



May 2004

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www.dcblues.org — Hotline - (202) 962-0112

Next Blues Society Jam is Sunday May 2 - 4PM at Taliano's

The D.C. Blues Society

where every year is a Year for the Blues

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Chet Hines joins Jesse Yawn at Bangkok Blues for the Tribute and Benefit for the late Willie Hicks. Photo © Ron Weinstock

THE DC BLUES SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 77315

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<http://www.dcblues.org>

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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 usually published monthly (except during the summer and the end of the year. It includes information on Society events, blues listings and other items of interest. Listings should be sent to **Steve Levine, 5910 Bryn Mawr Rd, College Park, MD 20740** or to Steve's e-mail address (cypressgrove@hotmail.com).

Recent issues of the DC Blues Calendar are downloadable as PDF files from the Society's website, www.dcblues.org.

The June 2004 issue deadline is May 17.

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. Ron's email address is rbluesw@yahoo.com. Send payment for the ads to the D.C. Blues Society postal box.



Willie Hicks Celebrated

Here are some more shots from the March 31 Tribute and Benefit For Willie Hicks. It was great to see the musicians turn out for this evening with Will Scott leading the Moonlighters to start the evening. The Chris Polk Band followed with saxophonist Walter Tate rejoining Chris for the first time in too long. Harold Flood was not available so Chris took over the guitar spot for Jesse Yawn as the Big man stepped up to the mike. Jesse's longtime keyboard player, Jackie Hairston was also present for a wonderful set of music. During Jesse's set, Chet 'Dr. Feelgood' Hines, was called up to the stage and shared a couple vocals with Jesse. Chris and Jesse both shared anecdotes about their fellow musical colleague, and made the night one to remember, and which raised some needed funds for Willie's family.

Pictures on this page from the Bangkok Blues Benefit for Willie Hicks. Top -Walter Tate, Chris Polk and the Chris Polk Band. Bottom - The Moonlighters' Will Scott watches Scott Mattern on guitar with Dave Jackson on bass. (nore on The Moonlighters on the back page) Photos © Ron Weinstock

May Blues Listings

1 Jamie Lynch @ King Street Blues
 Mary Shaver @ Berwyn Heights Day
 Soul Messengers @ Timber Creek
 Tavern
 Reggie Wayne Morris @ Union Hotel
 Flatfoot Sam @ Bangkok Blues
2 DCBS Jam @ Taliano's
 Columbia Pike Blues Festival,
 Arlington, VA
3 Jamie Lynch w Robert Frahm @ JV's
4 Billy Hancock & the Fat Boys @ JV's
5 Barbara Martin & Mac Walter @
 Baldwin Station
 Kelly Bell Band @ Recher Theatre
 The Shambles @ JV's
 Booz Monkey @ Nagkok Blues
6 The Grandsons @ Bangkok Blues
7 Cathy Ponton King @ Hyattsville
 City Office's Courtyard
 Mary Shaver Band @ Lasick's
 Kelly Bell Band @ Santa Fe Cafe
 Catfish Hodge @ JV's
 Sonny Boy Chung All-Stars @ Cafe
 Europa
 Ray Kaminsky @ Finewine.com
 Reggie Wayne Morris @ Zoo Bar
 Blues Museum @ Royal Lee Grill
 B.G. & The Mojo Hands @ Bangkok
 Blues
8 Jamie Lynch @ Golden Sports Bar
 Mary Shaver w/Smokin' Polecats @
 Zoo Bar
 Cathy Ponton King @ Bangkok Blues
 Barbara Martin & Mac Walter @
 Mainstay Theater
8 Lost Highway Band @ JV's
9 Kathy Lyon @ Bangkok Blues
 Kelly Bell Band @ The Can Company
10 Joe Stanley @ JV's
11 The Shambles @ JV's
13 The Grandsons @ Bangkok Blues
14 *Mary Shaver, Hurricane Howie,*
Sonny Boy Chung, Dave Sherman
 @ St. Columba's Episcopalian Church
 (fundraiser for Elise Martin Crosby)
 Nancy Katz & The Stray Dogz @
 Bangkok Blues
 Jamie Lynch Band @ Lasick's
Saffire @ State Theatre
 Reggie Wayne Morris @ Summit Station
15 *Mike Baytop Archie Edwards*
Barbershop Benefit House concert at
 Jeff Glassie-Julie Littell residence. For
 reservations and directions, email
 jefferson@acousticblues.com.
 Bad Influence @ Bangkok Blues
 Melanie Mason @ Austin Grill
 Deanna Bogart @ Wine In The Woods
 Sonny Boy Chung, **Bill Heid** @ Cafe
 Europa



Soul Messengers @ Poplar Inn
16 Ray Kaminsky, Jack Fretwell @
 Tarara Vineyards
 Kelly Bell Band @ Wine In The Woods
17 Jamie Lynch w Robert Frahm @ JV's
18 Billy Hancock & the Fat Boys @ JV's
19 Automatic Slim @ Cat's Eye
21 Liz Briones Band @ Zoo Bar
 Kelly Bell Band @ Champions
 Automatic Slim @ Poplar Inn
 Soul Messengers @ Holiday House
 Wescott Brothers @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
22 *Taj Mahal Trio* @ Ram's Head
 Curbfeeler @ Broad Street Grill
 Group Therapy @ Bangkok Blues
 Melanie Mason @ Outta The Way Cafe
 Kelly Bell Band @ Whitlow's
 Mary Shaver @ Downtown Saloon
 Automatic Slim @ Summit Station
 Smokin' Polecats @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
23 *Taj Mahal Trio* @ Ram's Head
 Automatic Slim @ Mt. Vernon Square
24 Joe Stanley @ JVs
25 The Shambles @ JV's
27 The Grandsons @ Bangkok Blues
28 Ray Kaminsky @ Avalon Resort
 Flatfoot Sam @ JV's
 Liz Briones Band @ Summit Station
 Robert Lighthouse @ Bangkok Blues
 Reggie Wayne Morris @ Firestone's
 Wade Milor & Bruce Katsu Band @ JV's
 Heart Of Blue @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
29 Soul Messengers @ The Handle Bar
 Reggie Wayne Morris @ Holiday House
 Chai & Bangkok Blues @ Bangkok Blues
 Blues Museum @ Cowboy Cafe

Railriders @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
30 Curtis Blues @ Bangkok Blues
Jorma Kaukonen & Blue Country @
 Ram's Head
 Linwood Taylor & Rude Dog @ Cat's
 Eye
31 Jamie Lynch w Robert Frahm @
 JV's

Weekly Events

Sun Detroit Slim @ Full Moon
 Kenny Haddaway (open mic) @ Whitlow's
 Steve Kraemer @ Cat's Eye
 Dave Elliott's Redneck Jazz @ JV's
 Jim Bennett & Lady Mary w. Unique
 Creation Band @ Lamont's
 Jam @ Lasick's (except 1st Sunday)
 Jesse Yawn @ Club Pparadiso
 Acoustic Jam @ King of France Tavern
 Automatic Slim Jam @ Wahoo's
 Pro Blues Jam @ Sully's
Mon Blues Jam @ Taliano's
 Blues jam @ Chick Hall's Surf Club
Tue Jam @ Full Moon
 Billy Otis BandJam @ Bangkok Blues
 Ben Andrews @Madam's Organ
 Resonators @ Grog & Tankard
Wed Various @ Full Moon
 Diane Postell @ Tom's Sports Tavern
 Jam @ Coconuts
 Big Dog Band @ Cat's Eye
 Persuaders @ Main Street Blues
 Steve Smith Band @ Round Table
Thu Jam @ Backstreets Cafe
 Jam @ 94th Aero Squadron
 Jam w/ Flatfoot Sam @ Zoo Bar
 Blues Museum @ The Saloun
Fri Blue Flames @ Bertha's,
 Hardway Connection @ Tradewinds
Sat Jam @ Archie's Barbershop
 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 1st set of ADAT
 tapes is free. For more info, contact In-
 dustrial Sound Studios, P.O. Box 1162,
 Riverdale, MD 20738. The Phone num-
 ber is 301-209-0565. The E-mail ad-
 dress is industrialstudio@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
Austin Grill, Silver Spring MD
Backstreets Cafe, 12352 Wilkins Ave., Rockville, MD
B&B Cafe, 14601 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, MD 301-952-9001
Ball's Bluff, 2 Louden 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
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
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
Bohemian Gardens, 2001 11th St NW DC
Brady's, 7189 Center St, Manassas, VA (703) 369-1469
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, Blaensburg (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
Club Europa, 7820 Norfolk Ave, Bethesda MD 301-657-1607
Coconuts, 1629 Crain Hwy., Crofton, MD (301) 261-3366
Copper Bit, 573 Frost Dr., Warrenton, VA (703) 347-5757
Dead Eye Saloon, Hanover Street, Baltimore, MD (410) 539-7784
Diamond Grill, 800 W Diamond Ave Gaithersburg, MD (301) 963-4847
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
Funk Box (old 8X10) Baltimore MD
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

**Next issue is June 2004.—
Its Deadline May 17**

Listings should be sent to Steve Levine,
5910 Bryn Mawr Rd, College Park, MD 20740.
E-mail: cypressgrove@hotmail.com

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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 St, Annapolis, MD (410) 216-6340

Lamont's, 4400 Livingston Rd, Pomomkey, 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
Mexicali Blues, 2933 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA (703) 812-9352
Michael's Pub, Kings Contrivance Ctr, 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, 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

Royal Lee Bar 2211 N. Pershing, Arlington VA (703) 524-5493
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, (301) 519-9400
Sunset Grille, 7250 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA (703) 658-0982
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 Rd Sandy Spring, MD (240) 774-7309

Twins, 1344 U St, NW DC (202) 234-0072
Wahoo's Sports Bar, 9820 Liberty Rd, Randallstown, MD (410) 655-8668

Waterman's Crab House Rock Hall, MD (410) 810-2631
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
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.

The 9th Annual Western Maryland
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BLUES REVUE

Supported in part by: City of Hagerstown,
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*Listed artist roster is subject to change

Vanthology

With an overabundance of blues artists recording tributes to rock icons, a new one stands out, **Vanthology** on Evidence. One reason that this tribute to Van Morrison works is that producer Jon Tiven has collected a number of blues and soul legends to perform songs associated with the legendary Irishman, setting this apart from many similar concept discs which seem to have an overabundance of blues-rock guitar pounders. The performers here include Little Milton, Freddie Scott, William Bell, Bettye Lavette, Eddie Floyd, Sir Mack Rice, Syl Johnson, Otis Clay, Son Seals, Ellis Hooks, Chuck Jackson, Henry Butler and Bobby Patterson. Producer Tiven deliberately did not employ horns on these recordings to distinguish these from Morrison's originals. The studio band is anchored by Butler with Tiven on guitar, wife Sally Tiven on bass and Simon Kirke on drums who provide funky, sympathetic backing for the awesome vocal talent here. Highpoints among the exceptional performances here include Little Milton's rendering of *Tupelo Honey*, William Bell's rendition of *Have I Told You Lately*, Freddie Scott's *Brown-Eyed Girl*, Bettye Lavette's pleading vocal on *Real Real Gone* and Eddie Floyd's *Crazy Love*. It is a special treat to her Sir Mack Rice, writer of that overplayed staple of blues bar bands *Mustang Sally*, take up Morrison's own bar band classic, *Gloria*. Morrison has been heavily influenced by blues and soul artists here, a debt he has freely acknowledged in developing his own distinctive body of music and the artists pay him tribute in this very fine release.

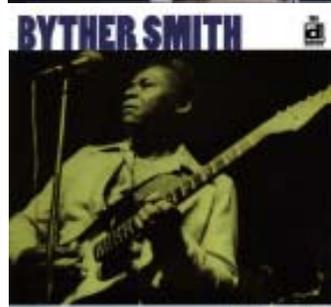
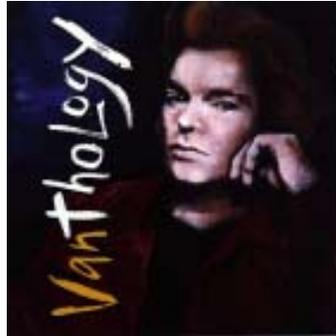
Roosevelt Sykes

Among new Delmark releases is one by Roosevelt Sykes, **Chicago Boogie**, that brings together eleven vintage recordings cut for Regal Records in 1950 and 1951 with six Bob Koester recorded in 1963. The Regal titles include a strong rendition of one of his classics, *Drivin' Wheel*, along with *West Helena Blues* and *Mail Box Blues*. The latter two tunes are transposed from the order shown on the album cover by the way. On these selections, Sykes powerful vocals and two-handed piano is able complemented just by Jump Jackson's drums. Tenor Saxophonist J.T. Brown and bassist Ransom Knowling were added for the title track and *Wondering Blues*. Of the six tracks from 1963, St. Louis Jimmy Oden takes four of the vocals including his humorous *Monkey Face Woman*, and *Soon Forgotten*. Oden's recordings with Sykes recordings here are equal to similar recordings Oden made with Otis Spann and Robert Lockwood (on the Spann album **Walkin' the Blues**). Roosevelt Sykes stands alongside Otis Spann in any list of the greatest blues pianists of all time and this excellent release provides eloquent testimony of this.

Byther Smith

Also new on Delmark is Byther Smith's latest album (and 3rd for the label), **Hold That Train**. With an efficient backing trio laying down steady, funk-tinged grooves, Smith blasts out some stinging blues guitar and pleads his blues with plenty of heart. While he does cover some overdone songs like *The Thrill is Gone*, Willie Dixon's *300 Pounds of Joy* and Howlin' Wolf's *Killing Floor*, most of the material handled here are not nearly as familiar as he opens with the late A.C. Reed's *This Little Voice*, Dixon's *Close To You*, Andrew Brown's *You Ought to Be Ashamed*, Junior Wells' *Come On In This House*, and Detroit Junior's *So Unhappy*. Other tracks include *Mississippi Kid*, set to the melody of Junior Wells' *Messin' With the Kid*. More so than his prior discs, Smith's performances

Notes Hot & Blue by Ron Weinstock



on this suggest recent recordings by Magic Slim with the simple grooves, punched out stinging guitar lines and solid singing although Smith's vocals are a bit higher pitched than those of Magic Slim. *So Unhappy* is a stirring slow blues where Smith pours his soul out, while he evokes Slim Harpo's *Scratch My Back* melody for his adaptation of *What My Momma Told Me*. *I Don't Like to Travel* is a strong performance suggestive of Otis Rush's classic *I Can't Quit You Baby*. The only complaint would be that the tracks start to sound the same if one listens to this in one setting. Use of horns and/or keyboards on some songs would have provided more varied listening.

Windy City Blues

Windy City Blues, a new compilation on Stax brings together selections from various Prestige blues discs featuring Chicago blues acts with a previously unissued Albert King session that Willie Dixon produced in Chicago. This 1970 session are simply stunning as he plays some very hot guitar and sings strongly while backed by a band with a full horn section that complement his performances. The opening track, *The Lovin'est Woman in Town*, is an original he would record later. Here he just tears into the song with his guitar blasting away on his solo as the horns riff behind him. Equally as good is King's rendition of Dixon's *Put It All In There* and *Love Me To Death*. One wonders why these songs were not issued until now as they are first-rate Albert King. In addition to King, James Cotton handles *Dust My Broom*, while Otis Spann recreates his *It Must Have Been the Devil*. Willie Dixon handles a couple songs in an uptown vein with saxophonist Harold Ashby among those backing him. Billy Boy Arnold shows the influence of John Lee 'Sonny Boy' Williamson on *Two Drinks of Wine*, derived from Sonny Boy's *Early in the Morning*. Sunnyland Slim advises us that *The Devil is a Busy Man*, one of three tracks backed by a combo that included King Curtis and an organist. Finally, three alternate takes by slide guitarist Homesick James close this disc out. Most of this is solid, if not exceptional, but it is well worth getting for the Albert King sides. They are that good.

Warner Williams

Living around the Nation's Capital, one is fortunate to have many opportunities to see Warner Williams, a local Piedmont blues performer extraordinaire who with harmonica player Jay Summerour perform as Little Bit of Blues. While

Warner has made some festival appearances including the Mississippi Valley Blues Festival and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, he will not fly and is indifferent to fame. Yet his guitar playing is on the level of such area contemporaries as John Cephas and the late John Jackson while his vocals are sung with warmth, and more than a bit of humor. Williams and Summerour have produced a cassette and a CD which they have had for performances. Thanks to the Smithsonian Folkways label, Williams finally has a nationally distributed disc, **Blues Highway**, which is taken from live performances over three years while Warner was performing in the Folk Masters series at the Barns of Wolf Trap. Included a number of the songs he and Jay regularly feature in live performance, although Warner has a far more extensive repertoire than even the broad range of music

Continued on page 7

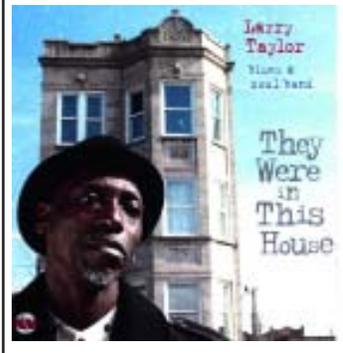
Continued from page 6

here suggests. Opening with the Piedmont classic *Step It Up and Go*, with his easy fluid, cleanly executed fingerstyle guitar with a nice tempo to go with the vocal. Other familiar blues here include *Ain't Gonna Pick Me No More Cotton*, *Digging My Potatoes*, *Good Morning Little School Girl* and *I Feel So Good*. Even when singing a deep down lyric, Warner's performances have the effect of lifting one's spirits. The breadth of his repertoire is heard in performances of the ballad, *I'm Confessing That I Love You*, *Honeysuckle Rose*, *Mouse on the Hill* (a reworking of the traditional *Froggie's a Courtin'*) and *Hey Bartender, There's a Big Bug in My Beer*. The copious annotation in the cd booklet by Nick Spitzer notes that this latter performance derives from a Merrill Moore honky tonk recording, *Big Bug Boogie*. On this Warner was joined by Kentucky thumb-picker Eddie Pennington, a guitarist in the Merle Travis tradition. The booklet contains the most information on Warner I have seen in print as well as a bio of Summerour. Warner Williams is a local treasure for people living in the DC area, but with this release he may become recognized nationally as one of the greatest living acoustic blues artists.

Larry Taylor

I was surprised to receive an email from Bonni McKeown (Barrelhouse Bonni) who had relocated to Chicago mentioning a new release by a Larry Taylor, a Chicago singer and drummer that Bonni co-produced. The album, **They Were in This House**, on Adrianna Vannah, marks Taylor's first after a career playing with a who's who in the blues world for over three

More Notes Hot & Blue by Ron Weinstock



decades. Taylor, a stepson of the late Eddie Taylor shows a breath of repertoire on this with songs from Howlin' Wolf, Johnny Taylor (no relation), Jimmy Reed and Elmore James along with a couple of originals (one coauthored with Bonni). His Blues and Soul Band for this album includes guitarist Willie Davis, and Roosevelt Mat Hatter Purifoy handles keyboards throughout with Bonni playing piano on 5 of the twelve selections. The band is rounded up by Osee Anderson on bass, Ronnie G on saxophone and West Side Wes who spells Taylor on drums for five tracks. This is a solid group and Taylor is a strong vocalist who is at home covering Johnny Taylor's *Jody Got Your Woman and Gone* (in 2 parts) as he is reviving Wolf's *Tell Me Baby* (also in two-parts). While we did not need another recording of Wolf's *Killing Floor*, the reworking of Wolf's lesser know *I Didn't Mean to Hurt Your Feelings* is very nice as is George Jackson's *Last Two Dollars*, that the late Johnny Taylor had such a wonderful recording of. Taylor's originals, *Blues*, *Hard Luck & Trouble*, and *Green Line Blues* (inspired by Chicago's mass transit) are solid songs and like the rest of the album nicely played. I get the feel that this is pretty much what one might hear if one caught Taylor in a club setting and not being in Chicago I wish I was able to hear him. Perhaps nothing spectacular here, but he sings with plenty of soul

which is matched by his backing band. This is well worth checking out and giving a listen to.

Eric Clapton

With all the hoopla this cd has received, one is astonished by the absolute nonsense of some of the rock critics who rave about this. Much of this collection of performances of songs that Robert Johnson recorded is on the level of a bar band doing Robert Johnson. None of Clapton's renditions of these songs match those by Robert Lockwood, Johnny Shines, Honeyboy Edwards, Big Joe Williams, Junior Wells, Eddie Taylor, Boyd Gilmore, Muddy Waters and others who have taken Johnson's songs and produced recordings that are more passionately and personally performed. Clapton is too reverent to these songs and the lyrics which is strange for a homage to Johnson whose own work adapted and transformed his contemporaries music as Elijah Wald details in his recent book. Check out Leroy Carr's *In the Evening* before listening to Robert Johnson's *Love in Vain*, which Clapton reworks here. Clapton's rendition even suffers compared to the Stones' cover of it three decades ago. Both Junior Wells and Eddie Taylor had standout recordings of *Stop Breakin' Down* that makes Clapton's rendition here sound not very distinguished. Call Clapton a rock guitar god all you want and a great popularizer of the blues, but for those who have listened to not simply Johnson's music but also the other great bluesmen of the past fifty years, than one questions the qualifications of various rock writers who rave about this disc as a 'blues' recording. One other point was that I was not enamored by the studio band. There are some great players (and Mr. Portnoy is a great harp player), but the rhythm section does not swing and the band comes off as second-rate compared to the classic Chicago bands of the sixties and seventies.

As a postscript to this review, last night (as I write this) I caught Robert Lighthouse at Bangkok Blues (in falls Church Virginia), and his rendition of *Kind Hearted Woman Blues* puts Clapton's to shame. While Lighthouse learned Johnson's songs from records, years of playing in the streets of DC and in small clubs have enabled him to hone his treatment of the song into one that is a cut above most recent Robert Johnson remakes.

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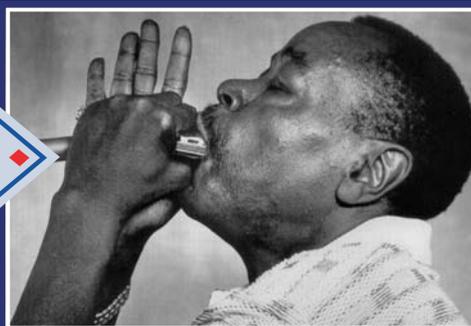
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Willie Hicks 1954-2004

Willie Hicks was born January 29, 1954 in Fayetteville, North Carolina and passed away from complication of diabetes on February 11. His family moved to Southeast Washington at an early age and he attended the D.C. public schools. Later he studied at Lear Siegler Business College. As a young man he worked as a psychiatric nursing assistant at St. Elizabeth's Hospital for 16 years and during this time earned his professional credentials from the University of the District of Columbia. Later he changed careers and acquired a diploma as a Certified Computer Technician, which is the field he worked in at the time of his death.

He first played professionally in the seventies, founding the Hicks Brothers soul band with brother John Hicks on keyboards. After John's tragic drowning, he became a free-lance bassist. Besides playing with numerous blues acts, he provided accompaniment to various gospel choirs including that of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in SE Washington where a memorial service was held on March 11.

While we have devoted a bit to remembering Willie Hicks, I lacked some of the basic biographical material to include an obituary. I took all of the above from Larry Benicewicz's story in the April 2004 Baltimore Blues Society newsletter. I think there can be no better remembrance of Willie than Larry's observation. "Willie Hicks, who always shunned the spotlight, will be mourned as much for his sweet disposition and ready smile as for his talented and expert playing and his passing leaves a huge void in the Mid-Atlantic blues scene. His, indeed, will be *big shoes to fill.*"

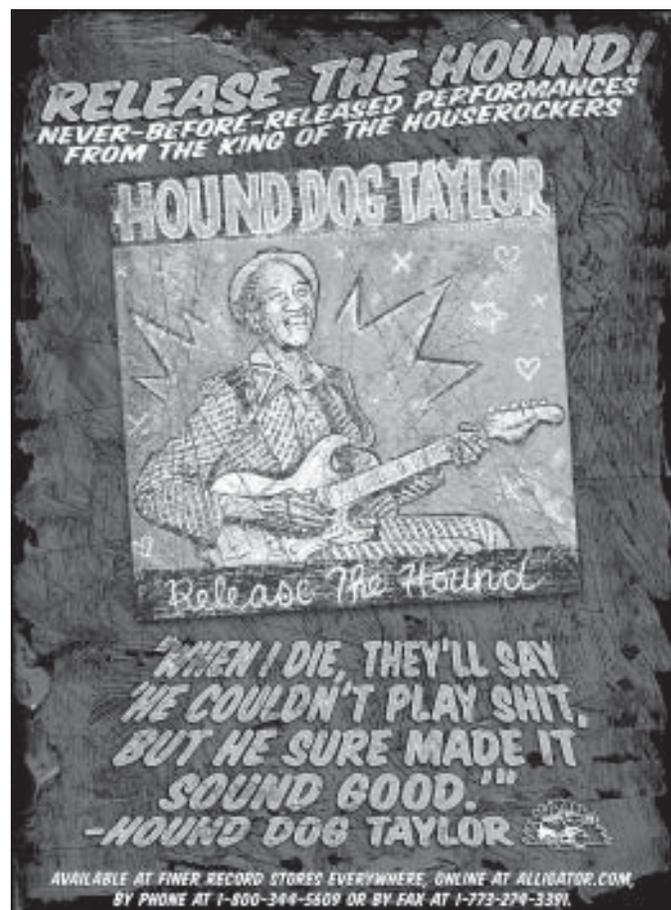


Photo of Willie Hicks © Ron Weinstock

Jam Notes

Again we thank all the folks who came out to the Monthly Jam on the 4th, both players and spectators. The turnout was phenomenal again. We're trying to get it so that everyone who signs up will get a chance to play often. Some outstanding players at this Jam were Miles Spicer on drums and of course Chet doing the killer drum thing also. Welcome back "Hollywood" on the sax, Jonny Steinman and Alex on guitars, Steve Crescenze on bass, beautiful, Blue Lou all over the place, thanks. Barnaby Bristol and Roberto on keyboards. Good to see and hear Dave Jackson back in the saddle. See you at the next Jam, which should be May 2. We're getting close to shutting down for a couple of summer months, I'll keep you posted on that. Thanks all.



Some images from the April DC Blues Society jam at Talianos.
Photos © Ron Weinstock

Blues in Passing

As we were going to press, we received word that Porky Cohen, trombone player who played in various big bands including Charlie Barnett and Lucky Millender, and later was a longtime member of Roomful of Blues just passed away. Also recently Curtis Butler of the Detroit Butler Brothers Band died. Ronnie Neal, brother of Kenny Neal and one of the none children of Baton Rouge legend Rafal Neal, passed away on April 22.

Wade Matthews Benefit

A bad sinus infection prevented me from attending the State Theater's Wade Aid, a benefit for bassist Wade Matthews at the State Theater. Billy Fotis reports that over \$9,000 was raised to help with Wade's many medical bills. Wade is a great person as well as player so it was heartening to see this benefit did as well as it did.

National Capital Barbecue Battle

The 12th Annual Safeway's National Capital Barbecue Battle takes place downtown Pennsylvania Avenue the weekend of June 26 and 27. This annual food and music festival is also the biggest annual fundraising event for the Metropolitan Police Boys & Girls Clubs, and has raised over \$500,000 for the Boys & Girls Clubs, as well as other District charities.

The Barbecue Battle is a two-day celebration of great barbecue, accompanied by over thirty of the best blues, rock, jazz and r&b musicians in the country, local stars, political dignitaries, and celebrity chefs. The Battle refers to the National Pork Barbecue Championship Contest that attracts teams of top

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barbecue talent from across the country competing for over \$25,000 in cash and prizes and the lure of becoming the National Barbecue Champion.

This year's blues lineup includes great local blues talent, like Melanie Mason and The Robert Byrd Blues Band, and a whole

lineup of nationally known blues greats. Sunday afternoon, June 27, the Red Hot & Blues Stage lineup will be hosted by Bill Wax of XM Radio, and simulcast nationally on XM's Bluesville Show. This year's blues lineup also includes Carey Bell, with Bob Margolin and Big Joe Maher, EG Kight, Larry Garner, Big Bill Morganfield, and The Nighthawks. And there will be plenty of other music along with cooking demonstration, free food samples at the Safeway Sampling Pavilion, lots of great food from festival vendors (BBQ fans will be in rib heaven). The modest cost of admission (\$8 for adults, \$4 for kids 12 and under)

For more information about the event and opportunities to support the Boys & Girls Clubs by volunteering at the Barbecue Battle contact Suzanne Tubis at (301)860-0630 or visit us at www.bbqusa.us. You can also call the BBQ Battle hotline at (202)828-3099 for more details.

The BBQ Battle has been a great supporter of the Society as well and we have had a table near the Blues Stage the past few years. The Society is also looking for some volun-

teers to staff our table where we carry Society merchandise as well as help artists sell there products and also help the BBQ Battle staff itself. Those interested in volunteering assist the Society, please email your editor or call the hotline. If you can spend a few hours on either Saturday and/or Sunday, we would love to share the time with you.



Larry Garner shown ay last year's D.C. Blues Festival will be a featured performer at the National Capital Barbecue Battle. Photo © Ron Weinstock

Blues Festivals

Summer brings a bevy of festivals, and there are far too many to list them all. A recent Blues Revue listed about 300. Here are some significant ones.

The **Columbia Pike Festival** takes place Sunday May 2 and performers at this free festival include Deanna Bogart, Naked Blue and Barbara Martin & Mac Walter.

The **Western Maryland Blues Festival** takes place from June 4 to June 6 in Hagerstown. Performers include Tom Principato, Robben Ford, Mary Ann Redmond, Indigenous, E.C. Scott, Mighty Sam McClain, Jay McShann, Paul Rishell and Annie Raines, Ernie Hawkins, Wallace Coleman, and The Blue Rhythm Boys, Duke Robillard and more. The appearance of the legendary Jay McShann makes this a must see event.

The **Billtown Blues Festival** takes place in Hughesville PA on Sunday June 13. Performers include Howlin' For Hubert, an all-star band that includes Hubert Sumlin, Jimmy Vivino (from Conan O'Brien's show band), Levon Helm and David Johansen; Tab Benoit; Otis Taylor, Teeny Tucker, Ann Rabson and others. For information see their ad on page 11 or check the Billtown Blues Society's website, www.billtownblues.org.

The free **Chicago Blues Festival** takes place in Grant Park on June 10-13 with a celebration of Lonnie Brooks 70th Birthday. His sons, Ronnie Baker Brooks and Wayne Baker Brooks, C.J. Chenier (whose dad Clifton was Lonnie's first professional boss) and Luther 'Guitar Jr.' Johnson join this celebration. Others scheduled include Otis Clay and the Fat Possum Caravan.

Wolf Trap's Jazz and Blues Festival takes place June 10-13. I'm not sure Jonny Lang, who appears on the 11th considers himself a blues act anymore. There is a matinee concert on the 13th with Keb' Mo, Robert Cray and the Blind Boys of Alabama. The annual Louisiana Swamp Romp is June 6 and includes John Mooney and The Iguanas.

The **Baltimore Blues Festival** takes place on June 19 and the 20th. This year this festival has a new home at the Timonium State Fairgrounds. Acts include Levon Helm (featuring Little Sammy Davis), The Iguanas, T-Model Ford & Spam, John Mooney, Skeeter Brandon, Kelly Bell Band, Catfish Hodge, Jamie Lynch with Robert Frahm and others. For information check out www.mdblues.com or call 800-830-3976

Common Ground on the Hill Workshops take place at McDaniel College in Westminster MD. The first week of multi-

cultural courses is June 27-July 2 and instructors include Sparky & Rhonda Rucker. The second week of programs is July 4-9 and among the programs is **The Blues In Song, Guitar, Piano, Harmonica and instructors include**, Etta Baker, Lea Gilmore, Sparky & Rhonda Rucker, Walter Liniger, Scott Ainslie, Mike Baytop, and Blues Works: Paul Watson, Judy Luis-Watson. There are countless other workshops and courses. The annual **American Music & Arts Festival** takes place July 10 and 11 at the *Carroll County Farm Museum in Westminster, Maryland* Its a festival celebrating the "common ground" found in the traditional arts and performers will include Tom Chapin, Arlo Guthrie, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Walt Michael & Co., Dr. Loco w/Tomas Montoya, Etta Baker & Walter Liniger, Lea Gilmore, Zan McLeod, Scott Ainslie and much more. Info: www.commongroundonthehill.com.

The **Herndon Blues Festival** takes place at Frying Pan Park on Saturday July 24 and the lineup includes Frank Fotusky; the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation; Neil Harpe & Rick Franklin; Gaye Adegabalola; Reverend Robert B. Jones; Daryl Davis and Paul Rishell & Annie Raines. This free event is one of the few acoustic blues festivals held. We will have more information on this event in the July newsletter, but I especially recommend getting there early for Frank Fotusky, a superb fingerstyle guitarist from New Jersey.

The **Pocono Blues Festival** takes place Friday July 23 to Sunday July 25 A partial list of performers include Wallace Coleman, Byther Smith, King Alex & the Untouchables, Eddie C Campbell, Mighty Mo Rogers, Bobby Rush, Chick Willis, Bobby Blue Bland, Billy Branch and Kenny Neal, The Campbell Brothers, D.C.'s own Memphis Gold with Charlie Sayles, Roy Gaines, Mavis Staples, Magic Slim & the Tear-drops, Blind Boys of Alabama, and much more. As can be seen, a varied

lineup with some great 'blues' performers including a few that rarely make it around the Mid-Atlantic. For information check the Jack Frost-Big Boulder website, www.jfbb.com.

Hot August Blues is scheduled on August 24, 2004 in Cockeysville MD. The lineup will include Taj Mahal, W.C. Clark, Chubby Carrier, Sonny Landreth and Choo Choo Charlie Williams will open. We will have more information on this in June. And the **D.C. Blues Festival** which I believe is scheduled for Saturday September 4, labor day weekend at the Carter vbaron. Of course much more on this next month.



Top: Franklin & Harpe will be at this year's Herndon Blues Festival.
Bottom - Skeeter: Brandon will be at the Baltimore Blues Festival. Photos © Ron Weinstock



15th Annual **Billtown Blues Festival**

Sunday, June 13, 2004

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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.

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From the Bandstand

Since 1990, The Moonlighters have been a mainstay in the DC area with four Millennium Stage performances and other prestigious venues to their credit, primarily focusing on outdoor concerts and festivals and private events over the past several years.

First Place winners of the 1995 "DC Blues Battle", the group has since branched out to cover jazz, swing and oldies. Their blues is primarily of the 1940's West Coast jump style and 1950's Chicago style with an emphasis on lower volume levels, dynamics and strong vocals over flashy solos.

Directed by Little William Scott as bandleader, playing serviceable harp in a jazzy vein, his primary contribution lies in booking the band at close to one hundred dates/year, only ten percent or so in the usual club circuit and many in unexpected venues. Performing primarily in DC, MD, and VA, the group has also played shows in PA, DE, WV, NY and Chicago.

Keeping a loose rein on the band with his laid-back style, William encourages the band's musicians to individually develop and to creatively express themselves. As a result, The Moonlighters have served an important role in the local music community by nurturing several highly talented performers, including Chris

Polk and Jazzy Blue. Other notables that have performed with the group over the years have included K.D. King in his pre-Memphis Gold days, O.C. Nunn, Jesse Yawn, Steve Jacobs, the late Willie Hicks and the late Sonny Forriest.

Jimi Jones is second in seniority, serving as the group's tasteful, jazz-influenced drummer for the past several years while providing understated and expressive lead vocals. The Moonlighters usually perform as a four-piece, and bass and guitar duties have rotated based on the nature of the gig and the availability of sidemen, usually including Scott Mattern or Ira Gitlin on guitar and Dave Jackson, Steve Reiter or Eric Schramack on bass. Currently, Marcus Williams and Vic Tynes have been filling these roles on most performances, creating a more consistent line-up for the band, on bass and guitar/vocals, respectively. This combination has been working extremely well, and the band has garnered much praise for its latest sound.

Will Scott

Will Scott and the Moonlighters can be contacted at info@14kmusic.com.

From the Bandstand is a new feature that enables you the blues performers in the Society to tell us a little bit about yourself. Use this column for an idea of length. Include contact information for you as well.

Email your submission to the editor at the email address on page 2. Thanks.



Photo of The Moonlighters drummer-vocalist Jimi Jones is from the Willie Hicks benefit. Photo © Ron Weinstock



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