



SEPTEMBER 2003

© 2003 D.C. Blues Society
15th Annual DC Blues Festival
August 30-Carter Barron Amphitheatre
Monthly Society Jams return in October
homepage- <http://www.dcblues.org>
Blues Society jams return in the Fall

Festival Schedule

Amphitheatre stage - Main Stage

1:00 - 3:00 PM Blues Talent Competition
1:00-1:20 Phil 'the Fly' Zuckerman
1:30-1:50 Walter Robinson
2:00-2:20 Melanie Mason
2:30-2:50 Clarence Turner
3:00-3:45 Sheryl Warner & the Southside Homewreckers
4:00-5:00 Ron Holloway Group with Julia Nixon
5:15-6:00 Kelly Bell
6:15-7:30 Eddie Shaw & the Wolf Gang
7:45-9:00 Larry Garner

Acoustic/Workshop stage

1:00-1:45 Automatic Slim
2:00-2:45 Harp workshop (Michael Joy, Roger Edsall & Choo Choo Charlie Williams)
3:00-3:45 Dance Workshop
4:00-4:45 Terry Garland
5:00-6:00 Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation (Remembering Mr. Bones)

Kids Activities

1:00-5:00 Instrument Petting Zoo (Next to the acoustic/workshop stage)
3:00 Harp Workshop for the kids with Choo Choo Charlie Williams

Times are approximate.

Bands in Talent Competition limited to 20 minutes and penalized if run over.

15TH ANNUAL DC BLUES FESTIVAL

2003 – THE YEAR OF THE BLUES!

**August 30th at the Carter Barron
 Free No Tickets Needed**

The DC Blues Society, The National Park Service & The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities are pleased to present The 15th Annual DC Blues Festival at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre. This year's free festival celebrates 2003 The Year of the Blues. Headlining this year's festival are Larry Garner and Eddie Shaw & the Wolf Gang. Other performers include Kelly Bell with his Phat Blues, local sax sensation Ron Holloway with vocal diva Julia Nixon, an Acoustic band from Richmond, Sheryl Warner and the Homewreckers and the finals competition to decide the D.C. Blues Society's representative to the International Blues Challenge to be held in Memphis early next year.



Larry Garner @ State Theater
 Photo © Ron Weinstock

The finalists are Clarence Turner, Melanie Mason, Walter Robinson and Phil 'the Fly' Zuckerman.

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 the main stage performances there will be workshops and events for children. No tick-

ets are required for our free festival.

Volunteers may call our temporary hotline at 301-926-1336 or preferably e-mail me at ckirsch@erols.com. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Chris Kirsch, Festival Chair

Main Stage Performer Bios

Larry Garner

When you see a Larry Garner show today, it's hard to believe that the singer/guitar player was only a part-time bluesman for most of his career. But maybe that's his secret. His 20 years working days for Dow Chemical and

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THE DC BLUES SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 77315
WASHINGTON DC 20013-7315
Hotline (202) 828-3028
<http://www.dcblues.org>

President: Sam'i Nuriddin

Vice-President - Tony Puesan

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Counsel- Tom Gorman

Honorary Directors: John Cephas, Barry Lee Pearson, Joseph Wilson.

Webpagecoordinator: vacant

Projects Committee Chair: Chet Hines

Editors - Music: Ron Weinstock **Events:** Steve Levine

Contributors: Dan Broderick, Teresa Hemp, Chris Kirsch, Matt Philbin, Dan Rosenstein, Ingrid Strawser

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.dcblues.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.

The deadline for the October 2003 DC Blues Calendar is September 17 Wanted

Volunteer(s) to help with blues listings. We need someone to assist us in gathering blues listings from clubs and performers for the newsletter and the Society's webpage.

Contact Steve Levine at cypressgrove@hotmail.com or Ron Weinstock at rbluesw@yahoo.com

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nights in local clubs kept him around Baton Rouge, where he grew up, and where his swamp blues roots are.

Born in 1952, Garner's uncle taught him to play guitar, and Baton-Rouge area blues legends Lonesome Sundown, Silas Hogan, Henry Gray, and Guitar Kelly inspired him to take up the blues. After Garner's army service in Korea, marriage, a family and a good job with Dow came along. All along, he polished his talents, even winning a 1988 BB King "Lucille" Award for *Doghouse Blues*.

In 1992, a smash appearance at an English blues festival brought Garner to the attention of British JSP record label, which released his first two albums, **Double Blues** and **Too Blues**. In 1995 Garner came home to the Verve label for his amazing domestic debut, **You Need to Live a Little**. Since then, Garner's put out a string of acclaimed albums on Verve and then Ruf, including **Baton Rouge, Standing Room Only, Embarrassment to the Blues** and **Once Upon the Blues**.

While he's an original songwriter who infuses his compositions with wit and a "contemporary sensibility," it's his electrifying live shows—honed through constant touring—that have made Larry Garner's reputation as a premier blues artist.

Eddie Shaw and the Wolf Gang

How many musicians can say they left Muddy for the Wolf? Eddie Shaw can, and he can say a whole lot more besides. The tenor saxman's resume reads like a "Who's Who" of blues, dropping names like Ike Turner, Little Milton, Hound Dog Taylor, Freddie King, Otis Rush, Earl Hooker and Magic Sam.

Eddie Shaw left Greenville, Mississippi for Chicago in the mid-'50s to join Muddy Waters' band. After a few years he moved on to Howlin' Wolf's outfit, beginning an association that would last until Wolf's death in 1975, and culminating in Shaw's becoming Wolf's personal manager in 1972. When not working for Wolf, Shaw played gigs with just about every important Chicago blues artist, and appeared on two of Magic Sam's seminal albums in the late '60s. He also operated Chicago's legendary 1815 Club on West Roosevelt Road for a time.

But it was from Wolf that Shaw learned the most. And he learned it well enough to eventually become Wolf's bandleader and to arrange **The Howlin' Wolf London**

Sessions (with Eric Clapton) and Muddy Waters' **Unk in Funk** album.

When Wolf passed on, Shaw kept the Wolf Gang together, touring and making fine records for the Rooster Blues, Austrian Wolf and Delmark labels. Today's Wolf Gang descends directly from Wolf's original backing band and includes Shaw on vocals and sax; and son Eddie "Vaan" Shaw on guitar.

Ron Holloway

Tenor saxophonist Ron Holloway has had quite a career in the 35 years since he reluctantly picked up the instrument in his



Julia Nixon and Ron Holloway
Photo © Dan Rosenstein

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high school band class in D.C. He's played with his idols: Freddie Hubbard, Sonny Rollins, Gil Scott-Heron and Dizzy Gillespie. He was a member of Scott-Heron's band for seven years, and of Gillespie's quintet for the last four years of the jazz-great's life. An indication of his versatility is the fact he was a member of Root Boy Slim's Sex Change Band for several years. Holloway has played alternative rock, funk and R&B. He's had a number of successful solo albums and has won 38 Washington Area Music Awards, including two for "Musician of the Year." Recently, Holloway has played with about every DC area blues performer of note including Cathy Ponton King Whop Frazer and local legends Jesse Yawn and Bobby Parker. He also has played with such national acts as Taj Mahal, Little Feat, Derek Trucks, Shemekia Copeland, Delbert McClinton, Eddie From Ohio, and Julia Nixon. He has recorded four acclaimed albums for the Milestone label. His most recent album, *In March, 2003*, Ron's 5th CD; **Ron Holloway & Friends—Live at Montpelier**, was released in March on the Jazzmont label and included two vocals by Julia Nixon. His performance at this year's Columbia Pike Blues Festival was one of the highlights of the year with a terrific band and Julia Nixon's great singing. In addition to Julia Nixon, Ron will be joined by Jon Ozment (keyboards), Wordell Howell (electric bass), and Deren Blessman (drums) at the Festival performance.

Julia Nixon

She's an actress and playwright, but most of all, she's an incredible singer. Whether she's singing blues, jazz, soul or funk, Julia Nixon's four and a half-octave range and emotional interpretation captures her audiences.

Nixon attended the North Carolina School of the Arts, where she studied opera. Somewhere in that time, she got interested in Motown and soul music, and there was no looking back. Her big break came with her winning the lead role in the Broadway production of **Dreamgirls**. She wrote and co-wrote two hit plays at Key West's cutting edge **Waterfront Playhouse** theatre, **Jetties Blues/Blues N Black N White**, and **Hot and Soul** (written by Scott Gilmore, Julia Nixon, and David Ylvisaker). But it is Nixon's singing that has won her universal praise. She's had number-1 U.K. hit with **Breaking Down**. She's played Broadway, Radio City Music Hall, the White House and Lincoln and Kennedy Centers. She's appeared on international radio and television, made personal appearances from Tokyo to London to South America, and sings with Ron Holloway with whom she appeared with at this year's Columbia Pike Blues Festival

The Kelly Bell Band

Based out of Baltimore, The Kelly Bell Band have been voted "Best Band in Baltimore" (City Paper) on three separate occasions, and "Best Blues Band" (Music Monthly) for seven years in a row. But the moniker "blues band" doesn't begin to do justice to the band's unique blend of blues, soul, funk and rock-n-roll. As audiences up and down the East Coast have

discovered and rediscovered, the only category The KBB belongs in is "Awesome."

The KBB has shared the stage with such famous artists as James Brown, Matchbox 20, Better Than Ezra, G-Love and Special Sauce, SR-71, Jimmie's Chicken Shack, Cracker, Slash, Bobby Parker, Bo Diddley, Son Seals, Blues Traveler, Cheap Trick, Black Crowes, Ziggy Marley, Robert Cray, Buddy Guy, Bobby "Blue" Bland, James Cotton, Buckwheat Zydeco, and Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown. Their songs have received substantial airplay in radio markets around the country, and their first two CDs, **Phat Blues Music** and **Ain't Like It Used To Be**, sold 50,000 units. The KBB's latest release is titled **Chasing the Sun**.

Sheryl Warner & the Southside Homewreckers

This acclaimed acoustic trio covers blues from a wide-variety of prewar styles, including Delta, Piedmont and early Chicago. Cheryl Warner has been singing blues for more than 20 years, developing and bringing her own unique style to the music of blues-women such as Bessie Smith and Memphis Minnie. *Dirty Linen* has called her "One of the most expressive and powerful voices in blues today."

Guitarist Gregg Kimball—a Library of Virginia historian whose interest in blues comes from his research and writing in African-American and Southern—supports Warner on the six-string, twelve-string, and National steel guitars. His fluency in a wide range of early blues styles makes him a perfect complement to her powerful vocals.

Veteran harp player Rick Manson was a student and protégé of Richmond blues legend Nat Riddles, and he has played with several area bands, including the Detonators, the Smokin' Section, and the Brian Doherty Trio.

The Homewreckers two CDs, **Thirteen Classic Blues** and **Lucky Oil on My Hand**, have garnered great reviews and evidence the trio's attention to the authenticity and integrity of classic blues music.

Performer bios by Matt Philbin

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.



Kelly Bell at this year's National Capital Barbecue Battle
Photos © Ron Weinstock

The Year Of The Blues Heats Up WETA's Broadcast of Scorsese's The Blues series is a highlight

In 1903, musician W.C. Handy saw a man sitting in a remote Mississippi train station slide a knife along the strings of a guitar, and heard it produce a strange and compelling music. The blues had been discovered.

A century later, we're in the middle of what the U.S. Congress has officially declared The Year Of The Blues (YOTB). It's a ceremonial designation, of course, but thanks to the efforts of Robert Santelli, CEO and Director of Seattle-based Experience Music Project (EMP), the Memphis-based Blues Foundation and Blues Societies and private corporations across the country, along with the sponsorship of Volkswagen, the yearlong celebration sure has teeth.

YOTB activities include educational initiatives, concerts, festivals and other blues-related events. And the end of summer brings us perhaps the biggest and most wide-reaching YOTB events: The Blues hits both radio and TV in unprecedented programs.

On Radio

According to the International Public Radio website: **'The Blues'** is a comprehensive chronicle of America's most enduring music form. Hosted by Keb' Mo', this landmark 13-program series affirms the blues' place as America's seminal roots music; more than any other genre, it forms the foundation of modern American popular music.

Each hour-long episode uses new and archival interviews, recordings, and remotes from where blues history occurred as well as where the music thrives today. The series includes interviews with musical giants like B.B. King and Bonnie Raitt, as well as performances by Cephas and Wiggins, Shemekia Copeland, the North Mississippi Allstars, and many others."

The first episode of **The Blues** can be heard on Saturday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. on 90.5 WKHS-FM, Worton, Maryland. It is not clear if other non-profit stations are carrying this in the MD,DC and VA areas.

On TV

Probably the biggest event of YOTB is **The Blues**, a seven-part series premiering September 28 on PBS. Famed director Martin Scorsese, the executive producer and project visionary, and six other big-name directors each contribute to the series one film covering a different aspect of blues history, or subgenre of the music. According to the series website, www.pbs.org/theblues, "The films in the series are motivated by a central theme: how the blues evolved from parochial folk tunes to a universal language."

Although it follows the music from its obscure African roots right up to its current status as a foundation of popular music, **The Blues** is no dry documentary. Scorsese explains that his intention was not to create a "definitive work on the blues," but to produce "highly personal and impressionistic films" that impart "the spirit of it rather than just plain facts."

More than two years in the making, the series draws heavily on original recordings and archival footage to tell its

story. But it also features contemporary blues artists performing their takes on the classic songs, helping to convey what the website calls the "transcendent, timeless quality of the music." The directors also exercise plenty of artistic license, at different times using fictional stories and characters to illustrate an aspect of the blues, at others having actors play seminal blues figures. In director Wim Wenders' *The Soul of a Man*, contemporary bluesman Chris Thomas King (who played Tommy Johnson in **O Bother Where Art Thou?**) steps into the role of Blind Willie Johnson.

The individual films in The Blues will appear as follows:
Feel Like Going Home by Martin Scorsese — Sunday, September 28

The Soul of a Man by Wim Wenders — Monday, September 29
The Road to Memphis by Richard Pearce — Tuesday, September 30

Warming by the Devil's Fire by Charles Burnett — Wednesday, October 1

Godfathers and Sons by Marc Levin — Thursday, October 2

Red, White and Blues by Mike Figgis — Friday, October 3

Piano Blues by Clint Eastwood — Saturday, October 4

Check T.V. listings for airtimes, although WETA's website says the series starts broadcasting Sunday September 28 at 9:00PM.

Another important television work on the blues will air this August on PBS stations across the country. Produced by Shout! Factory, **Blues Story** is a documentary featuring living blues legends telling—and singing—their own stories. Filmed over five years in the Mississippi Delta, Memphis, Chicago and elsewhere, **Blues Story** includes exclusive new footage of Bobby "Blue" Bland, R.L. Burnside, Ruth Brown, Buddy Guy, B.B. King, Koko Taylor, Little Milton, Pinetop Perkins, Rufus Thomas, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown and others. Shout! Factory will release a companion **Blues Story 2** CD set and the **Blues Story** DVD at retail on September 29th. **Blues Story** can be seen in the D.C. area on August 29 at 8:00 p.m. on WNVN.

Summer may be ending, but the Year Of The Blues is just heating up.

Matt Philbin

WETA's website has more about The Scorsese Blues TV series along with other

blues-related programs it is sponsoring this year. Check out www.weta.org.

Kennedy Center Marks Year of the Blues

The John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is holding several events to mark the Year of the Blues. A number of blues performers played the Millennium stage in mid-August including Otis Taylor, Little Nit of Blues and on Sunday, September 7, the annual free Open House. This year's Open House includes a celebration of the blues including performances by Cephas & Wiggins, James Cotton, Corey Harris, Ronnie Baker Brooks, Shemekia Copeland, The Nighthawks with guest Hubert Sumlin, a preview of the Martin Scorsese **The Blues TV series, poet Sterling Plump and more.** Also mid-September performances by Larry McCray and the local Blue Rhythm Boys with special guest Phil Wiggins is scheduled for the Center's Terrace Theater. Check their webpage at www.kennedy-center.org for more information.



Bobby Bland, shown at this year's National Capital Barbecue Battle, is in a public television program **Blues Story**, among programs produced for the Year of the Blues.
Photo © Ron Weinstock

Late August Listings

25 BG and the Mojo Hands @ JVs
27 Marshall Artz @ Bangkok Blues
28 Honey Joe Brown @ Bangkok Blues
Mose Allison @ Blues Allison (thru 31)
29 Gypsy & the Crazy Moon @ Bangkok Blues
Blues Museum @ Bantz St Raw Bar
30 DC Blues Festival @ Carter Barron
Robert Cray @ State Theatre
Chai & Bangkok Blues @ Bangkok Blues
Jamie Lynch & Robert Frahm @ JVs
31 Hot August Blues @ Rosedale (MD) American Legion Hall
Curtis Blue @ Bangkok Blues

September Blues Listings

2 BB King, Jeff Beck @ Wolf Trap
4 Catfish Hodge @ Firestone's
Takoma Crossing @ JV's
5 Mary Shaver Band @ Lasick's
Sherwood Blues Band @ Bangkok Blues
Black Cat Blues Band @ Brady's
Reggie Wayne Morris @ Zoo Bar
Ralph Fortune & the Blues Fuse @ JVs
DangerTones @ Bella's Sports Bar
Tom Principato @ Sunset Grille
Daryl Davis @ Bayou Blues
Melanie Mason Band @ Summit Station
6 Bad Influence @ Bangkok Blues
Mary Shaver Band @ Bantz St. Raw Bar
Black Cat Blues Band @ Cincinnati Cafe
Heart Of Blue @ Summit Station
Ron Holloway w. Julia Nixon at
Rosslyn Jazz Festival, Gateway Park,
Rosslyn VA
7 Open House Arts Festival - @
Kennedy Center
8 Shemekia Copeland @ Ram's Head
Nighthawks @ Chevy Chase Ballroom
9 Maria Muldaur @ Blues Alley
10 Janine Wilson Band @ Afterwords
Tacoma Crossing @ Bangkok Blues
11 Smokin' Polecats @ Firestone's
Lost Highway @ Bangkok Blues
12 Catfish Hodge @ Okra's
DangerTones @ Summit Station
Melanie Mason Band @ Bangkok Blues
Black Magic & Last Dog Standing @
Bentz St Raw Bar
13 Piece By Piece @ Basin St.
Jackson St Band @ Bangkok Blues
Takoma Crossing @ Jay's Saloon
Julia Nixon @ The Birchmere
Black Cat Blues Band @ Inn Zone
Deanna Bogart @ Jammin' Java
DangerTones @ Red Eye's
14 Bluebird Blues Festival @ PG
Community College
Nighthawks @ Rally For The Kids,
17th & G St. NW
15 BluesWorks @ King Street Gar-
dens Park



17 Larry McCray @ Kennedy Center
Terrance Theatre
18 Blue Rhythm Boys @ Kennedy
Center Terrance Theatre
Mary Shaver w/Smokin' Polecats @
Firestone's
19 Tom Principato @ State Theatre
(CD release party)
Blue Book Vaklue @ Ice House Cafe
Black Cat Blues Band @ Firestone's
Reggie Wayne Morris @ Bangkok Blues
Catfish Hodge @ Goodfella's
DangerTones @ King's Contrivance
Village Center
Smokin' Polecats @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
20 Flat Foot Sam & the Educated
Fools @ JVs
Melanie Mason Band @ Truffles
Black Cat Blues Band @ Cincinnati Cafe
Chai & Bangkok Blues @ Bangkok Blues
21 The Meteors @ Bangkok Blues
DangerTones @ Waterman's Crab
House
24 Janine Wilson Band @ Afterwords
25 Jamie Lynch & Robert Frahm @ JVs
James Mabry @ Outta Way Cafe
26 Piece By Piece @ Bangkok Blues
Bad Influence @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
Black Cat Blues Band @ Fox Chase
Tavern
Rail Riders @ Cowboy Cafe South
Tone Popes @ Okra's
27 Robert Lighthouse @ Bangkok Blues
Cathy Ponton King @ Bentz St Raw Bar

Weekly Events

Sun Detroit Slim @ Full Moon
Steve Kraemer @ Cat's Eye (also

other bands as indicated in listings)
Dave Elliott @ JV's
Jim Bennett & Lady Mary w. Unique
Creation Band @ Lamont's
Jam @ Lasick's (except 1st Sunday)
Kenny Haddaway (open mic) @
Whitlow's
Jimmy Cole @ Fat Tuesday's (Fairfax)
Acoustic Jam @ King of France Tavern
Automatic Slim Jam @ Wahoo's
Pro Blues Jam @ Sully's
Mon Blues Jam @ Taliano's
Blues Museum Duo @ Potbelly's
Blues jam @ Chick Hall's Surf Club
Tue Jam @ Full Moon
Crow Valley Jam @ Bangkok Blues
Ben Andrews @ Madam's Organ
Resonators @ Grog & Tankard
Wed Various @ Full Moon
Diane Postell @ Tom's Sports Tavern
Jam @ Coconuts
Jam @ 94th Aero Squadron
Big Dog Band @ Cat's Eye
Persuaders @ Main Street Blues
Steve Smith Band @ Round Table

Thu Jam @ Backstreets Cafe
Jam w/ Flatfoot Sam @ Zoo Bar
Jam @ Full Moon
Dean's Blues Jam @ South River Café
Fri Blue Flames @ Bertha's,
Hardway Connection @ Tradewinds
Sat Various @ Full Moon
Clarence Turner @ Ledbetter'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 2003.
Deadline is September 17.**

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

Places to Hear Blues

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

219 Basin Street Lounge, 219 King St., Alexandria, VA (703) 549-1141
94th Aero Squadron, 5240 Paint Branch Pkwy., College Pk, MD
Afterwords Cafe, 1517 Connecticut Ave NW, D.C. (202) 387-1462
Allegro, 13476 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring
Armadillos, 132 Dock St., Annapolis, MD (410) 268-6680
Backstreets Cafe, 12352 Wilkins Ave., Rockville, MD
Ball's Bluff, 2 Loudon Street, SW, #2D, Leesburg, VA (703) 777-7577
Bangkok Blues, 926 W. Broad St., Falls Church, VA (703) 534-0095
Barefoot Pelican, 156 Enterprise St., Sterling, VA (703) 444-2208
Basin Street, 45965 Regal Plaza, Sterling, VA (703) 404-3300
Bay Cafe, 2809 Boston St, Baltimore, MD
Bayou Blues ,8133A Honeygo Blvd., White Marsh, MD (410) 931-BLUE
Bean Counter, 9113 1/2 Belair Road, Perry Hall (410) 529-4200
Ben's Whole Hog Barbecue Restaurant, 7422 Old Centreville Rd., Manassas VA, 20111 (703) 331-5980
Bentz Street Raw Bar, 6 S. Bentz St., Frederick, MD (301) 694-9134
Bertha's, 723 S. Broadway, Baltimore, MD (410) 327-0426
Berwyn Cafe, 5010 Berwyn Rd., College Park, MD (301) 345-9898
Birchmere, 3901 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA (703) 549-5919
Blues Alley, 1073 Rear Wisconsin Ave. NW, DC (202) 337-4141
Brady's, 7189 Center St, Manassas, VA (703) 369-1469
Cafe Toulouse, 2431 18th St. NW Washington (202) 238-9018
Cafe Tattoo, 4825 Belair Rd, Baltimore, MD (410) 325-7427
Calvert House, 6111 Baltimore Ave., Riverdale, MD (301) 864-5220
Cat's Eye , 1730 Thames St., Fells Point, Baltimore, MD (410) 276-9866
Chevy Chase Ballroom, 5207 Wisconsin Ave. NW, DC (202) 363-8344
Chick Hall's Surf Club, 4711 Kenilworth Ave, Hyattsville (301) 927-6310
Chuck & Billy's Lounge, 2718 Georgia Ave., NW, DC (202) 232-0924
Clarendon Grill, 1101 N. Highland St., Arlington, VA (703) 524-7455
Coconuts, 1629 Crain Hwy., Crofton, MD (301) 261-3366
Copper Bit, 573 Frost Dr., Warrenton, VA (703) 347-5757
Cowboy Cafe North, 4792 Lee Highway, Arlington (703) 243-8010
Cowboy Cafe South, 2421 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA (703) 486-3467
Crossroads, 3988 University Blvd., Fairfax, VA (703) 352-1547
Crossroads, 4103 Baltimore Ave., Bladensburg, MD (301) 927-1056
Dead Eye Saloon, Hanover Street, Baltimore, MD (410) 539-7784
Diamond Grill, 800 W Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD (301) 963-4847
Dr. Dremo's Taphouse, 2001 Clarendon Blvd, Arlington, VA (703) 528-4660
Eastport Clipper , 400 6th St., Annapolis, MD (410) 280-6400
Ebb Tide, 985 Bay Ridge Road, Annapolis, MD (410) 269-1500
Famous Dave's, 917 Quince Orchard Rd, Gaithersburg, MD
Fast Eddie's, 6220 S. Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, (703) 660-9444
Fat Tuesday's, 10673 Braddock Rd, Fairfax (703) 385-5717
Firestone's, 105 N Market Street, Frederick MD (301) 663-0330
Fish Bowl, 4802 Benson Ave., Baltimore, MD (410) 247-2474
Fletcher's, 701 S. Bond St., Baltimore, MD (410) 588-1889
Foggy Dog, Washington, DC (202) 463-3025
Tall Cedars, 2501 Putty Hill Rd., Baltimore, MD (410) 583-7337
Friends, 10444 Dumfries Rd., Manassas, VA (703) 331-0109
Full Moon, 1710 Aliceanna St, Baltimore, MD (410) 558-2873
Gee's, 3415 52nd Ave., Cheverly, MD (301) 927-2582
Glen Echo Park, MacArthur Blvd & Goldboro Rd, Glen Echo, MD
Grand Marquis, 18320 Village Mart Dr, Olney, MD (301) 260-0500
Grog and Tankard, 2408 Wisconsin Ave, Washington, (202) 333-3114
HR-57, 1610 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009 (202) 667-3700
Half Moon BBQ, 8235 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring MD (301) 585-1290
Holiday House, 6427 Harford Rd., Baltimore, MD (410) 426-6794
Hull Street Blues, 1222 Hull St, Baltimore, MD (410) 727-7476
Hunter's, 10123 River Rd, Potomac, MD (301) 299-9300
Ice House Cafe, 760 Elden St., Herndon, VA (703) 471-4256
Iota, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA (703) 522-8340
IMT, Unitarian-Universalist Church of Silver Spring, 10309 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD (301) 588-7525
J.J.'s Grill, 2005 Viers Mill Road, Rockville, MD (301) 309-6388
Jammin' Java , 231 Maple Ave, Vienna, VA (703) 255-1566
Junction Station , 1705 Edmonson Ave., Catonsville, MD (410) 747-6437
JV's, 6666 Arlington Blvd, Annandale VA (703) 241-9504
King of France Tavern, 15 Church Street, Annapolis, MD (410) 216-6340
Lamont's, 4400 Livingston Rd, Pomonkey, MD (301) 283-0225
Lasick's, 9128 Baltimore Blvd., College Park, MD (301) 441-2040

Luna Park Grille, 5866 Washington Blvd., Alexandria, VA (703) 237-5862
Madam's Organ, 2641 18th St., NW, DC (202) 667-5370
Magic Cue, 13032 Middlebrook Rd., Germantown, MD (301) 916-7665
Main Street USA , 7131 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA (703) 750-0777
Market Street Station, 19 E. Market St., Leesburg, VA (703) 443-1073
Mexicali Blues, 2933 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA (703) 812-9352
Michael's Pub, Kings Contrivance Center, Columbia, MD (410) 290-7878
New Haven Lounge, 1552 Havenwood Rd., Northwood Shopping Center, Baltimore, MD (410) 366-7416
New Vegas Lounge , 1415 P St., NW, Washington, DC (202) 483-3971
Occaquan Inn, 301 Mill St., Occaquan, VA (703) 491-1888
Oliver's Pub, 1565 Potomac Ave., Hagerstown, MD (301) 790-0011
Oliver's Saloon, 531 Main St., Laurel, MD (301) 490-9200
Outta the Way Cafe, 17503 Redland Rd., Derwood, MD (301) 963-6895
Paloma's, 15 W. Eager St., Baltimore, MD
Parker's, 1809 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, MD (410) 563-2988
Pelican Pete's, 12941 Wisteria Dr., Germantown, MD (301) 428-1990
Ram's Head Tavern, 33 West St., Annapolis, MD (410) 268-4545
Recher Theatre, 512 York Rd., Towson, MD (410) 337-7210
Rendevous Inn, 362 Front St., Perryville, MD (410) 642-0045
Roots Cafe, 27th & Paul Streets, Baltimore, MD (410) 880-3883
Rosedale American Legion, 1311 Seling Ave., Rosedale, MD
Round Table, 4859 Wisconsin Ave., NW, DC (202) 362-1250
Santa Fe Grill, 216 William St., Fredericksburg, VA (540) 371-0500
Shark Club, 14114 Lee Hwy., Centreville, VA (703) 266-1888
Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo, MD
Spanky's Shennanigan's, Leesburg, VA (703) 777-2454
St. Elmo's Coffee , 2300 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA (703) 739-9268
Starland Cafe , 5125 MacArthur Blvd, NW (202) 244-9396
State Theatre, 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church, VA (703) 237-0300
Sully's, 14513 Lee Jackson Hwy, Chantilly, VA (703) 818-9292
Summit Station, 227 E. Diamond Ave., Gaithersburg, MD (301) 519-9400
Sunset Grille, 7250 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA (703) 658-0982
South River Café, Annapolis, MD
Sweet Caroline's, 29 W Cork St, Winchester VA (540) 723-8805
Taliano's , 7001 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD (301) 270-5515
Truffles , 1001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Sandy Spring, MD (240) 774-7309
TT Reynolds , Fairfax, VA (703) 591-9282
Twins, 1344 U St, NW DC (202) 234-0072
Wahoo's Sports Bar, 9820 Liberty Road, Randallstown, MD (410) 655-8668
Waterman's Crab House Rock Hall, MD (410) 810-2631
Whitey's 2761 Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA (703) 525-9825
Whitlow's on Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA (703) 276-9693
Wild Azalea, 1648 Crystal Square Arcade, Arlington, VA (703) 413-2250
Wolf Trap, Vienna, VA (703) 255-1900
Woodstock Inn, Woodstock, MD (410) 465-9855
Wyvill's Tavern, 5753 Southwest Crain Hwy., Upper Marlboro, MD (301) 952-1222
Zanzibar, 700 Water St, SE (202) 554-9100
Zig's, 4531 Duke Street, Alexandria VA 703- 823-2777
Zoo Bar, 3000 Connecticut Ave., NW, DC (202) 232-4225
If you know of clubs that do have blues on a regular basis (at least once a month) that we do not list, please send an update to Steve Levine at cypressgrove@hotmail.com

D.C. BLUES CALENDAR

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. e-mail - rbluesw@yahoo.com

October issue Deadline is September 17

Super Black Blues

As the review in **Blues Unlimited** noted about the original vinyl release of **SuperBlack Blues**, the recording of Otis Spann, Big Joe Turner and T-Bone Walker was a true super session that lived up to this label. Recorded in October 1969 and released on the BluesTime label in 1969-1970, it has finally appeared on compact disc on BMG France. There are three long tracks on which Turner, Walker and Spann (on two tracks) each take some of the vocal spotlight with a little bit of kidding between Turner and Walker, and one ballad, *Here I am Broken Hearted*, which is sung by Turner. In between the vocals, Walker, Spann, tenor saxophonist Ernie Watts and George 'Harmonica' Smith take solos, all of which are nicely delivered and lack the self-indulgent mediocrity of many of the highly publicized supersessions. Despite the informal feel of these performances, this album is a gem with a wonderful rhythm section of guitarist Arthur Wright, bassist Ron Brown and drummer Paul Humphrey that push the groove while still swinging. Its hard to believe that Spann was dead half a year after this was recorded as his playing and vocals here sound so vital while everybody else is also at the top of the game. As Joe Turner sings on the aptly titled *Blues Jam*, it was a lovely party and everybody had a ball and that good time comes across with great vitality nearly three and a half decades later.

Kelly Bell Band

Kelly Bell, who will be among those performing at the 15th Annual D.C. Blues Festival, has developed a pretty substantial following in the Baltimore-Washington region and as someone who has enjoyed his "Phat Blues" live and on compact disc it is easy to understand why. His mix of blues with funk, soul, rap and other musical elements results in a lively music that is heartfelt but also is fun. Bell would make it, as a straight blues singer with a warm, natural delivery and the Kelly Bell Band including guitarist Ira Mayfield is a terrific band whose efforts complement Bell's lead vocals. On a recording such as his latest disc **Chasing the Sun** (Phat Blues Records) he adds elements of rap, short pop-oriented songs and comedy routines like *Good For What Ails You* that suggests a Firesign Theater influence. This can be heard on *Popstar*, which starts as a psychedelic inflected song about being a popstar that after a guitar break and segues into a gospel-inspired romp about 'evil popstars,' and "make no mistake, popstars bring bad tidings." It is followed by a strong blues performance. Hey Babe! Where he complains about someone locking the back dog and would come thru the front but "Kelly's key don't work no more." Blues like *How Long* (which includes a rap by rapper Jimmy Wilson) shows how original Bell is on a blues inspired by one of the blues classics while *Rain No More* is a blues that sounds inspired by a children's song. There are many heralded new blues talents, but few bring both an enthusiasm as well as fresh ideas to the blues performance as Kelly Bell has, and this newest release will hopefully whet your appetite for his Festival appearance.

Barrelhouse Chuck & Other Piano Blues

I remember when the D.C. Blues Society presented Barrelhouse Chuck with Mark Wenner and Ben Andrews for what was a very magical evening of acoustic blues. He was supposed to have recorded an album at the time but it never was released. Thankfully we have an absolutely wonderful disc **Prescription For the Blues** (The Sirens) by a man who was mentored by legends like Sunnyland Slim and Little Brother Montgomery and the lessons he learned from these giants are evident in his strong playing that evokes the great piano blues of the past and his own vocals. Several tracks are introduced by a short homage to the original

NOTES HOT & BLUE by Ron Weinstock



artist whether Montgomery on the title track (Erwin Helfer plays the piano on this while Chuck sings), Sunnyland Slim on *Johnson Machine Gun* and *Going Back to Memphis* (Slim's variation on the *Rollin' and Tumblin'* theme taken by Chuck as an instrumental), or Leroy Carr on *Barrelhouse Women*, *Mean Mistreater Mama*, *Straight Alky Blues*, and *My Own Lonesome Blues* as well as his own renditions of blues standards like *Sitting on Top of the World*, *Tin Pan Alley* and *Corrine Corrina*. His renditions of many of these numbers are truly a joy as he displays a touch and sense of time that many heralded pianists' lack. He really captures the flavor of Montgomery and Carr with his playing along with his natural singing. With Sunnyland Slim's material, he evokes the flavor of Slim's originals, but doesn't duplicate Sunnyland's own distinctive sense of phrasing. On *Ain't Nobody's Business* Erwin Helfer joins him for a piano-organ duet on this blues standard. Handsomely packaged, **Prescription For the Blues** is an absolute delight that piano blues enthusiasts will want.

Barrelhouse Chuck is also present on **8 Hands on 88 Keys** (The Sirens) along with pianists Erwin Helfer, Detroit Junior and Pinetop Perkins. Chuck opens with a fine rendition of Sunnyland Slim's *It's You Baby*, followed by a fine slow instrumental *Rooster's Blues*, is backed by Helfer on *Pinetop's Blues* where Helfer plays some

stunning runs inspired by Pinetop Smith's original, and by Detroit Junior on *Miss Ida B*, an old Roosevelt Sykes number that Pinetop Perkins frequently performs. Detroit Junior, a member of Howlin' Wolf's last band, is also represented on disc and it's a delight to hear him on the rollicking *I'm So Unhappy* and the slow country-inflected *Ella* although his rendition of *Staggerlee*, based on Lloyd's Price's hit is simply pleasant. Helfer backs him for *Ain't Nobody's Business*, which is followed by a fine original boogie woogie and Jimmy Yancey's *4 O'clock Blues*. Helfer accompanies Pinetop Perkins vocal on the Ivory Joe Hunter classic, *I Almost Lost My Mind*, which is followed by Perkins' typical renditions of *Grinder Man Blues*, *How Much More* and *How Long Blues*. There is perhaps nothing new from Pinetop, but his performances provide a fine end to a collection of top-notch piano blues performances. It should be mentioned that Helfer has an excellent disc on The Sirens, **I'm Not Hungry But I Like To Eat - Blues** that was nominated for a Handy Award as Comeback Blues album of the year.

Another highly recommended piano blues album is Christian Dazzler's **All Alone and Blue**. The Austrian born Dozzler was for years a member of The Mojo Blues Band, one of Europe's leading blues aggregations. He played with Larry Garner for a period and now is based in Dallas where he plays with Robin Banks (he can be heard on her two excellent discs I reviewed a few months ago). This disc features some strong piano and vocals with the title track and *Midnight Hour Blues* being strong renditions of Leroy Carr numbers while his rollicking piano drives along John Brim's *Be Careful*. A couple of tracks display his strong boogie woogie piano style and he even takes out the harmonica for a track. You can order this as well as the discs on The Sirens thru cdbaby.com, and likely better stores and online cd retailers.

Terence McArdle

Terence McArdle has been part of the DC area's blues scene for too many years to note including as one documenting its history (he wrote the first lengthy piece on Bobby Parker) and as a guitarist vocalist with such groups as the Uptown Rhythm Kings and his own band Big Trouble. McArdle has just issued his debut cd, **You Better Believe It** (Barkwood Records) on which he pays tribute to some of his influences and displays his impressive skills and keen

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

musical sense. Most of this is comprised of covers of songs, some better known (*24 Hours a Day*, *Just a Little Bit*, *Tell Me What's the Reason*) and others lesser known including *Baby Don't Do That*, the title track and *Sound the Bell*). Thrown in are some original instrumentals, *Boogie For Pee Wee* and *Mimona*. Even with familiar material, McArdle avoids slavish imitations of prior recordings. Probably his funky reworking of Tampa Red's *Don't You Lie to Me* displays this side the best. It certainly does not hurt that he has the likes of Artie Gerstein and former Blues Society director Liz Lohr on keyboards, Derek Huston, Chris Watling, Jerry Queene and Joe Stanley on saxophones, Michael Powell on trumpet, Charles Solomon and Bryant MacGregory on bass and Brett Littlehales on harmonica to give a partial list of the players on this disc. If not a great singer, McArdle is still more than a credible one and sings passionately throughout. With a swinging rhythm section and consistently strong playing throughout by McArdle and the other players, as well as a nice variety of material, he has produced a very entertaining disc that should appeal to many. It will be available at better local stores, his gigs and at cdbaby.com where you can sample tracks.

Lea Gilmore

Another local performer with a new disc is Baltimore vocalist Lea Gilmore who has performed throughout the Baltimore and Washington region singing blues, gospel and jazz including tributes to Mahalia Jackson and Dinah Washington among others. With a band that includes her long-time associate, keyboard whiz Eric Bryd, Lea recorded her debut blues disc, *I Don't Know Where*

MORE NOTES HOT & BLUE by Ron Weinstock



You Are (North Atlantic Blues Records), at CafÉ Classics in Doylestown PA. Like McArdle, this is a collection of mostly interpretations of classic blues recordings including *Evil Gal Blues* that Dinah Washington originally recorded when with Lionel Hampton, Little Willie John's *Fever*, Sippie Wallace's *Women Be Wise*, Ma Rainey's *See See Rider* (miscredited to Otis Spann), Richard M Jones' *Trouble in Mind* (originally recorded by Chippie Hill with Jones on piano and Louis Armstrong on trumpet and miscredited here to John Lee Hooker), Buddy Johnson's *Since I Fell For You* (miscredited to Big Mama Thornton), Blind Willie Johnson's *Nobody's Fault But Mine* (miscredited to Otis Redding), Ray Charles' *Hallelujah I Just Love Him So*, and Eddie Miller's blues chestnut, *Drink Muddy Water* (miscredited to Ansley Fleetwood). Knowing Lea I must confess I was surprised that so many songs were not credited correctly but that has to be my major complaint about this album. With her powerful voice, Lea also knows how to deliver a lyric and when to lay back before belting out a song's climatic moment and impresses greatly with Byrd's very sympathetic accompaniment and solid idiomatic playing from the band, the authority of Lea's singing comes across whether revamping *See See Rider* with Byrd's rollicking piano or asking her man to *Rock Me Baby*, or displaying her gospel roots on *Nobody's Fault But Mine*. This has been a long-time coming and at last the blues side of Lea Gilmore is available to fans to join her existing gospel recordings. For fans of this local treasure, it has long been overdue. Others will have the pleasure of discovering Lea Gilmore on this.



**11th annual
Bluebird
Blues
festival**

**at Prince George's Community College
Sunday, Sept. 14, 2003 | 1 - 6 p.m.**

Performers:
Clarence Carter along with Al Muntzie and the Renaissance Singers, Daryl Davis Band, Hardway Connection, Mary Shaver Band, the Reggie Wayne Morris Blues Band, Ruby Hayes, Barry Lee Pearson, Jeffrey Scott, Warner Williams and Jay Summerour and the Legendary Orioles.

For more information, call 301-322-0853 or TTY 301-322-0122.

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 Kaiser Permanent, Comcast, Gregory K. Wells and Associates, TIAA CREF, Southwest Airlines, Southern Management Corporation, The Pepsi Bottling Group, Days Inn Capital Beltway, Bank of America, The Washington Post, Target, Grayhound Trash Removal, Inc., Thompson Hospitality, Maryland State Arts Council, Prince George's Arts Council and NBC4 Washington.



Blues Festivals

Selected upcoming festivals

Alonzo's Memorial Picnic, August 31, 2003 at the Rosedale American Legion Hall Grounds. The lineup for this annual Baltimore Blues Society event is impressive, with Eddie Shaw & the Wolf Gang, James Armstrong and Eugene 'Hideaway' Bridges featured. Bridges' most recent album, *Jump the Joint*, is an outstanding cd that was recently reviewed here and this is his only US appearance at this time I understand so it adds special interest to this performance. Check www.mojoworkin.com for more information

September 5-6, the **16th Bull Durham Blues Festival**, Durham NC. Friday is devoted to Blues Divas and performers include Koko Taylor and Her Blues Machine; Shemekia Copeland; Deborah Coleman and Rosie Ledet. Saturday's show features Jerry "The Iceman" Butler, Little Milton, and Tommy Castro Band. The Festival takes place at the Durham Athletic Park, downtown Durham, North Carolina. For more information visit <http://hayti.org/blues/index.htm>, or call (919) 683-1709 ext. 24.

September 6-7 **Blues at the Beach**, Virginia Beach VA. Performers include Paul Rishell & Annie Raines; Hubert Sumlin w/The Nighthawks; Little Charlie & The Nightcats and The Tommy Castro Band. For more information on this free event check the Natchel Blues Network's website, www.natchelblues.org.

September 12-14, **Taste of the Blue Ridge Blues & Jazz Festival**. Roanoke VA. 540/853-2889. Information on the lineup was not posted on the website as of presstime. <http://www.tobr.org/>

September 14, 2003, **Bluebird Blues Festival**. Prince George Community College Largo MD. September 14 with Clarence Carter headlining. Others performing include Daryl Davis, The Hardway Connection, Mary Shaver, Ruby Hayes, Reggie Wayne Morris, Warner Williams and Jay Summerour and Jeff Scott. See the festival ad on page 8 for more information.

October 9-11. **King Biscuit Blues Festival**, Helena Arkansas.

This is only a partial listing of significant blues festivals, I have only listed a few that are not within reasonable driving distance from the DC area. For more extensive listings check

out recent issues of *Living Blues* and *Blues Revue*, the Blues Society's website or the Blues Foundation's website, www.blues.org, for links to other festivals and festival listings.

Anson & the Rockets with Sam Myers playing Benefit in Richmond area

River City Blues Society presents the 1st Annual Bobby Olive Memorial Picnic to benefit the Music Makers Relief Foundation. It takes place on Sunday, Sept. 28th at the Dale Ruritan Club, 5101 Ruritan Place, Route 10 (Iron Bridge Rd.)

at Chippenham Pkwy in the Richmond area. Gates open 1PM, music Starts 2 \$15 at the door, \$10 for any current Blues Society or Blues Foundation member. Children under 10 free. No Coolers, Tailgating or pets Please!

Lineup: Anson Funderburgh and the Rockets Feat Sam Meyers, Li'l Ronnie and then Grand Dukes, Terry Garland, Pure and Sinful. We should have flyers for this event at the DC Blues Festival. More info at their website, www.wegotblues.com.

We Need You

As editor of the Blues Calendar, I am asking for some help in putting together the blues listings for the newsletter and our website. We are particularly interested in someone who might be able to contact some of the clubs and performers on a somewhat regular basis so we can increase our listings.

We are also looking for other contributions, including perhaps some record reviews (send me a couple samples perhaps) photos or write-ups of some live performances perhaps or write-ups on local performers or clubs or any other good idea you have. Please e-mail ideas, submissions, etc., to rbluesw@yahoo.com. Please send me electronic files if at all possible. The newsletter does not have clerical staff and I do not

have time to be a typist. Also, send jpegs of photos if possible.

Also is there something that you would like to see included in the newsletter that we do not currently have. It may be something we run every few months or so, but think of what information we might provide you here.



The Hardway Connection are among the performers for this year's Bluebird Blues Festival. Pictured at Lamont's this past July. Photo © Ron Weinstock



Anson Funderburgh & the Rockets with Sam Myers will be at Bobby Olive Memorial Picnic on September 28 put on by the River City Blues Society of Richmond. Here they are performing at Blues House event in Winchester this past July. Photo © Dan Broderick



Gator Fest was a Blast

Some scenes from Lamont's for the annual Gator Fest this past July in Pomomkey Maryland. Robert Lighthouse opened with a st that mixed Elmore James and Dr. Ross with Jimi Hendrix before Jim Bennett came on stage with the Unique Creation Band that features Lady Mary and had a special guest appearance from Jacques 'Saxman' Johnson who sang his recent single, *I'm a Root Doctor* which fit in with Bennett's mix of old school soul and blues tunes. In addition to Saxman's guest appearance, Lady Mary enlivened the set with a stroll singing in the crowd and also having five ladies strut their dancing styles for the appreciative crowd there Bobby Parker was up next and played his typical set and sounded quite good. After Bobby's set, the Blues Brothers Club, a group of local blues lovers gave Lamont an honorary membership after which Gator was introduced to his fans. Roy C and the Touch Band followed with a set of mostly mature, sometimes risqué blues and soul. He is a terrific singer and performer and his band is first rate and is as good as say Bobby Rush though he lacks Bobby's dancers. Hopefully he will be able to get discovered by a more general blues audience. After his excellent set, the music moved inside for an after party with the Hardway Conenction sounding as good as ever. Other shows at Lamont's this summer featured Marvin Sease and Jay Blackfoot.

Top Row from left to right - Robert Lighthouse; Jacques Johnson; Bobby Parker; Roy C

2nd Row from left to right, Jacques Johnson and Bobby Parker; Unique Creation Band

Right top - Lamont and The Gator

Right bottom, Lady Mary with a member of Blues Brothers Club

Photos Ron Weinstock



15TH ANNUAL D.C. BLUES FESTIVAL

Saturday, Aug. 30, 2003 – 1:00–9:00 PM

Carter Barron Amphitheater

Colorado Ave & 16th St NW

Join Us As We Celebrate the Year of the Blues!



Larry Garner Band; Eddie Shaw & the Wolf Gang;
Ron Holloway Band with Julia Nixon; Kelly Bell Band;
Sheryl Warner and the Southside Homewreckers;
DC Blues Society talent competition; Acoustic Workshops & More
This FREE Festival is presented by The D.C. Blues Society; the National Park Service
and the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities

For more information call the Festival Hotline: 301-926-1336

write: PO Box 77315 Washington DC 20013-7315

or visit: www.dcblues.org

Photo of Larry Garner © Ron Weinstock



Summer brings plenty of opportunities to catch blues at free shows in various parks or various festivals. Top row from left to right are Mary Ann Redmond, Bobby Radcliffe and Annie Sidley who were among those performing over the two days of the National Capital Barbecue Battle where the Society had a table and spread information about the Society and this year's D.C. Blues Festival.

Middle row left is Memphis Gold at Farragut Square. Middle row middle is Sonny Warner telling us "there is Something on My Mind" at Cherry Hill Park in the City of Falls Church on July 3. Middle row right is John Dee Holeman who was a performer at the first week of this year's Smithsonian's Folklife Festival but suffered a minor stroke after the festival. To the right Sparky Rucker and Nat Reese at the Folklife Festival. Both also delighted audiences at the Herndon Blues Festival.

Photos © Ron Weinstock





Ingrid Strawser made it to Butch Murray's house for a rousing blues jam where she photographed Butch (top left) and Billy Vadi (top middle). Others there included Billy's father, Mad Max. Photos © Ingrid Strawser. Rest of the pictures are from this year's Herndon Blues Festival which was yet another outstanding day of acoustic blues and which the DC Blues Society was one of the sponsors. Top Right - Catfish Hodge; Middle row left - Guy Davis; Middle Left -Barrelhouse Bonni with Mike Baytop who also appears on Bonni's new cd. This was one of several tracks on the cd recorded at Archie Edwards' Barbershop. Bottom left, Nat Reese chats backstage with Judy Luis-Watson and Paul Watson of BluesWorks. They joined Nat during his performance. Bottom right, Andra Faye of Saffire-the Uppity Blues Woman gave a wonderful set. As was noted in introducing her was that she made it to the Festival the past few years just to enjoy the music so why not add her to the performance schedule. Ray Kaminsky with Jack Fretwell opened and Sparky and Rhonda Rucker also performed at the Herndon Festival putting on a marvelous show. Herndon Festival photos © Ron Weinstock.

Pocono Blues Fest Keeps Up High Standard

For the tenth time in 12 years your editor made it up to the Pocono Blues Festival in Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania. This year's festival took place from August 1 to the 3rd and included a Friday nite show with Sam Taylor and Michael Burks before the full two days on the two main stages and an enlarged tent stages. With a lineup that ranged from down-home blues to soul blues and performers from George Higgs and Cootie Stark from the Music Maker Relief Foundation to international blues stars like closing acts Taj Mahal and Buddy Guy the festival included Los Angeles singer guitarist Craig Horton, the great veteran soul lady, Bettye Lavette, legendary guitarist Jody Williams, Detroit blues legend Eddie Burns, Mississippi Heat, The Neal Family featuring Kenny and Tyree Neal, Floyd Taylor, Severn Records soul-blues act Lou Pride, Chicago blues diva, Shirley Johnson, the Handy Award winning new artist, Otis Taylor, Michale Coleman, Austin blues legend, W.C. Clarke, Charlie Musselwhite; and others for a festival that prides itself on the diversity of its blues performers and the fact that it does not bring in rock acts that are blues in name only.

Mike Baytop from the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation and was able to network with other performers and even played the bones during Larry Johnson's last set (which I missed as I was watching Floyd Taylor's strong set that was not deterred by the heavy rain. Larry Johnson was brilliant during the set by him I did catch. Perhaps the talk of the festival was Otis Taylor's incendiary performance that had the tent stage packed and rocking. Baytop described it like a new electric black string band, and with Taylor's provocative original songs and unique covers (he successfully revived *Hey Joe*), he is an act whose recordings only suggest how powerful a performer he is. Also really tearing it up was a wonderful singer Sharrie Williams who was a performer that had been considered for the D.C. Blues Festival. Remember her name as she is a blues voice you will be hearing from in the not too distant future.

Since Nascar has set the date for its mid-Summer race next year on August 1, the 13th Pocono Blues festival will be July 23 to July 25, and you may want to block off those dates.

This festival is one of the top festivals in the world and the line-up Mike Cloeren and his associates put together is as good as any festival line-up I have seen in the world this year, and gives many a chance to see acts that do not make it to the East Coast very often.



Some of the performers at this year's Pocono Blues Festival. Top left-Buddy Guy celebrates his birthday before closing the fest; Top right-Otis Taylor; Middle left - Lou Pride with guitarist David Earl; Middle left - Bettye Lavette; Bottom left- Floyd Taylor; Bottom right- Larry Johnson. Bettye Lavette photo © Theresa Hemp; Other photos © Ron Weinstock

BluesWorks Offering Blues Workshops

Beginning blues enthusiasts will have an opportunity to study with members of BluesWorks, who have been instructors at blues workshops around the U.S. Learn to play the blues in small workshops at the Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts, College Park, MD. Judy Luis-Watson (piano); Paul Watson (harmonica); and Mark Puryear (guitar) are the instructors. These are series of 4 workshops. Reading music is not required.

Piano: 11 am - 12 noon, Saturday Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15 (bring keyboard)

Harmonica: 12:15 am - 1:15 pm, Saturdays Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15 (bring C & D harps)

Guitar: 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, Sundays Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16 (bring guitar)

Fees for the series: \$140 Prince George's & Montgomery County residents; \$170 nonresidents. Register through MD Parks & Planning online: www.pgparcs.com or by phone: (301) 583-2665. For workshop info, visit www.bluesworksband.biz.

Webmaster Needed

The Society's webpage was getting revamped when all the sudden the new webmaster disappeared. We are in the process of maintaining some minimal upkeep and update of the contents but alas not able to do everything we need. Anyone with web skills If you have an interest and the position has not been filled when it is received, you can e-mail me, rblues@yahoo.com and I will forward your e-mail to board members. This along with the hotline going out of service obviously poses real problems. Hopefully we will have a new phone number for the Society soon as well as the website being updated.

2003 DC Blues Calendars available online

With the problems we have been having, I have uploaded pdf files that contain the contents of all 2003 issues of the D.C. Blues Calendar that have been issued to date on my mac.com website. The link is <http://homepage.mac.com/rbluesw/Menu27.html>. You will see some pictures that link to webpages that contain photos from various blues events including last year's D.C. Blues Festival. You will also see one called File Sharing - Graphite. Click on that one and you will see a list of pdf files that you can download and read on your computer. Resolution will be limited so they may not print out with high quality. Again the link is: <http://homepage.mac.com/rbluesw/Menu27.html>.

Hopefully when we have a new webmaster, we will be able to upload these to the Society's website.

WETA Filming Local Blues Video Spots

Watching TV a few weeks ago I was surprised to see a brief clip of Robert Lighthouse playing in what was a promotion for the upcoming Martin Scorsese series **The Blues** that will be on PBS stations starting September 30 (WETA locally). Robert is one several acts that WETA has recorded and others include Melanie Mason and Bobby Parker. Also WETA did some filming at Bangkok Blues and I mentioned to the crew their Lamonts and The Hardway Connection so hopefully we will be seeing more spots and perhaps some coverage on WETA of the local scene to complement the Scorsese series. WETA's efforts which go beyond simply broadcasting this series seems a good reason to support WETA in addition to their regular programming.

D.C. Blues Society Membership

Application/Order Form

The DC Blues Society is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) all volunteer organization! (0703)

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. *0903*

Please Print Clearly:

Date: _____ If renewal, check here _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

Dues(US) per year: Circle appropriate one.

Individual: \$15.00 Family: \$25.00

Corporate: \$50.00

Canada-\$25.00(US) Other Countries\$40.00 (US)

Dues: _____

Tax-deductible Contribution: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Mail this application with your check or money order to:

D.C. Blues Society

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)?

From the Editor's Desk

I still remember the meeting outside a D.C. recreational center when we first started planning the initial D.C. Blues Festival. The first one was held in Anacostia Park with several hundred people coming out to hear a lineup of local performers including Flora Molton, Archie Edwards, Daryl Davis, Nap Turner, Bobby Parker, Mary Jefferson and Jesse James and the raiders. I still remember that Guest Services sent out one truck to provide food and beverage and I waited a half hour before getting an ice cream cone as my meal. The first festival was in mid-August, moving to the Saturday after Labor Day when the festival moved to Langdon Park in Northeast DC for the next three years with many memorable performances including the late Sammy Price backed by Ron Holloway and drummer Keith Killgo with Sammy repeating *How Long Blues* in his set before joining up with Nappy Brown for Nappy's closing set. We outgrew Langdon and moved to the Carter Barron for our Fifth Festival and been there ever since, although the festival was moved to the Saturday of Labor Day weekend several years ago at the Park Service's request.

Watching the festival mature, we added the workshops and later added acoustic performances that take place at the workshop stage in front of what is ordinarily the ticket booth area. **REMINDER- No Tickets are Needed.** We are particularly excited to have Automatic Slim do an acoustic set and then have Terry Garland come up from Richmond perform. Terry is an extremely intense performer and its nice to welcome him back to DC. Terry performed at a series the Society held at 15 Min-

utes, a now defunct club, over a decade ago. And its a pleasure to welcome back the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation group to run the jam to close out the acoustic-workshop activities. Michael Joy, Charlie Williams and Roger Edsall will lead the popular harmonica workshop, and at this time a dance workshop is scheduled. Do try to stop by this area during the festival (and also remember the main stage is inside the Carter Barron).



Michael Joy is one of the Harmonica workshop teachers.

Blues in Passing

We note the passing of **Sam Phillips** of Sun Records fame who recorded such blues legends as Junior Parker, Dr. Ross, Rosco Gordon, Howling Wolf and others in addition to Elvis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis. **Shirli Dixon**, daughter of Willie Dixon, died on August 8 of an aneurysm. She had been scheduled to perform at the Kennedy Center's Open House and had been involved in the Blues Heaven Foundation established by her father. **Howard Armstrong**, musician and artist extraordinaire also passed recently. A master of multiple string instruments, he was well known and loved

by many, especially regulars at Blues Week in Elkins WV where he taught for many years. Also **Big Al Dupree**, a blues and swing pianist from Dallas Texas passed. He had a very fine album on Dallas Blues Society and another on Fedora. May these folk all rest in peace and may their contributions be remembered and honored.

DC Blues Society

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