

The WVBluesSociety (<http://wvbluessociety.org>) 'lectric bluzletter ak "Mountains of Blues in the Mountain State" is a semi-weekly newsletter packed with blues information in the Mountain State and beyond. Brought to you by the West Virginia Blues Society the "bluzletter" goes out as a service to our "bluz friends" wherever you might be. The bluzletter is an attempt to CONNECT & INFORM of the happenings in and at times outside our area. We never use your e-mail address for anything without your consent, and no one has access to our e-mail list. If you know of someone who would like to receive our 'lectric bluzletter in the future let me know. If you do NOT want to receive any future updates please reply with, Please No More.

**\*BIRTHDAY:**

- Aug 11 1929 Christine Kittrell Nashville, TN
- Aug 12 1920 Percy Mayfield Minden, LA
- Aug 12 1962 Terry "Big T" Williams Clarksdale, MS
- Aug 13 1962 Joanna Conner Brooklyn, NY
- Aug 13 1919 Baby Boy Warren Lake Providence, LA
- Aug 13 1921 Jimmy McCracklin St Louis, MO
- Aug 13 1921 Son Seals Osceola, AR
- Aug 16 1928 Eddie Kirkland Kingston, Jamaica
- Aug 18 1922 Luther Allison Widener, AR
- Aug 18 1928 Barkin' Bill Smith Cleveland, MS

**\*RIP:**

- Aug 13 1971 Curtis Ousley aka King Curtis New York, NY
- Aug 15 1958 Big Bill Broonzy Chicago, IL
- Aug 16 1977 Elvis Presley Memphis, TN
- Aug 17 1984 Hammie Nixon Jackson, TN

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**WHATS HAPPENIN' WITH "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES"\***

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**\*GREAT WEATHER, CROWD & MUSIC-**

Last weekend in Wheeling for the Heritage Blues Fest was everything and more that it could be. I was ask on Sunday evening just how I would go about writing a review for this festival. And as I sit here this evening, I gotta tell ya... it's real tuff. Just way too many good things to discuss. So I think I'll go the abbreviated version...

I didn't attend the entire weekend (missed Saturday), but what I did see was great. On Friday DEBBIE DAVIES was very good as was The Delta Guitarslingers w/MICHAEL BURKS, SHERMAN ROBERTSON & CARL WEATHERSBY. Same for Sunday... TINSLEY ELLIS, who I had not seen before, was impressive indeed. So was DEANNA BOGART and LIL' ED & THE BLUES IMPERIALS never fail to put on a great show. And of course headliners JOHNNY WINTER & JAMES COTTON were well worth the wait. Also the acts on the 2nd stage were excellent too. I was especially partial to THE CATCH BLUES BAND. However, nobody impressed me any more than ANSON FUNDERBURGH & THE ROCKETS w/JAMES HARMAN. Wow! They (in my humble opinion) were "the best" act of what I saw the entire weekend.

Was also good to see people like Giff, Ronnie & Ann, Maren, Jack & Donna, Dane, Wally, Helen, Herb & Sharyan, Kevin, Tim, Dusty & Val and many-many more. The weather was perfect... the river was

beautiful... and the crowds were said to be the largest ever in attendance. Nice job and congratulations to Director Bruce Wheeler. I don't think it could have been any better... but I know next year yer gonna try to top it!

The WVBluesSociety did itself proud over the weekend. There was no question we had the coolest booth up and down vendors row with the white tent and way cool blue lights! Each and every past Blues Night Out event t-shirt was sold as well as hats. I was informed on more than one occasion the new royal blues society shirt was the hottest "T" on the festival grounds. Also made us proud to see the BNO/"Muddy Waters Birthday Party" shirt walking around during the festival. They were all sold on site in April at Christopher's!

#### \*REVIEW-

"Thoughts on a Thursday"- Spider

As I sat along a beautiful stretch of the Ohio River at the Wheeling Heritage Blues Festival Friday night, it was easy to let my mind drift down the river to blues points beyond as I listened to an astounding array of performances, each individual an acknowledged emissary of the tradition. I felt honored to be there. What was equally gratifying to me at the same time was the knowledge that there is an abundance of lesser known performers, some who are quite young, who have also raised up the blues banner.

Such were my thoughts on the Thursday night before the Wheeling festival when I found myself sitting in The Office Lounge of the McLure Hotel in downtown Wheeling where The West Virginia Blues Society was sponsoring a "Heritage Blues Kick-off." In this warm and inviting venue the Catch Blues Band, four spirited, friendly, and experienced musicians, really knew how to turn it up to blue heat; by the time the third set came up, the room was definitely boiling over with blues. The band's rendition of Eric Clapton's "Old Love" tore everyone up. At one point, the band invited John Banco to join them on sax for several tunes. John knew exactly what to do, blending perfectly with the energy already established, adding very tasteful solos along the way. As if that weren't enough, Amanda McCoy came forward to fan the flames in a solo acoustic set that was all the talk. In spite of her youth, she proved to be a talented and strong individual whose soul runs deep blue.

Friday's headliners were superb, and that's a fact. However, seeing those dedicated and lesser known performers Thursday night left me comforted...comforted in the realization that the blues will never die. (thanks Spider)

#### \*SNOWSHOE BLUES, BREWS & BBQ-

Snowshoe Mountain (<http://www.snowshoemtn.com>) in Snowshoe, WV is cookin' for this annual Blues, Brews and BBQ event. Aug 15-17 will be a saucy weekend on the mountain, as guests enjoy traditional BBQ favorites from Snowshoe's Village vendors. The comfortable summer temperatures at 4000' elevation leaves the rest of the region envious, Snowshoe will be the perfect place to spend this smokin' weekend. Enjoy the tasty food, "bottomless" beer mug and amazing live blues music, as well as the family-friendly summer activities Snowshoe offers all season long. Blues will be provide by KJ JAMES, WALLACE COLEMAN, LARRY TAYLOR, MAHAJIBEE BLUES and others on both Friday and Saturday.

\*note: If you live in the Mid-Ohio Valley region, check with Joe at the North End Tavern in Parkersburg. He has much more info on this Snowshoe event, as he plans to close The NET for the weekend while he and some of his employees are in attendance. The NET (<http://www.netbrewery.com>) was the very first West Virginia micro-brewery to attend this event some ????? ago.

#### \*SPECIAL DAY FOR MARY-

"Diamond Teeth Mary" McClain ([http://theband.hiof.no/articles/diamond\\_teeth\\_mary.html](http://theband.hiof.no/articles/diamond_teeth_mary.html)), the half sister of Bessie Smith was born in Huntington Aug 28th, 1902. Some information on the internet claims it was really Aug 27th. However, Mary herself says on her album "Walking Mary's Blues" that it was 8/28/02... Good enough for me. Another subject open to debate is where she was actually born. Again some

information says Logan County, WV rather than Huntington. However we'll probably never know for sure. We do know that she hopped a freight in Huntington at an early age to escape a bad home life and to see the world. From that time on until her death she played with many of the all time greats, sharing billings with her sister Bessie, Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan, Big Mama Thornton, Ray Charles, Charlie Parker and Duke Ellington. She toured with the USO and sang at the Apollo Theater, the Smithsonian, and the White House. She also lived for a time with baseball great Satchel Paige and was present at the African American hospital (Riverside Hotel- <http://www.cathead.biz/riverside.html>) in Clarksdale when sister Bessie passed away in 1937. Many people remember meeting Mary while she toured a few years ago in the MOV with Liz Pennock & Dr Blues.

West Virginia governor, the Honorable Joe Manchin and Huntington mayor, the Honorable David Felinton, with the support of the West Virginia Blues Society (<http://wybluessociety.org>), have decreed Sunday Aug 31st to be "Diamond Teeth Mary McClain Day" in remembrance of her, just three days after her 106th birthday. One of her final wishes was to be taken back "home" to Huntington, WV and have her ashes spread along those same railroad tracks. Liz Pennock & Dr Blues (<http://www.lizpennock.com>), originally from the Marietta area and northern Ohio respectively, had befriended Mary in Florida a few years before. When Mary passed on April 4th 2000 they made certain her wishes were fulfilled. Although incomplete at this time, plans are to place a plaque or historic marker at Heritage Station in Huntington in her honor. Liz & Doc along with Chris Sutton & C&S Railroad will perform at the V Club in Huntington as part of Mary's Special Day.

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THIS WEEKEND WITH "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES"\*

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\*Friday Aug 15th:

Chad Freeman & Blue Revolution- PJ Kelly's, Clarksburg  
Pete & Blaine [acoustic]- Mountain State Brewing, Thomas  
Sam Lamont [solo]- Black Bear Burritos, Morgantown  
The Catch Blues Band- Triple Play Cafe, Stubenville  
BREWERY SUMMER MUSIC FEST- The Brewery, Marietta, OH  
Liz Pennock & Dr Blues- Rascals Saloon, Dover, OH  
Colin John [acoustic]- City BBQ Cleveland Ave, Columbus  
Seth Walker- Moondogs, Blawnox, PA  
Izzy & Chris- Thunderbird Cafe, Lawrenceville, PA

\*Saturday Aug 16th:

BLUES, BREWS & BBQ- Snowshoe Resort, Snowshoe, WV  
Jill West & Blues Attack- California Boat Club, Coal Center, PA  
BLUES SOCIETY OF WESTERN PA PICNIC- Boston Waterfront, McKeesport, PA  
BREWERY SUMMER MUSIC FEST- The Brewery, Marietta, OH  
The Catch Blues Band- Picks, St Calirsville, OH

\*Sunday Aug 17th:

BREWERY SUMMER MUSIC FEST- The Brewery, Marietta, OH  
Columbus Blues Alliance Blues Jam- The Thirsty Ear, Columbus

next week\*

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Monday 8/18 IZZY & CHRIS @ The Palace Theatre, Greensboro, PA

Friday & Saturday 8/22-23 Foothills Blues Music & Arts Fest, Harrisonville, OH

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COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE\*

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\*Wednesday 8/13 CRACKER STACKWELL @ Blue Moose CAfe, Morgantown

\*Thursday 8/14:

BLUE FAZE @ Freeport River Park, Freeport, PA

LARRY TALOR BLUES & SOUL BAND @ American Legion Post 57, Charleston

\*thanks to all those that volunteered their time and efforts in Wheeling last week... very successful weekend.

\*THE CATCH BLUES BAND tore it up last Thursday night in The Office Lounge in Wheeling... the later it got, the better they got! And that was not the Grey Goose talkin'... if you weren't in attendance for our 4th Blues Night Out in the series then shame-on-you... ya missed a good 'en... and thanks to The Office Lounge (The McClure Hotel) for putting up with us!

\*thanks to Chris Sutton for putting up the information booth at the Huntington Rib Fest last weekend... Chris informed the good folks there about the WVBluesSociety while the rest of us were playing in Wheeling...

\*The Brewery in Marietta, OH is having their 3rd Annual "Brewery Summer Music Fest" Friday thru Sunday 8/15-16-17... features LONG TALL DEB & THE DRIFTER DINGS, COLIN JOHN, VINNY & THE LUBRICATORS, BIG DADDY & THE HOODOO MEN, COLD SHOT, JOHN JUSTICE BAND and a whole lot more... get complete story at <http://www.mariettabrewingcompany.com>

\*word is Donna Price has won sales-person of the year in the tri-state area for her efforts in Wheeling... also that she is bucking hard for a Wal-Mart greeter position...

\*WVBluesSociety planning our 2nd APPALACHIAN BLUES CHALLENGE for Saturday, Oct 4th @ Christopher's Banquet Center in Fairmont... thanks to all those who have been working hard toward this event, also to our sponsors and thanks to Larry and Butch @ Christopher's for supporting the blues and the West Virginia Blues Society... if you would like to volunteer your efforts to the competition go to <http://wvbluessociety.org> for more... guarantee you'll be welcome....

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crawlinkingsnake