

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

# Bluesletter

JUNE 2019

WWW.WABLUES.ORG

## Summer Festival Preview Issue

Pickaxe R&B

Gorge Blues & Brews

Winthrop R&B

Billy Joe Huels of The Dusty 45s will be at the  
Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival at The Blues Ranch next month!





## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Blues Fans,

I usually write an annual review at year's end, but my team has accomplished so much in the first six months 2019, and there is a lot on our calendar for the rest of the year, I wanted to send well-deserved, mid-year shout-outs to our team.

Our Blues Bashes continue to be a big draw and are enjoyed by many members. Amy Sassenberg has done a great job coordinating talent and adapting to weather and band changes. It seems seamless and our partnership with Collector's Choice is growing. Remember to check out the preview in each *Bluesletter* and join fellow blues fans at a Blues Bash!

Our Best of the Blues Awards show was a big success this year! We had great attendance and all who came enjoyed themselves. The after-party was poppin' with dancing and attendees enjoying craft brews from Anacortes Brewing and BBQ from Mike Schacht's BBQ House! Producers Rick Bowen and Amy Sassenberg kept the show running smoothly. The True Tone Audio sound system and American Music's backline were first-class. We had a great showing by your entire Board of Directors. Each member contributed to this key blues society event.

Our Retapped Brews and Blues Festival was well-received in Richland and it's headed in the right direction as a successor to the former Untapped event. Our new treasurer worked tirelessly with the City of Richland, the Liquor Commission and 12+ partners to make this event a success. Our 20-keg beer garden poured mostly brews, great food trucks and a rockin' line up curated by Billy Stoops. In our 2nd year, attendance grew and the event was well-received. Plan to join us next year on Mother's Day weekend!

Former Treasurer Chadwick Creamer is now our Membership Director. Membership records are up-to-date and the *Bluesletter* mail-outs ensure that each issue lands in members' mailboxes on the 1st.

Our new Secretary, MariSue Richards Thomas, has taken on that role and is quickly diving into the deep end. IT Director Drew Berendts continues to keep our website up and running. Drew's working behind the screens on our membership data base so we can get fancy, new plastic membership cards out sooner rather than later.

Yes, the whole Washington Blues Society team is due a *huge* shout-out!

Tony Frederickson, President  
Washington Blues Society  
Board of Directors, The Blues Foundation (2014-2017)

### WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

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#### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The *Bluesletter* seeks a calendar editor. Requirements: Basic computer skills & follow-through. For more information, email [editor@wabluessociety.org](mailto:editor@wabluessociety.org).

#### 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.

#### WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 70604  
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**Karen Lovely will perform at the Gorge Blues & Brews Festival this month.** Check out who else is hitting the festivals in the previews of this issue.

ABOVE: Photo of Karen Lovely by Kathy Rankin

COVER IMAGE: Billy Joe Huels of The Dusty 45s will be at the Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival at The Blues Ranch next month! (Photo by Marilyn Stringer)

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 Tuesday Night Dinner Show 7-9  
 6/4 Brian Lee Trio 6/11 Cory Vincent  
 6/18 Rod Cook  
 Wed. Unbound Blues Jam/guests 7:30  
 6/5 Mitch Pumpian & Rafael Tranquilino  
 6/12 Joey Houck 6/19 Joel Gamble & guest  
 Thursday Night Dinner Show 7-9  
 6/6 Nick Vigarino 6/13 Sheri & da Boyz  
 6/20 Chris Eger

**Friday Karaoke Nights with Rob Bramblett**  
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 6/15 Summertime Blues benefit for KSER  
 6/22 Stacy Jones Band with special guests  
 6/8 UFC 238 Free event!

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## JUNE 2019 **BLUESLETTER**

Volume XXX, Number VI

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### BLUESLETTER DEADLINES

<b>Ad Reservations</b>	5th of the month editor@wablues.org
<b>Calendar</b>	10th of the month Please submit @ www.wablues.org
<b>Editorial</b>	5th of the month editor@wablues.org
<b>Camera-Ready Ad Art</b>	12th of the month editor@wablues.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
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business card	\$30	\$38	56 x 91.3

### BLUESLETTER ADVERTISING DISCOUNTS

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



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Hi *Bluesletter* Readers,

Welcome to the June *Bluesletter*. I'm excited that this issue features four blues festivals in the early months of blues festival season. Frequent contributor Mike McNett returns with a look at the Gray Sky Blues Music Festival in Tacoma and we have previews of blues festivals in Republic, Stevenson and Winthrop, Washington. The Winthrop R & B Festival is a

proud recipient of a Keeping the Blues Alive Award from The Blues Foundation in Memphis.

This month's cover of Billy Joe Huels of the Dusty 45s is by nationally-recognized blues photographer Marilyn Stringer as the Dusty 45s are on the most adventurous line-up yet at next month's Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival. This marks Marilyn's first *Bluesletter* cover for the *Bluesletter*. Cora Price of the Fraser Valley Blues Society is making her *Bluesletter* debut this month in the CD Reviews section, too.

This issue celebrates the Washington Blues Society's 2019 Best of the Blues Awards ("BB Awards") I enjoyed reconnecting with my extended blues family at this year's event and was pleasantly surprised at a number of newly-nominated, and winning, performers. The show included a playful look back through photos from the first 30 years of the Washington Blues Society, and Rocky Allen's "In Memoriam" presentation emotionally honored national and local artists whom we have lost since last year's BB Awards.

This issue also has a spirited travelogue from Washington Blues Society member Keith Scott, also known as "The Fishing Bluesman," about his first-ever tour of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Just like last month, our Venue Guide is online ([www.wablues.org](http://www.wablues.org)). I had more editorial copy than available space. I hope readers will visit our online Venue Guide as it contains 300+ venues that offer live blues (far more than I could include in print).

I'm also pleased that Glen Stewart returns with his periodic "Invite Me to Your Gig" column. This month, he checks in with award-winning blues performer Patti Allen. My review of Bruce Iglauer's book, *Bitten by the Blues: The Story of Alligator Records*, is in this issue, too.

Until next month, please add our monthly second Tuesday Blues Bash to your calendar!

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Eric Steiner".

Eric Steiner, Editor

Washington Blues Society *Bluesletter*

Member, Board of Directors, The Blues Foundation (2010–2013)

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# Invite Me to Your Gig: Patti Allen

Catching up with a multi-award winning blues performer

By Glen Stewart

*This is the fourth installment of an irregular series covering Northwest artists of note in the blues community.*

I met Patti at the Poggie Tavern in West Seattle near her home. Patti, a multi-award winning blues artist, looks much younger than her 75 years and appeared very sharp and vibrant. She credits yoga and healthy choices to keep her in shape.

**Glen Stewart: Where were you born and raised?**

Patti Allen: I was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and my family then moved to Seattle in 1948.

**GS: What kind of influence did this have on your musical aspirations? Did you come from a musical background?**

PA: My family was not musical as far as performance. My dad introduced me to all forms of music. I started singing in the Baptist church. My parents wanted me to succeed – I went to Western Washington University and got involved in a band there. I started singing with Frosty Billingsley and his band, The Toggeries, while at Western. Kathy Hart introduced me to the blues community. Before that I did some cruise gigs and sang jazz stylings at various venues.

**GS: Did you see any concerts or musical events that may have inspired you to pursue music?**

PA: I had a little help from the blues community, and I kind of just fell into it.

**GS: What did you do for day gigs to support yourself in your music?**

PA: I was the first in my family to go to college. I taught junior high, did secretarial work and sales. I did anything I could do. Even with a degree it was hard to get a job as a black person.

**GS: Do you write music or play instruments?**

PA: I have written a few songs, but basically I'm a performer and interpreter.

**GS: Do you have any recordings?**

PA: With John Hanford and Monster Road, we did Pause in Time. Live performance is what motivates me. I enjoy the feedback and interaction with the audience.

**GS: Is Northwest Women in R & B your main gig? For our readers, who are the other members of Northwest Women in R & B? Do you perform as a solo artist?**

PA: Kathi McDonald (deceased), LJ Porter (deceased), Valerie Rosa, Marilee Rush, Lily Wild, Nancy Claire, and Nora Michaels. I've performed with Monster Road, a 2017 Washington Blues Society Best Band Award winner [shown above right], and I've also played with the Silver Tongued Devils.

Photos by Blues Boss (left) and Paul Brown (above)

## Upcoming & Recent Shows



3/9 & 10	Walla Walla Blues Festival
3/17	Tribute to Little Bill
5/19	Sunbanks Festival
5/4	Ladies First! at the Madison Avenue Pub
8/3	Mt Baker Blues Festival

**GS: Can you share some of your favorite gigs with us? Are there any ones that stand out?**

PA: Playing at Sunbanks Festival with Monster Road in 2015 stands out in particular. And I played with Little Bill for five years. I have also performed at the Winthrop Blues Festival with the Randy Oxford Band. I have enjoyed every band that I've played with. The blues community has been very supportive of me.

**GS: In closing, is there anything else you'd like to share with our readers that they may not know about you?**

PA: I've done yoga for 50 years and have been a runner - I walk now for exercise due to injuries.

On stage, she goes "balls to the wall." There's nothing she won't try. At home, she's quiet and likes homebody activities such as gardening. While she's quiet at home, she considers herself an animal on stage. When performing, she abstains from drugs, drink or other influences: "nothing to enhance her performances."

Patti's motto is "be true to yourself." She has practiced Buddhism for 33 years and introduced Kathi McDonald to Buddhism. She encourages self-love and says, "I've been blessed to do what I do."



# Looking for “Little Bill”

Learning about local resources in rural communities throughout Washington State

By Eric Steiner

Each time I visit rural Washington State, I look for the *Coffee News*®, a tan, two-sided 11” x 17” weekly broadside that features local advertising, lighthearted news, jokes and trivia. Last month, I picked up the *Olympic Coffee News*® at the Wyndham Super 8 Motel in Port Angeles before seeing Washington Blues Society member Keith Scott’s show at the Rainforest Café at the Seven Cedars Casino in nearby Sequim.

I like the *Coffee News*® contest to find “Little Bill” hidden in one of the issue’s 32 distinctive ads. I’m not talking about our award-winning blues legend, Little Bill Engelhart. The “other” Little Bill is a teeny-tiny graphic of the *Coffee News*® sharp-dressed mascot. My eyes stretch the limits of my bifocals

each time I look for that little guy, and while I’ve yet to win a gift certificate from a local advertiser from any *Coffee News*® contests, it’s fun to learn about local merchants and services. “On the Lighter Side” features family-friendly jokes that make me either groan or laugh (or both), and “Did You Know?” will help readers prepare for Jeopardy! or a Sunday crossword puzzle. The *Coffee News*® also reminds me of the work of syndicated columnist LM Boyd, whose “Mike Mailway” alter ego was a fixture in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer years ago.

*Coffee News*® is distributed to a variety of businesses, such as music shops, auto repair garages, real estate agents, cleaners, home repair resources and cannabis shops.

The publication is unique in that it is distributed to local restaurants and businesses with waiting areas with captive customers. *Coffee News*® provides exclusivity for its advertisers, meaning that only one barber, cannabis shop, plumber or insurance agent may advertise in the same issue.

“What’s Happening” features listings

of events sponsored by non-profit organizations and I strongly encourage blues artists performing at festivals and parks consider using this free, highly-localized promotional service.

The publisher requests three- to four weeks of lead time, and the Port Angeles issue included a tai chi class, the Port Angeles Farmers Market, weekly mindfulness practice sessions at the Sons of Norway Hall, a Cinco de Mayo Purse Auction held by the Port Angeles Soroptimist International chapter and a lecture on the supernatural at the Port Angeles Library.

When I return to the Port Angeles area, I’ll check out the Firehouse Grill on East 5th Street, visit the Port Angeles Public Library and get my hair trimmed at The Two of Us on East 1st Street - all thanks to the *Olympic Coffee News*®.

The following links may be of interest to blues festivals and non-profit groups, for the opportunity to list their events in “What’s Happening.”

The links worked as of the June *Bluesletter* deadline and I hope that readers, artists and venues served by local *Coffee News*® communities will find them informative.

“Little Bill” graphic used with permission of *Coffee News*®

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# Little Bill Engelhart's View from 80

"I'm an old man now, but I'm still booked and I love playing music!"

By Little Bill Engelhart

Now that I'm 80, I'm asked what it's like to be "that old." For one thing, you become very aware that you are approaching the finish line. Seriously, for me, it's a time for reflection. What I have done with my life. The highs and lows.

My memories start in 1949. That's when I had a change of life at a very early age. The polio guy knocked on the door. My folks were told I probably would never walk again. I'm not sure what it was that drove me to call them wrong, but it took several years. It could have been so that I could walk my new girlfriend Sandra into the theatre on a date. Whatever it was, the challenge was met and, in my mind, the sky was the limit.

Around this same time, I formed a gang. We all wore black shirts and in time we were not welcome in any of the stores on 6th Avenue in Tacoma. When you are 13, that's plenty cool.

As the years went by, Sandra had left me hanging and a new love took her place. It was music. It was 1964 and I was playing with my best friend Frank Dutra at his grandparents' house. Our song list was limited as Frank played accordion and I was on the guitar chair. Then, something happened that would change the rest of my life.

Frank and I went to the Sunset Theater to see *Black Board Jungle* (the movie). As it turned out we missed the show and ended up talking to a couple of guys we went to school with: Buck Ormsby and Lassie Aanes. (yes it was spelled with 2 a's). I don't remember why, but we started talking about music. Buck played steel guitar and Lassie played drums. We decided to meet at Buck's

house the next day. By this time Frank had switched to sax. The four of us decided to meet

again and play some tunes. The next step was Buck and me at the Puyallup Fair. There was a kid up on a table singing a Chuck Berry song. We told him we had a band and did he wanted to join. Enter Rockin' Robin.

We started practicing after school in my dad's garage. Before long, there were kids dancing in the street. Robin, who was always talking about \$\$, suggested that we should start having teen dances.

Buck did all the planning. Our girlfriends made the posters, we rented the halls, costing like \$20 and they were close to schools. We charged 50 cents at the door. I found out several years later that we were the first kids in Tacoma to do this.

Then, two local adults Harry and Al, crooks, took on the hall renting and robbed us blind. But, what the hell? We had a rock and roll band, the first one in Tacoma and we were getting popular! We started wearing uniforms and won a contest at the Crescent Ball Room. Our prize? We played every Saturday night right until the musicians' union found out about us. That's another story.

We started doing dances all over Seattle, Portland and you name it.

Let's skip ahead a bit. We decided to save our money and do some recording at Joe Boles' studio in West Seattle. We had four instrumentals. After we were finished, Joe said we still had some time if we had any-

Still selling, too: This 1960 single hangs out at Bop Street Records in Ballard. (Toby Smith photo)



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*continued on page 23*

# 2019 Gray Sky Blues Music Festival

Mike McNett takes us behind the lens



- 1 Leanne Trevalyan & Jay Mabin
- 2 Maia Santell & Gary Grape
- 3 Little Bill
- 4 Rafael Tranquilino
- 5 Mike Shreve
- 6 Steve Bailey & Billy Stoops
- 7 Members of Gin Creek & Jeff Hayes (Nice hat, Drummerboy!)

Photos by Mike McNett





32ND ANNUAL

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# Congratulations to 2019 BB Award

## Celebrating the Best of the Blues in the Pacific Northwest

*By Rick Bowen, Ray Kurth, Chad Creamer, and Eric Steiner*

The Washington Blues Society, in partnership with the Anacortes Brewery, announced the Winner of the annual Best of the Blues Awards presented Sunday, April 28th at the Northwest Music Hall in Everett. The awards show honored musicians, artists, events and venues nominated by blues society members in 32 award categories. The show featured dynamic performances from many nominees along with special guests. This year's event included a memorable slide show honoring the first 30 years of the Washington Blues Society.

**Mark DuFresne Male Vocalist Award**  
Joel Astley

**Blues Female Vocalist**  
Sheri Roberts Greimes

**Electric Blues Guitar**  
CD Woodbury

**Slide Blues Guitar**  
Billy Stapleton

**Blues Bass**  
Scotty Harris

**Chris Leighton Blues Drummer Award**  
Tommy Cook

**Blues Horn**  
Lonnie Williams

**Paul Green Blues Harmonica Award**  
Joel Astley

**Blues Piano/Keyboard**  
Jimmy Holden

**Acoustic Blues Guitar**  
Rod Cook

**Instrumentalist - Other**  
Mike Marinig, Flute

**Blues Band**  
Stacy Jones Band

**Little Bill and the Blue Notes Traditional Blues Act**  
Brian Lee & the Orbiters

**Solo/Duo Blues Act**  
Sheri Roberts Greimes

**New Blues Band**  
Chicken Hawk Band

**Blues Performer**  
Patti Allen

**Blues Songwriter**  
Polly O'Keary

**Washington Blues Recording**  
Brian Butler – Butler's Blues

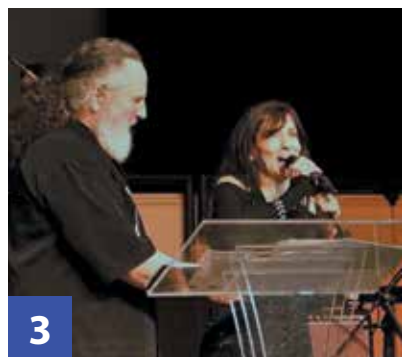
**Blues Writer**  
Rick J Bowen

**Blues Club**  
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**Blues Photo Image**  
Denise Hathaway: Alan Edwards Bluesletter Cover

**Blues Graphic Image**  
Steve Perring: Mt Baker Poster

**Blues DJ**  
John Kessler





# Winners!



2

***Keeping the Blues Alive Award***  
Ed Maloney

***Lifetime Achievement Award***  
Mark DuFresne

***Blues Hall of Fame - Individual***  
Lissa Ramaglia

***Blues Hall of Fame Band***  
Fat James Band

***Non-Festival Blues Event***  
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***Best Regional Blues Festival***  
Mt. Baker

***Best Community Blues Festival***  
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***Best Open Blues Jam***  
Unbound Blues Jam  
at Madison Ave Pub

***Blue to the Bone***  
Linda Beilfus  
Clancy Dunigan  
Rev. Dave Brown  
Rachael Millikan



4



5



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- 1 Nick Vigarino, Patti Allen
  - 2 Brian Lee & the Orbiters during the Blues After Party
  - 3 Tony Frederickson & Lissa Ramaglia
  - 4 Sheri Roberts Greimes
  - 5 Clint Woodbury & Rick Bowen
  - 6 Chicken Hawk!s Maxwell Figarsky, Scotty Harris, Brandon Marcus Hailey, Jesse Weston and, (far right) Joel Astley with presenters Billy Stoops & Stacy Jones
- Photos by Gladys Jones  
(with thanks to Tom Jones)*

# Irish Tour

## 2019 Blues on the Road

*"The Blues Fisherman" reports from his first Irish tour! By Keith Scott*

**T**his past April, I had the pleasure of playing the blues in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. I also had the opportunity to indulge my passion for fly fishing. This brief travelogue will touch on the high points of my gigs and express my thanks to my blues and fishing hosts!

I arrived Dublin after an overnight flight from Chicago via Toronto. The experience of driving on the left-hand side of the road was a little challenging at first (plus getting lost for an hour shortly after landing). I had lunch in a pleasant town called Swords not

far from Dublin before my first stop in Virginia, Ireland. Yes, Virginia – as in Ireland. I watched Manchester United play Wolverhampton with a chilled Guinness before jet lag caught up with me.

The next morning, I was off to the Moy River B & B in County Sligo as my home base for two nights where I played at Brennan's Bar at the Cloonacool Music Club nearby. On the way, I stopped in the beautiful town of Boyle and met Martin Boles the fourth generation proprietor of the Boles and Boyle department store. He gave me permission to fish on the Boyle River, so I bought a pair of shoes from him! It was then on to meet up with Pat and Rita in Moy River where I was invited to the Phoenix Players' production of *The Sound of Music* at St. Brigid's Theatre in Tubbercurry. I enjoyed this great community theatre production (particularly for the tea and biscuits served during "the interlude," or what we'd call intermission).

The next day, I was off sightseeing and fishing before a jam session at Brennan's Pub. I thoroughly enjoyed the poached eggs at The Coffee Shop in Dunmore West.

The jam session at Brennan's Pub was filled with local celebrities, including '80s rocker Shane McGowan (The Pogues and The Popes) and a legendary boxer, Stephen "The Block" Reynolds. It was a great mix of blues and traditional Irish music until 1AM.

I said goodbye to Pat and Rita in the morning and headed to Belfast, Northern Ireland. It was a great drive through the hillsides, and when I crossed the border, I didn't know it until the traffic signs were posted in miles instead of kilometers.

In Belfast, I performed with the Blues Direct band at the Enler Delta Blues Club. An

amazing experience. The promoter arranged for me to stay at Abbeydene House on the Irish Sea where President Dwight Eisenhower had once spent the night. Owner Tim Clifford has 70,000 albums and is a big blues fan. On one particular morning in 1912 the Titanic would have sailed by. The gig was well-attended and the support band was top shelf! On the way home, I was treated to a nighttime tour of Belfast and I had no idea the city would be that beautiful.

Saturday was a free day, and I was headed to the Tildarg Fishery in County Antrim. When I arrived at the beautiful lake out in the country, I paid my fee and was treated to a hot cup of tea. I spent the day fishing and talking with local anglers and left in the late afternoon.

As I was leaving, I asked a local farmer, Ken Nielson, for directions and he invited me to join his family at a bagpipe concert. We had dinner and I followed him to the Theatre at Mossley Mills in Ballyclare. The

bagpiper was a world champion named Fred Morrison. I met him and he told me he had just performed in Belfast. After the show, I said goodbye to my new friends,



headed through Belfast, and stopped at a great B & B in Largin called the Hotel Ashford. In the basement of the hotel was a fabulous European disco.

The next day, I was on to my concert in Enniscorthy, about four hours south of Ballyclare. The town is an ancient city with a big



**Above:** Keith Scott at Abbeydene House, County Antrim, with a bluesman's rental car (grin)

**Right:** Bagpiper Fred Morrison and Keith (holding Fred's CD, *Outlands*)



Keith with Richard King Enniscorthy (Liam Ellis photo)  
 ...with Liz & Louise at Holohan's Pub in Enniscorthy, County Wexford (James Ward photo)  
 ...with Blues Direct at the Enler Delta Blues club in Belfast  
 ...with blues fans at Holohan's Pub in Enniscorthy, County Wexford  
 Max the blues dog at Holohan's is ready for a refill! (James Ward photo)  
 All photos courtesy of Keith Scott unless otherwise noted



castle set on the River Slaney. It is known for Atlantic Salmon and sea trout. My hotel overlooked the river next door to the Holohan's Pub where I played.

Local promoter John Murphy had the place packed with local musicians and a golden retriever named Max. While I was setting up, I met Dean Bird and his wife Linda from Adelaide, Australia. Dean is a famous Australian musician and I was honored they asked me to join them for dinner before the show. Holohan's Pub is in the basement of an old castle and also the former residence of the Irish resistance fighter Seamus Rafter. He was one of leaders in the 1916 uprising which led to Ireland's independence. The gig was a joyous occasion with lots of audience participation and a few great locals joining me on stage.

Monday was a beautiful day. I met Danny O' Connor at his fly shop for some local advice and tackle. He sent me to a beautiful section of river just a short way from town. Sea run brown trout were running and I did well swinging small wet flies.

I spent my last night in Ireland back at the pub with many of the people from the concert. It was an easy drive back to the Dublin Airport at 4:30 AM long before rush hour.

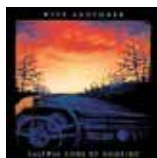
The US customs officer was a drummer from Sydney, Montana.

A quick eight-hour, noneventful flight back to O'Hare and Chicago's rush hour welcomed me home.

**Editor's Note:** Washington Blues Society member Keith Scott, is based in Michigan and returns frequently to the Pacific Northwest to play blues and indulge his passion for catch and release fly fishing.



## Blues you can use...



**Matt Andersen**  
***Halfway Home by Morning***  
**(True North)**

Award-winning Canadian soul-bluesman Matt Andersen's 11th album, *Halfway Home by Morning*, released in March of 2019 was produced by JUNO-Award-winner Steve Dawson and recorded "live off-the-floor" at Southern Ground Studio in Nashville. The 12-song set of blue-eyed soul showcases Matt Andersen's powerful vocals in all their glory. He is backed by a sympathetic band of all-star musicians including Dawson on guitars, the amazing Jay Bellerose on drums a full horn section and legendary backing vocalists The McCrary Sisters. A highlight is Levon Helm's daughter Amy guesting on "Something to Lose," a lovely Memphis/Muscle Shoals-fueled duet with Andersen. Other great tracks are the driving commentary on global warming, "Gasoline," the soaring country anthem "Long Rider," and the tender ballad "Been My Last." The album captures Anderson's internationally-celebrated sound: Sweat-soaked soul meets incendiary rhythm and blues.

Rick J Bowen



**Laurie Jane & The 45s**  
***Late Last Night: Elixir of Sara Martin***  
**(Down in the Alley Records)**

Those who love the honky tonk and Prohibition-era sounds of roots music will be impressed with this 12-song CD honoring Louisville blueswoman Sara Martin (1884-1955). *Late Last Night: The Elixir of Sara Martin* represented the Kentuckiana Blues Society at the Best Self-Produced CD Competition at the 2019 International Blues Challenge. Sara worked the African-American vaudeville circuit, the Theatre Owners Booking Association, with Fats Waller, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and the King Oliver Orchestra. Louisville's Laurie Jane & The 45s sound reflect the nuances of that era with a scratchy sound typical of early

recordings. The 45s do a great job backing front woman Laurie Jane with a big band sound from Brian "Boss" Hogg on saxophone and Eric Snyder on trumpet. Guest guitarist Screamin' John Hawkins joins the 45s' Cort Duggins' on guitar and piano, Jason Embry on bass and Scott Dugdale on drums. As in Martin's era, the piano plays a big part throughout the set. I love "Blind Man Blues" for its slow shuffle and guitar solo; "Sugar Blues" is a traditional blues tune with lots of trumpet, lead guitar and great vocals. "Can't Find Nobody to Do Like My Daddy Do" is a swing tune with drum stick percussion, full horns, great guitar riffs and, of course, fantastic vocals. Laurie Jane captures these century-old tunes with a crisp vocal style reminiscent of Sara's. The band takes us back to an era where our roots, blues and jazz, all started. In the roaring 20s, Martin was one of the first blueswomen to record 100+ tracks in her name. She was the launching pad for many musicians, including Fats Waller and Sylvester Weaver. Unfortunately, for the jazz and blues community, the Great Depression forced Sara to retire and she ended up running a nursing home in Louisville until her death in 1955.

Cora Price

**Editor's Note:** Welcome Cora Price of the Fraser Valley Blues Society as a new CD reviewer.



**JJ Cale featuring Leon Russell**  
***In Session at Paradise Studios, Los Angeles 1979***  
**(Concert ONE/Leon Russell Records)**

This CD/DVD is a must-have release for JJ Cale fans. JJ wasn't exactly a recluse, but he didn't tour heavily, seek stardom or try to break into the mainstream. JJ's distinctive sound is a unique blend of blues, country and western, jazz and folk. *In Session at Paradise Studios, Los Angeles 1979* captures JJ and his band live in the studio with his longtime friend Leon Russell, who had released JJ's first four albums on his Shelter label. After a

split with co-owner Denny Cordell in 1976, Russell started his own label and opened Paradise Studios in Burbank where this session was recorded and filmed. The CD opens with "Nowhere to Run," from JJ's first LP *Naturally* (also from that album is Cale's biggest charting success "Crazy Mama," which rose to #22 on the Billboard Hot 100). Many blues fans may not be familiar with JJ Cale, but he wrote two of Eric Clapton's biggest hits, "After Midnight" and "Cocaine," and Clapton later covered seven other JJ Cale songs. From Phish to Tom Petty, many artists have covered JJ Cale. Johnny Cash and Lynyrd Skynyrd each covered "Call Me the Breeze," the final song on the CD. Four songs from his LP 5 are on the CD, with one more on the DVD, including "Sensitive Kind," a beautiful song covered by Santana and John Mayall. Several of the cuts on the DVD are previously unreleased originals, including "No Sweat" and the blues standard "Corinna, Corinna." The DVD was professionally shot with multiple cameras and first-class production. The intro is "T-Bone Shuffle" followed by "T-Bone Backwards" and instrumentals using Cale's original arrangements (rare displays of Cale's chops as his solos tend to be short and sweet). The DVD is an exceptional document of an exceptional performance, and standouts include "Roll On," "After Midnight," "Crazy Mama" and "Boiling Pot." The footage of JJ Cale playing guitar is alone worth the price of admission! Tulsa Sound musicians and songwriters Dick Sims and Jim Byfield wrote "Set Your Soul Free (Tell Me Who You Are)," sung by session pianist Larry Bell, and Leon Russell sings lead on the closing "24 Hours a Day," another unreleased Cale song. I give *In Session at Paradise Studios* my highest recommendation.

Malcolm Kennedy



**Brett Benton**  
***You Got to Pray***  
**(Knick Knack)**

The first studio album from Brett Benton, *You Got to Pray*, is a compelling and engaging statement of 21st century Delta and North Mississippi



Hill Country Blues. The 10 original tunes, and an inspired cover of Mississippi Fred McDowell's "Kokomo," are presented in a blues duo format of guitar and drums that scored Benton placement in the semi-finals at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. The album was recorded in Water Valley, Mississippi at Dial Back Sound with Bronson Tew engineering. Blues Music Award winner Cedric Burnside sat in on drums for the burning stomp "I Got A .45" and the infectious swamp blues "Alligator." Arthur Ortega Marcos handles the backbeat that spars with Benton as he shifts from finger picking rhythms to greasy slide guitar while delivering hypnotic southern howling vocals. Florida guitarist Ed Adams drops in a few lead passages on the album to add spice to the mix. Benton digs deep into his solo reading of "Murder Creek," and shows off his range on the lonesome Blues "Hard Love" and the spacious instrumental "Evergreen." Benton effectively channels Son House on the authentic Delta-fueled title track. *You Got To Pray* is a fine first studio release from a hardworking young bluesman with a bright future.

*Rick J Bowen*



**Erwin Helfer**  
**Chicago Piano Master:**  
**Last Call**  
**(The Sirens Records)**

Erwin Helfer's 2016 CD on Stephen B. Dolins' The Sirens Records captures a legendary Chicago blues piano player with his friends and his mentor, Mama Yancey. Long-time sideman John Brumbach on sax, Chicago Blues in the Schools educator Katherine Davis, and Ardella Williams (daughter of Chicago music legend Jazz Gillum) join Erwin on 10 tracks with Odie Payne, Jr. and Truck Parham on drums and bass. Standout tracks for me on this CD are both versions of "Make Me a Pallet on Your Floor," "St. James Infirmary," and Davis' soulful vocals on "Bright Lights, Big City." *Last Call* includes three historical recordings with Mama and Erwin in 1957 and in 1979 with Odie and Truck. I enjoyed track #14, a 15-minute conversation with Erwin about

the early days with Mama Yancey (in good times and bad), and his days as a student at Tulane. Erwin had a penchant for learning New Orleans piano across the Mississippi in the historic Algiers neighborhood over other classes. Go figure. His stories of Chicago piano players from the 40s and 50s are entertaining, sad and funny at the same time and I wish more recordings captured moments like these with blues elders.

*Eric Steiner*

**Editor's Note:** Celebrate the legendary Erwin Helfer at the front porch stage on June 8th at this year's Chicago Blues Festival!

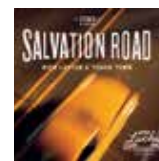


**Kenny "Beedy Eyes"**  
**Smith & the House**  
**Bumpers**  
**Drop the Hammer**  
**(Big Eye Records)**

Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith followed his father into the blues and has established himself as a major artist. He has recorded and/or toured with The Cash Box Kings, Pinetop Perkins, Homesick James, Billy Boy Arnold, Junior Wells and Jimmy Rogers. The excellent liner notes have one sentence bios of the House Bumpers and detail the performers on each of the 12 original songs. Drop the Hammer opens with the sparse sounds of "Head Pounder" with Kenny on vocals, drums and percussion, Billy Flynn on sitar and guitar and Omar Coleman on harp. "Hey Daddy" is a blues shuffle that features his children Mae, Clara and Theodore on accent vocals, a sweet solo by Omar and some slinky slide guitar. The title track has a contemporary sound with Kenny singing "you best get out of my face/I give you one chance before I remove you from my breathing face/drop the hammer, I'm gonna drop the hammer right on you," with the three backup singers singing "hammer right on you" followed by a searing guitar solo. "Scratchin' My Head" is solid blues and features a storming harp solo by Coleman. The House Bumpers also deliver a slow burn on "No Need Brotha." Sugar Blue adds his distinctive harp to "Puppet on a String" and "Living Fast," featuring a trio of back-up singers and a funky beat. Shuffles,

rockers, old school, new to class and Beedy Eyes closes with a superb slow-grooving instrumental "Moment of Silence." Very highly recommended.

*Malcolm Kennedy*



**Rich Layton & Tough**  
**Town**  
**Salvation Road**  
**(Never Lucky Record Co.)**

*Salvation Road* is Rich Layton & Tough Town's first release in eight years and it's been well worth the wait. Layton wrote 10 of the 11 songs on the CD with the lone cover of the Goffin-King hit, "Take a Giant Step" recorded by the Monkees, the Rising Sons (Taj Mahal and Ry Cooder) and Taj's daughter Deval. I particularly like the uptempo "Live to Rock," "Two Hearts" and "Show Me What You're Working With," and the slow blues of "Wake-Up Call." "Wake-Up Call" showcases Layton's fine songwriting skills as he recalls life's moments that serve as wake-up calls bathed in elegant saxes and smooth background vocals. Backing Rich on the CD's strong set are Larry McCoy on guitar, Eric "Haus" Krabbenhoft on bass and Charles Pike on drums with special guests such as the Grammy-nominated Teresa James on vocals and piano, Jon Koonce on lap steel and Chris Mercer on sax. Engineer and co-producer Terry Wilson adds guitar, bass, and vocals on several tracks and Rich's "deep bench" includes 10 other musicians, ranging from a robust horn section to other drummers and background vocalists. Fans of *The Big Lebowski* will revel in a crowd-pleaser at Rich's live shows, "The Dude Abides," which looks back to one of Jeff Bridges' most memorable film roles. Walk down *Salvation Road* is an exceptional 49-minute journey from a strong Rose City blues band.

*Eric Steiner*

**Editor's Note:** You can catch Rich Layton and Trouble Town at the grand opening of the McMenamins Elks Temple in Tacoma on the 13th and at the 29th annual Gorge Blues & Brews Festival on the 22nd in Stevenson.

# A Peek into a Parallel Universe

An exceptional story about an exceptional record man

By Eric Steiner

From the first time I played Hound Dog Taylor and the HouseRockers in college in the '70s, I knew Alligator Records was special. For over 40 years, Alligator Records has influenced my tastes in blues, and whether I play Fenton Robinson, Koko Taylor, JJ Grey & Mofro or Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues, I can rely on Bruce Iglauer and Alligator for great music regardless of genre.

Co-written with Northern Illinois University Professor Dr. Patrick Roberts, *Bitten by the Blues* describes the journey of a theatre history student from Lawrence University in Wisconsin to a blues apprenticeship at Bob Koester's Jazz Record Mart and many nights at Chicago clubs like Florence's, Theresa's, The Checkerboard Lounge and Wise Fool's.

Along the way, we learn about sales trips across America (his car doubling as a hotel), and Bruce's reaction to what he calls a "parallel universe:" the day-in/day-out world of African Americans compared to the lives of the dominant culture. Bruce uncovered injustices when helping artists on tour, and over time, he was a trusted friend to artists who worked to recover royalties long denied.



Bruce Iglauer at work with Michael "Iron Man" Burks (RIP) at Buddy Guy's Legends (Eric Steiner photo)

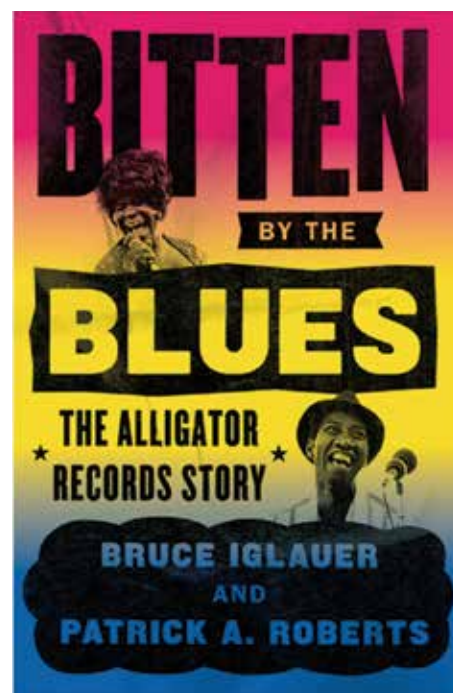
Combatting institutional racism on behalf of his artists, Bruce fought for a fair deal for musicians denied education, employment and housing (and a fair record contract).

Bruce's memoir tells the story of how he launched Alligator records from a modest Chicago apartment to share his love for West Side and South Side Chicago blues with blues fans his own age. The book contains a complete list of all Alligator releases, beginning with Hound Dog Taylor & The HouseRockers' self-title LP to Lindsey Beaver's 2018 CD, *Tough as Love*. The book follows the label through many ups and downs and Bruce writes about the challenges of making physical recordings and how technology can streaming services and digital music can complement physical CDs.

After the 10th Kitchener Blues Festival honored Bruce with the Mel Brown Award in Ontario in 2010 for lifetime achievement in blues, I asked about artists who leave Alligator for "greener pastures." He grew pensive...his response linked each of the stories in *Bitten by the Blues* together.

"They may leave the label, but they never leave the family."

I would've appreciated more pictures in Bruce's book, but I'm pleased he's harnessed technology with periodic updates at <http://bittenbytheblues.com>. Online at the Flashbacks tab, Bruce adds updates, photos and remembrances of Alligator artists and records by decade. These post-publication items include a collection of Bruce's monthly contributions to *Living Blues* magazine and collections of newspaper and magazine Alligator advertisements over the years. I particularly enjoyed blues ephemera like Hound Dog Taylor's recording contract and Bruce's handwritten notes from recording sessions with Son Seals, Koko Taylor and Little Charlie and the



Nightcats as he recorded his thoughts "in the moment."

For fans of blues photography like me, a real bonus among these online resources is a treasure trove of backstage, studio and in-the-moment photos from Bruce's collections. While I'm glad that there are photos that capture signature Alligator artists Hound-Dog Taylor, Albert Collins, Koko Taylor and Lonnie Brooks at their peak and I'm grateful Bruce included "under the radar" artists like Snapper Mitchum, Mighty Joe Young and Lefty Dizz. The snapshot of Snapper at Bruce's wedding in 1995 is a lot of fun!

Unlike other sites that limit customers to 10 free articles, visitors to <http://bittenbytheblues.com> do not need a code or proof of book purchase. They just need to share that passion that drove a young theatre arts student into Florence's Lounge to experience the joyous cacophony of HoundDog Taylor and the HouseRockers.



Bruce Iglauer with award-winning songwriter and producer John Hahn at the Chicago Blues Festival (Eric Steiner photo)



# Go Out and Support Local Live Music!

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

## SUNDAY

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

**192 Brewing, Kenmore:** 192 Blues Jam w/ The Groove Tramps 3-7pm (all ages, times vary on Seahawk games)

**Anchor Pub, Everett:** Open Jam (2nd Sunday) 2-5pm All Ages Jazz Jam (3rd & 4th Sundays)

**Blue Moon Tavern, Everett:** Jam w/the Moon Dogs 7-10pm

**Captain Jacks, Sumner:** Open Mic hosted by Lady Carter & The Gents 7pm

**Collectors Choice, Snohomish:** Acoustic Open Mic hosted by Patrick Thayer & the Reclamation Project 6pm

**Club Crow, Cashmere:** Jam Session 7-10pm (1st Sunday)

**Couth Buzzard Books Espresso Buono Cafe, Seattle:** Buzzard Blues Open Jam hosted by Kenny Mandell 7-9pm (1st Sunday All Ages)

**Dawson's, Tacoma:** Tim Hall Band Jam 7-11pm

**El Sarape Cantina, Shelton:** Open Band Jam 4-8pm (3rd Sunday)

**Finaughty's, Snoqualmie Ridge:** Tommy Wall's Wicked Blues Jam 7-11pm

**Peabo's Bar & Grill, Mill Creek:** Peace N Love Jam w/ Tommy Cook, Eric Rice & Scotty Harris 7-10pm

**O'Malley's Lounge, Olympia:** Blues Jam w/ The Pleasure Hounds 6-9pm

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

## MONDAY

**Mac's Triangle Pub, Seattle:** 8-10pm

**Nectar Lounge, Seattle:** Mo Jam Mondays 9-11pm

**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 w/Scotty FM & the Broadcasters 7pm

**Riverside Pub, Wenatchee:** North Central WA Blues Jam 7-10pm (2nd & 4th Mondays)

**The Mill, Milton:** Open Mic w/ Walker Sherman 7-10pm

**The Mint, Victoria B.C.:** Open Mic w/Pete & Mo

**The Village Taphouse & Grill, Marysville:** Jam Night w/ Scotty Harris & Tommy Cook 7-10pm

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

**Wee Blu Inn Again Bar & Grill, Bremerton:** Tim Hall Band Jam 5-9pm

## TUESDAY

**Bean & Vine, Everett:** Open Mic 6-9pm

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

**Antique Sandwich Co. Tacoma:** Open Mic 7-10pm

**Dave's of Milton:** Blues & Beyond Jam w/ Jerry Miller Trio 7-10pm

**Double J Saloon Seattle:** Open Mic 8:30pm (1st & 3rd Tuesdays)

**Elmer's Pub, Burien:** Jam w/ Billy Shew 7-11pm

**Engel's Pub, Edmonds:** Jam Night w/Dano Mac 8-11pm

**Paragon, Seattle:** Open Mic 9P-12am

**Pogacha, Issaquah:** Jam Hosted by Doug McGrew. 8pm 21+

**Poppe's 360 Neighborhood Pub, Bellingham:** Open Mic Night w/Brian Hillman 6:30-9pm

**Oxford Saloon, Snohomish:** Acoustic Open Mic Jam, All Ages 7-10pm

**J&M Café in Pioneer Square, Seattle:** Blues Jam 9-11pm

**Stewart's, Snohomish:** Tuesday Jam night w/the Shortcuts 8pm

**Stoneway Cafe, Seattle:** Acoustic Open Mic, 7-10pm

**Slippery Pig, Poulsbo:** Monthly All Ages Open Mic 7pm

**Tim's Tavern, Seattle:** Open Mic 7pm

**Tweede's Café, North Bend:** Open Mic 6:30-9:30pm

**North End Social Club, Tacoma:** Open Mic Tuesdays w/Kim Archer 8pm

**Ben Moore's, Olympia:** Open Mic 7pm

**The Cherry Bomb, Port Angeles:** Blues Jam w/Big Al & the Gang 7-10pm

## WEDNESDAY

**Bethel Saloon, Port Orchard:** Open Mic 8pm

**Black Dog Arts Cafe, Snoqualmie:** All Ages Open Mic 7pm

**Blue Moon Tavern, Seattle:** Open Mic 8-11pm

**Collectors Choice Restaurant, Snohomish:** Blues Jam w/Usual Suspects 8-11pm

**Couth Buzzard Cafe, Seattle:** Open Mic at 7:30-10pm

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

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

**Dragon Gate, Des Moines:** Open Jam 9-11pm

**Filling Station, Kingston:** Open Mic 7pm All Ages, styles & instruments welcome

**Grumpy D's Coffee House, Seattle:** Open Mic 630-9pm

**George's, Kirkland:** Heather B's Open Mic/Jam 7-9pm

**Hi-Fidelity Lounge, Bremerton:** Open Mic 8pm

**Hopvine Pub, Seattle:** Open Mic 8pm

**Jazzbones, Tacoma:** Live It Out Loud All Ages Jam 6-9:30pm (3rd Wednesday)

**Madison Ave Pub, Everett:** Unbound Blues Jam 730-11pm

**Muk Cafe, Langley:** Open Mic 7pm

**Nauti Mermaid, Port Orchard:** Open Mic 7-11pm

**Nickerson Street Saloon, Seattle:** Open Mic 9pm-12am Open Jam (Last Wednesday)

**Old Triangle, Seattle:** w/Jeff Hass Open Mic & Jam 8-11pm

**Skylark Café, West Seattle:** Open Mic 8-11pm

**Stoneway Cafe, Seattle:** Acoustic Open Mic, 7-10pm

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

**Twin Dragon, Duvall:** Open Jam 7:30-11pm

**The Tin Hat, Kennewick – Open Mic & Jam w/Mondo Ray Band 7-11pm**

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

**Rhythm & Rye, Olympia:** Open Mic hosted by Scott Lesman 8-11pm

**192 Brewing Company, Kenmore:** Open Mic 7-10pm

## THURSDAY

**Anchor Pub, Everett:** Open Mic 9-11pm All Ages

**Bridgepress Cellars, Spokane – All Genre Jam 7-10pm**

**The Cedar Stump, Arlington:** Open Jam w/The Usual Suspects 7pm

**Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett:** Open Mic 6:30-9:30pm

**Dave's of Milton:** Open Jam w/ Power Cell 8-11pm

**Dawson's, Tacoma:** Blues Jam w/Billy Shew 730-11pm

**Drunk Two Shoes BBQ:** White Center: Uptown All-Stars Jam 730-11P

**Oxford Saloon, Snohomish:** Haunting Rock Jam 730-11pm

**Jacksons Sports Bar & Clubhouse, Yakima:** Open Jam 8-11pm

**JB Bungalow, Kirkland:** HeatherB Blues's Open Mic/ Jam 8-11pm

**Luther's Table, Renton:** Open Mic 7P

**The Village Inn Pub, Bellingham:** Jam w/Jimmy D 8-11pm

**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Blues Jam w/Mark Whitman 8-11pm (Last Thursday)

**Slippery Pig Brewery, Poulsbo:** Blues & Brews Jam Night w/Thys Wallwork (All Ages) 7-11pm

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

**Stoneway Cafe, Seattle:** Acoustic Open Mic 7-10pm

**Loco Billy's Wild Moon Saloon, Stanwood:** Tightwad Thursday Jam

**Rhythm & Rye, Olympia:** Olympia Jazz Jam hosted by Tarik Bentlemsani

**The Dam Bar, Port Angeles:** Open Mic

**Stewarts, Snohomish:** Open Jam w/Pole Cat & Co. 7-1130pm

**Rolling Log, Issaquah:** Open Jam hosted by Doug McGrew, 8P-12am

**San Juan island Brewing Co, Friday Harbor:** Open Mic 6-8pm

**The Loft Pub, Victoria B.C.:** Open Jam 7pm

## FRIDAY

**La Copa Café, Seattle:** Victory Music Open Mic 6:30-9pm, All Ages

**The Living Room Coffee, Marysville:** Student Jazz Jam 6:30-9:30pm All Ages (Last Friday)

**Urban Timber Coffee, Sumner:** Open Mic 6:30-10pm All Ages

**Dragon Gate, Des Moines:** Open Jam 9-11pm

**Dreadknott Brewery, Monroe:** Open Mic 7-10pm

**Kana Winery, Yakima:** Open Mic 7pm

**Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle:** Open Mic w/Linda Lee 8-11pm (Third Thursday)

**Soul Food Coffee House & Fair Trade Emporium:** Jazz Jam 7pm (Last Friday).

## SATURDAY

**Café Zippy's, Everett:** Victory Music Open Mic 5:30-8:30pm All Ages (1st Saturday)

# June 2019 Washington Blues Society Calendar

Note: Please confirm with each venue the start time and price. We sincerely apologize for any errors.

To List Your Show: Please submit all details to our online calendar at [www.wablues.org](http://www.wablues.org) prior to the 10th of the month for the following month.

## JUN 1 Saturday

**Anacortes Waterfront Festival:** 12pm  
**Bellevue Arts Museum:** Bellevue Jazz Festival 12pm

**Boundary Bay Brewery - Mountain Room:** Whitewing with the Soul Shaker Horns at Home is Where the Heart Is 5pm

**Burlington Eagles:** Scratch Daddy 7:30pm

**Conway Muse:** Joe T. Cook Blues Band 7:30pm

**High Dive:** Shelter from the Storm: A Tribute to Bob Dylan Benefitting Northwest Harvest 8pm

**Ott & Hunter Winery Tasting Room:** Jesse James & the MOB 7:30pm

**Red Lion Inn & Suites:** Golden State Lone Star 9pm

**Rock the Dock:** Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 9pm

**Salmon Bay Eagles Blues:** Ballard Jazz Walk- Jay Thomas Sextet/Table & Chairs Label Showcase 8pm

**Slim's Last Chance Saloon:** Wildcat Rose & Brett Benton 9:30pm

**The Brass Kraken:** Rafael Tranquilino 9pm

**Conway Muse:** Wayne Hayton 7:30pm

**J&M Café:** Eric Rice Band 8pm

**Oxford Saloon:** Stone Blue 8:30pm

**Salmon Bay Eagles:** The Cheri Adams Band 8pm

**Tieton Cider Works:** Brett Benton Duo 7pm

## JUN 8 Saturday

**Conway Muse:** Double Duo MuseBird Cafe w/Joe & Carol Young & Zoe Boekbinder & Phantom Tides 7:30pm

**Clockout Lounge:** Danny Newcomb & the Sugarmakers

**Roso Viti:** Love & Fury 9pm

**Dimitriou's Jazz Alley:** Nearly Dan 7:30pm

**Drunk Two Shoes BBQ White Center:** Stacy Jones Band 8pm

**Elliott Bay Pizza & Pub:** Chris Stevens & Annie Eastwood Duo 7pm

**Marcy's:** Brett Benton Duo 8pm

**Village Taphouse Bar & Grill:** Moon Daddy 9pm

**The Chalet:** Scratch Daddy 9pm

## JUN 9 Sunday

**The Mill:** Blues Sundays Live 5pm

## JUN 10 Monday

**Madison Ave Pub:** Monday Blues Review 7pm

## JUN 11 Tuesday

**Collector's Choice:** Blues Bash (see preview this issue)

**Bake's Place:** Billy Stapleton & Annie Eastwood Duo 8pm

**Crossroads Bellevue Farmers Market:** Sheri & Da Boyz 1pm & 4pm

## JUN 13 Thursday

**Amarillo:** Brett Benton Duo 7pm

**Bad Albert's:** Annie Eastwood & Friends Featuring Billy Stapleton 6pm

**Conway Muse:** Mark Nichols & Julie Lewis 7:30pm

**J&M Café:** True Romans 9pm

**Madison Ave Pub:** Sheri & Da Boyz 7pm

**Salmon Bay Eagles Blues:** The New Rhythmatics 8pm

## JUN 14 Friday

**Collector's Choice Restaurant:** Vandalis 8pm

**Conway Muse:** Brian Lee and the Orbiters 7:30pm

**Engels Pub:** Rafael Tranquilino 9pm

**Fullbright Park:** Sun Sips & Suds 5:30pm

**Kimball Coffee House:** Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 7pm

**Poggie Tavern:** John Stephan Band 9pm

**Salmon Bay Eagles:** Joe T Cook Band 8pm

**The Royal Room:** Lady A's Back Porch Blues 7:30pm

**The Shanty Tavern:** HotRod.Red w/ Pardon the Boys 8pm

## JUN 15 Saturday

**Conway Muse:** MuseBird Cafe w/Linda Nicole Blair, Wes Sp8 & Mary De La Fuente 7:30pm

**Grinders Hot Sands:** Polly O'Keary and The Rhythm Method 8pm

**Edmonds Arts Festival:** Stacy Jones Band 6:30pm

**Historic Everett Theater:** Mark Farner w/Peter Rivera 7pm

**Nectar Lounge:** Alejandro Escovedo 7:30pm

**Rhodes River Ranch Restaurant:** Sheri Roberts Greimes 6pm

**Stewart's On First:** Skyhook 9pm

**The Central Saloon:** The Thrill 9pm

## JUN 16 Sunday

**The Royal Room:** Stephanie Anne Johnson & The Hidogs, The Junebugs 8pm

## JUN 17 Monday

**Madison Ave Pub:** Monday Blues Review

## JUN 18 Tuesday

**Bake's Place:** Billy Stapleton & Annie Eastwood Duo 8pm

## JUN 19 Wednesday

**Engels Pub:** Sheri Roberts Greimes & JoMomma 8pm

## JUN 20 Thursday

**Bad Albert's:** Annie Eastwood & Friends feat. Beth Wulff 6pm

**Conway Muse:** Spencer Jarrett Blues Band 7:30pm

**J&M Café:** True Romans 9pm

**Salmon Bay Eagles Blues:** Brian Lee & the Orbiters 8pm

## JUN 21 Friday

**Conway Muse:** MuseBird Cafe w/Levi Ware, Tara Velarde & el Colonel' 7:30pm

**Easy Monkey Taphouse:** Sheri Roberts Greimes & JoMomma 8pm

**Jazzbones:** Massy Ferguson, Andy Landers 8pm

**High Dive:** The Bones of J.R. Jones, Fruit Juice, Asterhouse 8pm

**Pt Defiance Park:** Taste of Tacoma 12pm

**Sage Creek Campground:** Sage Creek Music Festival 5pm

**Salmon Bay Eagles Blues:** The Vududes 8pm

**The Crocodile:** Cherry Poppin' Daddies 8pm

**The Triple Door:** Karrin Allyson 8pm

## JUN 22 Saturday

**Cafe Zippy's:** Nick Vigarino :30pm

**Conway Muse:** Trish, Hans and Phil Jazz 7pm

**Easy Monkey Taphouse:** Billy Stapleton's Powerhouse 8pm

**Stevenson:** Gorge Blues & Brews Festival

**Madison Ave Pub:** Cajun Fest at The Madison w/Stacy Jones Band & sp guest Hot Mess 7pm

**Pt Defiance Park:** Taste of Tacoma 12pm

## JUN 23 Sunday

**Pt Defiance Park:** Taste of Tacoma 12pm

**Taste of Tacoma:** Stickshift Annie w/ Kimball & the Fugitives 4:30pm

**The Mill:** Blues Sundays Live 5pm

**The Triple Door:** Sonny Landreth 7:30pm

**Woodland Park Zoo:** "Car Wheels on a Gravel Road" 20th Anniv. Show w/Cass McCombs 4:30pm

## JUN 24 Monday

**Madison Ave Pub:** Monday Blues Review 7pm

**The Triple Door:** Sonny Landreth 7:30pm



**JUN 25** Tuesday

**Dimitriou's Jazz Alley:** Royal Jelly 7:30pm

**Bake's Place:** Billy Stapleton & Annie Eastwood Duo 8pm

**Summer Sounds at Skansie:** Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek 6:30pm

**JUN 27** Thursday

**Bad Albert's:** Annie Eastwood and Friends feat. Kimball Conant 6pm

**Conway Muse:** Daddy Treetops 7:30pm

**J&M Café:** True Romans 9pm

**Vintage Café:** Brett Benton Duo 7pm

**JUN 28** Friday

**13 Coins:** Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers 9pm

**Crossroads:** Route 66 Big Band 7pm

**Conway Muse:** Angelfire Duo & Cee Cee James & Rob Slideboy Andrews 7:30pm

**Borealis on Aurora:** Stacy Jones Band 9pm

**Salmon Bay Eagles:** The Spin-offs 8pm

**Timber Monster Brewing Company:** Brett Benton 6:30pm

**JUN 29** Saturday

**13 Coins:** Reji Marc 9pm

**13 Coins:** Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers 9pm

**Conway Muse:** Town Hall Brawl Trio 7:30pm

**Club Crow:** Brett Benton w/ Devil's Gulch & the Missionaries 9pm

**Easy Monkey Taphouse:** Mark DuFresne Band 8pm

**Kitsap Fairgrounds:** The Fabulous Thunderbirds 8pm

**Open Space for Arts & Community:** Vashon Blues & Brews Festival 3pm

**Rockfish Grill:** Stacy Jones Band 7:30 pm

**Salmon Bay Eagles Blues:** The Spinoffs 8pm

**Taproom@ Bayview Corner:** Sheri & Da Boyz 8pm

**The Overflow:** Scratch Daddy 1pm

**The Triple Door:** LeRoy Bell & His Only Friends 7pm

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Collector's Choice  
Snohomish

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**Sunday, June 16**  
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**Sunday, June 23**  
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Please send any updates, additions or corrections to both [Editor@wabluess.org](mailto:Editor@wabluess.org) and [ericrichd@aol.com](mailto: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  
**ALTAI BAND** [goldenguitarman777@gmail.com](mailto:goldenguitarman777@gmail.com), [galiawind@yahoo.com](mailto:galiawind@yahoo.com)  
**Andrew Norsworthy** [andrewnorsworthy@yahoo.com](mailto:andrewnorsworthy@yahoo.com)  
**Andy Koch's Badd Dog Blues (formerly Badd Dog Blues Society)** 360.739.6397  
**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  
**B.E.S.T. Band** 206.817.1663  
**Bill Brown & The Kingbees** 206.276.6600  
**Billy Barner** 253.884.6308  
**Billy Shew Band** 253.514.3637  
**Black River Blues** 206.396.1563  
**Blackjack Kerouac** 206.697.8428  
**Blackstone Players** 425.327.0018  
**Blue 55** 206.216.0554  
**Blue Healers** 206.940.9128  
**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 Govan** 206.817.1663  
**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** 360.395.8540

**Charles White Revue** 425.327.0018  
**Charlie Butts & The Filtertips** 509.325.3016  
**Charlie Saibel** 360.357.8553  
**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  
**Elliott Bay Blues Band** 206.300.6802  
**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 Mess Duo** 206.214.7977  
**Hot Wired Rhythm Band** 206.790.9935  
**Hungry Dogs** 425.299.6435

## J

**Jack Cook & Phantoms of Soul** 206.517.5294  
**Jam Animal** 206.522.5179  
**James Howard** 206.250.7494  
**James King & the Southsiders** 206.715.6511  
**Janie Cribbs & the T.Rust Band** 360.331.6485

**JD Hobson** 206.235.3234  
**Jeff Boutiea & the Blues Choo Train** 425.345.5399  
**Jeff "Drummerboy" Hayes** 206.909.6366  
**Jeff & The Jet City Fliers** 206.818.0701  
**Jeff Menteer and The Beaten Path** 425.280.7392  
**Jeremy Serwer** 520.275.9444  
**Jesse Weston** 425.610.0933  
**Jill Newman Band** 206.390.2623  
**Jim Caroompas (Rumpus)** 925.212.7760  
**Jim McLaughlin** 425.737.4277  
**Jim Nardo Blues Band** 360.779.4300  
**Jimmy Free's Friends** 206.546.3733  
**Joe Blue & the Roof Shakers** 425.766.7253  
**Joe Cook Blues Band** 206.547.1772  
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**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  
**Julia Francis & the Secrets of Soul** 206.618.4919  
**Julie Duke Band** 206.459.0860  
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## K

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**Keith Nordquist** 253.639.3206  
**Keith Scott** 773.213.3239  
**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  
**Kosta Panidis (Kosta la Vista)** 509.991.7623

## L

**Lady "A" & The Baby Blues Funk Band** 425.518.9100  
**Larry Hill** 206.696.1789  
**Leanne Trevalyan** 253.238.7908  
**Leo Muller** 206.300.6802  
**Lissa Ramaglia** 206.650.9058  
**Little Bill & the Bluenotes** 425.774.7503  
**Lucille Street** [cynmoring@gmail.com](mailto:cynmoring@gmail.com)

## M

**Maia Santell & House Blend** 253.983.7071  
**Mark A. Noftsgier** 425.238.3664  
**Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek** 206.588.1924  
**Mark Riley** 206.313.7849  
**Mark Whitman Band** 206.697.7739  
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Michael "Papa Bax" Baxter 425.478.1365  
 Michael Wilde 425.672.3206 or 206.200.3363  
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 425.761.3033  
 Mike Haley 509.939.5838  
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 Moon Daddy Band 425.923.9081  
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## N

Nick Vigarino 360.387.0374  
 Norm Bellas & the Funkstars 206.722.6551

## P

Paul Green 206.795.3694  
 Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm Method 206.384.0234

## R

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 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  
 Roxlode 360.881.0003  
 Russ Kammerer 206.551.0152  
 Rusty Williams 206.282.0877

## S

Sammy Eubanks 509.879.0340  
 Scott E. Lind 206.789.8002  
 Scotty Harris 206.683.9476  
 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  
 Spencer Jarrett 510.495.4755  
 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  
 Susan Renee "La Roca Soul" Sims 206.920.6776  
 Suze Sims 206.920.6776

## T

Terry Hartness 425.931.5755  
 T-Town Aces 206.214.7977 (Joel Astley)  
 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 Spinoffs/Dawnzella Gearhart 206.718.1591  
 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  
 Town Hall Brawl 206.940.9128  
 Two Scoops Combo 206.933.9566

## U

Unbound 425.231.0565

## V

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 Join the *Bluesletter* staff! We're looking someone to wrangle the calendar entries every month so that more folks show up at more shows. Requirements: Basic knowledge of Word, access to email, and follow-through. For more information, email [editor@wablues.org](mailto:editor@wablues.org)

"Little Bill Engelhart's View from 80"  
 continued from page 9



Little Bill when he was little. (Photo courtesy of Little Bill and the Blue Notes website)

thing else. As it turned out, we did. A song I had written called "I Love an Angel." When we finished he called the owner of Dolton Records. They sent me home with a contract for my dad to sign. I was the oldest guy in the band at 17. The record was released in the summer of 1959. It was big hit locally and it landed on the national charts. Later that year Dolton asked me (no, wait, they told me) to leave The Blue Notes and become a single act. What to do?

That was in late 1960. Buck and Robin joined up with The Wailers and enjoyed a fair amount of success. I did what Dolton told me to do and started opening for some pretty big names. Bobby Vee, Fabian, Johnny and Dorsey Burnet, Brenda Lee and many others. In my young mind I thought it would go on forever.

Then, it stopped. No more big shows. No more records on the charts. I was 20 years old and felt like a has-been. Those were difficult times. I still played locally but the fire was getting dim. It was around this time that I was introduced to drugs: street name Speed. That poor decision lasted 40+ years. I made several trips to LA to try and catch a star. Pat O'Day even wrote me a letter of introduction. I was able to get into all the right places. But at the end of the week, I was back on Highway 99 and headed home. It took several years for me to accept who I was and to be thankful for the blessings I have had.

I'm an old man now, but I'm still booked and I love playing music. Also, finding joy in the really important parts of my life: Tony and Lisa, my lifelong friend and wife Jan, my biggest fans, granddaughters Amanda, Makayla, Camiel and Mariah.

And, knowing that I have the choice to decide when it's time to put the bass in the case for the last time and go home.

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## KSER-FM Benefit!

### Courtesy of Summertime Blues

Unbound Sound and the Madison Ave. Pub proudly present the **5th Summer-time Blues**, for KSER-FM on Sunday, June 15th from 4 pm to 11 pm-ish at the Madison Ave. Pub in Everett. Proceeds will benefit an important community radio station with many blues programs. The show features three acoustic sets and five electric sets from nationally- and locally-recognized blues artists.

- 4 pm Jim McLaughlin & Kevin Sutton
- 4:45 pm Nick Vigarino
- 5:15 pm Ryan LaPlante
- 6 pm Geoffrey Castle
- 7 pm Mark DuFresne & Brian Lee
- 8 pm Cory Vincent
- 9 pm Moon Daddy Band
- 10 pm Stacy Jones Band

The blues society board recognized KSER-FM DJ Clancy Dunagin with a special "Blue to the Bone Award" at this year's Washington Blues Society Best of the Blues Awards (commonly known as the "BB Awards") for his service to the Washington blues community. Blues society members nominated KSER-FM DJs Robin K and Leslie Fleury in the Blues DJ category alongside KEXP-FM DJ Johnny Horn and KNKX-FM DJ John Kessler. Celebrating 20 years at the station (formerly KPLU-FM), John Kessler received this year's "BB Award" in the Blues DJ category Indigo.

For more on prior "BB Awards" nominees and winners, please visit [www.kser.org](http://www.kser.org).

*New! New! New!*

**JULY  
26-28**

PREVIEWS

## New Blues Festival in Republic: Pickaxe R & B Festival

Featuring headliners Studebaker John & The Hawks, Jimmy D. Lane, and Ben Rice

*Story courtesy of the Pickaxe Rhythm & Blues Festival*



There's a new blues festival in The Evergreen State! The Pickaxe Rhythm & Blues Festival will debut July 26 - 28 in the artsy little town of Republic at the Ferry County Fairgrounds & RV Park.

The three-day event includes spots for RVs (hook ups or dry) and lots of green grass for tent campers. The Ferry County Fairgrounds has a restored 19th century carousel and this hand-painted merry-go-round is one of 208 left in North America.

The festival was created with the mission of filling the void left after the beloved Rock Cut Blues Festival was forced to shut down after flood damage a few years ago. Republic is on Route 20 East of Wenatchee, West of Kettle Falls, North of the Colville Indian Reservation and a short drive to the Canadian border in the center of Northern Washington State.

Hoping to draw the same great blues-loving crowd from the old Rock Cut Blues Festival, as well as meet new friends from new areas, the festival boasts a stellar group of artists. From renowned Chicago bluesmen Jimmy D. Lane and Studebaker John & The Hawks to

up-and-comer Ben Rice and a host of well-loved Pacific Northwest bands who are sure to keep blues fans dancing all weekend long.

**1** Friday night headliner Studebaker John & The Hawks always deliver. Another Chicago native, this band features John's killer slide guitar and harmonica. (*Mel Wise photo*)

**2** Saturday night's headliner, Jimmy D. Lane, is the son of the legendary Chicago bluesman Jimmy Rogers. Hailed as a "natural-born guitar monster" by Bob Margolin and "an incredible guitarist" by Eric Clapton, Jimmy has played all over the world with a who's who of music legends. (*Karen Keller photo*)

**3** Saturday evening also features Ben Rice, a rising blues star. Ben's unique style includes elements of Delta blues, rockabilly, folk and even some jazz, played on Resonator, cigar box or electric guitars. Ben is a recipient of the Albert King Award at the International Blues Challenge and numerous regional awards. (*Sam Gerke photo*)

The full schedule and lineup, as well as tickets, are available at [www.PickaxeBlues.com](http://www.PickaxeBlues.com). There is also a link from the Facebook page - Pickaxe Rhythm & Blues Festival.

# 2019 Gorge Blues & Brews

*Story courtesy of the Gorge Blues & Brews Festival*

The Gorge Blues and Brews Festival is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year, making it one of the longest-running blues festivals in the country. This year's event will take place on June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Skamania County Fairgrounds in Stevenson, Washington in the scenic Columbia River Gorge. There is onsite camping at the fairgrounds. In addition to live music, festivalgoers can enjoy food from multiple vendors, wine from local wineries, and craft beer from 16 area breweries.

The festival kicks off on Friday night, June 21st at 6pm with performances by local bands, followed by a jam session. Admission on Friday is free.

Saturday, June 22nd is a full day (from 2pm to 10pm) of regional blues acts alternating between two stages. Tickets for Saturday are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate, and include five drink tokens.

## Here is a summary of select performers.

**1 Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek** is a two-time Washington Blues Society BB Award nominee for Best Blues Act. The hard-working South Sound-based band recently performed at the Gray Skies Blues Festival and will be featured at this year's Tacoma

Freedom Fest on July 4. They specialize in swinging jump blues, led by the vocals and driving piano of Mark Hurwitz and the wailing saxophone of Sheryl Clark, a BB Award nominee for Best Horn. (*Mike McNett photo*)



2



1

**TOC** Portland-based vocalist **Karen Lovely** has won 7 Muddy Awards from the Cascade Blues Association, including Best Female Vocalist and Best National Recording, and was a 2018 Blues Music Award nominee as Best Contemporary Blues Female Artist by The Blues Foundation. She has toured across the U.S., Canada and Europe, and her newest release, *Fish Out of Water*, debuted at #13 on the Billboard Top 100 Blues Album chart. (*Kathy Rankin photo*)

**2 Rich Layton and Trouble Town** features the vocals and harmonica of East Texas native Rich Layton, who launched his musical career with Lucinda Williams in Austin and then honed his skills in the Houston blues scene. After 30 years in Texas, he brought his mix of swamp rock, honky-tonk, country and blues to Portland, where he's performed at the Waterfront Blues Festival. Each year, Rich joins Lyle Lovett as a special guest when Lyle tours the Northwest. (*Photo courtesy of Rich Layton and Trouble Town*)







3



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5



**3 Franco and the Stingers** has represented the Cascade Blues Association at the International Blues Competition in Memphis and performed at the Waterfront and Winthrop Blues Festivals, among other events. Harmonica ace Franco Paletta has shared the stage with a who's who of Portland blues luminaries, including Paul DeLay, Curtis Salgado, Lloyd Jones and Duffy Bishop. *(Kathy Rankin photo)*

**4 Doug Rowell's Flying Guitar Circus** features a rotating cast of outstanding guitar players. The Circus currently has a Wednesday night residency at the Trail's End Saloon in Oregon City where the house is always packed. For the festival, the featured guitarists will be host Doug Rowell, with **Peter Dammann** (who backed Paul DeLay for 20 years), and 16-year old phenom **Timothy James**. *(Kathy Rankin photos)*

**5 Johnny Wheels and the Swamp Donkeys** won the Cascade Blues Association's

Muddy Award for Best New Act of 2018, and were nominated for Best Regional Act. Leader Johnny "Wheels" Kennicott sings and plays harp from his wheelchair, having been paralyzed from the chest down after an accident at age 12. He sings the blues from an authentic place that creates a strong bond with the audience. The diverse musical back-

ground of his band enables them to blend soul, funk, and southern rock with the blues. *(Kathy Rankin photo)*

For additional details about the Gorge Blues and Brews Festival, including directions to the Skamania County Fairgrounds, or to purchase advance tickets, visit [gorgebluesandbrews.com](http://gorgebluesandbrews.com)

### Saturday's Line-Up at the 2019 Gorge Blues & Blues

- 2 pm Big River Blues Band (Big River Grill Stage)
- 3 pm Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek (Riverview Stage)
- 4 pm Karen Lovely (Big River Grill Stage)
- 5 pm Rich Layton & Tough Town (Riverview Stage)
- 6 pm Kenny Lee & The Sundowners (Big River Grill Stage)
- 7 pm Franco & The Stingers (Riverview Stage)
- 8 pm Doug Rowell's Flying Circus, featuring Peter Dammann & Timothy James (Big River Grill Stage)
- 9 pm Johnny Wheels & The Swamp Donkeys (Riverview Stage)



# 2019 Winthrop R&B Festival

Award-winning festival to feature Los Lobos, Shemekia Copeland and Larkin Poe

By Polly O'Keary, photos courtesy of the Winthrop Festival



Check out some of artists featured at the 32nd Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival this year (July 19-21). More info, and additional photos, will be in the July *Bluesletter* to celebrate one of our state's Keeping the Blues Alive Award-winning blues festivals.

**1** Headlining the festival this year is **Los Lobos**, the Tex-Mex blues rockers who soared to fame in 1987 with their version of Richie Valens' "La Bamba." Since Los Lobos's smash hit with "La Bamba," the band has toured the world virtually non-stop for 30 years, earning three Grammys, a nod to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, landing on multiple soundtracks, including Bull Durham, The Sopranos, and Nacho Libre. Founded in 1973 with most of their original members, the band draws heavily on their Mexican-American roots while pulling in elements of rock and blues. Their searing guitar and rich

percussion is supported by a full complement of horns that delivers a powerful live experience and will make a memorable closer on Saturday night. (*David Alan Kogut photo*)

Prior to Los Lobos Saturday set, **Larkin Poe** will take the stage. These sisters have captured a huge following since forming in 2010. Fronted by Atlanta, Georgia sisters Rebecca Lovell and Megan Lovell and named for an ancestor of theirs, Larkin Poe are as likely to deliver a rendition of an early Son House song as they are a sinister gothic Southern rock original. The multi-instru-

mentalist sisters lead a powerful band with the raw edge of the White Stripes and vocals that toggle from clear, soaring harmonies to Joan Jett-level intensity.

**2** Headlining Sunday night is one of America's most well-known blues queens, **Shemekia Copeland**. The daughter of Johnny Clyde Copeland, Shemekia started singing publicly at 10 years old, but as she delivered one hit record after another, she emerged as a powerful artist independent of her father's legacy. In 2009 at the Chicago Blues Festival, Koko Taylor's daughter Cookie presented Shemekia with Koko Taylor's crown and proclaimed her the new "Queen of the Blues." (*Mike White photo*)

**The Proven Ones** are truly an all-star ensemble, with dynamic Boston blues legend Brian Templeton on vocals, modern blues icon Kid Ramos on guitar, and Grammy-nominated Anthony Geraci holding down the keys. The master rhythm section includes Willie J. Campbell on bass and Jimi Bott on drums.

New to the festival are **The Greyhounds**, including guitarist Andrew Trube and keyboardist Anthony Farrell, who have been making music and touring for 18 years, refin-



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**2**

ing and developing a sound Trube calls "Hall and Oates meet ZZ Top." The band also has long ties to Memphis, home of the soul that inspires them. During their long musical partnership, Trube and Farrell have written songs for stars including Derek Trucks and Susan Tedeschi, toured with *American Idol* winner Taylor Hicks, and for several years worked together as part of JJ Grey and Mofro, an experience which inspired their band name.

**3** Guitar-lovers will be blown away by JP Soars, whose vintage sound and versatility has brought him a steadily increasing fame since his debut album in 2008. **JP Soars' Gypsy Blues Revue** includes some of his most talented friends. Joining him at the festival will be sensational violinist Anne Harris and grit-voiced harmonica monster Jason Ricci. (Photo courtesy of the artists)

**4** **Too Slim and the Taildraggers**, the only band to appear annually at Winthrop, will bring their well-loved blues rock back to the Winthrop stage. (Photo courtesy of the artists)

**COVER** And Seattle show-stopping rock-a-

billy monsters **Billy Joe and the Dusty 45s** will keep energy levels high.

**5** Back after a scorching 2016 Winthrop set is **Christone "Kingfish" Ingram**, who, like Shemekia, came to fame as a teenager and matured into a major force in blues, although he is still too young to buy liquor in venues he plays. The Clarksdale, Mississippi kin of Charley Pride, Kingfish grew up steeped in blues, turned on to Muddy Waters as a child by his father, attended education programs at Clarksdale's Delta Blues Museum, and studied at the Pinetop Perkins Workshop Experience. Every Kingfish show is a master class in explosive modern blues guitar, which he has brought to stages around the world, including the White House for Michelle Obama. (Rory Doyle photo)

Louisiana zydeco has become a tradition at Winthrop; this year it will be provided by Portland's **Too Loose Cajun Zydeco Band**, a Louisiana-style Cajun and Zydeco dance hall band featuring some of the region's finest blues and roots musicians. Also hailing from

**5**



Portland are **Ural Thomas and the Pain**, a funk-driven, horn-fueled soul band that invites comparison to James Brown and Ben E. King, and Worth, Portland's acclaimed, globe-trotting "bohemian bluesman," who teams up with fiercely talented slide guitarist David Jacobs-Strain, in a genre-bending collaboration not to be missed.

Also from Seattle is **Polly O'Keary and the Rhythm Method**, featuring the six-time Washington Blues Best Female vocalist who will bring her nationally touring blues-rock trio to the festival this year for the first time.

Visit [winthropbluesfestival.org](http://winthropbluesfestival.org).

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1. Benefit For Northwest Harvest - High Dive, Seattle 8PM
8. Drunky Two Shoes BBQ -White Center 8PM
15. Edmonds Arts Festival 6 PM
21. Sage Creek Music Festival - Quincy
22. Madison Pub Cajun Night - Everett 8PM
28. Borealis on Aurora - Shoreline 9PM
29. Anacortes Brewing - Anacortes 730 PM
30. Shoreline Arts Festival 4PM

WWW.STACYJONESBAND.COM

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## The June 11 Bash

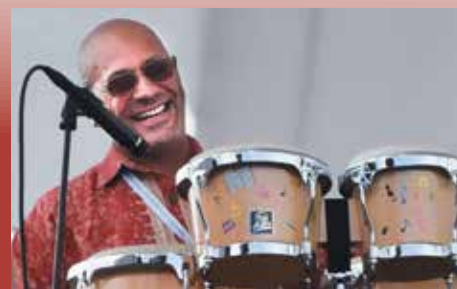
### Big Rhythm & Big Blues at Collector's Choice

Hosted by Amy Sassenberg

The Washington Blues Society welcomes members and the public to its **Monthly Membership Meeting and Blues Bash**, every second Tuesday of the month at Collector's Choice Restaurant and Old Man Brewery in Snohomish, Washington. We regularly invite national and international bands touring in our state, along with introducing new talent and celebrating local favorites. The food and drink is delicious, the owner is fabulous, the cover charge is free and the talent is amazing. Come on over with your tip money and dancing shoes and feel the groove.

**Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers** have been slinging their brand of fun, danceable, sassy blues all along the west coast since 2011. LA Music Critic recently awarded the band its "Best Blues Band" Award and said, "There is nothing like a good solid blues rhythm coupled with an amazing female voice that understands the true sound of the blues. Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers...bring an authenticity to their sound not normally heard by today's modern blues bands." Their most recent album, *Wiggle Room* (released August 24, 2018) spent 13 weeks at #1 nationally, with all ten songs charting. Their new album, *Heart of Memphis*, much of which was recorded at Royal Studios in Memphis, releases May 24, 2019. Be the first of your friends to purchase a signed copy at the June Blues Bash or check out the goods at their website, [micheledamourandthelovedealers.com](http://micheledamourandthelovedealers.com).

**Angelfire.** Starting the evening is the sizzling hot duo of Angelo Ortiz on percussion and Jimi Lee Barela on guitar and vocals. Angelfire is energetic and fun! Barela is a masterful guitarist, singer & songwriter who has been fusing rock, blues and jazz, and has performed around the Seattle for years with his bands Cavernous Groove & Jimi Lee's All-Stars. He is joined by longtime friend Ortiz, a gifted percussionist who has shared the stage with many northwest musicians and international touring artists including Randy Oxford and Lee Oskar. Named Best Instrumentalist by the Washington Blues Society in 2016, he continued to receive nominations for best percussionist, including in 2018, and has appeared on the cover of the national Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine. Plan to burn up the dance floor with these rhythm rebels.



Top: Larry Star photo. Bottom: Ricki Peto photo.



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Thurs June 6	<b>Bad Albert's Band &amp; Beth Wulff</b> Ballard 6-9pm
Fri June 7	<b>Bake's Place</b> Bellevue 9-11pm <b>Powerhouse: Stapleton, Wilhelm, Peterson, Eastwood</b>
Sat June 8	<b>Elliott Bay Pizza &amp; Pub</b> Mill Creek 7-9pm <b>Chris Stevens and Annie Eastwood Duo</b>
Tues June 11	<b>Bake's Place Bellevue - Stapleton Eastwood Duo</b> 8pm
Thurs June 13	<b>Bad Albert's Band &amp; Billy Stapleton</b> Ballard 6-9pm
Tues June 18	<b>Bake's Place Bellevue - Stapleton Eastwood Duo</b> 8pm
Thurs June 20	<b>Bad Albert's Band &amp; Beth Wulff</b> Ballard 6-9pm
Sat June 22	<b>Easy Monkey</b> North City/Shoreline 8-10:30pm <b>Powerhouse: Stapleton, Wilhelm, Peterson, Eastwood</b>
Sun June 23	<b>Taste of Tacoma</b> Rose Garden Stage 4:30-5:30pm <b>Stickshift Annie with Kimball and the Fugitives</b>
Tues June 25	<b>Bake's Place Bellevue - Stapleton Eastwood Duo</b> 8pm
Thurs June 27	<b>Bad Albert's Band &amp; Kimball Conant</b> Ballard 6-9pm

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Edmonds Woodway HS  
Jazz Band



The Cookers



John Mayall Band &  
Carolyn Wonderland



Royal Jelly Jive



Bill Frisell Trio



Lydia Pense & Cold Blood