



September 2002

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No Jam Sept 1

Acoustic jam Sept 15 @ Taliano's

Next 1st Sunday Jam October 6

(202) 828-3028

homepage- <http://www.dcblues.org>

14th Annual DC Blues Festival: A Tribute to John Jackson - Schedule Main Stage

1:00 - 2:00 DC Blues Society Band

2:15 - 3:00 The Archie Edward Foundation
Band

3:15 - 4:45 The Nighthawks

5:00 - 6:00 Friends and Family of John
Jackson

6:15 - 7:15 Mary Shaver Band

7:30 - 9:00 Cephas & Wiggins

Workshop/Acoustic Stage

2:00 - 2:45 Vocal with Melanie Mason

3:00 - 3:45 Guitar with Neil Harpe

4:00 - 4:45 Zydeco with Junkyard Saints

5:00 - 5:45 Harp with David Galloway

Kids stuff

Choo Choo Charlie Williams Harp demo for
kids

Stokey the Clown, wandering around site
making fun stuff out of balloons for the
kids

2:00-6:00 Instrument Zoo (near workshop
stage) various percussion instruments
for the kids to check out.

14th DC Blues Festival Tribute to John Jackson August 31 at the Carter Barron

Free No Tickets Needed

The DC Blues Society, The National Park Service & The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities present The 14th Annual DC Blues Festival at the Carter Barron Amphitheater. This year's free festival is a Tribute to the late John Jackson. Headlining this year's festival will be John Cephas & Phil Wiggins and The Nighthawks who are celebrating their thirtieth anniversary. Other performers include The Mary Shaver Band, The Friends of Archie Edwards (Jeffrey Scott, Warner Williams & Jay Summerour, and Neil Harpe), The Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation band led by Mike Baytop, and The



Cephas & Wiggins at the Herndon Blues Festival
Photo © Ron Weinstock

DC Blues Society Band led by David Jackson. The festival starts at 1 PM and will run until about 9 PM. The Carter Barron Amphitheater is located at 16th and Colorado Avenues, NW Washington DC (directions to the Carter Barron are included inside as is the festival schedule). In addition to the main stage performances there will be workshops and events for children. No tickets are required for our free festival.

John Cephas & Phil Wiggins

Internationally known, John Cephas & Phil Wiggins are amongst the most accomplished and celebrated acoustic blues musicians alive today. John Cephas was the first President of the D.C. Blues Society and Phil Wiggins was a founding Director and officer as well. Of course, when the society was founded, the duo had established themselves as among the leading acoustic blues acts in the world. Cephas, a master of the Piedmont blues guitar, grew up in Bowling Green, Virginia and was exposed to the music through house parties and the like while Phil Wiggins learned harmonica growing up in D.C. playing with the likes of

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THE DC BLUES SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 77315
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Hotline (202) 828-3028
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Editors - Music: Ron Weinstock **Events:** Steve Levine

Contributors: Dave Galloway, Theresa Hemp, M. LaVert., Richard Levine, Heeday Nakahashi, Ingrid Starwser

The D.C. Blues Society is a non-profit section 501(c)3 organization. Annual membership: Individual \$15, Family \$25, Canada \$25 (US), other countries \$40 (US). Members receive the D.C. Blues Calendar, discounts at Society events and some clubs, and other benefits. Contributions (not dues) to the D.C. Blues Society are tax-deductible. **To join, send a check & address to the P.O. box above.**

The **DC Blues Calendar** is published usually monthly and includes information on Society events, blues listings and other items of blues interest. Listings should be sent to Steve Levine, 5022 Quebec St., College Park, MD 20740 (cypressgrove@hotmail.com). Recent issues of the DC Blues Calendar are available as PDF files and may be downloaded from the Society's website, www.dcb blues.org.

Ad rates: Business card \$20; 1/8 page \$25; 1/6 page \$30; 1/4 page \$40; 1/3 page \$55; 1/2 page \$70; 2/3 page \$100; full page \$125. Discount for consecutive placement of ads. Column width is 3.65 inches for a 2-column page, or 2.4 inches for a 3-column page. Height for 1/2 page is 4.85 inches. To place ad, contact Ron Weinstock, 2862 Dover Lane, #202, Falls Church, VA 22042 or rbluesw@yahoo.com.

For next issue, the October issue: Must have copy, listings & ads by September 17.

Directions to Carter Barron Amphitheatre

By Car:

- * From the Beltway (I-495), take Georgia Avenue (south). Stay in the right lane.
- * Turn right on 16th Street, N.W. Stay on 16th street for a few miles.
- * Turn right on Colorado Avenue.
- * Make an immediate right turn into the parking lot.

By Metro:

- * Take the Red Line to the Silver Spring station and take the S2 or S4 (Federal Triangle) Metro bus to 16th Street and Colorado Avenue.
- * Or take the Red Line to the Takoma Park station and take the 52 (l'Enfant Plaza) Metro bus to 16th and Colorado Avenue.

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the late street singer Flora Molton. They met and with the late pianist Big Chief Ellis formed a performing group and continued their musical partnership after Ellis' death. Their first issued recordings were made as part of a series of field recordings on the German L&R label. Later they recorded cassettes for Merrimack, the albums for Flying Fish and more recently for Alligator with a new album due this fall. John Cephas is not only a superb guitarist showing the influences of legends like Gary Davis and Blind Boy Fuller, but possesses a warm baritone reminiscent of the legendary big Bill Broonzy while Phil Wiggins's harmonica complements Cephas completely. Wiggins also gets a chance to sing with an enthusiasm and feeling many lack and has written a number of stunning original, often topical blues. The duo has a new Alligator cd about to be released, **Somebody Told The Truth** that is scheduled for release on September 17. At the Herndon Blues Festival John Cephas also advised me that they have another new CD that will be sold at the Cracker barrel restaurant-country store chain as part of a series of recordings by traditional artists.



The Nighthawks at Biker's week in Daytona Florida.
Photo © Dave Holland courtesy of The Nighthawks

The Nighthawks

The Nighthawks history is extensive, beginning in the clubs and colleges then dominated by the sounds of country rock and disco. The band spread their version of roots rock, soul, rockabilly, and blues that was hardly the standard fare. In addition, the Nighthawks were considered touring pioneers, since only a handful of Chicago blues stars were touring nationally, and the west coast blues bands stayed on their side of the Great Divide.

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The Nighthawks continued to perform throughout the country, when in 1986 they performed their hugely successful "Farewell-For-Now" tour. After long-timer Jim Thackery departed for a solo career and short-timer Greg Wetzel returned to Nashville, the Nighthawks stopped just long enough to catch their breath. They reformed a few times over the next several years while continuing to tour relentlessly. The first lineup featured Jimmy Hall (lead vocals and saxophone and harp) and Jimmy Nalls (lead guitar and backup vocals) and lasted through 1990. When those two left, Danny Morris (lead guitar and vocals) and Mike Cowen (keyboards and backup vocals) joined the group. In 1992, Mike left the group to go to college and at the end of 1994 Danny left to pursue a solo career. Thereafter, Pete Kanaras joined the band in January of 1995 and continues with the band to this date.

Over the years the Nighthawks acquired a reputation as a solid backup band. The band helped attract great Chicago blues artists to Washington, DC, and gained national respect as the backing band or support act for Muddy Waters, Otis Rush, Big Walter Horton and other legends. In addition, Jan, Pete, and Mark went on a series of tours with Elvin Bishop and participated in the Rosebud Agency's blues all-star tours, which combined such illustrious front men as Pinetop Perkins, John Hammond, Charlie Musselwhite, and John Lee Hooker.

Touring and recording for three decades, the Nighthawks have certainly gained cult standing on the east coast where fans, who regard them as "The World's Greatest Bar Band," loyally follow them from show to show.

The above was edited from the Nighthawks web-site (www.thenighthawks.com) which reproduces Lisa Yucht's article **The Nighthawks 2001: 29 Years** from which this was taken.

As a footnote, Mark Wenner with Ben Andrews appeared at the May 1987 show at which the DC Blues Society was



Top- Jeff Scott, John Jackson's nephew, shown playing banjo at this year's Herndon Blues Festival. Bottom - Little Bit of Blues Jay Summerour on harmonica and Warner Williams guitar at this year's Western Maryland Blues Festival. Photos © Ron Weinstock

launched. This is, the second time the Nighthawks was featured at the DC Blues Festival. They also appeared at the 5th Festival in 1993, the first time the festival was held at the Carter Barron.

Friends and Family of John Jackson

Little Bit of Blues

Warner Williams' warm vocals and unique finger picking guitar is matched by Jay Summerour's harmonica for one of the D.C area's finest acoustic blues acts. Warner is a Takoma Park, Native who was part of Washington's music scene in the 1950s and 1960s. He's a veritable human jukebox

mixing in Sam Cooke, Louis Jordan, Jimmy Reed, Merle Travis, Fats Domino, Hank Williams, Blind Boy Fuller and other folk, blues, rock and country songs in a set. Jay Summerour, a veteran of the Starland Vocal Band and Cambridge Harmonica Orchestra, provides an accompaniment that is almost telepathic. They have played numerous DC Blues Society events including past festivals and Black History month concerts. The two have also been featured at the Blue-

bird Blues Festival and the Herndon Blues Festival along with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, the Washington Folk Festival, Philadelphia's Riverfest and the Mississippi Valley Blues Festival. Nick Spitzer featured them on his Folk Masters and had then open 1995's American Roots Fourth of July playing for tens of thousands near the Washington Monument. Whether playing his own Hey Bartender There's a Big Bug in My Beer, reworking a Tommy Johnson blues like Big Road Blues into what it would have sounded if it had been written by Blind Boy Fuller or doing a Piedmont blues classic like Red River Blues, Warner Williams astonishes with his guitar mastery and touches with the soul and warmth of his vocals. They have a self-produced cd that hopefully will be available at this year's festival.

Jeff Scott

Jeffrey Scott is a nephew of the late John Jackson and captures some of the mannerisms of his legendary uncle. Living in Culpepper Virginia, he has become a skilled guitarist and singer and quite a storyteller as well. He has been a regular at the Barbershop and appeared at some programs with them as well as some festivals including last year's Bluebird Festival and this year's Herndon Blues Festival, where Blues Society founder Eleanor Ellis performed with him for a few songs. He also played banjo for a few numbers, like his late uncle. He has a wonderful self-produced cd that is very good but also hints at how extraordinary he may become.

Neil Harpe

Another one of those who helped found the DC Blues Society, and a former director of the Society, Neil Harpe has been playing country blues for over thirty five years. In 1972 he recorded a cd for Adelphi and in the intervening years he has increased his mastery of the Piedmont delta and hokum blues traditions, he has also become a celebrated artist of marine subjects, motoring art and historical performers of blues. He recently participated in the celebration and opening a museum to celebrate the legendary Mississippi John Hurt. Over the years Neil has performed at numerous DC Blues Society events. With percussionist Rick Usilton and guitarist Rick Franklin, he performed at the initial DC Blues Festival. Later he recorded an album of country blues duets with Rick Franklin and when Rick Franklin took leave from performing for personal reasons (and Rick we miss you), Neil resumed playing solo and issuing a self-produced cd

of country blues. Neil will also be conducting a guitar workshop.

Mary Shaver Band

Born In Prince George's County, Mary Shaver has been entertaining DC area music fans since before she fronted One Thin Dime starting in 1989. While she has trained and worked as a paralegal for a number of years, eventually she was determined to pursue the love of blues and R&B on her own terms and has been performing solo for several years. With Night-hawk drummer Pete Ragusa, she produced an acclaimed cd, No Time Like Now that has expanded her audience as she sings with style soul and passion, subtly and power a range of classic blues and R&B numbers along with some choice originals. Influenced by the great classic blues and rock divas, she brings her own identity to the material and sings with a conviction that you will feel.



Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation Band

Archie's Barbershop, The Alpha Tonsorial Parlor, is located at 2007 Bunker Hill Rd, N.E. in Washington, D.C. and it was here that bluesman Archie Edwards "held court" - playing the blues and cutting hair from 1959 until his passing in June of 1998. A group of local Blues fans came together to form The Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation whose main goal is to continue the work Archie began: sharing and spreading the Piedmont blues tradition. They meet generally every Saturday from around 1PM to when the dusk is getting real dark, swapping songs, tall tales and beverages as



From the top- Neil Harpe at 2000 Herndon Blues Festival. Mary Shaver band at 2002 Columbia Pike Blues Festival; Mike Baytop at CD release party for Archie Edwards, *The Toronto Sessions*, Fall 2001. Photos © Ron Weinstock

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well as having an all around good time. The Foundation has also performed at various festivals including the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Herndon Blues Festival and the Bull Durham Blues Festival where they give a sense of what a day at the barbershop is like. Last year they conducted a workshop and this year we are pleased to have them on our main stage. They will be led by Mike Baytop who performed with Archie and others at a variety of Society events. Others to be expected included Richard "Mr. Bones" Thomas, Miles Spicer and perhaps Steve Levine. It should be noted that Neil Harpe, Warner Williams, Jay Summerour and Jeff Scott are regulars at the Barbershop as well although will be performing primarily as part of the Friends of John Jackson segment.

The DC Blues Society Band

After a few years absence, the DC Blues Society Band returns to open the festival. The band is once again led by David Jackson. Guitarist and vocalist David Jackson has contributed considerable energy in support of the local blues scene and has been a leader in organizing the D.C. Blues Society Band for various fundraisers and the Society's own festivals. Dave's performing career began at age 12, when he tapped into his musical roots in his church choir in Culpeper, Va.

David got his start playing the blues in 1992 at the D.C. Blues Society's monthly jams, and to this day he's a regular face at the sessions. He has performed with the DC Blues Society Band, Charlie Sayles Band, Dr. Feelgood Band and Show, Jazzy Blue Band, Little William and the Moonlighters, and his own band, The Blues Consortium. His festival credits include the Sixth and Seventh Annual D.C. Blues Society Festivals and the 1995 Washington Folk Festival.



Workshop activities

In addition to the main stage performances, the Society is offering four workshops on the workshop stage, in front of the ticket booth at the Carter Barron's entrance. Melanie Mason, who leads the Melanie Mason band and played the Society's Christmas party last December, is conducting a vocal workshop at 2:00PM. Neil Harpe is teaching a guitar workshop at 3:00 PM. A Zydeco workshop will be led by the band Junkyard Saints at 4:00PM while Dave Galloway, who runs the first Sunday of the month jam at Taliano's will conduct the harmonica workshop at 5:00PM.

Children's activities

Choo Choo Charlie Williams will be running a harmonica demonstration for children and Stokely the Clown returns again. Also from 2:00PM to 6:00PM there will be an instrument zoo with various percussion instruments for kids to check out. This will be near the workshop stage.

All in all, it promises to be another great day of Blues at the Carter Barron.

Pictured on this page

Top -David Jackson at the DC Blues Society jam at Taliano's

Middle - Eleanor Ellis, Jeff and Richard "Mr. Bones" Thomas at the Archie Edwards Barber Shop where Mr. Bones celebrated his 80th Birthday. He is expected to be among representing the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation at this year's festival.

Bottom - The late Mary Jefferson with guitarist Sonny Forriest at the 4th D.C. Blues Festival, September 1992, Langdon Park. Top Photo © Steve Levine, Middle © Richard Levine, Bottom © Ron Weinstock

Remembering John Jackson

by Frank Matheis, WKZE -NY/CT

John Jackson, with his trademark bola tie and fedora hat, was a simple man with a folk song, and a warm smile. Always impeccable in a crisp pressed shirt, he cut the figure of a Virginia country gentleman. His light, easy finger picking guitar style belied his vice-grip workingman's hands, strong from a lifetime of toiling. He worked harder than most people today could imagine, knowing too well what it was like to be dirt poor. While most of his worldwide fans lived in middle class prosperity, he supported his large family by digging graves with a shovel and a pick. He had his share of hardship and suffering, but he coped quietly and with dignity, never looking to blame anyone for his burden.

The singer never did have much education— laboring in the fields from early on; yet, a wiser, more brilliant man you could not meet. He was insightful, with a vast memory, remembering people for decades. When they thought he would have forgotten them long ago, he would surprisingly remember their names, and what they did the last time he had seen them. He knew a load of songs and verses from the old country players of both the black and white— the tunes they played when he was young, the songs he had always sung in the Blue Ridge Mountains where he grew up. He liked Jimmy Rodgers as much as the blues of Blind Lemon Jefferson and Blind Blake, the old rags, breakdowns and mountain tunes. He would call his songs “ditties” and “this here tune” and whatever he played was simple and honest, from the heart. He was an encouraging music teacher, a man who always had a kind word for upcoming musicians in workshops and informal settings after his concerts, willing to show a young player a trick or two.

John Jackson was called by many names. Some called him a living cultural treasure, an American folk legacy, a bluesman, a folk singer, a star, a songster, a guitar man, an old time troubadour, a Piedmont player, a “country” picking

man. And yes, he met his share of racists who just looked at him as another black so and so. John Jackson was beyond all that. He was shy and modest, and smart to simply know better than to fall for the trappings of any of that.

Fame and artistic recognition he had plenty. He had traveled all over the world as a celebrated and honored performer. In Europe he was exemplified as the ‘real deal’, the true embodiment of the living blues. Even decades after playing to loving audiences, he still seemed awed and amazed

every time he was confronted with his own celebrity stature. He was a humble man who never did quite understand what all the fuss was about, but he certainly enjoyed it. When he was first “discovered” by Chuck Perdue in 1964 while John Jackson was playing in a jam session at a gas station near Fairfax, Va., it is reported that he said “I only know a couple of chords— I can't sing at all”.

Like many of the original country-bluesmen, he never did get that real big payday a “national treasure” should deserve. He was a well-known man all over the world, having earned his fame and respect as a musician, from Virginia to Japan and Germany. He never did get rich monetarily.

John Jackson attained more than fame and fortune, more than songs, folk legacies, records, CDs and jubilant performances, more than most people will manage to achieve in a lifetime. He had reached the highest measure of a man: he made a true friend of seemingly everyone he had ever met. He could warm the coldest hearts, because he was a man of genuine kindness, a truly nice, wonderful, sweet and gentle guy, always appreciative of the good in everyone. To have the pleasure of know-

ing John Jackson was to love, respect, to honor and revere him because of his essential humanity.

I have never met a better man than he.

{Editor's note- Frank Matheis is a former DC area resident who is coming down to enjoy this year's festival. We are pleased to run his remembrance of John}



Top- John Jackson with son James Jackson performing at City Blues during the D.C. Blues Society's 10th Anniversary Concert Series in Fall 1997. Bottom - John Jackson at Falls Church Presbyterian Church on December 31, 2001, his final performance. Pictures © Ron Weinstock

September Blues Listings

1 BBS Presents **6th Annual Alonzo Memorial Picnic @** Rosedale American Legion
Buddy Guy, T-Model Ford @ 9:30
4 Nighthawks @ Sunset Grill
5 The Tone Popes @ Kingfish
6 Tom Vaughn & the Roadhouse Five @ Summit Station
Catfish Hodge @ Bangkok Blues
 Kelly Bell Band @ Sonoma's
 Melanie Mason @ Nick's Chophouse
7 Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation concert at Market 5 Gallery
 Rail Riders @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
 Bad Influence @ Ice House Cafe
 Ruby Hayes @ Bangkok Blues
 Kelly Bell Band @ Whitlow's
10 The Rail Riders @ Bangkok Blues
11 Catfish Hodge @ Ram's Head
 Rev. Billy C. Wirtz @ Ram's Head
 The Nighthawks @ Barefoot Pelican
12 Nighthawks @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
 Rail Riders @ Dancing Crab
13 **Billy Price @** Ram's Head
Duke Robillard @ State Theatre
 Mary Shaver Band @ Lasick's
 Catfish Hodge @ Madam's Organ
 Mary Ann Redmond @ Coyote Grill
 The Deacons @ Bangkok Blues
14 One Thin Dime @ Lasick's
 Catfish Hodge @ Whitlow's
 Crow Valley Band @ Cowboy Cafe
 Takoma Crossing @ Summit Station
 The Tone Popes @ Bike DC Festival
15 **DCBS Acoustic Jam @** Taliano's
17 -18 Delbert McClinton @ The Birchmere
19 Catfish Hodge @ Firestone's
20 Blue Book Value @ Summit Station
 Mary Ann Redmond @ Barefoot Pelican
 Bad Influence @ Bangkok Blues
 Ruby Hayes @ B&B Main Street Cafe
 The Deacons @ Cowboy Cafe South
21 Cathy Ponton King @ Summit Station
 J. Street Jumpers @ Glen Echo Park
 Melanie Mason @ Nick's Chophouse
 The Rail Riders @ Summit Station
22 **10th Annual Bluebird Blues Festival @** P.G. Community College
 Jimmy Smith Band @ Ram's Head



23 Deanna Bogart @ Ram's Head (CD Release Party)
26 **Saffire @** Ram's Head
27 **Saffire @** The Birchmere
 Melanie Mason Band @ Star Diner
 Mary Ann Redmond @ Starland Cafe
28 **Saffire @** The Birchmere
 Mason Band @ Outta The Way Cafe
 Janine Wilson Band @ Summit Station
 Kelly Bell Band @ Ned Devine's
 The Rail Riders @ Half Moon BBQ

Weekly Events

Sun Jim Bennett & Lady Mary w. Unique Creation Band @ Lamont's
 Detroit Slim @ Full Moon
 Tom Principato & Rusty Bogart swing session @ Bangkok Blues
 Steve Kraemer @ Cat's Eye
 Bobby Thompson @ Dr. Dremo's Taphouse
 Kenny Haddaway (open mic) @ Whitlow's
 Eddie Daye @ Chuck & Billie's
 Acoustic Jam @ King of France Tavern
 Danny Morris Band @ Sunset Grille
 Automatic Slim Jam @ Wahoo's
 Pro Blues Jam @ Sully's
Mon Blues Jam @ Taliano's
Tue Jam @ Full Moon
 Ben Andrews @ Madam's Organ
 Resonators @ Grog & Tankard
Wed Jam @ Coconuts

DC Blues Calendar September 2002 p.7

Jam @ 94th Aero Squadron
 Open mike @ Bangkok Blues
 Big Dog Band @ Cat's Eye
 Persuaders @ Main Street Blues
 Steve Smith Band @ Round Table
 Various @ Full Moon

Thu Jam w/ Flatfoot Sam @ Zoo Bar

Jam @ Backstreets Cafe
 Jackie Lee @ Wild Azalea
 Everything Bagel @ Cafe Tattoo
 Jam @ Full Moon
 Jam @ Surfside 7
 DCBS Jam @ Torrie's

Fri Hardway Connection @ Tradewinds
 Eddie Daye @ Chuck & Billie's
 Blue Flames @ Bertha's,
 Jackie Lee @ George Stark's
 Head Hog

Sat Various @ Full Moon
 Eddie Daye @ Chuck & Billie's

D.C. BLUES SOCIETY MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The Music Loft offers a 10% discount on repairs, lessons, rentals and sales. 2507 N. Franklin Road, Arlington VA (703) 522-5500, Wed-Sat 12 to 6 PM. They also have selected recordings by local

acts such as Franklin & Harpe & The Top Dogs

Industrial Sound Studios is offering a 15% discount to DC Blues Society members. You must have a card to get this great deal. If you call soon and set up time to record, your first set of ADAT tapes is free. For more information, contact Industrial Sound Studios, P.O. Box 1162, Riverdale, MD 20738. Phone: 301-209-0565.

E-mail: industrialstudio@hotmail.com.

Next issue is October 2002. Deadline is September 17.

Listings should be sent to Steve Levine, 5022 Quebec St., College Park, MD 20740. E-mail to: cypressgrove@hotmail.com

IMPORTANT SEND AD PAYMENTS, MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS TO D.C. BLUES SOCIETY MAILBOX. ONLY NEWSLETTER & AD COPY GOES DIRECTLY TO RON WEINSTOCK

**Acoustic Jam September 15
 No Jam September 1- we are recovering from festival. 1st Sunday Jam returns October 6.**

Places to Hear Blues

Bookings get cancelled so check with the venue as the show gets closer.

94th Aero Squadron, 5240 Paint Branch Pkwy, College Park, MD

Afterwords Cafe, 1517 Connecticut Av NW, DC (202) 387-1462

Bangkok Blues, 926 W. Broad St. Falls Church VA (703) 534-0095

Backstreet Cafe, 12353 Wilkens Av Rockville MD 301-984-0394

Barefoot Pelican, 2156-E Enterprise St., Sterling, VA (703) 444-2208

Bay Cafe, 2809 Boston St, Baltimore, MD (410) 522-337

Big Joe's Place, 8120 Crain Hwy (N.3d), La Plata MD (301) 392-6060

Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA (703) 549-7500

Bistro Bistro, Reston Town Center, Reston, VA (703) 834-6300

Blues Alley, 1041 Wisconsin Ave (Rear), DC (202) 337-4141

Bop'N'Bowl, Falls Church (VA) Duck Pin Lanes, 4000 S Maple St. (703)-847-5984

Brickseller, Washington DC (202) 293-1885

Bushwallers, Frederick MD (301) 695-6988

Buomi Temple, 5050 King St. White Marsh MD (410)-583-7337.

Cafe Vez 1438 U ST, NW, Washington, DC 202-667-0785

Cat's Eye Pub, 1720 Thames St, Fells Point, Baltimore MD (410) 276-9085

Chick Hall's Surf Club, 4711 Kenilworth Ave., Hyattsville, MD (301) 927-6310

Chuck & Billy's Lounge, 2718 Georgia Av NW, DC (202) 232-0924

Clyde's, Chevy Chase, MD (301) 951-9600

Coconut's, 1629 Crofton Center, Croft MD (301) 261-3366

Cowboy Cafe South, 2421 Columbia Pike, Arlington VA (703) 486-3467

Crossroads Tavern, Richie Highway and Georgia Avenue, Glen Burnie, MD (410) 761-6199

Dr Dreho's Taphouse, 2001 Clarendon Blvd, Arlington VA

EastPort Clipper, Annapolis MD (410) 487-7648

Ebb Tide, 985 Bay Ridge Road, Annapolis, MD (410) 269-1500

Fantastico, 380 Broadview Avenue, Warrenton, VA (540) 349-2575

Fat Tuesday's, 10673 Braddock Rd, Fairfax (703) 385-5717

Flannagan's, Manassas, VA (703) 551-2059

Full Moon Saloon, 1710 Aliceanna St, Baltimore MD (410) 558-2873

Game Room, 731 Cady Drive, Fort Washington, MD

Golden Sports Bar, Ellicott City, MD (410) 480-2994

Half Moon BBQ, 8235 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring MD (301) 585-1290

Harmony Hall, Fort Washington MD

Harper's Choice Village Center, Columbia, MD

H.R. 57. 1610 14th Street, NW, DC, 202-667-3700

Hull Street Blues, 1222 Hull Street, Baltimore, MD (410) 727-7476

Ice House Cafe, Herndon, VA (703) 471-4256

Jammin' Java, 231 Maple Ave, Vienna VA (703) 255-1566

King of France Tavern, State Circle, Annapolis MD (410) 216-6340

Lamont's, Livingston Rd, Pomonkey MD (301) 283-0225

Lasick's, 9128 Baltimore Blvd, College Park, MD (301) 441-2040

Leadbetter's, Baltimore MD

Lexington Market, Baltimore, MD

Luna Park, 5866 Washington Blvd. Arlington, VA (703) 237-5862

Maggiano's, Washington DC

Michael's Pub, King's Contrivance Ctr, Columbia. (410) 290-7878

Madam's Organ, 2461 18th St NW, DC (202) 667-5370

Market 5 Gallery, Eastern Market, 7th & North Carolina Ave. S.E.

Napoleon's, Warrenton, VA (540) 347-4300



Kate Campbell of the sacred steel group, The Campbell Brothers & Sister Kate. Seen at their rousing Pocono Blues Festival performance. They were scheduled to perform a lunchtime concert at the Library of Congress on August 28. Photo © Ron Weinstock

Neptune's, 23900 N Patuxent Beach Rd. California, Md 301-833-0073

Oasis, 8241 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD (301) 608-3360

Okra's 9110 Center St, Manassas VA (703) 330-2729

Potomac Overlook Park, Arlington VA

Ram's Head, 33 West St., Annapolis, MD (410) 268-5111

Recher Theatre, 512 York Rd., Towson, MD, (410) 337-7210

Rosedale American Legion, 1311 Seling Ave., Rosedale, MD

Round Table, 4859 Wisconsin Ave NW, DC (202) 362-1250

Scottish Rite Temple, 3800 N Charles St, Baltimore (410) 583-7337

Sonoma's, Columbia MD

Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo, MD

Spanky's Shenanigans, Leesburg, VA (703) 777-2454

Sully's, 14513 Lee Jackson Hwy., Chantilly, VA (703) 818-9292

Spotlight, Woodbridge, VA 703-494-9349

State Theatre, 220 N. Washington St, Falls Church, VA (703) 237-0300

Stone Cellar, Ellicott City MD (410) 461-4990

Summitt Station, Summitt at Diamond Aves., Gaithersburg, MD

Spotlight, Woodbridge VA 703-494-9349

Starland Cafe, 5125 McArthur Blvd, DC 202-244-9396

Sunset Grille, 7250 Columbia Pike, Annandale VA (703) 658-0982

Sweet Caroline's, Winchester VA

Taliano's, 7001 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD (301) 270-5515

Texas Ribs, Waldorf, MD

333 Coffeehouse, 333 Dubois Rd, Annapolis, MD (410) 647-4275

Timber Creek Tavern, 10092 Belair Rd, Kingsville, MD (410) 529-7999

Torries, 7732 Richmond Hwy Alexandria VA 703-360-4911

Tradewinds, 5859 Allentown Way, Camp Springs, MD (301) 449-1234

TT Reynolds, Fairfax VA (703) 591-9292

Twins, 1344 U St NW, Dc (202) 234-0072

Whitey's, 2761 Washington Blvd, Arlington VA (703) 525-9825

Whitlows, 2854 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA (703) 276-9693

Wild Azalea, 1648 Crystal Sq. Arcade, Arlington, VA, (703) 413-2250

Wolf Trap, Vienna VA (703) 255-1900

Wyvill's Tavern, 5753 Southwest Crain Hwy, Upper Marlboro, MD (301) 952-1222

Zanzibar, 700 Water St SE (202) 554-9100

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Deadline for October 2002 issue is September 17.

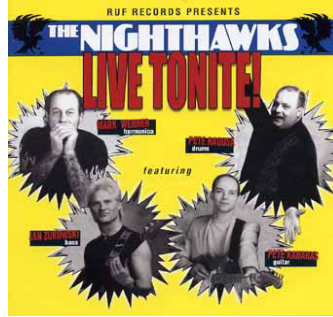
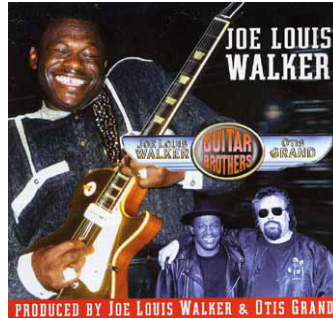
Joe Louis Walker

Few artists have emerged in the blues in the past two decades who have produced as distinguished a body of recordings as Joe Louis Walker. With his relationship to Verve (now Blue Thumb) terminated he has two very different new discs to choose from, each with a slightly different flavor. **In the Morning** (Telarc Blues) is his debut for that label where he is backed by a studio band that includes G.E. Smith who used to lead the Saturday Night Live Band. Opening with a hot latin groove on *You're About to Lose Your Clown*, this disc has perhaps a bittersweet lyrical and melodic flavor. This is not to take anything away from Walker's typically strong singing and inventive playing. He can rock with the best of them, provide some stunning driving slide, insert some jazz inflections or solid acoustic all the while bring his gospel-rooted soulful singing to the front. The title track has a pop melodic tone and the use of a backing vocal chorus as he sings about rising and wiping the tears from his eyes. *Joe's Jump* is a shuffle with a lyric about his women telling she loved him, told him a lie before they start to jam but the playing never really seems to find a focus. Much better is *Leave That Girl Alone* with nice jazzy touches to the playing. *Where Jesus Leads* is a nice gospel number with a slightly downhome flavor to its relatively sparse accompaniment. Another highpoint is *Strange Loving* with a driving rhythm. There is a remake of the Rolling Stones instrumental *2120 Michigan Avenue* that I would rather here Walker do with his own band than the band here which sounds a bit too controlled and the performance lacks some focus.

The JSP disc **Guitar Brothers** with his friend Otis Grand comes across as hotter and sounds more spontaneous. The opening *Snake Bit*, with Walker playing some nice slide, is followed with a shuffle, *Imitation Ice Cream Blues* whose light-weight lyric perhaps gets a strong vocal nonetheless. The tight shuffle groove allows the two guitarists to stretch out here. *I Like It This Way* has the two exchanging licks, Walker playing a phrase with Grand repeating it and Grand echoes Walker's in a similar fashion. *Better Off Alone* is a Grand original that has the feel of some of Walker's early albums with some terrific playing as well as Walker with a superb vocal performance. B.B. King's *Friends* is one of two instrumentals to showcase the two trading choruses, the other being *Bliss Street Blues* which also has harp from George Bisharat. A nice R&B groove marks Johnny Guitar Watson's *I'm Getting Drunk* as Walker takes a slashing Watson styled solo and Grand takes the song out with Walker joining at the end of this exciting performance. *Rude Woman* is built on an irresistible rock and roll (not hard rock) groove that sounds like it could have been written in the fifties or sixties. One almost expects Chuck Berry to turn up for a solo here. *Regal Blues* is a tribute to B.B. King with its lyrics invoking one of B.B.'s classic recordings ("It's my own fault, guess I will blame it on You," as well as recalling that when he first heard Lucille (BB's guitar) it knocked him out. While this recording has the flavor of a jam, the empathy between Walker and Grand make this, to these ears, a more satisfactory recording than **In the Morning**.

In addition, Walker has a performance available on DVD, **Live at "On Broadway"** on Blues Express. It contains eight very solid performances, both solo and with his band The Boss Talkers along with interview segments talking about the songs and various top-

NOTES HOT & BLUE by Ron Weinstock



ics. The music is strong enough that the video of the performance is a bonus. Oddly no keyboards in his current band. Definitely worth checking out for those with DVD players.

The Nighthawks

The Nighthawks are currently in the midst of celebrating thirty years of bringing the blues and other roots music to wherever they played. The hard working road warriors have played over 7000 shows in the various incarnations of the band. While it has been over a decade since Jimmy Thackery left to pursue a solo career, the Nighthawks have kept rolling along. Ruf Records has just issued **Live Tonight!**, a series of eleven performances from different locations in Maryland and Virginia that were all recorded by Wayne Kahn. Its a typical high energy program of blues with a few soul and rock tinges. There are the staples of their performances as the medley of Little Walter's *Up the Line* with Junior Parker's *Mystery Train*, songs from Muddy Waters (*Still a Fool and Sugar Sweet*), Big Joe Turner (*Boogie Woogie Country Girl*), Howling Wolf (*Howlin' For My Darlin* and *Who'll Be the Next One*). Mark Wenner takes most of the vocals and plays some strong harmonica. Drummer Pete Ragusa handles a couple vocals with his take of the Cate Brothers' *Am I Losing You* being especially expressive while bassist Jan

Zukowski ably shouts out the rocking *Boogie Woogie Country Girl*. Having played together as long as they have this trio is so

Continued on page 10

LIL' ED & THE BLUES IMPERIALS
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—Blues Review

THE NEW RELEASE ON ALLIGATOR CDS, AVAILABLE AT FINER RECORD STORES EVERYWHERE, AT ALLIGATOR.COM, BY PHONE AT 1-800-344-5609 OR BY FAX AT 1-773-274-3391

MEMBER BLUES BLUES MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Continued from page 9

in synch with each other and the most recent member of the group, Pete Kanaras (a member of the group for at least five years) is a stunning guitarist who takes some sizzling solos and whose playing otherwise complements whoever is handling the vocals. They continue to play to packed houses with some of the toughest and tightest sounds around. This is a celebration of the "greatest bar band" in the world that does the band proud.

Mary Shaver

This writer has had the pleasure of seeing Mary Shaver perform a number of times and with her upcoming appearance at this year's D.C. Blues Festival, has finally had a chance to listen to her album, *No Time Like Now* (Shamsong Records). Produced by Nighthawk drummer Pete Ragusa, this disc serves of a nice sampling of material sung with plenty of passion and soul. Ms. Shaver can belt out a lyric but also has a way with a lyric, whether a remake of a lesser know Smokey Robinson, *Who's Lovin' You?*, with a vocal chorus from Eddie Jones and the Young Bucks, or a fine Tony Joe White number *Steamy Windows*. She does not try to overpower every lyric, knowing when restraint is needed. Listening to her take on Little Walter's *Just Your Fool* or the classic Big Mama Thornton recording *Hound Dog* she remains true to her own voice. Given that most know this because of Elvis, its refreshing to see the sound taken back to its roots. There are affecting vocals on a couple of Diane Scanlon compositions and the album closes on the title track which she and ragusa co-wrote, as she exhorts her man to seize the time for the relationship. Backing her on this are Ragusa, Nighthawk mark Wenner, Big Joe Maher, Steve Wolf, Tommy Lepson, Bruce Swaim, Paul Bell, Chris Battistone, Wade Matthews, John Ticktin and the Young Bucks. The production is solid and serves to complement Mary Shaver's powerful singing that has received many well deserved accolades.

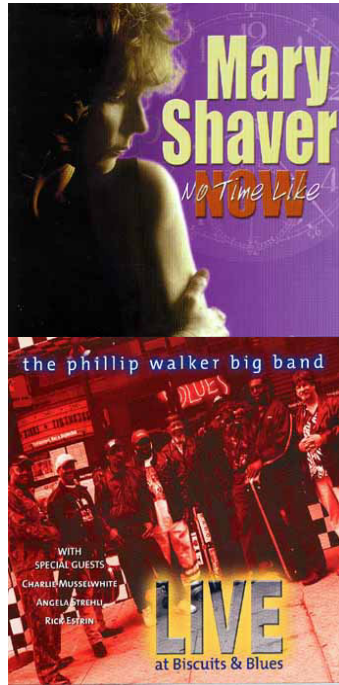
Phillip Walker

Its been several years since Phillip Walker had an album under his name (even the *Lone Star Shootout* album he made with Long John Hunter and Lonnie Brooks is at least three years old). Walker has a new disc with his big band on MC Records, *Live at Biscuits & Blues* which features his longtime working band augmented by a full horn section along with guest appearances by Charlie Musselwhite, Angela Strehli and Rick Estrin. Its a solid set, if not quite as good as Walker's best studio recordings as Walker performs his own *Hello My Darling*, as well as Jimmy McCracklin's *Think*, Harold Burrage's *Crying For My Baby*, the classic *Breaking up Somebody's Home* and Dennis Walkers *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark* on which Walker performs a bit more grittier version than Cray's original. Its nice to have a new album by Walker whose grainy voice and raspy guitar playing is a distinctive blues voice. Some of his best stuff is out of print or hard to find so if this is not quite his best stuff, it will make due for his fans or others not familiar with this grossly underrated blues veteran.

Don McMinn

One of the surprise bookings at the recent National Capital Barbecue Battle was Memphis bluesman Don McMinn. I was familiar with him from when he was guitarist in the legendary Memphis Slim's US band two decades ago, but had lost track

NOTES HOT & BLUE by Ron Weinstock



of him since then. McMinn was a pleasant surprise with a soul-laced bluesy set with strong, natural vocals and solid guitar that showed some Stax influence which is not surprising. Much more of the same is found on his disc, *Boogie Man* (cdmemphis.com), which is a marvelously styled collection of tunes with its groove in the classic Memphis sound. The title track opens with a funky bass riff over which the band grooves McMinn sings about his funky reputation who warns the mothers to lock up their daughters cause the boogie man is in town. *With What's Left Of My Old Friends* is a slow shuffle about tough times and being on the road again and playing down home blues with what's left of his old friends. He takes a short solo break followed by a crisp tenor sax solo. W.C. Handy's *Mr. Crump* is performed with Dixieland flavoring in the backing including some nice striding piano and muted trombone. Perhaps the highlight is a ballad, *The Magic Of A Woman*, with a wonderful lyric. It is performed so warmly that one almost wonders if this is not some unissued recording from the early 70s. Bo Diddley's hit *You Can't Judge a Book By Its Cover* is revamped with a catchy funk groove. He takes a couple of solo breaks which like the rest of the album avoids lapsing into an overly extended blues-rock workouts that would quickly get boring. If the playing time for the ten songs is a little over 40 minutes, there is no filler. You can try various mail order outlets or www.cdmemphis.com to get this gem.

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Prince George's Community College



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Call 301-322-0853 or
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Sunday, September 22, 2002 • 12:30- 6:30 p.m.

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The festival is brought to the public by Prince George's Community College, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the Office of the County Executive. Sponsors include Maryland State Lottery Agency, Kaiser Permanente, Comcast, Gregory K. Wells and Associates, Southern Management Corporation, The Pepsi Bottling Group, Bank of America, Target, Grayhound Trash Removal, Inc., Thompson Hospitality, Maryland State Arts Council, Prince George's Arts Council, Days Inn Capital Beltway, Southwest Airlines and NBC4 Washington.

Music Maker Relief Foundation Benefit in Falls Church

The Music Maker Relief Foundation will be making its first appearance in the DC area on Saturday October 5 at the State Theater in Falls Church with performances by Taj Mahal, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Cootie Stark, Cool John Ferguson and Mudcat. Tickets for the show, which will start at 9:30 PM are only available through the Foundation at its website, www.musicmaker.org, and will serve to help the Foundation in its Mission: Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the true pioneers and forgotten heroes of Southern musical traditions, gain recognition and meet their day to day needs. Today, many such musicians are living in extreme poverty and need food, shelter, medical care, and other assistance. Music Maker's aid and service programs improve the quality of recipients lives. Our work affirms to these artists' that we value the gifts of music and inspiration they have delivered to the world. Our mission is to give back to the roots of American music.

In furtherance of its mission the Foundation conducts a variety of programs including:

The Foundation Life Maintenance - Grants for necessities such as food, medical needs, housing, etc.

- Instrument Acquisition - Provide quality instruments and maintenance funds to recipient musicians.

- Tour Support - Provides funding and services to musicians wishing to tour and record.

- Emergency Relief - Substantial onetime grants to recipients in crisis (medical, fire, theft, etc.)

- Visiting Artist Program - This program invites artists to our base in Hillsborough, NC for an extended stay. Bringing the artist out of their home environment bestows recognition and provides a place



Beverly Watkins, seen at her Pocono Blues Festival performance, will be coming to the State Theater October 5 for the Music Maker Relief Foundation's Benefit Concert with Taj Mahal and others. Photo © Theresa Hemp

of retreat for creative experimentation. Opportunities are made available for recording, performance and documentation in accordance with artist's desires. This hiatus also gives us time with the artist to discuss in depth their needs and aspirations so we can develop a plan to improve their lives.

Continued from page 11

Concerts like the one at the State Theater raise funds for these programs with all proceeds benefiting the artists. They also have a subscription for CDs by the artists who are involved with the Foundation, as well as have had highly acclaimed albums issued that can be obtained in record stores.

In October the Foundation celebrates the release of our book *Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America* (Hill Street Press), which has over 200 photographs of artists, essays, lyrics and notes, accompanied by a 21 song CD. Eric Clapton lends us his support and writes, "A fabulous project- real evidence that the music I have always loved is alive and well."

With respect to the performers coming to the State Theater, Taj Mahal certainly should need introduction to blues lovers while Beverly "Guitar" Watkins really tore things up at the Pocono Blues Festival reviving some of the songs she did 35 years ago with Piano Red in Atlanta. Johnny "Cootie Stark" Miller hails from Greenville South Carolina and still plays the traditional Piedmont Blues of the area which he learned from legendary blues musicians like Baby Tate, Pink Anderson, Walter Phelps, Peg Leg Sam and Blind Sammy Doolie. While he has been a street singer, he only has played around his home community for the past few decades. Like Beverly Watkins, he had an exceptional album issued on the Cello label for the Foundation. Cool John Ferguson was born on Saint Helena Island off the coast of South Carolina. His mother is of the Gullah people and John grew up with the old ways all around him. Born December 3, 1953, John has been playing the guitar since age three and is someone I am quite excited to get a chance to discover.

To order tickets www.musicmaker.org, or call 919-643-2456 for event tickets and information. The mailing address is Music Maker Relief Foundation, 4052 Summer Lane, Hillsborough, NC 27278. See you there.



Robert Cray closed Saturday Night at the Pocono Blues Festival. Photo © Theresa Hemp

Selected Upcoming Festivals

D.C. Blues Festival, August 31, 2002. Carter Barron Amphitheatre.

See page 1 for more information

John Henry Festival, August 30-31. Morgantown, WV, Marilla Park, off Route 7 South. Etta Baker, Blues Works, Sparky Rucker, Ed Cabbell, Nat Reese, Eleanor Ellis, Al Anderson, Ernie Hawkins. Info: Ed Cabbell, 304-284-9148.

Alonzo's Memorial Picnic. Annual Baltimore Blues Society event with the Highhawks, Warner Williams & Jay Summerour, Eric Culbertson & more. takes place at Rosedale American Legion Hall

Bull Durham Blues Festival, Durham, NC September 6 and 7. Friday Night's performers include Terrance Simien, Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater, Marcia Ball, Blood Ulmer & Vernon Reid Sun Sessions Band, Skeeter Brandon, Bo Dallis & the Wild Magnolias, Barbara Carr & Bobby Rush. Check the website, <http://www.hayti.org/Special-Events/Bluesfest/bull-durham-blues.html>.

Taste of the Blue Ridge Blues & Jazz Festival, September 13 and 14. Roanoke VA. Featured performers include Arthur Sandoval, Duke Robillard, Billy Boy Arnold, Bruce Katz Band, Paul Rishell & Annie Raines, and Rene Martin. Saturday's performances will be in Roanoke's Elmwood Park. Bring lawn chairs but no coolers. For more information check out their website, www.tobr.org.

Blues in the 'Burg, September 14. Fredericksburg VA. performers include Jimmy Thackery, Tom Principato, Royarrier, Robert Lighthouse, Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation, and more. Info: www.bluesintheburg.org.

Bluebird Blues Festival, Prince George's Community College, Landover MD. September 22, 2002. Performers include Otis Clay, Jessie Yawn, Bobby Parker, Blues Works, Cephas and Wiggins and Daryl Davis.

Blues at the Beach October 4-6, Virginia Beach VA with WC Clark, Carey Bell, Greg Piccolo & Heavy Juice, Big Joe & The Dynafloes. 757-463-2300

King Biscuit Festival. Columbus day Weekend, Helena Arkansas Check the Society's website for a fuller listing of festivals as we are limited in space and cannot mention every single one.



Wild Child Butler entertaining during his Pocono Blues Festival Set. It has been many years since he last played DC area. It would be nice if someone would bring him here. Photo © Theresa Hemp

Blues in Passing

Mary Jefferson

We note the recent passing on August 3 of Mary Jefferson, D.C.'s first lady of the blues. There has been so much love shown after her passing including a memorial concert at Howard University where a scholarship fund has been set up in her memory. Mary played at the first D.C. Blues Festival in 1989 in Anacostia National Park and in the 4th Festival held in 1992 in Langdon Park. She also participated in several other Blues Society shows as well as regularly and in this community for decades. Wayne Kahn was quoted by the Washington Post on Mary, "Mary touched a lot of people who aspired to perform. She was always on the scene, helping out younger performers, nurturing them, getting them to play with her and practically becoming their god-mother." After some recent health problems it was great to see her at last year's Bluebird Blues party and we should be grateful to Wayne Kahn for getting at least one recording of her with Nap Turner issued. Its a duet of the two on Nap's most recent CD, *Life at the Cafe Vez* on RightonRhythm.

What was to be a concert at Howard University celebrating her 75th Birthday turned into a memorial and celebration of her life. The event raised nearly \$1,000 for a planned Mary Jefferson Scholarship Fund at Howard University, which says it needs to raise \$10,000 to endow such a fund. If you're interested in contributing, contact Jefferson family friend Gladys Lee at 202/678-2250 for details. (some of this taken from Eric Brace's column in the Washington Post's Weekend Section for August 16, 2002.

Jimmie Lee Robinson

Jimmie Lee Robinson, a veteran of a number of legendary blues bands who most recently made some excellent solo recordings for Analogue Productions recently passed away. Robinson shot himself after a recent diagnosis of bone cancer. Robinson, who became a follower of Elijah Muhammed's nation of Islam decades ago, legally changed his name to J.L. Latif Aliomar two years ago.

He was born and raised near Maxwell Street, Mr. Robinson was 11 when he bought his first guitar at a pawn shop. By the 1940s, he was performing in the open-air market on Maxwell Street. Robinson was among Chicago's most famous sidemen in the 1950s, playing alongside blues luminaries like Little Walter, Elmore James, Jimmy Reed, Magic Sam, Sunnyland Slim and Detroit Junior. He once co-led a band with Freddy King and recorded a 45 for the Bandera label. In 1965 he was among the musicians selected for the 1965 American Folk Blues Festival tour in Europe that helped made international stars of fellow musicians John Lee Hooker and Buddy Guy.

After leaving the music business for some time when venues closed he revived his blues career more than 20 years later, recording an album with a full band for Delmark Records, **Lonely Traveller**,



Top Mary Jefferson at 2001 Bluebird Blues Festival; Middle recent picture of Mary Jefferson; Bottom - Jimmie Lee Robinson at Pocono Blues Festival. Middle picture © Ingrid Strawser, Others © Ron Weinstock

along with two self-produced CDs. He then turned to a solo career and recorded two solo albums for the APO label, the first one titled *Remember Me*. He capped his comeback as one of the Windy City's ultimate blues outsiders by joining a boycott of the Blues Festival and mounting an 81-day hunger strike in 2000 to protest the University of Illinois at Chicago's gentrification efforts on Maxwell Street. The *Lonesome Traveller* will be remembered by those who knew his music and the person. (Some information taken from Chicago Tribune obituary).

Rosco Gordon

Legendary blues singer and pianist Rosco Gordon passed away July 11 at the age of 74. Gordon was originally from Memphis and was among the artists who was first recorded by Sam Phillips who later founded Sun records. He recorded for Chess, Modern, Vee-Jay and other labels and recorded such classic songs as *No More Doggin'*, *Booted*, *Do the Chicken* and *Just a Little Bit*. His songs were covered by numerous artists including Magic Sam, Little Milton, Elvis Presley, Etta James, and the Beatles. His offbeat, rhythmic style influenced the early sounds of ska and reggae after he toured the Caribbean in the late '50s. Gordon quit the music business in the 1960s although he resumed in the eighties. His last DC area appearance was at *Twist and Shout*, probably in the early 90s. He had a new album in 2000 on the Canadian Stony Plain label. In May, he returned to Memphis, joining old friends B.B. King, Ike Turner and Little Milton for a performance tribute to Sam Phillips during the 2002 W.C. Handy Awards Show (which will be broadcast by PBS later this year). He culminated the busy weekend of activities and honors with a show featuring blues great Reverend Gatemouth Moore and jazz legend Calvin Newborn. Some of his classic recordings are available on an English Ace Records reissue.

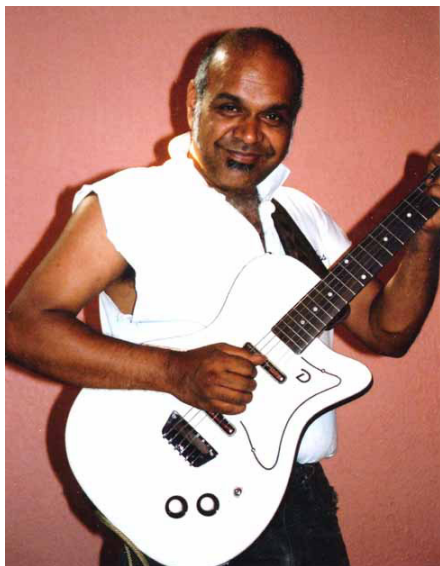
Little Jimmy King

Manuel Gales, better known as Little Jimmy King passed away from an apparent heart attack. He was 37. Gales had recorded several acclaimed CDs for Rounder Records' Bullseye Blues subsidiary and his name

JULY & AUGUST 'FIRST SUNDAY JAM'

My heartfelt thanks for the musicians who came out in July and August and lent their talents during the summer. These Open Mics don't happen without effort on somebodies parts, so... *Please Volunteer where you see a need to be filled!*

These talented musicians made the Jams happen! - Roberto Hoffman, Waverly Milor, J.R., Tommy Jay, Howie, Sami Nuriddin, Walter Robinson, Stephen Safax, Sherwood, "Blue Lou" Rao, Kieth Nelson, Josh Basoon, Melvin Lavert, Lou Richardson, Butch Murry, Chris Earnshaw, Joe Kerwin, James Frinks, David Jackson, Ralph Chiodo, Carl Gold, Jon Levy, Tom Foerter, Jack Dushesne, Lisa O'Brien, Steve



Blue Lou at August jam
Photo © Ingrid Strawser

O'Brien, Chet Hines, Anthony Emerson, Chip Clemmer and myself.

Special thanks again to Dr. S.O. Feelgood for drum setup and the bass amp. Please use the Society's bass amp y'all, in all of the confusion setting up the P.A., a musician set their bass amp up. The D.C.B.S. provides a bass amp and asks that it *be used ONLY*. My apologies for not catching that.

Since the last column went to press, we lost Wally Adams in June. He was a good friend and I, also, wanted to make mention of the Shoes- the really *big* shoes he left to fill. I miss him.

Due to the Carter Baron Festival on August 31, no jam will be held on September 1! Many of us will be involved performing and conducting the workshops and too partied out! The acoustic Jam is still September 15, hosted by Melvin Lavert.

The First Sunday Jams at Talianos will return October 6th & November 3rd. See Ya.

- David Galloway-



Bruce Ewan played with his brother Bobby Radcliffe at July State Theater benefit for Steve Sparks who was diagnosed with ALS
Photo © Charlie Williams

Blues News Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation Fundraising Concert

The concert will feature Warner Williams and Jay Summerour better known as Little Bit of Blues. It takes place if you were delighted by their performance at the DC Blues Festival, get a chance to spend a bit more time with them on Saturday September 7, 2002 at the Market 5 Gallery at Eastern Market, 7th and North Carolina Ave. S.E., Washington DC. Admission is only \$10.00.



Alvin Youngblood Hart at National Capital Barbecue Battle in June
Photo © Heeday Nakahashi

End of Summer Blues Bash

Chesapeake Bay Events who produce the Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival are putting on an End of the Summer Blues bash on Thursday August 29 at the Showplace Arena. Performers for the event which will benefit Maryland Special Olympics are Jonny Lang, Koko Taylor and Michael Burks. For more information you can check the Web Site, www.bayblues.org.

Carey Bell in Richmond September 21

The River City Blues Society is bringing Harp Master Carey Bell to play at the Blvd Deli, 5218 W. Broad St. in Richmond VA on



Hubert Sumlin at Western Maryland Blues Festival.
Photo © Heeday Nakahashi

Saturday, Sept. 21. Showtime 8:00 w/ openers Pure and Sinful. Cover is \$8 with a valid Blues Society membership card (presumably a River City Blues Society membership card, but you could try using your DC card, who knows), \$10 to the rest of the unclean masses.

Bayou Blues Closing

Got word that Bayou Blues II in Fells Point closed at the end of July and that Bayou Blues in White Marsh was changing its name and the type of music it was booking. This is sad to lose a couple venues that regularly presented blues performers. They have been removed from the listings. I know these clubs were in Baltimore area, but gave work to a number of musicians from the DC area as well.

D.C. Blues Society Membership Application/Order Form

The DC Blues Society is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) all volunteer organization! (0902)

Members receive a copy of the newsletter; The D.C. Blues Calendar, as well as discounts on society events & merchandise, some clubs, and other benefits.

The most important benefit is you help keep our ad rates up, the grant applications more appealing to the grantors and potential sponsors interest and support.

Contributions (not membership dues or merchandise) to the D.C. Blues Society are tax-deductible.

Please Print Clearly:

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Dues(US) per year: Circle appropriate one.

Individual: \$15.00 Family: \$25.00

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P.O. Box 77315

Washington D.C. 20013-7315

Family memberships (list member names):

Please allow up to six weeks for processing
Questions? Check out www.dcblues.org

or call the Society Hotline: (202) 828-3028

Would you be interested in
volunteering? _____

If yes, what would you like to do (if you know)?



Herndon Blues Fest Report

This year's Herndon Blues Festival was another wonderful event. Dedicated to John Jackson, upon whom the Festival has been originally built around, it included wonderful performances by a number of musicians who had known John in one capacity or another. A cousin of John, Eric Freeman, played some stunning Blind Boy Fuller numbers, while Pat Donohue joined Mary Barber for her wonderful set before his own extraordinary set that included stunning renditions of Leroy Carr's *In the Midnight Hour* and Blind Blake's *Police Dog Blues*, a number that John regularly performed. Flower's own set included a wonder reworking of the *Alabama Bound* number, *Virginia Bound*, and an arrangement of *Going Down Slow* that incorporated a riff associated with Willie Brown on *Future Blues* in the song's introduction. Others performing included Ray Kaminsky & Jack Fretwell, Jeff Scott (joined by Eleanor Ellis for a few numbers), and Cephas & Wiggins.

Top photo is of Eric Freeman. Bottom photo is of Pat Donohue (left) and Mary Flower (right) Photos © Ron Weinstock

A picture of Cephas and Wiggins from Herndon is on page 1 of this issue and one of Jeff Scott is on page 3.

GOOD NEWS!!! "PROJECT 1719" OPENS

The Society's "Project 1719," our cultural center, will open officially September 2, 2002. The facility will serve, in particular, as our headquarters. Also, presented there on a weekly basis, will be workshops, house-concerts, jams--house parties, and other events that will be announced as we get along. This undertaking is much overdue and we are eagerly looking forward to an exciting future. A "House Warming" party is scheduled for September 14th; we anxiously invite your attendance. "Project 1719" is located at 1719 11th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.. Three blocks down from Bohemian Caverns. The telephone number is 202-319-0033. The building is identified by our well-known banner displayed on the front. Keep informed of up-coming events there by radio announcements, your monthly newsletter, our website, and the Society's hotline. **Ain't That Good News!**

Melvin LaVert



The Pocono Blues Festival had any number of highlights including brilliant sets by Walter 'Wolfman' Washington & the Roadmasters, Anson Funderburgh & the Rockets with Sammy Myers, soul legend Howard Tate, Wallace Coleman (performing some strong Little Walter styled traditional blues, Paul Oscher (former Muddy Waters Band member dazzling on guitar, harmonica and piano and singing quite soulfully), Roy Roberts, Priscilla Price and Skeeter Brandon with a superb North Carolina Blues Revue, Robert Cray, Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson, and much more. It ended on a high note when Shemekia Copeland made a spectacular entrance on a Harley before her terrific set showing that she is among the brightest of young Blues Voices out there. Next year's festival is the first weekend in August and one thing blues fans who attend know is that it is all blues without any blues-rock filler, and you get to see acts that you might not get a chance to see anywhere else. Photo © Ron Weinstock

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