

Mountains of Blues

'lectric news



West Virginia
Blues Society

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE

"Mountains of Blues"

Thursday, Sept 4th, 2008

Vol. 1, Issue 4

y'all don't have no southern soul music,
when I turn on my radio...

all I hear is hip hop,
country, talk shows, and rock...

tell me what is a man to do,
when he can't hear no downhome blues...

O.B. BUCHANA "I'm Goin' Back Home" 2007

The WVBluesSociety (<http://wvbluessociety.org>) 'lectric bluzletter aka "Mountains of Blues in the Mountain State" is a semi-weekly newsletter of 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:**

Sept 2 1911 Floyd "Dipper Boy" Council Chapel Hill, NC
Sept 2 1939 Sam Gooden Chattanooga, TN
Sept 4 1918 Archie Edwards Union Hall, VA
Sept 4 1930 John Cephas Washington, DC
Sept 5 1969 Josh White Manhasset, NY
Sept 7 1939 Latimore Charleston, TN

***RIP:**

Sept 1 2005 RL Burnside Memphis, TN
Sept 5 1969 Josh White Manhasset, NY
Sept 5 1994 Louis Myers Chicago, IL

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

***EXTENSION-**

The date for acts to enter into the 2nd "Appalachian Blues Competition" has been extended to Sept 15th. The competition will be held Saturday Oct 4th at Christopher's Banquet Center in Fairmont. For all information go to WVBluesSociety website <http://wvbluessociety.org>

***WEST VIRGINIA BLACK HERITAGE FESTIVAL-**

The 2008 West Virginia Black Heritage Festival featuring ROSE ROYCE, THE MANHATTANS, THE MARCELS, THE DENNIS McCLUNG BLUES BAND and more is this Fri/Sat/Sun Sept 5-6-7 in Clarksburg. Beginning in 1990 with a meeting of the Kelly Miller Alumni Association, it has now grown into a full-fledged festival. The first official event was held on Sept 22nd, 1990 on E.B. Saunders Way (formerly Water Street). The first celebrations were commemorations of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln. Appropriately called an Emancipation Proclamation Celebration. By 1995 the event had out grown the Kelly Miller Alumni Association and that year the Black Heritage Fest picked up where the Emancipation Celebration left off. Today the festival directs its efforts toward the youth in the form of scholarships, and an afterschool program open to all youth in Harrison County. The festival also wants to thank the strong community support of its many sponsors such as: WBOY-TV, Fairmont State University, Huntington Bank, BB&T Bank, Harrison County Board of Education, Greater Clarksburg Visitors Center and many-many more. For more go to <http://www.wvblackheritagefestival.com/index.html>

***HILLBILLY HIGHWAYS & VELVET ELVIS PAINTINGS-**

In the early 1800's some of the first federal highways began to open up areas west of the Appalachians. Slowly rough dirt roads like National Road, The Northwest Turnpike, Staunton-Parkersburg Pike, and Midland Trail grew into the 2-lane blacktops of US 40,

US 50, WV Rt 47/US 250 and US 60 respectively. Along these Apalachian highways grew a number of unique businesses. Small locally owned shops where many local mountain items could be purchased. One of my favorites still today is Cool Springs on US 50. Cool Springs located approx 20 east of Grafton near Rowlesburg carries everything from velvet Elvis paintings to fishing tackle to Hampshire County apples and everything in between. Actually can still remember signs proclaiming "Washington DC souvenirs" at Cool Springs... Another classic Appalachian roadside respite was located at Chimney Corners on US 60 approx 40 miles east of Charleston. It had been closed for a couple years but "Chimney Corners USA" (<http://www.chimneycornerusa.com>) is now open again. New owners Jim and Debbie Campbell have big plans for it with great food, cabin rental, general store and "live" music. Fact is IZZY & CHRIS (<http://www.myspace.com/izzyandchris>) and 2-BLUE (<http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=395623665>) played there to rave reviews just last week. Izzy & Chris will be there again this Friday Sept 5th. Showtime is 6:00pm.

Thanks to Jim and Debbie for re-creating this very cool place. Whitewater rafters, sighthseers, travelers, leaf-peekers, and Blues fans need to check 'em out this summer/fall.

*QUOTE: "Much has changed in the world in three years. Some things have gotten worse, like pop-music." GREG TUTWILER, publisher- 'Americana Rhythm - Music Magazine'

*CLOSE CALL-

Received from COLIN JOHN Tuesday Sept 2nd:

So, New Orleans was relatively spared another catastrophic blow when Hurricane Gustav decided to calm down ever so slightly as to not destroy the fragile levees protecting the city. The look of relief on Mayor Nagle's face- as well as the sweat-stained shirt of George Bush- spoke volumes that things still ain't right in the Big Easy, three years after Katrina.

A few weeks ago I caught the last half of Louisiana bluesman Tab Benoit's set at The Thirsty Ear. Tab is a great musician and a resident and native of Houma, Louisiana, a rural community that like many Gulf-coast communities has still not recovered from Katrina. Tab was rather blunt and direct about the lack of action being taken by the government and used colorful language to get his points across, all of them valid and requiring attention. He's not a raving lunatic; just a concerned and fed-up individual. Tab spearheads an organization called The Wetlands Project and is immersed in educating people about the fragile ecosystem that is The Gulf Coast.

His use of the words(and I'm leaving you to fill in the blanks as an exercise in strengthening your own Profanosaurus as well as to keep the spam filters at bay), "motherfu___", "ass___", etc. to get his point across made sense to me. "Now, here's an intelligent man who is using profanity to convey his message and is not coming across as a jackass entertainer using his public platform to spout propaganda."

People swear so often these days that it's effectiveness has worn down to the point that we usually think upon hearing profanity in public, "Well that guy/girl has poor social etiquette and a limited vocabulary."

It's been said that, "profanity is the crutch of inarticulate mother_____". Well, not if used effectively like Tab was doing. It certainly can grab attention and help initiate a call to action.

The close call that was Gustav's wrath this time is only a reminder that the Gulf Coast is still extremely vulnerable.

Whatever your political stance may be, please keep in mind that for every displaced useless_____criminal, there are far more decent humans that don't need and can't afford to be_____up by an incompetent administration.

Mother Nature doesn't play partisan politics, so to read about Tab's organization and to get involved:

<http://www.voiceofthewetlands.com/getinvolved.html> (thank you Colin!)

*THANKS GIL-

An interesting and ongoing communication with a fellow from Austin, TX last week. Gil, an active member of the American Federation of Musicians(Local 433), Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, ASCAP, WAMA, National Music Publishers Association, and member of the Grammy's (NARAS), and The Blues Foundation and who happens to be black, mentioned the importance of the "history of the blues" and getting it right... of which I couldn't agree more. Quote Gil, "...truth has no color." Although the communication started out a little on the rough side... it did settle down to a fair amount of civility by the end of the week. It's been my experience when dealing with history that the history books are written by victorious, powerful males aka "the winners". When was the last time you read a history book, especially those used in public school systems, dealing with "the trail of tears" or the "Battle of the Little Big Horn" that was written by Native Americans? Or a book about post-Civil War sharecroppers written by African Americans? With these things in mind reckon' we need to remember history belongs to all of us, right or wrong, good or bad. Quote Gil, "...today is their time to write history which will reflect some kid who love this music and will be depending on you and others to show them the right way. I am for it 100%." Thanks Gil and please stay in touch... and since you had mentioned Dr Woodson, did you know?- Dr Carter Woodson although born in Virginia is considered by many to be a native West Virginian and that he mined coal in Fayette County... and that he moved to Huntington to attend Douglas High School... and later became the principal of DHS... a Dean at WV State College (University)... earned his Ph.D. from Harvard... and is considered "The Father of Black History" with his founding of Black History Month... and has a state historical marker placed in his honor at the intersection of Carter G. Woodson Ave. & Hal Greer Blvd in Huntington.

*note: If any y'all out there get to Austin, TX look up Gil's band THE BLUES CRAWLERS (<http://www.thebluescrawlers.com>) and get me a CD!

*WORD FROM THE PREZ-

I would like to take a few moments to say 'Thank You' for all that made the 'Diamond Teeth' Mary McClain (<http://www.foff.org/content/view/63/1/>) event the success that it was. We have gotten off to a Great start with this project. The V Club (<http://www.vclublive.com>) was more than generous in all of their efforts along with Huntington Mayor David Felinton, Governor Joe Manchin, the Harmonica Club, Liz Pennock & Dr. Blues, Dave Lavender, Chris Sutton, Steve Wells, John Nelson and Donna Price. Our Memorial Fund is now started and we need to keep the word out their about it for the sign for Mary next year. V Club owner Pat Guthrie has been more than generous in providing wall space in his club for WVBS to hang Mary's picture and the proclamations. We will be having other pictures hung there too. Pat plans on partnering with us in future events featuring more Blues Acts. We are off to a Great start. Again, I would just like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all. (thanks smokestacJack)

*THIS WEEKEND WITH "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

*Friday Sept 5th:

Bobby Kirl- The Court Street Grill, Pomeroy, OH
Izzy & Chris- Chimney Corners USA, Ansted, WV
The Swinging Orangutangs "orangutang sighting!"- The Brewery, Marietta
Jill West & Blues Attack- American Legion, Plum Borough/Pittsburgh
Appalachian Jazz- El Gran Sabor, Elkins, WV
Denis McClung Blues Band- Rhythm & Brews, Morgantown
Jimmy Adler Band- Club Cafe, Pittsburgh
Soul Village- The Lido Deck/Straford Springs, Wheeling
Vinnie Mele & Band- The Brewery, Marietta
The Catch Blues Band- Down On Main Street, Wheeling
Sam Lamont (solo)- Riverstone Ale House, Morgantown

*Saturday Sept 6th:

Izzy & Chris- Steeltown Shakedown/Drifters Car Show, Pittsburgh
Holy Cow!- Bluegrass Kitchen, Charleston
Sam Lamont & Tanglewood- Comfortfest, Morgantown
Cold Shot- The Brewery, Marietta
Ms Freddie & Blue Faze- Steel Town Shakedown/Drifters Car Show, Pittsburgh
Holy Cow!- Bluegrass Kitchen, Charleston
C & S Railroad- Pocahontas County Opera House, Marlinton, WV
Dennis McClung Blues Band- WV Black Heritage Festival, Clarksburg
The Catch Blues Band- The Office Lounge, Wheeling

*Sunday Sept 7th:

Cracker Stackwell (host open mic)- Godfrey Daniels, Bethlehem, PA
CBA Blues Jam w/Dave Chisolm Band- Thirsty Ear, Columbus

Little Walter Tribute w/Gruenling, Guyger & Deming- Thunderbird Cafe, Lawrenceville, PA

*"MOUNTAINS OF BLUES" AT A GLANCE:

*Wednesday Sept 3rd CHAD FREEMAN & BLUE REVOLUTION @ El Gran Sabor, Elkins, WV

<>every Wednesday thru Sept: THE CARPENTER ANTS @ The Empty Glass, Charleston

*Thursday Sept 4th:

HIP POCKET @ Sternwheel Ribfest, Marietta

*happy birthday Mike Roeder! of THE CATCH BLUES BAND

(<http://thecatchbluesband.wetpaint.com>) Saturday Sept 6th... come celebrate with them @ The Office Lounge, Wheeling

*available from Shanachie Records (<http://www.shanachie.com>)- DVD "And This Is Free: The Life And Times Of Chicago's Legendary Maxwell Street"

(<http://www.shanachie.com/artist/videos/maxwell.htm>) a 1964 documentary of Chicago's open-air market that created a cultural phenomenon. (Bob Corritore Newsletter)

*wanta keep up with THE BLUES CANNIBALS? from Cambridge, OH... Giff tells us they now have a new myspace thing going on at

<http://www.myspace.com/thebluescannibals...> they plan to return to P-burg next month @ The Polo Club Saturday Oct 4th

*THE ELDORADO KINGS from Pittsburgh are introducing their new bass player Jack Russell. Jack is replacing founding member Kevin Mitchell who is moving on to play with his brother in his band. Jack has many years experience and an all around good guy. (thanks Johnny)

*quote The Jazz Store- "Alligator Records (<http://www.alligator.com>) is one of our favorite labels, because it's always been a great blues label and that tradition continues today. The folks at Alligator Records have kept their focus on the blues, even as they've launched careers of artists who have had widely successful pop music careers. Alligator has resisted formidable temptation to go "mainstream" and has kept blues lovers supplied with rowdy, house-rockin' Chicago blues... so we've put all of Alligator's legendary recordings on sale for the next two weeks." *go to <http://www.jazzstore.com> for more.

*more Wheeling anybody? Gary Miller's "BluesSource" (8/26)... Greetings from Tennessee, I'm getting tired of explaining to folks here that I'm going to Wheeling WV

for a Blues Festival. Ya'll goin to have to get with the program, and that goes for Kentucky too!... Every year I look forward to making the trip up to the Heritage Music Bluesfest, not only for the great line-up Bruce Wheeler puts together, but for the ever growing group of friends... *read the article in its entirety at

<http://www.bluessource.com/readarticles.php?id=100>

*tune in to- Funky Larry Jones via Jackson, MS "Southern Soul Radio" at <http://www.southernsoulradio.com/index.html> every Monday thru Friday 7:00am - 11:00am Central Standard Time also <http://www.myspace.com/southernsoulradio>

*O.B. BUCHANA <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwmhLI6qOPM&feature=related>

*next week:

Wednesday Sept 10th: Blue Ridge Blues Society Jam @ Blue 5 Restaurant, Roanoke, VA

Friday Sept 12th: Post-Mountain Stage Jam @ The Empty Glass, Charleston

Friday Sept 12th: SEAN CARNEY BAND @ Blue 5 Restaurant, Roanoke, VA

Saturday Sept 13th JUBAL KANE CD Releases Party @ The Empty Glass, Charleston

Sat/Sun Sept 13-14 West Virginia Wine & Jazz Festival @ Camp Muffly, Morgantown

*coming soon:

<>Saturday Sept 20th Hot Licks Blues Fest (<http://hotlicks.spruz.net>), Granville, OH

<>Saturday Oct 4th @ Fur Peace Ranch (<http://www.furpeaceranch.com>), Pomeroy, OH

"Acoustic Blues Fest" w/Rory Block, John Cephas, Roy Book Binder, and Kenny Sultan.

in a little bit,

crawlinkingsnake