

Bluesletter



September 2022

Washington Blues Society

Duffy Bishop: Welcome Back!
Mark Hurwitz, Piano Man!
Keith Scott: Alaska & Yukon Blues

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Blues Fans,

This has been an extremely challenging year! We have been busy out representing the Washington Blues Society all over the greater Pacific Northwest. From Montana, to Idaho, and multiple events across Washington! I must admit I have burned the candle at both ends and

a lot of my fellow board members have also done the same.

We need more people involved in the day-to-day operations of the Washington Blues Society. This is a passion and a rewarding way to spend your time being a part of something that impacts so many!

Our current needs include a new editor as Eric Steiner has decided to step down at the end of the year. I have talked with several possible interested parties, and have some interest from a few people, but I'm thinking it may be a task better suited to a small team of people who each take care of separate tasks such as calendar and jam listings, and another to handle advertising, another to help with formatting pictures and articles, and a single person to be the editor and coordinate all these potential Bluesletter contributors. Please reach out to me if you are interested in being a part of our Bluesletter team!

We also need some help with the oversight of our website! Vice President Rick Bowen has been doing a great job, and he is burning the candle at both ends and needs help with different tasks for our IT needs. We want to add new website features as we move into the Fall, and we will need help with them. I'm sure many of you have received our new biweekly email blasts. This outreach is our newest and most appreciated new features by our members and fellow blues lovers who sign up to get these email blasts!

We also need dedicated calendar volunteers to put together an event calendar not only for Pierce, King and Snohomish counties,

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

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but also statewide locations so that all of our members know what shows are happening around their communities. Our membership continues to grow, and we now cover a large part of the Pacific Northwest. In general, it is just time to reload the Washington Blues Society management team and infuse it with new blood. This is a great team of people to work with and the impact you can have is really rewarding! We need your help!! Please consider becoming more involved! I'm always available at President@wabluessociety.org.

Thanks, and hope to see many of you out and about! Above all else support live music!



Tony Frederickson, President

Washington Blues Society

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This month, the Bluesletter welcomes Duffy Bishop back to the Pacific Northwest, celebrates the artistry and work of keyboard player Mark Hurwitz, and joins Washington Blues Society member and bluesman Keith Scott on an Alaska journey that includes Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory. Rick J. Bowen's review of John Nemeth's latest CD is also a cause for celebration now that John's surgery was successful. There's also a "tease" of photos from Eric Steiner's trip to Memphis for the 2022 International Blues Challenge and Blues Music Awards (and more photos will land in these pages over the next few issues). Bear Drury's enthusiastic review of the Fabulous Thunderbirds is another welcome addition to this issue!

Above: Duffy Bishop (Courtesy of Jeff Heiman and Jeff Ross)

Cover: Mark Hurwitz (Courtesy of Mark Hurwitz)

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OCTOBER BLUESLETTER DEADLINES

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Please submit @ www.wablues.org

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Please Note: If the Editor receives enough editorial copy before the 5th, or camera-ready ads before the 12th, space may be filled and material may be saved for a future issue. Please send in contributions early!

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please send articles and photos only as attachments.

Please do not embed images or stories embedded directly in emails and please do not send links. Please only send attachments with each file titled with a unique file name instead of computer- or camera-supplied identifiers. All contributions not meeting these requirements will be returned for revisions by the contributor.

Photos: High-resolution PDF, tif, or jpg attachments saved as 300 dpi or greater in traditional print media CMYK format only (for color) and grayscale (for B & W). Cover size: 8.5 in x 11 in. Please do not send photos as RGB images. Please title photos with a unique file name and not use camera-supplied alpha-numeric file titles, and please do not include any watermarks or branding information on any photo. Please also do not send low-resolution, social media photos or collages. Articles: Plain text (.txt) or Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) attachments only.

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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.. Our website is www.wablues.org.

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 70604
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Hi Bluesletter Readers,

I wanted to start off this month's letter by thanking fellow board member, Washington Blues Society Vice President Rick J. Bowen, for his tireless work behind the scenes (and screens) of not only our website, but also his substantial contributions to what many readers consider the most important sections of this magazine.

As I've said and typed before, I get more comments as well as suggestions for improvement on our calendar, blues jam and open mic, and radio listings than any other part of this publication. To me, this feedback continues to reaffirm for me the fact that artists want to be listed on our screens (and pages) and feel a part of a larger community. The community that is the blues in the Evergreen State (and greater Pacific Northwest and Lower Mainland of British Columbia).

I'm typing about our Blues Jams and Open Mic listing and live music calendar. For the first time in our blues society's history, our Blues Jams and Open Mic listing spills over onto to a second page! These opportunities to connect with live music around our region are all the more special given the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another Gentle Reminder...

During the production of this month's issue, I received several photos that were absolutely stunning. Great placement, composition, and lighting. However – and this is a big “however” – each one was formatted in low resolution and perfect for social media sites like Instagram and Facebook. Our partners in printing at Pacific Publishing can only use high resolution photos formatted in 300 dots-per-inch (DPI) or greater and saved as print-quality CMYK images (that's Cyan/Magenta/Yellow/Black for fans of FLAs, “Four Letter Acronyms”).

The printing press relies on these types of images instead of RGBs (Red/Green/Blue) because of how colors show up in CMYK versus RGB. The latter is fine for most things online, and with my limited 18-year experience with this publication, CMYK images seem to be the “gold standard” for the photos that land in traditional print magazines.

Last month, I also received several links to photo libraries filled with low-resolution images I could not use, and I want to use this space in my final few months as your Editor, to reinforce the requirement for all photos and stories as attachments and not links to other places online. I understand fully that this may attract viruses or other unwanted digital guests but asking contributors to send attachments provides opportunities for potential contributors to send their best images to me for consideration for publication. This allows contributors to double-check their individual photos and make refinements as needed in Adobe PhotoShop or other image editing program that saves photos to the print standard CMYK.

Looking Ahead to October's Issue

Next month, I'll be on vacation in rural California with limited Internet access. As a result, I'll need to turn in the electronic issue around the 5th of September (instead of later in the month).

To avoid this challenge for the October issue, I'll complete it before I leave during the first week of September. I clearly understand that this plan may put a disproportionate burden on advertisers, musicians, and many contributors, and the sooner I receive material for the October issue, the sooner I can place it in the Adobe In Design program prior to submitting the file to Pacific Publishing.

I look forward to working on the October issue and look forward to ads, articles and other submissions sooner rather than later.

Eric Steiner, Editor

Washington Blues Society Bluesletter

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

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Duffy Bishop is Back!

Catch her while you can this month in Seattle, Tacoma & Conway

By Jeff Heiman & Jeff Ross

Duffy Bishop, a force of nature, and unforgettable performer is back in the Pacific Northwest for her 2022 Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall Tour. We don't know when she will be back this way again, so catch her while you can in Seattle for two shows at the Triple Door, September 9th, the Spanish Ballroom Blues Vespers in Tacoma September 15th, and the Conway Muse on September 16th.

Duffy Bishop is a living legend in her native Pacific Northwest and is a member of the Halls of Fame of the Cascade Blues Association (Portland, Oregon) Washington Blues Society (Seattle, Washington) and the Oregon Music Hall of Fame.

With her long-time collaborator, prodigious guitarist and husband Chris Carlson, Duffy has played many memorable shows in her beloved Washington. This tour promises new highs with an all-star band including the one and only Keith Lowe (Fiona Apple, Bill Frisell, Stone Gossard, Wayne Horvitz) on bass, "the most famous pianist you've never heard of," Bruce Laven (Orville Johnson, The Squirrels, Paul Green, Little Bill and the Blue Notes) on keyboards and the timekeeper Kelly Van Camp (Chuck Berry, Wanda Jackson, Mike McCready and the Dusty 45s) on drums.

The 2022 Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall Tour, builds on Duffy's triumphant return to the Pacific Northwest in 2021, which was her first live tour after the COVID lock down. Even though the world was emerging from the uncertainties of COVID, the fans came out and were not disappointed as Duffy, Chris and the band helped rekindle the flame and get fans' live music juices going with one stunning performance after another.

A resident of Florida for almost a decade, touring and playing for Pacific Northwest fans has become more challenging. With the rigors of cross country travel and Duffy's busy professional and personal

schedules, these 2022 Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall Tour shows take on even more dimensions and become an opportunity to celebrate Duffy because it might be a long while before Pacific Northwest audiences have a chance to see her live on stage again.

Even though COVID put a two-year kibosh on live musical performances, Duffy and Chris kept busy making music. She completed and released her latest album, *I'm Gonna Do What I Want*, to critical acclaim. Produced by Duffy, Chris and Jim DeVito, the album features new songs by Chris and Duffy including the title track, a Paul deLay classic "Love Grown Cold," a love story "69 Years Old," other new originals and a few surprises.

Playing to a locked-down audience, whether it be two-dimensional or not, did not keep Duffy down. To the delight of her fans around the world, Duffy and Chris produced and performed over 50 live stream musical shows during the pandemic. Chris learned the technology, developed considerable video producer chops, and as a result, they both had an avenue for their writing and creative talents.

The shows were blues mana to a starving audience sheltered in place. The madcap thematic promos for their streaming shows were a look into Duffy and Chris's creative minds and were a weekly source of entertainment and amusement for their friends, fans, and new viewers. The shows and promos are all available on Duffy's YouTube channel for ongoing enjoyment.

In 2022, Duffy has also been cruising, bringing her eclectic blues, jazz, and soul to passengers on the prestigious American Cruise Lines Rivers of America ships. Excursions have included a trip up the Columbia River to the Snake River, travel on the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Memphis, and an expedition from the Georgia Sea Islands to Charleston, South Carolina. Duffy's wild and warm personality and love of people make her

the perfect musician to be part of these adventures.

Duffy's take no prisoner shows defy any musical label, and feature songs from her latest album, *I'm Gonna Do What I Want* and a repertoire with musical surprises from classic blues standards to her own blend of Rock n' R&B.

"My influences are far-reaching from folk to blues to great pop singers, showtunes and even music from the roaring 20s," says Duffy. "Watching artists like James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Ruth Brown, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown who walk out on any stage and hold your heart in their hand and transport you to another world is how I always want to make my audiences feel".

Like the artists who inspired her, Duffy's charisma, authentic voice, and ferocious presence will send chills down your spine and put a smile on your face.



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9/7 Rafael Tranquilino 9/14 Nick Vigarino
9/21 Vaughn Jensen 9/28 Joseph Barton

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2nd Ebey Island Freedom Fest

10th Sunbanks Blues Festival

17th The Conway Pub, Conway

24th Tulalip Casino, Marysville

OCTOBER SHOWS

6th Looking Glass Coffee, Snohomish

7th Aurora Borealis, Shoreline

22nd Conway Muse Hayloft Stage, Conway

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7:00 CD Woodbury
 9:00 Stacy Jones Band

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3 - SUNSET 7:45 pm

11:00 Rewind Band
 1:00 Aladdin Road
 3:00 Tim Ogard
 5:00 Billy Appleton Band

12:00 Willie and the Whips
 2:00 Unbound with Special Guests
 4:00 Town Hall Brawl
 6:00 Desolation Sound
 7:00 The Jerkels
 8:00 Jim Leslie & Stoned America
 9:00 The Davanos

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4 - SUNSET 7:43 PM

11:00 Mathew Ockenden
 1:00 The McCarters
 3:00 Greg Murat & Jimmy Culler
 5:00 Dana Osborn Band

12:00 Scotty FM
 2:00 McPage & Powell
 4:00 Radio Blues
 6:00 The Shift
 7:00 Rodney Dean Harrison
 ~ Tribute to Linda Beilfus
 7:15 Harmonica Hell / Fire Drill
 9:00 Moon Daddy Band

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 6 - SUNSET 7:41 PM

11:00 Norris & Nicely
 1:00 The Hot Rodster Band
 3:00 Steve Crabtree
 5:00 Nicholas Russell
 7:00 MaD BoJo

12:00 Trio D'Lujo
 2:00 The Guy Johnson Band
 4:00 Cory McDaniel
 and The Gone Johnson Review
 6:00 LONE STATE
 8:00 The True Romans

Mark Hurwitz: Putting the Piano in the Spotlight

A report from Gas Station Blues in Issaquah with Mark Hurwitz & Kelly Rodriguez... and more!

By Kirk Anderson

We're post pandemic, and the world is opening up again. I've been invited to an event, and hope that this article captures some of the true live blues magic that I experienced there. It's a wonderful, clear Pacific Northwest summer evening under a deep blue sky.

We're East of Seattle, in downtown Issaquah at the award-winning Gas Station Blues series at the historic Shell station on Front Street co-hosted by the Issaquah Downtown Association and the Washington Blues Society. We're here to see long-time Pacific Northwest (via New York City) keyboardist Mark Hurwitz and up and coming vocalist Kelly Rodriguez.

As I parked and walked up historic Front Street, the music drew me to the stage like the siren song of the mermaid. I could tell it was Don Robey and Joe Medwick Veasey's classic "Further Up the Road." Not Bobby "Blue" Bland's version nor Eric Clapton's. As I got closer to the stage, I saw just two performers and realized that the sweet tunes ringing out in downtown Issaquah had no guitar and no drums. The arrangement was instantly recognizable, and at the same time, warmly satisfied my blues heart.

Pacific Northwest summer evening breezes filled the next two hours along with the duo's versions of "I'd Rather Go Blind," a boogie-woogie take on "Let the Good Times Roll," a Patsy Cline-ish "Your Cheatin' Heart," and a faithful rendition of Tracy Chapman's "Give Me One More Reason." Mark and Kelly's version of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian tune, "Iko, Iko," transported me right back down to New Orleans and the music of Mac Rebennack as I'm confident that the Good Doctor would have enjoyed this interpretation. Each song was rearranged slightly to match Kelly's lead/backing vocals to Mark's lead/rhythm keyboards and his distinctive lead/backing vocals... all without guitars, bass, and drums!



Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek at McMenamin's Spanish Ballroom in Tacoma
(Photo Courtesy of Mark Hurwitz)

Each song still sounded familiar, and Mark's style reminded me of two legendary keyboard players: Doctor John and David Maxwell. Mark used the versatile Privia keyboard's settings to effortlessly move from acoustic piano to electric piano and organ. The gig also showed me Mark's current direction of putting keyboards front and center at each show. I've rarely seen this work well outside of New Orleans or at Iridium, Les Paul's legendary New York City nightclub. At Gas Station Blues, there was absolutely no doubt that a versatile keyboard player can effectively pull together elements of rhythm and lead parts into a compelling and danceable sound.

Shortly after seeing the duo at Gas Station Blues, I met Mark at Dawson's Bar & Grill in Tacoma after work one Friday afternoon. We walked into the club, and it immediately reminded of legendary blues clubs on the South Side of Chicago. We started to talk about Mark's vocals, and I was surprised that taking lead on vocals was not natural for him. As Mark turned from at home musician to performing keyboardist and band leader, he found that the transformation from Gin Creek to Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek required him to take on lead vocals.

Back in November of 2014, the Washington

Blues Society Bluesletter covered Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek. Mark said that, in setting a goal of 50 shows per year, scheduling issues as well as the desire to play multiple musical genres in a variety of venues meant that he often needed to change the line-up for different shows rather than having a set band. He changed the name from Gin Creek to Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek so that bookers would know that he was the common thread. That goal of 50 shows per year is still on-track eight years later with 48 already booked for 2022! This is no small feat, particularly in the context of not only the impact of COVID-19 on the local music community, but also recognition that band has received. Members of the Washington Blues Society have nominated Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek for Best Band in the annual Best of the Blues ("BB Awards"). Twice.

In addition to learning and mastering new parts of his live performance toolchest, Mark draws from his youth growing up in New York City. Some of us learn about music from our older siblings and Mark was no different.

As we talked at Dawson's Bar & Grill, Mark told me an incredible story. When he was 14 years old, Mark and his older brother got their parents' permission to take the subway



Mark Hurwitz at the Keyboard
(Photo Courtesy of Mark Hurwitz)

down to the Fillmore East on the (then) rough-and-tumble Lower East Side of Manhattan to see many rock and blues legends plying their trade at Bill Graham's (born Wulf Wolodi Grajonca) East Coast Mecca of music, culture, and community.

Mark cites his older brother Brian as his earliest piano influence and the person who helped him fall in love with music. Brian passed away in 2001, a loss Mark still feels to this day at every show he plays.

Like those artists at Fillmore East, Mark kept at it. He studied blues piano greats, like Dr. John and David Maxwell, learned how to become a working musician, and landed in Seattle. After the loss of his brother and both of his parents, searching for the meaning of

life that would allow him to continue on, Mark was convinced by his wife Betsy to share his musical gifts on stage. Sure, he was in his 50s, but once you're bit by the musician's bug, the fever never completely leaves you. The stage can be a scary place to start, but some musicians have an undying fire that gets them up on stage for the first time. It seems that, for Mark, it was unbearable loss and uncertainty combined with the faith of those around him. In 2010, Gin Creek was born.

In 2014, Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek were part of the ongoing post-Seahawk home game gigs at The New Orleans Creole Restaurant in Pioneer Square. During that no home loss Seahawk season, KOMO-TV news coverage of The 12's after home game

celebrations included live footage of the band. They got that gig because they were already so popular that they were playing all over the Seattle area.

Building Mark's confidence and chops, his solo gig at The Sunbanks Festival showed Mark that the supportive coaxing a few years earlier was really a game changer in his life. A weeklong residency at a hotel on Lake Atitlan in Guatemala gave Mark the chance to do solo gigs as well as learn to mesh with different local musicians. Mark's confidence grew as he continued to hone his chops.

Bluesletter readers may remember my September 2021 article on Leroy Bell and His Only Friends' gigs and the Triple Door as we started to go out and experience live music again after the COVID-19 lockdown.

Mark also played the first post-lockdown gigs at two notable Tacoma venues: The Spar and McMenamin's the Spanish Ballroom. He played as part of a solo duo or trio in accordance with Pierce County's reduced capacity laws.

I've now had the chance to see Mark in a duet setting at Gas Station Blues in Issaquah, and for the next gig, I went down to Rock the Dock in Tacoma to see Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek. This incarnation of Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek was a quartet with drums, electric guitar and bass rounding out Mark's keyboards and vocals.

Just like at Gas Station Blues, the Rock the Dock set list included both blues standards as well as jump blues and rock n roll tunes that had half the audience up dancing at any one time. People who were so moved by the music they were either up dancing as couples or individuals or just tables full of people enjoying the music and each other.

"Watching people get up and dance is another sign that playing music is give and take," said Mark.

The listeners clapping and whistling gives back energy to the musician, and their get-

Mark Hurwitz: Putting the Piano in the Spotlight (continued)

A report from Gas Station Blues in Issaquah with Mark Hurwitz & Kelly Rodriguez... and more!

ting up and dancing just amps him up to give more.

For the summer of 2022, Mark has done his job in giving us music fans things to do to pry us out of our COVID-19 bunkers. Gigs at McMenamin's Spanish Ballroom (including one opening for Maria Muldaur), The Gorges Brews and Blues Festival, the Spar, Dawson's Bar & Grill and The Gig Harbor Rockin Rhythm and Blues Festival have not included a guitarist. This allows Mark to explore a wide variety of music that features the piano as both rhythm and lead instrument. His preferred line-up also includes a saxophone and female singer to share lead vocal chores.

In addition to his own busy performing schedule, Mark also books and promotes

events. In 2019, Mark began booking and promoting music for the City of University Place's "Music on the Square" summer concert series that runs from July through August. Bands that have played Music on the Square span multiple genres, ranging from Salsa, Brazilian and Zydeco to blues and jazz. This Summer, Mark also produced a four-concert series for the Curran Apple Orchard in the City of UP. He has also served as the editor of the South Sound Blues Association newsletter.

In September, Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek will play the Manchester Pub in Manchester on the 10th, Ocean 5 in Gig Harbor on the 16th, and Dawson's Bar & Grill in Tacoma on the 24th. As I learned on that Friday afternoon where Mark and I first met to talk

for this article, his gigs at Dawson's Bar & Grill always have special meaning for him as it's such an important place in his life. The room has a great feel to it, with lots of space, and an owner who understands just how important a well-run nightclub is to the local music community.

Finally, I learned a lot watching Mark Hurwitz play at both Gas Station Blues in Issaquah as part of a duo and Rock the Dock in Tacoma with a full band. Perhaps more importantly, each of these performances reaffirmed for me just how live music brings people together as part of the community.



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Sheri Roberts Greimes Trio • Dustin Lafferty • Maddy Dullum
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Blues Show Review: The Fabulous Thunderbirds at Jazz Alley

A legendary band still shows that they're "Tuff Enuff" at a rare Pacific Northwest show!

Review & Photo by Bear Drury

On Thursday June 16, 2022, The Fabulous Thunderbirds debuted at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley in Seattle. It was the first of six shows over four days.

I have been a big T-Birds fan since 1980 and have seen them in concert about two dozen times in venues all over the U.S.A. They have never failed to deliver a top-shelf performance.

Under the leadership of vocalist/harmonica guru Kim Wilson the T-Birds created a whole new genre of Texas Honky-tonk music. Even though the band has had several incredible guitarists since the departure of founding member Jimmie Lee Vaughan in 1990, none of them were able to recreate the original chemistry with Kim Wilson.

Until now.

Dean Shot is the latest guitarslinger kicking out those T-Bird rhythms.

Where has this guy been hiding? How have I not heard of him? For the first time since the 1990s, I didn't miss Jimmie. Don't get me wrong, Jimmie Vaughan is a phenomenal guitarist. His playing with The Fabulous Thunderbirds changed the way guitar is played in Texas honky-tonk blues. But Dean Shot has taken style of Vaughan and gone all Emeril Lagasse and "kicked it up a notch."

Actually, two or three notches.

He honors the original JLV/T-Bird legacy but brings a new fire and passion to the music.

When you add in the meaty keyboard playing of Robert Welsh, who is no slouch on guitar himself, I think that this is possibly the best incarnation of The Fabulous Thunderbirds in over 30 years.

Steven Kirsty's superior bass lines, both on electric and doghouse bass, coupled with rock solid drumming by Rudy Petschauer created a groove that had the whole joint jumping. The T-Birds started off with their



classic "Mad About It Baby" went right into "Early in the Morning" and "Wait on Time," igniting the audience and then continued to fan the flames.

Next came their hit "Wrap It Up", Larry Williams' classic "Slow Down" and my favorite Fab T-Birds song "She's Tuff."

The remainder of the show consisted of a rocking instrumental (I wish I knew the name because the entire band was cooking with gas on it.), followed by "Love Her With A Feeling," "Baby Be Gone," "These Kind Of Blues," and my second favorite, "I'm Sorry."

I was very impressed by the mash up of "My Babe/Miss You So Bad". The show came to a close with one of their earliest tracks, "Baby Scratch My Back" performed only a Kim Wilson and company can do. Followed by an amazing harmonica driven instrumental that left the crowd breathless. Then their biggest hit "Tuff Enough." As if that show wasn't enough of a thrill ride, Wilson performed a long time favorite of mine, "Nine Below Zero".

But unlike the dozens of versions out there, Kim sang and played it solo. It was a refreshing take on a classic blues song and illustrated just how versatile of a musician



he truly is. There was no one staring at their cell phone during this performance.

The Fabulous Thunderbirds not only captured your attention, they took it hostage, threw it on the barbeque for 90 minutes and left your soul smokin'!

You can bet that when the Fabulous Thunderbirds return to Dimitriou's Jazz Alley in Seattle, I'll be there!

You should be there, too.

Blues in the 49th State (and the Yukon Territory, too)!

On the road from Juneau, Skagway, Haines & Whitehorse...

Story & Photos by Keith Scott

Touring Alaska, also known as the Last Frontier State, was a dream I finally realized this Summer. I had been trying to land a gig at the in Alaska Blues & Barbecue Festival Skagway for the last few years, and my offer was finally accepted!

Once I had that show in the bag, I filled in other dates in Juneau, Haines, and Whitehorse (up in Canada's Yukon Territory). The feedback was great, and I confirmed a total of 11 shows in Alaska and the Yukon.

I was honored to share the stage on my last weekend in Alaska with Bellingham-based Andy "Badd Dog" Koch at The Alaskan Hotel and the Crystal Saloon in Juneau. Andy is well known in Alaska, and he was my inspiration to play there.

Leaving Chicago after nine months absent from the friendly skies was a welcome relief. Truth be told, I love my Midwestern shows, but any and all work out West completely dried up due to the pandemic. Luckily, I saw downtown Seattle from the air en-route to Juneau, and it still looked as green and as magical as ever. On the way to Juneau, there was a really cool guy with dreadlocks and a banjo on his seat. Later that week, I saw him on the Alaska State Ferry on my ride from Juneau up to Skagway.

Yes, you must travel in Southeast Alaska by ferry or air. It is not cheap. The Alaska State Ferry is part of the 3,500-mile Alaska Marine Highway, which serves over 30 coastal communities from Bellingham to the Aleutian Islands.

For part of the trip, I also rented a car as I didn't want to be stuck unable to enjoy my trip or go fishing. My itinerary resembled Steve Martin and John Candy's 1987 comedy, *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*, and I continued with my lifelong blues business plan of spending more than I make on my travels.

After I arrived in Alaska, my first show was



at the famous Alaskan Hotel. The hotel is steeped in history as well as being on the edge of a giant mountain. During my first set, an unusual woman started hitting the stage with a very big stick. I was more a little annoyed and kept on playing. Later on

in the evening, she did a drawing of me, so I just let it go.

After the show at the Alaskan Hotel, I walked over to the Crystal Saloon where I hosted an open mic for the night.



On the Road with Keith Scott!

Page 14: Singer Peggy Hannifan at The Local Bar in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory

Page 15: Andy "Badd Dog" Koch at the Alaskan Hotel

Dobro Player Gordon Tentrees

Welcome to Alaska & the Klondike!

The historic White Pass & Yukon

Railway in Skagway, Alaska

(All photos by Keith Scott)

Along the way, I enjoyed spectacular views of Alaska's inside passage. The promoter was waiting for me at Sargent Preston's Hotel in Skagway, and she arranged a train ride for me on the historic White Pass & Yukon Railway before the Alaska Blues and Barbecue Festival the next day. It was a mind-blowing history tour of the Klondike gold rush.

Well, I rehearsed for the Skagway Blues and Barbecue Festival, where I performed two solo sets and hosted a jam session for the finale. Bluesman Gordon Tentrees from Whitehorse, British Columbia, was also

It was going very well until I let a young lady play my guitar. She started banging it incessantly and I had to end the jam early. There is only so much a musician without two days of sleep could take!

On top of the woman banging my guitar, I had to be at the ferry dock at five o'clock later that morning for the seven hour ferry ride from Juneau to Skagway. Parking below

deck challenged my driving skills, and the deckhands yelled at me. They all forgave me on subsequent voyages. Little did I know this was one of the last sunny days of my trip before the rain and cold settled in over Southeast Alaska. I also learned that I was in one of the world's largest rain forests and that Juneau averages 71 inches of rain a year (compared to the national average of 38 inches).

Blues in the 49th State (and the Yukon Territory, too)! (cont'd)

On the road from Juneau, Skagway, Haines & Whitehorse...

on the bill. He is a master Dobro player and a good friend of two award-winning Canadian country artists: Corb Lund and Fred Eaglesmith.

We discussed mutual friends and made plans to meet in the future. The festival was well attended despite the cold weather and the rain that settled in for the jam.

I met a group of motorcycle riders from Chicago that were on their way to Prudhoe Bay in the Arctic Circle. They were happy to find live blues in Alaska.

The next day I was on my way to the Bamboo Room in Haines, which required another ferry ride. They were serving Dungeness crab macaroni and cheese in the galley for \$8 and I grabbed a plate and sat up on the deck. These ferries are really like small cruise ships.

Speaking of cruise ships, I met up with the one and only Eric Steiner from the Washington Blues Society later that week in Skagway while he was on a Holland America cruise with his wife Vickie and his friend Bernie and his wife.

Eric told me how he initially met Bernie, and it really sounded to me like a blues song. The story has all the makings of a blues song as it involves Eric's first wife, and her paramour Bernie. More on that in a future Bluesletter (maybe). Eric told me that Bernie was his best friend, and that he married his second wife's college roommate, Margie. Bernie and Margie are celebrating their 25th anniversary, and it was cool meeting one of Eric's traveling buddies on the road in Alaska.

Well, I had three awesome days in Haines at the Bamboo Room, and I had a beautiful cabin overlooking the Lynn Canal.

They serve incredible, local halibut at the Bamboo Room. I left Haines on a Wednesday for another ferry ride back to Skagway and then drove over the White Pass to Whitehorse in Canada's Yukon Territory. It's a spectacular drive through a



sliver of British Columbia and then up into the Yukon and finally at Whitehorse.

I was excited to have filled out my COVID-19 Arrive Can paperwork and more excited that it was accepted at the border.

I was the featured artist at The Local Bar with Peggy Hannifan. She is a well-known performer in the Yukon Territory, and she arranged a backing band for me including Roxx Hunter on bass and Delmar Washington on drums. They also provided a full electric set-up for me. We tore through a set of blues classics, including Magic Sam's "All Your Love (I Miss Lovin')" and Freddy King's "Going Down." The club was a true music joint with rock and roll posters plastered everywhere.

After saying goodnight to my new friends, I headed north of downtown Whitehorse to the Hidden Valley Bed and Breakfast. The first thing I noticed about the Yukon was the daylight. All night long. They were working on the roads at midnight!

Well, it was a beautiful room, but I could hardly sleep with all the light pouring in.

The next morning at the Hidden Valley Bed & Breakfast, Eva prepared an incredible



breakfast. She happens to be a singer herself.

Of course, I was "coerced" into jamming for a few tunes. I had the morning to enjoy the area before heading back down to Skagway for next show @ The Happy Endings Saloon. I knew that Alaskans had a truly unique sense of humor, especially when I learned the name of the hotel in Skagway. The Morning Wood Hotel. And no, I am not making this up.

Eric's ship just happened to be docking in Skagway on my last day there. We met for beers at the Klondike Brewing Company.

Due to the pandemic, Eric and I have not seen each other in person since February of 2020.

Since then, we have talked on the phone from time to time, and I have played a lot of virtual shows, but it sure was good to be back on the road playing live music and reconnecting with friends in-person again.

The next day, I was back on the seven hour ferry ride down to Juneau. I had a 10 PM show at the Alaskan and I just made it at 9:59 PM after getting off the boat.

Bellingham's Andy "Badd Dog" Koch was waiting, and we ripped through an energetic three hour show. We went down the street



afterwards and had some incredible pulled pork sandwiches with purple cole slaw from a street food vendor. Andy and I had a double bill at the Crystal Saloon the next night, so we planned that set together.

I got my usual three hours of Alaskan sleep and went fishing early and had an exceptionally good fishing experience. There were Chum Salmon and Dolly

Varden, a type of char fish, feeding on the incoming tide and I had my fill after three hours. After this great experience on the water, I now know why Alaska is known as one of the world's premiere sport fishing destinations. I can't wait to get back to Alaska (and the Yukon Territory)!

I returned to the Alaskan Hotel for an afternoon set and had some incredible

Vietnamese pho' before the double bill with Andy at the Crystal Saloon.

The Juneau Empire newspaper came out and reviewed our show! Before Andy's band took the stage, we did an acoustic duo with Andy on harp and me on guitar and did our best postwar Chicago blues set we could possibly do.

Reporter Jonson Kuhn wrote a fine article on our performance in the Juneau Empire, "Old friends reunite for packed house blues performance at Crystal Saloon." That type of local blues newspaper coverage is rare, and it was a real thrill to read about the show over morning coffee in Alaska.

I said goodnight after our set and got ready for my long day at the Juneau and Anchorage airports before the long redeye flight home.

My last memory of Juneau before leaving for the airport was seeing my friend Michael who is a well-known Tlingit totem carver standing outside the Alaskan Hotel in the pouring rain. Alaska is a very special place and it should be on Bluesletter readers' bucket lists!

Alaska & Yukon Blues Travelogue Photos

Page 16:
Bernie James & Eric Steiner at the Klondike Brewery
in Skagway, Alaska

Eva (Center) at the Hidden Valley Bed & Breakfast in
Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

Page 17:
Me & a Salmon!
(Photos by Keith Scott)

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Welcome to the 42nd Annual

2022 Seattle Peace Concerts

ALL CONCERTS: NOON TO 6 PM, FAMILY FRIENDLY & FREE

Non-Political, Non-Religious, No Preaches, No Speeches, Just Music in the Parks!

Sunday July 10th – Seward Park Amphitheatre

Farhad Tyabji and Culture Yard Presents:
Winston Jarrett, Pedro the Lion, Comfort Food,
Wet City Rockers, more TBA

Sunday July 24th – Gas Works Park

Sara St. John Presents: Folk/Rock/Blues Day
Heather Jones & The Groove Masters, Jack & Tina
Willie and the Whips, Blue Healers, and St John's Infirmary

Sunday August 7th – Magnuson Park -Kite Hill

Lineup to be Announced...

Sunday August 14th – Gas Works Park

Jon Scherrer Presents: School of Rock Day: with students from Seattle,
West Seattle, Bellevue, Issaquah, and Lynnwood - with special
performances from School of Rock Portland and Calgary

Saturday August 27th – Magnuson Park Brig

International Blues Challenge Finals
hosted by the Washington Blues Society

Sunday September 11th – Gas Works Park

Ron Killman Presents: Uncle Ron's Band, The Her Etc
Ultraviolet Euphoria

See latest information & park map
directions at www.seapeace.org

All ages welcome. Admission is free but please bring food bank donations.

2022 Support Team:

Don Glenn * Jon Scherrer * Sara St. John * Farhad Tyabji * Ron Killman
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Here are some of our 2022 Sponsors and Supporters



September 2022 Live Music Calendar!

Our website has the most up-to-date live music calendar & listings online @ www.wablues.org/!

SEPTEMBER 1

Bellevue Square Fountain Court, Bellevue: Sundae & Mr. Goessl 12 PM

Evergreen State Fair, Monroe: Sheri & Jo Mama 5:30 PM

Hotel Bellwether, Bellingham: Lemon Creek 6 PM

The Spot, West Seattle: Blues Night 6 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers, 7 PM

Looking Glass Coffee, Snohomish: Stacy Jones Band 7 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front Street Blues Revue 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: WAR 7:30 PM

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Bruce Phares Trio 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 2

Ebey Island Freedom Fest, Everett 5 PM

Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor: Oak Harbor Music Festival 6 PM

Uptown Wine Bar, Snohomish: Brian James 7 PM

Black Angus, Puyallup: Blue Healers 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: WAR 7:30 PM

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Junkyard Jane 8 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Kimball & the Fugitives w/Annie Eastwood 8 PM

Triple Door, Seattle: Dusty 45's 8 PM

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Paul Miranda Syndicate 8pm

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Joe T Cook Band 9 PM

SEPTEMBER 3

Ebey Island Freedom Fest, Everett 11 AM

Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor: Oak Harbor Music Festival 11 AM

Triple Door, Seattle: Carl Verheyen Band 6 PM

The Repp, Snohomish: Annie Eastwood & Chris Stevens Duo 6:30 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Midnight Hour 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: WAR 7:30 PM

Jazzbones, Tacoma: Junkyard Jane 8 PM

Easy Monkey Taphouse, Shoreline: Billy Stapleton's Powerhouse Band, 8 PM

New Moon Craft Tavern, Port Angeles: Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers, 8 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Joe Cook Band 8 PM

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Gretta Matassa Quintet 8 PM

Conway Pub, Conway: Zach Michaud 9 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Eric's Maine Connection 9 PM

SEPTEMBER 4

Ebey Island Freedom Fest: Everett 11 AM

Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor: Oak Harbor Music Festival 11 AM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Jake Bergevin Band 4 PM

Evergreen State Fair, Monroe: Sheri & Jo Mama 6:30 PM

The Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Joel Astley Band, 7-10 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: WAR 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 5

Ebey Island Freedom Fest, Everett 11 AM

SEPTEMBER 6

Capitol Cider, Seattle: John Paynich Tuesday Blues Showcase 6:30 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Cory McDaniel Duo 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Lucibela 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 7

CCR Sports & Entertainment, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM

The Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Gone Johnson Revue, 7-10 PM

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Frank Kohl 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Lucibela 7:30 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Acoustic Avenue 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 8

Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annie Eastwood & Friends 6 PM

Hotel Bellwether, Bellingham: Jasmine Green 6 PM

Oxford Saloon, Snohomish: Chris Eger 6 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front Street Blues Revue 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Gerald Albright 7:30 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones Songwriter Showcase 7 PM

Jazzbones, Tacoma: Too Slim & The Taildraggers 8 PM

Shanghai Room, Seattle: How Now Brown Cow 8 PM

North City Bistro, Shoreline: McPage Powell Band 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 9

Sunbanks Resort, Electric City: Sunbanks Blues Fest 4 PM

Thorndike Room, Bothell: Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers, 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Gerald Albright 7:30 PM

Triple Door, Seattle: Duffy Bishop 8 PM

Benaroya Hall, Seattle: Tab Benoit 8 PM

CCR Sports & Entertainment, Snohomish: The Vandalls 8 PM

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Lee Oskar & Friends 8 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Weatherheads 9 PM

Bake's Place, Bellevue: Annie Eastwood & Her All-Star Band 9:30pm

SEPTEMBER 10

Blue Lake, Priest River, Idaho: Panhandle Blues Fest 12 PM

Sunbanks Resort, Electric City: Sunbanks Blues Fest 12 PM

Urban Elk, Tacoma: Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers, 4 PM

Farm strong Brewing, Mount Vernon: Eden 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Gerald Albright 7:30 PM

Rock Fish, Anacortes: The Naughty Blokes 7:30 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Luther Schutz Quartet 8 PM

CCR Sports & Entertainment, Snohomish: The Pioneer Square's 8 PM

North City Bistro, Shoreline: Eric & Encarna 8 PM

Conway Pub, Conway: Curtis Moore 9 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: The Shortcutz 9 PM

Trenchers, Renton: James Carr Band 9 PM

SEPTEMBER 11

Sunbanks Resort, Electric City: Sunbanks Blues Fest 12 PM

Gas Works Park, Seattle: Seattle Peace Concerts 12 PM

The Junction at 144th, Woodinville: Norris & Nicely 1:30 PM

Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 PM

The Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Annie Eastwood w/ Kimball & The Fugitives, 7-10 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Gerald Albright 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 12

Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 PM

Madison Pub Everett: Madison Ave Blues Revue 7 PM

Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 8 PM

September 13

Capitol Cider, Seattle: John Paynich Tuesday Blues Showcase 6:30 PM

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w/Mercedes Nicole 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Blue Tide 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Billy Cobham Crosswinds Project 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 14

CCR Sports & Entertainment, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM

The Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Ben Rice w/Farrell/Hudson Trio, 7-10 PM

Royal Room, Seattle: Matt Alber 7:30 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Billy Cobham Crosswinds Project 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 15

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front Street Blues Revue 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones Songwriter Showcase 7 PM

Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma: Duffy Bishop 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Lee Ritenour & Dave Grusin 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 16

Northwest Cellars Winery, Kirkland: Kati & Chris Morton 5:30 PM

Historic Everett Theater, Everett: Curtis Salgado 7 PM

Bindle Stick, Snoqualmie: Alex Rasmussen 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Lee Ritenour & Dave Grusin 7:30 PM

CCR Sports & Entertainment, Snohomish: The Adarna 8 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Duffy Bishop Band 8 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: CD Woodbury 9 PM

The Blue Room, Bellingham: Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers, 9 PM

SEPTEMBER 17

The Grange, Duvall: Sheri & Da Boyz 3 PM

The Beach, Birch Bay: Chris Eger Band 4 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Midnight Hour 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Lee Ritenour & Dave Grusin 7:30 PM

Historic Everett Theater, Everett: Nearly Dan 7:30 PM

CCR Sports & Entertainment, Snohomish: Crooked Mile 8 PM

Conway Muse, Conway: Christy McWilson Experience 8 PM

Aurora Borealis, Shoreline: The Spin Offs 8 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Under the Puddle 9 PM

Conway Pub, Conway: Stacy Jones Band 9 PM

SEPTEMBER 18

Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 PM

The Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Cold 102s, 7-10 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Lee Ritenour & Dave Grusin 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 19

Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 PM

Madison Pub Everett: Madison Ave Blues Revue 7 PM

Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 20

Capitol Cider, Seattle: John Paynich Tuesday Blues Showcase 6:30 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Barela Brothers 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Emmet Cohen 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 21

CCR Sports & Entertainment, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Emmet Cohen 7:30 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: The Go 2's 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 22

Bad Albert's, Seattle: Annie Eastwood & Friends 6 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front Street Blues Revue 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones Songwriter Showcase 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Hiromi 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 23

Northwest Cellars, Woodinville: Little Big Band 5:30 PM

The Crocodile, Seattle: Samantha Fish 6 PM

McMenamins, Bothell: Norris & Nicely 7 PM

Historic Everett Theater, Everett: Wasted Words 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Hiromi 7:30 PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Spin Offs 8 PM

CCR Sports & Entertainment, Snohomish: Engage Band 8 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Coverdrive 9 PM

SEPTEMBER 24

Woodinville Farmers Market, Woodinville: Mark DuFresne Band, 12:30-3 PM

Bird's View Dinner, Concrete: Chris Eger 5 PM

Tulalip Casino, Marysville: Stacy Jones Band 5 PM

Boxley's, North Bend: North Bend Blues Walk 6 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Heather Jones & the Groove Masters 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Hiromi 7:30 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Scott E Lind 9 PM

Conway Pub, Conway: Full Spectrum 9 PM

SEPTEMBER 25

Peabo's, Mill Creek: Sunday Music Revue 7 PM

The Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Jerry Miller Band, 7-10 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Hiromi 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 26

Royal Room, Seattle: Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble 7:30 PM

Madison Pub Everett: Madison Ave Blues Revue 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Thomas Marriott 7:30 PM

Blue Moon, Seattle: Andy Coe Band 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 27

Capitol Cider, Seattle: John Paynich Tuesday Blues Showcase 6:30 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Unbound w/Kevin Sutton 7 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Karrin Allyson 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 28

CCR Sports & Entertainment, Snohomish: Usual Suspects 7pm

The Spar Tavern, Tacoma: Billy Stapleton Trio, 7-10 PM

Jazz Alley, Seattle: Karrin Allyson 7:30 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Mattlock & the Keys 8 PM

SEPTEMBER 29

Oxford Saloon, Snohomish: Chris Eger 6 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Front Street Blues Revue 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Stacy Jones Songwriter Showcase 7 PM

SEPTEMBER 30

Spanish Ballroom, Tacoma: Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers, 7 PM

CCR Sports & Entertainment, Snohomish: Short Cutz 8 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: The Encounters 9 PM

Blues Jams & Open Mic Listings

Jam hosts listed & open mics are either blues-friendly or full band-friendly. Go out & support live music!

SUNDAY

192 Brewing, Kenmore: 192 Blues Jam with The Groove Tramps 3-7 PM (All ages –times vary on Seahawk game days)

Acorn Brewery, Edgewood: Blue Jam w/Retro Gruve 5-8 PM

The Bleu Note Restaurant & Lounge, Lakewood: Open Mic 6 PM

The Bennett Craft & Kitchen PoCo, B.C – Port Moody Sunday Blues Jam 3-7pm

Bullhead Saloon, Four Lakes: Open Mic/Jam 5-8 PM

Captain Jacks, Sumner: Open Mic hosted by Lady Carter & the Gents 7 PM

Collector's Choice Restaurant (CCR), Snohomish: coustic Open Mic 7PM

Club Crow, Cashmere Jam Session 1st Sun each month, 7-10 PM

Conor Byrne, Seattle: Open Mic 8pm

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

Dawson's, Tacoma: Tim Hall Band 7-11 PM

The Boom Boom Rom at the Point Casino, Kingston: Duff's Rockin' Jam 7-10pm

El Sarape Cantina, Shelton: Open Band Jam 3rd Sun 4-8 PM

Cafe Racer, Seattle: The Foundation Open Jam 4th Sunday 7-9pm

Headworks Brewery, Enumclaw: Open Mic 6-8 PM

Joseppi's, Tacoma: Sun jam Session w/Mo Betta Band 6-9 PM

Lucky 7 Bar & Grill, Kirkland: Tommy Wall Sun Blues Jam 7 PM

Mirkwood Public House, Arlington: Open Jam 7-10 PM

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

Purdy's, Sumner: Jerry Miller Blues Jam 7 PM

Queen Anne Beer Hall, Seattle: Open Mic 8 PM

Twin Dragon, Duvall: Open Jam hosted by Doug McGrew 7 PM

Red Dog Saloon, Maple Valley: Open Jam w/The Walkie Tacos 6 PM

Warehouse West, Yakima: Open Mic/Jam hosted by Rod Giles Band 4-7 PM

MONDAY

Conor Byrne, Seattle: BlueGrass Acoustic Jam 8 PM

Nectar Lounge, Seattle: Mo Jam Mondays 9 -11 PM

Royal Room, Seattle: Jazz Jam Session hosted by Thomas Marriott 9 PM

Dawson's, Tacoma- Music Mania Jam 7 -11 PM

Badger Mountain Brewery, Wenatchee: North Central Washington Blues Jam (1st, 3rd & 5th Mondays) 6 to 9 PM.

Riverside Pub, Wenatchee: North Central Washington Blues Jam (2nd & 4th Mon) 7-10 PM

Emerald of Siam, Richland: Open Mic/Band showcase hosted by Barefoot Randy/Dirty River Entertainment 8pm (All Ages until 1045)

HD's Bar and Grill, Belfair: Joe Faker Jam 6pm

Headworks Brewery, Enumclaw: Open Mic 6PM

Jazz Bones, Tacoma: Jam Night 7-10pm

TUESDAY

Brother Don's, Bremerton: Jam w/Tim hall Band 7-10 PM (All Ages)

Café Racer, Seattle: Open Mic 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7 PM

Capitol Cider, Seattle: Tues Blues Jam w/ John Pine Tree 6:30-8:30 PM

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

Elmers, Burien: Jam Night hosted by The Cory Wilds Band 8pm to 12 AM

Antique Sandwich Co., Tacoma: Open Mic 7-10 PM

Double J Saloon, Lake City/ Seattle Open Mic 1st & 3rd Tue at 8:30 PM

Burien Eagles Jam w/Billy Shew 7-11 PM

The Garages, Lake Oswego, OR: Garages Blues Jam w/Pat Stillwell Band 7:30 PM

The Hidden Door, Shoreline: Open Mic 7 PM

Odin Brewery, Tacoma: Open Mic 7 PM

Oxford Saloon, Snohomish: Acoustic Open Mic Hosted by Jerry Battista 6 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Monthly All Ages Open Mic 7 PM

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

Zeeks Pizza, Bellingham – Every 1st Tues Live Music Night 6-9 PM

WEDNESDAY

Acorn Brewery Edgewood Blues Jam 7 PM

Capitol Cider, Seattle: Jam Night 9 PM

Bethel Saloon, Pt Orchard: Open Mic 8 PM

Black Dog Arts Cafe, Snoqualmie: All-Ages Open Mic 7 PM

Black Lab Gallery, Everett: Open Mic hosted by Jeff Crookall 6:30-10 PM

Blue Moon Tavern, Seattle: Open Mic 8-11 PM

Couth Buzzard Cafe, Seattle: Open Mic 7:30-10 PM

Stars Bar and Grill, Federal Way: Linda Myers Wicked Wednesday Jam 8-11 PM

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

Filling Station, Kingston: Open Mic 7 PM All Ages, Styles & Instruments Welcome

The Hidden Door, Shoreline: Open Jam 7 PM

Jules Mae's Saloon, Seattle: Jazz Open Mic 7 PM

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Unbound Blues Jam 7:30-11 PM

Mirkwood Public House, Arlington: One Take Weekly Jam w/ Chris Eger & Richard Williams 8-11 PM

Penn Cove Brewing Company, Coupeville: 6 PM

Skylark Café, West Seattle: Open Mic 8-11 PM

Soundbite Cider, Everett: Open Mic 7PM

Stockton's, Maple Valley: Jam Night w/ Billy Shew 6-9 PM

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

The Tin Hat, Kennewick: Open Mic & Jam w/Mondo Ray Band 7-11 PM

Brickhouse, Vancouver, WA: Open Mic hosted by Right as Rain Entertainment 8:30 PM

Whit's End, Seattle: 2nd & 4th Thursday All ages Open Mic 8 to midnight

THURSDAY

192 Brewing Company, Kenmore: Open Mic 10 PM

Bent Bine Brew Co., Belfair: Open Mic 6-9 PM

The Blue Room, Bellingham: Open Mic 6-10pm All Ages

Bridgepress Cellars, Spokane: All Genre Jsam 7–10 PM

Cruisers, Post Falls ID: Open Mic/Jam Night 6-10 PM

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

Dawson's, Tacoma: Blues Jam w/Billy the Pocket 7-11 PM

Dog House, Seattle Jam w/Uptown All Stars 7:30pm

The Growler Guys, Lake City Way Seattle: Jazz Open Mic 7 PM

Jack-sons Sports Bar & Clubhouse, Yakima: Open Jam 8-11 PM

Looking Glass Coffee, Snohomish: Open Mic 2nd & 4th Thurs 7:00 PM

Lucky 7 Bar & Grill, Kirkland: Pro Jam 8PM

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

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Blues Jam Last Thurs 8-11 PM

Slippery Pig Brewery, Poulsbo: Front Street Blues Review Night w/Thys Wallwork (All ages) 7-11 PM

Gordon & Purdy's Pub, Sumner: Outlaw Blues Jam w/Boogie Chillin' 7-11 PM

Stars Bar & Grill, Federal Way: Jam Night w/Billy Shew 8pm

The New Moon Craft Tavern, Pt Angeles: Blues Jam 7 PM

New Frontier Lounge, Tacoma: Open Mic hosted by Chuck Muller 7 PM

The Spot, West Seattle: Blues Night 6 PM

SnoTown Brewery, Snohomish: Open Mic 7 PM

San Juan Island Brewing Co, Friday Harbor: Open Mic 6-8 PM

Station 18, Seattle: Jazz Jam hosted by Kevin McCarthy Trio 7-11 PM (All Ages Until 10 PM)

Red Dog Saloon, Maple Valley: Open Music Jam hosted by Iron Stallion Band 7 PM

The Loft Pub, Victoria B.C.: Open Jam 7–11 PM

Maverick's, Lakeside, MT: Blues Jam Thurs 8:30 PM

The Valley, Tacoma: Open Mic hosted by Elizabeth Ashbrook 8 PM

Thirsty Badger, Lynden: Open Mic 7-11 PM

FRIDAY

Bryant Corner Café, Seattle: Open Mic 6:30 PM

La Copa Café, Seattle: Victory Music Open Mic
6:30–9:00 PM, All Ages

Dreadknott Brewery, Monroe: Open Mic 7–10 PM

Kana Winery, Yakima: Open Mic 7–10 PM

SoulFood CoffeeHouse & Fair Trade Emporium
Jazz Jam 7M (Last Fri)

Wicked Cider, Kennewick WA: Wicked Jamz/Open
Mic Every Other Friday 6–10 PM

SATURDAY

The Spot, West Seattle: Open Mic 6 PM

The Hidden Door, Shoreline: Open Mic 7 PM

Kiss the Sky Books, Sultan: Open Mic 7 PM

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Book Review: *I Don't Usually, But...*

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Rev. Dave Brown

I Don't Usually, But...

(Self-Published, 2022)

Book Review by Eric Steiner, Washington Blues Society Bluesletter

Each time I return to Rev. Dave Brown's first book of poetry, *I Don't Usually, But...*, I remember a quote from an inspirational English teacher I had at Rich East High School, Dennis Koutouzous. Mr. Koutouzous sported a goatee, reminded me of one of the Three Musketeers, and sparked a lifetime interest in poetry in me.

I am forever grateful for his constructive reviews of some pretty rough poems I wrote as a teenager. When he opened his distinctive wooden briefcase with a rope handle, I marveled at the things he retrieved from it. Perhaps more important than those magazines and newspapers, I was thankful for the discussions they sparked in English class. Publications like *The Humanist* (founded in 1941, still printing!), *Saturday Review* (1920-1986), the *Chicago Daily News* (1875-1978), or the rabble-rousing upstart *Chicago Today* newspaper (1970-1974).

After class, Mr. Koutouzous advised the Creative Writing Club, and I was lucky to learn from him not only in class, but also during the production of our student-driven booklet of poetry and prose, *Within/Without*.

Mr. Koutouzous often quoted an American poet (Robert Frost, perhaps?), who wrote that "Good poetry helps you remember what you didn't know you knew."

That lesson from high school English has stuck with me, and through each of Rev. Dave's five-part poetry collection, I am reminded to Pay Attention (Part 1), Listen to Your Life (Part 2), embrace, or recognize, Family (Part 3), revisit my youth (Part 4), and a Postscript on Mass in Guatemala and

a community born in a baker's magical bread made with local herbs and spices.

Rev. Brown reflects on specific themes through poetry at his award-winning Blues Vespers events. He retired as Pastor from the Immanuel Presbyterian Church in 2018 after serving that congregation since 2005. Rev. Brown, along with Imam Jamal Rahman and Rabbi Ted Falcon, is part of the Pacific Northwest Interfaith Amigos, an innovative approach that seeks to bridge Christian, Muslim, and Jewish traditions through humor and dialogue.

As referenced in the book's title, he doesn't usually read original poems at Blues Vespers. Instead, he delves deep into the work of Langston Hughes, Theodore Roethke, William Carlos Williams, Denise Levertov, and LeRoi Jones. Thanks to a Whitworth College class in American Literature referenced in the introduction, we have a new collection of poetry and prose that is, at times, tender, sad, informative, spiritual, or inspirational.

Observations from Sue Monk Kidd and Annie Dillard introduce Part 1. Sue and Annie set the stage for readers about spirituality, beauty, and grace in everyday life. My favorite Part 1 poems are "The Peace of City Things," "Mick Jagger," and "One Way Ticket." "The Peace of City Things" is a short, 16-stanza poem that points out the beauty in simple things in a big city.

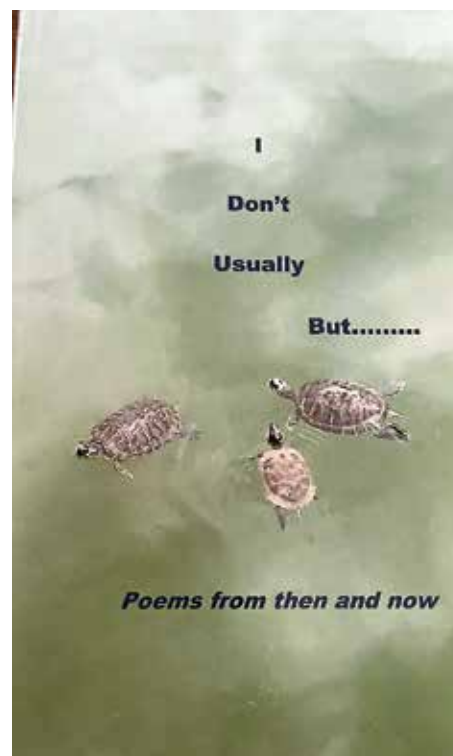
"My heart is lifted by the rumble of the subway,

A little boy tenderly holding his father's hand,

While crossing the streets, and
Squirrels scurrying up a tree."

Fellow Presbyterian and Union Theological Seminary alumnus, Dr. Frederick Buechner, introduces Part 2. He asks readers to "Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is..."

"9/11/2001 Turtle Pond" is a stark reminder



of what happened that day. Rev. Brown was in his native New York, on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, amidst the fear and smoke as he "... slowly began to comprehend the incomprehensible:

The loss of life I witnessed. I cried."

Later in the poem, Rev. Dave finds solace watching the turtles at Turtle Pond in Central Park (which grace the cover of the book).

"I always found peace there.

But that day was different.

As turtles floated in the pond."

"Sirens blared and smoke

Was in the sky.

Upheaval, death, and loss."

"Life changed that day

Even as the green grass
Of that familiar field."

"By the turtles gave me
A place for a brief moment
To be and be at home."

In Part 2, six poems honor the memories of grandparents and friends who have passed on, and I was particularly touched by "Ann."
"Traveling life's roads together
Who could have dreamed?
Or imagined all the
Places we'd go?"

Part 4 includes graphics of handwritten poems from 1965-1975, and a remembrance of Dr. Freeman Dyson, a world-renown Princeton professor. Rev. Brown left college to volunteer for the Eugene McCarthy presidential campaign in 1968 and honored the memory of competitor Senator Robert F. Kennedy at his Trenton headquarters shortly after Kennedy's assassination on the campaign trail in Los Angeles.

In the Postscript's first story, Rev. Dave recalls a traditional Mass in Spanish in Antigua, Guatemala. I'm a lapsed Catholic, and I particularly appreciated the way he experienced the service in another language.

"But here's the thing: I worshipped. I felt something holy and connected in the space. I wondered if not understanding words allowed something beyond words to enter my heart. It was worship for me. I did not understand the language, yet something was deeply understood and true."

"The Baker" closes this slim, 100-page volume with a parable about a baker who made magic with local grains, spices, herbs in a small country town. This story celebrates the memory of that baker in the kitchen, and the ghost of his bread that continues to contribute to a sense of community in the town that grew, over time, into a city.

Through this book, I felt that I had a direct and personal connection between the considerably younger Rev. Dave Brown and the legendary Eighth Street Bookshop in New York's Greenwich Village. The shop was a writers' atelier of sorts that attracted ground breaking American poets like Gary Snyder, Diane Di Prima, Le Roi Jones, Allen Ginsberg, and William S. Burroughs. Eighth Street's co-founder, Ted Wilentz, shepherded the innovative Corinth Books imprint, and he gave Rev. Dave a copy of *Natural Process*, a Corinth anthology of new Black poets, while he worked in the warehouse.

I Don't Usually, But... also includes many of Rev. Dave's attractive and expertly-composed photos, from Turtle Pond in New York's Central Park on the front cover to a bird and a water tower from the Whitney Museum terrace on the back, and interior shots of Mount Rainier from Seattle's Seward Park, and a sunrise over the Baltic Sea over Svaneke, Denmark. For me, each one of these images inspires quiet contemplation and reflection. Just like Rev. Dave's words.

I enjoyed *I Don't Usually, But...*, and hope that this book garners the attention of a modern-day counterpart to a publisher like Corinth (if there's even one out there to today's complicated publishing marketplace). The business of publishing has changed convulsively since Ted Wilentz' day, especially with Amazon, Nook and Kindle technologies, and I think that this collection of poetry and prose surely deserves a significantly wider audience than a relatively modest, self-published book.

Amen, Rev. Dave.



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Maybe the Last Time
John Nemeth
(NOLA Blue)

Musicians are always among the first to respond in times of crisis and offer up aid and lend their time and talents to support a cause. When word got around that award winning blues man John Nemeth was facing surgery to treat a potentially career-ending malady several of his old friends stepped up to help him record an album *dubbed Maybe the Last Time*, before the procedure. Vaunted guitarist Kid Andersen hosted the sessions at his Greaseland studios in California and brought in Elvin Bishop and his Big Fun Trio (Bob Welsh and Willy Jordan) and Alabama Mike for two days in May of 2022, to record old favorites and new tunes from Nemeth in a freewheeling jam session that resulted in 11 new tracks capturing the urgency and cathartic essence of the music and the brotherhood they shared. The set opens with a heartfelt interpretation of “The Last Time,” with Nemeth taking joyous liberties with the lyrics. The fellas then burn through Elvin Bishop Band classic “Rock Bottom,” the low down Blues never sounded so good. Nemeth examines life’s lessons on a stripped down version of his tune “Sooner Or Later.” Anderson walks the dog house Bass on a swinging run down of JB Lenoir’s social commentary from 1966 “Feeling Good.” Elvin stepped up to mic the lead them through swampy romp “Stealing Watermelons,” Nemeth steps into the shoes of Junior Wells for the bump and grind Blues “Come On In This House” The session ends on an upbeat note via the foot stomping Bishop tune “I’ll Be Glad,” and all its cockeyed optimism. As of the release of *Maybe the Last Time*, in September 2022 reports of Nemeth’s recovery are good news, and this fine collection will be doing good work for him while he heals up with 100% proceeds from sales going directly to John and his family, surely this won’t be the last we hear from the Jack of Harps. Rick J Bowen



Above: John Nemeth accepting his 2022 Blues Music Award in Memphis
(Photo by Eric Steiner)

Memphis Memories

A sampling of photos from the 2022 Blues Music Awards & International Blues Challenge

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 • Washington Blues Society • Bill Wax &
 my Castro • Central Delaware Blues Societ
 e Kappus • Mark Kaufman • Brian Kelm •
 an • Mark Puskarich • Marianna Reed & Joh
 ety • Bob & Lynne Walsh & Lylly Yakunovic
 nez Frank • Bob & Carolyn Harding • David & Sher
 on Santini • Mali Sauks • Eric Steiner • John Ste
 rnes • David & Liz Berntson • Blue Mountain Artists
 s • Crossroads Blues Society • DC Blues Society
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 odis • Kall Family Foundation • Sergio Kapfer & I



Upper Left: The Blues Foundation Wall

Upper Right: Jane Henderson & Selwyn Birchwood at the Blues Music Awards

Middle Left: Rae Gordon & Brady Goss at the International Blues Challenge

Right: Bobby & The Two Tones at the International Blues Challenge

(Photos by Eric Steiner)





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September 2022 Blues Bash Preview

Featuring the Mercedes Nicole Trio & Eric "Two Scoops" Moore!

By Rick J. Bowen

The monthly Washington Blues Society Blues Bash continues with an in-person live event Tuesday September 13th at 7 PM at Aurora Borealis, 16708 Aurora Ave North in Shoreline, Washington.

The September Blues Bash features music from Mercedes Nicole and her trio with a special opening act, legendary Seattle piano man, Eric "Two Scoops" Moore.

The monthly Washington Blues Society Blues Bash is presented free, and all ages are welcome.

We will have a door prize raffle with prizes including tickets to Jazz Alley in Seattle, and more.

We encourage everyone to "Tip the Band," in support of their volunteer performances. More about the performers:

Mercedes Nicole

Soft spoken Mercedes Nicole has an intimate and electric stage presence that reaches out beyond the limits of time and space. Blues is in her blood! Her roots are from Bigelow, Arkansas, and music runs in her family. Her uncle was the founding member of the Seattle Songbirds that sang gospel with blues overtones for over 40 years in Seattle, Washington. She has that kind of voice that demands attention, not because of volume, but because of resonance. Her voice wraps itself like a comforter around the human experience, encouraging uplift,



seeking not only triumph but healing. Mercedes is that exquisite mix of a mezzo soprano and contralto that permeates and interrupts one's thoughts, often with uncanny control...she lingers.

She first debuted her talent for singing blues at the Westport Blues Festival, where she got a warm nod, and a bear hug, from B.B. King's daughter, Claudette King at the festival that afternoon. Mercedes has been in local blues scenes all over Western Washington.



Eric "Two Scoops" Moore

Eric "Two Scoops" Moore stirs fun into his audience with the touch of a master chef. His legendary ability to transport listeners to Chicago, Kansas City or New Orleans in a flash has been documented in countless fan testimonials.

In a typical show, Eric "Two Scoops" Moore breathes new life into familiar favorites and delivers generous portions of crowd-pleasing hits from his own records.

Photo Credits:

Upper Middle: Photo of Mercedes Nicole
Courtesy of the Artist

Above: Photo of Eric "Two Scoops" Moore by
Pamela Eaton Ford

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Scotty FM and the BroadCasters 206.261.4669
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Studio Rob 425.870.7683
Susan Renee "La Roca Soul" Sims 206.920.6776
Suze Sims 206.920.6776

T

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The VuDudes 206.999.0729
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
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