDAY

The Living Room Coffee, Maryville: Student Jazz Jam (last Friday of each month), 630–930pm

Urban Timber Coffee, Sumner: Open Mic, 6:30–10pm

Dragon Gate, Des Moines: Open Jam, 9–11pm

La Copa Café, Seattle: Victory Music open mic 6:30 – 9:00 PM, all ages

Dreadknott Brewery, Monroe: Open Mic 7-10 PM

SATURDAY

Café Zippy's, Everett: Victory Music Open Mic (every first Saturday), 5:30–8:30pm

Great Fortune, Bellevue: Eastside Jazz and Blues Jam Session, hosted by Jerry Garcia and Kevin McCarthy, 8–11pm

Rocky continued from page 9

played with who passed away recently, Dave Shriver. Dave played bass for Trini Lopez. Titled “Rock It,” Bruce wrote a song of the same title and his video which included some very well-known and talented studio musicians bear witness about “Diamond Dave.” Dave played with Trini Lopez for 13 years while the band was based in Paris. One night in 1964, Trini Lopez was the headliner in the City of Lights. A bit of history here: The opening act was a band just starting out from Liverpool called the Beatles (just before their USA debut and performance on the Ed Sullivan Show). We ALL know what happened to them!

There’s a lot of history that’s yet to be told regarding members of the Bruce Maier Band. However, due to my deadline and limitations of space in the Bluesletter, I’ll sign off but plan to continue the story in a future Bluesletter!

Take care and remember... hug a blues person every chance you get! Everyone needs hugs!

Until next time, “Rock Khan” signing off.

PS: Eric asked me about the story behind my name Rock Khan. To let folks in to a little joke of mine about my nickname Rock Khan, I used it as my AFN broadcast name while in Afghanistan. Over there, the locals have sort of a “backwards” take on things. Well, just about everything in fact! Their last name is first and they read and write from right to left. It startled me when I first heard one of them refer to me as “Mr. Rocky”. So that’s when I caught onto their way of using the English language. Now, Pre-deployment, I boned up on my history about Afghanistan and how the geographical location of that country has always been involved in one dispute or another throughout time immemorial. Genghis Khan, Kabuli Khan and a host of other “Khans” laid a brutal claim to this territory. Khan in Pashto or the Persian language Dari means King. I thought about using King Kong but I liked how the Rock Khan name sounded over the airwaves. Like...Rock On! And if you say it fast three times you actually see visions of whirling dervishes. Well, maybe not. But it was my spin on making up a nickname for myself.

Coeur d’Alene Blues Festival!

Coeur d’Alene Resort, Idaho – March 23-25, 2018

The festival is the winner of the 2017, 2016 & 2015 Inland Empire Blues Society’s Empire Award for Best Blues Festival! Now in its 9th year of presenting the best in local, regional and national Blues Rock acts! The Coeur d’Alene Resort becomes the Home of the Rhythm, Land of the Blues for this very special weekend!

For Room Packages and all Blues Festival event tickets contact a Coeur d’Alene Resort Specialist at 888-965-5875 or visit Ticket and room package info at <http://www.cdaresort.com/>

Festival info at: <http://www.cdabluesfestival.com/>

Tickets are \$25 for Friday Night Blues Cruise & \$39 for 5 Band Festival & Roof Top Party. The Roof Top Party by itself is \$5 or *free* with Festival Wrist Band.

The After Blues Cruise Party on The Plaza is *free* to all. *free* music also in Whispers Lounge, Resort Lobby and Plaza area.



Marcia Ball plays at 8:30pm in the Resort Convention Center Big Room.
(Photo courtesy of Coeur d’Alene Blues Festival)



The Andy T Band featuring Alabama Mike with Anson Funderburgh plays at 7pm in the Resort Convention Center Big Room
(Photo courtesy of Coeur d’Alene Blues Festival)

THE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY March 23rd

Robb Boatsman: in Whispers Lounge 4pm-6:30pm *free*

Sara Brown Acoustic: in The CdA Resort Lobby 3:30pm-6:00pm *free*

Paul Mata & Don Chilcott: at The Tap House Unchained 4pm-7pm *free*

Blues Cruise: on Lake Coeur d’Alene. 7pm boarding time (leaves dock at 7:30pm returning at 9:30pm). Blues Cruise with 2 boats together featuring 2 bands: The Sidemen and Shoot Jake both performing at the same time!

The Rose City Kings: play the After Cruise Party and The Last Main Stage Show! The Shops Plaza Center Court Friday: starts 9pm *free*

SATURDAY March 25th

The Roof Top Blues Party: featuring The Master Class Big Band Rhythm & Blues Revue on the CdA Resort Terrace. Starting at 12:30pm-3:30pm \$5 or *free* with Festival wrist band

The Doghouse Boyz: in Whispers Lounge Noon-3pm *free*

FIVE Great Bands in the Resort Convention Center Big Room: Two stages, so no breaks, just continuous performances. **4pm** - Charlie Butts & The Filtertips. **5pm** - Rafael Tranquilino. **7pm** - The Andy T Band featuring Alabama Mike with Anson Funderburgh. **8:30pm** - Marcia Ball. **10pm** - The Rose City Kings

SUNDAY March 25th

Blues Cruise Brunch with Sara Brown Band Acoustic: Aboard the Mish-An-Nock 11am-1pm

The Gospel Blues Brunch: featuring amazing Gospel singers at The Dockside Restaurant 10am-1:30pm.

The February Blues Bash at Collector's Choice Restaurant in Snohomish:

The Paula Boggs Band & The River Rats!

By Amy Sassenberg

What does a former Executive VP at Starbucks Corporation and former staff attorney on a White House Legal Task Force have in common with a previous director of the School of Rock, and the leader of the Paula Boggs Band? Answer: They're all the same person—Paula Boggs.

Delving into the diverse accomplishments of the Army airborne veteran/roots-American singer-songwriter may give you some inkling about the eclectic style of the band, which cannot really be defined by one genre of music. Their sound has been described as Seattle Brewed Soul-grass, and their third studio album released last fall reflects that with the title, *Elixir: The Soulgrass Sessions*.

"We have come to a sound that is uniquely ours," says Boggs.

This is not your daddy's blues band or your mama's folk collection. It's a mashup, a masala, an elixir, if you will, with ingredients culled from many musical markets, delivered by superb musicians as a cure for listening to the same old songs. In addition to Boggs on vocals, guitar and ukulele, Mark Chinen plays guitar and banjo, Sandy Greenbaum plays drums, and bassist/vocalist Birch Pereira, along with multi-instrumentalist Brook Hage and percussionist Tor Dietrichson chime in on vocals as well, creating a full, cohesive blend of soulful, thoughtful music.

Paula Boggs's employment history has afforded her a unique view of the world and the skills to communicate it. She often explores themes of social justice, which has gotten her compared to Bob Dylan and Joan Baez. The song, *Benediction*, from the *Elixir* album, is a redemptive piece Boggs penned in response to the Charleston church shooting of nine African American parishioners in 2015. The band subsequently joined the choir in that very church to play that song for the congregation on the second anniversary of the massacre.

It's clear that message is as important to the band as the music, but they've also been known to mix in a few cover tunes and recently recorded their first instrumental, written by guitarist Chinen. Most of the band has been playing and recording together for a decade, so they're a pleasure to watch as well as listen to. After playing down in Southern California for music industry insiders at the NAMM show, the Paula Boggs Band will be performing the second set for the Washington Blues Society Blues Bash at Collector's Choice in Snohomish on Tuesday, February 13. Learn more at PaulaBoggsBand.net

The River Rats is a lively four-piece includes members of the Blue Monday Band, with brothers Casey Sutton and Kevin Sutton, Keith Bakke and Jim McLaughlin.

Already very well-known in these parts, fans and friends can expect to hear original blues-based music, played with finesse, combined with covers from the great American songbook.

The band formed in Everett last year, and after a break to sort out some health issues,



Above: Kevin Sutton and Jim McLaughlin (Photo by Amy Sassenberg)

Below: The Paula Boggs Band (Photo by Tim Reese)

See page 25 for an additional photo of two River Rats!

is back as The River Rats.

Local fan Walter Greenwood is glad they're back, saying, "The best live show out there!"

We bet you're gonna be glad as well. The Blues Bash starts at 7pm and these cats play at 7:30 p.m.



Cascade Blues Association

Annual Christmas Party at the Moose Lodge in Portland

Story and Photo Collage by Kathy Rankin

This was the Cascade Blues Association Annual Christmas Party and potluck in December of 2017. It was a dessert potluck and there was a huge array of tempting and delicious desserts making it a very festive occasion.

The Moose Lodge had their Christmas décor up and a tree. The bands played on through the afternoon, people danced, raffle tickets sold for the usual CD prizes and more. There was an auction as well. I won in the silent auction a Sonny Boy Williamson King Biscuit Time art piece painted on wood donated by Dan Dalton of Dalton Art and it was hand signed.

The following bands entertained us blues lovers: opening the Christmas blues show was Timothy James & The Portland Blues Revival, Billy D & The Hoodoo's, Kevin Selfe & The Tornadoes. Kevin is back from his hike on the Appalachian trail which he completed. That was impressive. Many people followed his posts on social media as he hiked this over 2,000 mile journey. And then, to headline the show was Muddy Award Winning Ty Curtis Band. (He was presented with a Muddy Award for best Regional BluesAct).

You will be reading this most likely after the Christmas holidays.



(Pictured in the photo collage include Ty Curtis, Timothy James, Billy "D" (Desmond) and Kevin Selfe)

Get out and enjoy some live blues and go see these artists. Support the music scene and keep the blues alive. Celebrate safely and happy New Year!

Become a CBA Member and support the non-profit organization and see all the benefits you can get, such as the Christmas Party, The Muddy Awards, paper delivered monthly and free attendance at the monthly meetings and the summertime concert in the park at Tomahawk Island. Visit the website to become a member www.cascadebluesassociation.org



CD Reviews continued from page 20

of the North Mississippi Allstars. Led by two brothers of Mississippi blues royalty, Luther and Cody Dickinson, *Prayer for Peace* features a number of well-chosen covers and a few inventive originals. Their father, the late Jim Dickinson, produced 70s alternative rock acts like Big Star, Ry Cooder and the Replacements, and my first introduction to Dickinson's work was his piano solo on the Rolling Stones' "Wild Horses" from the classic 1971 *Sticky Fingers* LP recorded in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. On *Prayer for Peace*, I particularly liked the pair from Mississippi

Fred McDowell, "You Got to Move" and "61 Highway" as well as a few from one of the brothers' mentors and partners in hill country blues, R.L. Burnside, including the joyous racket of "Long-Haired Doney" and decidedly rough-hewn "Bird Without a Feather." Luther's expert guitar shines on "Miss Maybelle" and Cody's percussion underscores the duo's North Mississippi hill country roots reminiscent of an earlier CD, *Shake Hands with Shorty*. This time out, special guests include Danielle Nicole (bass & vocals on "You Got to Move"), long-time collaborator Kenny Brown (guitar on the original "Run Red Rooster") and Oteil Burbridge (bass on the title cut and

the Gospel-tinged "Bid You Goodnight"). Another traditional song, "Deep Elum Blues" is a great Southern blues romp fueled by guest vocalist Sharisse Norman and guest upright bass player Dominic Davis. The CD opens and closes with two different versions of an urgent plea for harmony: The opening "Prayer for Peace" is a straight-forward blues ballad while the closing "P4P2017" leans more toward EDM than juke joint, but I can appreciate the heartfelt sentiment behind each version. If you liked early Allstars work like 51 *Phantom* or *Shake Hands with Shorty*, you'll enjoy *Prayer for Peace*.
Eric Steiner

Washington Blues Society 2017 "BB Awards" Ballot

Please circle one in each category

All ballots must be received by the Washington Blues Society no later than **Tuesday, March 13, 2018** during our Blues Bash at Capps Club in Kenmore or at Washington Blues Society, PO Box 70604, Seattle, WA 98127



MARK DUFRESNE MALE VOCALIST AWARD

Chris Eger
Sean Denton
Kevin Sutton

BLUES FEMALE VOCALIST

Sheri Roberts Greimes
Leah Tussing
Stacy Jones
Tiphony Dames

ELECTRIC BLUES GUITAR

CD Woodbury
Jeff Menteer
Dave Miller

SLIDE BLUES GUITAR

Brian Lee
Brett Benton
Sean Denton

BLUES BASS

Tom Jones
Scott Harris
Patrick McDanel

CHRIS LEIGHTON BLUES DRUMMER AWARD

Richard Sabol
Rick J Bowen
Tommy Cook
Don Montana

BLUES HORN

Mike Marinig
Lonnie Williams
Brandon Hailey
Sheryl Clark

PAUL GREEN BLUES HARMONICA AWARD

Mitch Pumpian
Stacy Jones
Joel Astley

BLUES PIANO/KEYBOARD

Michael Baxter
Jeffrey Morgan
Sheri Roberts Greimes

ACOUSTIC BLUES GUITAR

Ryan LaPlante
Brett Benton
John Maxwell

BLUES INSTRUMENTALIST – OTHER

Angelo Ortiz
Mike Marinig
Joel Gamble

NEW BLUES BAND

Nick Mardon Trio
Madison Avenue Blues Revue
Brett Benton & Gordon
Townsend

BLUES BAND

Stacy Jones Band
CD Woodbury Trio
Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek
Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm
Method

LITTLE BILL & THE BLUE NOTES TRADITIONAL BLUES ACT

Brain Lee & the Orbiters
Brett Benton & Gordon
Townsend
Madison Avenue Blues Revue

SOLO/DUO BLUES ACT

Brett Benton & Gordon
Townsend
John "Greyhound" Maxwell
Sheri Roberts Greimes

BLUES PERFORMER

Stacy Jones
Polly O'Keary
Patti Allen
CD Woodbury

BLUES SONGWRITER

Stacy Jones
Michele D'Amour
Polly O'Keary

WASHINGTON BLUES RECORDING

Stacy Jones Band *Love is
Everywhere*
Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm
Method *Black Crow Callin'*
Michele D'Amour & The Love
Dealers *Lost Nights at the Leop-
ard Lounge*

BLUES CLUB

Madison Avenue Pub
Highway 99 Blues Club
Collector's Choice Restaurant &
Lounge

BLUES WRITER

Amy Sassenberg
Rick Bowen
Kathy Jacobson

BLUES PHOTO IMAGE

James Cotton Bluesletter Cover by
Phil Chesnut
2017 IBC Champs Bluesletter
Cover by Tim Sutherland
Lukas Nelson at Winthrop by
Peter Dervin
Michele D'Amour & Nora Mi-
chaels December Bluesletter
Cover by Larry Star

BLUES GRAPHIC IMAGE

CD Cover *Black Crow Callin'*
Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm
Method by Tim Sutherland
CD Cover *Lost Nights at the
Leopard Lounge* by Michele
D'Amour & The Love Dealers
by Tim Sutherland
Jones Family Christmas Poster by
Jon Paul Jones

BLUES DJ

Robin K
Clancy Dunigan
John Kessler

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE AWARD

Rick Bowen
Jim McLaughlin
John Kessler

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Stickshift Anne Eastwood
Billy Stapleton
Scott E Lind
Nora Michaels

BEST NON-FESTIVAL BLUES EVENT

Jones Family Christmas
Gas Station Blues
Snohomish Blues Invasion

BEST REGIONAL BLUES FESTIVAL

Mt Baker
Winthrop
Sunbanks

BEST COMMUNITY BLUES FESTIVAL

Ebey Island Freedom Fest
Poverty Bay Blues & Brews
Old Town – Tacoma
Grey Skies Blues Fest

OPEN BLUES JAM

Madison Ave Pub – Unbound
Blues Jam
Collector's Choice Restaurant &
Lounge – Blues Jam with Usual
Suspects
192 Brewing – Blues Jam with the
Groove Tramps

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY HALL OF FAME (INDIVIDUAL)

Scott E Lind
Nora Michaels
Raven Humphres
Billy Stapleton

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY HALL OF FAME (BAND)

The Slamhound Hunters
The Charles White Band
Jr. Cadillac



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Mar 13 - 14

Elvin Bishop's

Mar 15 - 18

Big Fun Trio


February

- CHICK COREA TRIO 1-4
- LAILA BIALI 6-7
- JUDY COLLINS 8-11
- MINDI ABAIR BAND 13-15
- MINDI ABAIR VALENTINE'S 14
- THE JAZZ EPISTLES FEATURING
ABDULLAH IBRAHIM & EKAYA WITH
TERENCE BLANCHARD 16-17
- BILL FRISELL & THOMAS MORGAN DUO 19
- TINSLEY ELLIS 20-21
- JOEY ALEXANDER TRIO 22-25
- DR. LONNIE SMITH 27-28

Tinsley Ellis

Feb 20 - 21

DR. LONNIE SMITH

FEB 27 - 28

KENNY G

APRIL 12 - 15

Roberto-Fonseca

April 16 - 17