

Mountains of Blues

'lectric news



West Virginia
Blues Society

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE

"Mountains of Blues"

Thursday Sept 18th, 2008

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The [WVBluesSociety](http://www.wvbluesociety.com) '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 18 1929 Louis Myers Byhalia, MS
Sept 23 1926 John Coltrane Hamlet, NC
Sept 23 1930 Ray Charles Albany, GA

WHATS HAPPENIN' IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

JUST WANTA TESTIFY!-

[BILLY PRICE](#) testified and more Saturday afternoon in Morgantown. [The West Virginia Wine & Jazz Festival](#) as good as what we were told, and more. This was Spider, Queen Biscuit, Mojo Mama and crawlinkingsnake first time and it was great. Very well organized and operated. Been doing this for awhile and they're getting it right. Lots of WVU students present. Quote Spider: "quite moving to see so many young people groovin' to Billy." We's there mainly to see Billy Price but were glad we got there early enough to catch others. Before BP, the [DWAYNE DOLPHIN BAND](#) from Pittsburgh had an excellent set. 4-H Camp Muffley is a beautiful setting but if yer late, you will do some walking. Stage and food/wine vendors were up the holler a ways. Good to see John of "[ink](#)", Jim of [Lambert's Winery](#) as well as couple old FSC animal house an-tekes, "Hambone" and "Germ". Add this to yer '09 calendar.

"LITTLE WALTER TRIBUTE"-

Marion Walter Jacobs aka "[LITTLE WALTER](#)" is generally considered one of the best blues musicians ever. Revolutionary harmonica techniques earned him comparisons to Charlie Parker and Jimi Hendrix in its impact. Born in Marksville, LA May 1st 1930. He quit school at 12 to travel and play the streets of New Orleans, Memphis, Helena and St Louis while honing his skills with SONNY BOY WILLIAMSON II and BIG BILL BROONZY. He played with MUDDY WATERS in Chicago during the late 40's and 50's. He recorded as a band leader for Chess Records when his song "Juke" became the first harmonica instrumental to reach #1 on R&B charts in 1952. Later "My Babe" reached #1 in 1955. Walter also frequently played as a sideman with such greats as JIMMY ROGERS, MEMPHIS MINNIE, JOHNNY SHINES, BO DIDDLEY, OTIS RUSH, ROBERT NIGHTHAWK and others. He suffered as an alcoholic and had a notorious short temper, which led to his decline. Little Walter died Feb 15th 1968 in his sleep from injuries sustained from a fight outside a club in South Side Chicago. His playing influenced nearly every modern blues harp player that followed from JUNIOR WELLS to WILLIAM CLARKE and JAMES HARMAN to ROD PIAZZA and pert-near all those in between. The 1952 instrumental "Juke" was inducted into the Grammy Awards Hall-of-Fame in 2007.

The "Little Walter Tribute" will be in Pomeroy, Ohio at the Court Street Grill on Friday Sept 19th. Yeah I know what you're saying... cks is off-the-wall when it comes to blues harp. Well, excuuuuse me... I'm gonna tell ya this just one time... If you're going to be anywhere within shoutin' distance... make the effort to see this show. Two great harp players in their own right, [DENNIS GRUENLING](#) and [STEVE GUYGER](#) are backed by great guitarist [DOUG DEMING](#). They have collaborated and traveled the country all summer with their tribute to "Little Walter." Recently at The Thunderbird Cafe in Pittsburgh two weeks ago. At The Slippery Noodle in Indianapolis Tuesday the 16th and Brackins Blues Bar in Maryville, TN the 18th before arriving in Pomeroy. After that it's off to some foreign country somewhere before coming back to Williamsburg, VA early next month. So take advantage of this opportunity while you can. And as we "grillers" all know, [The Court Street Grill](#) is a very special place. See all you harp fans there.....

AND SPEAKIN' OF HARMONICAS-

"Mid-Ohio Valley Harmonica Championship" this Saturday Sept 20th at Belleville Homecoming, Belleville, WV. Sponsored by [Seydel Harmonica Company](#) and [Elk River Harmonicas](#). Renowed harp player [JASON RICCI](#) as judge. Open to all chromatic and diatonic harmonicas. Signups are at 11:30AM with competition beginning at 12:00noon. Entry fee \$10 and entrants may bring one instrumental accompanist with a 5 min limit for two songs. 1st Place prize: Seydel 1847 harmonica. Cumberland custom-made leather harmonica case. 2nd Place: Seydel Big Six harmonica. 3rd Place: Seydel Solist harmonica. A "jam" will follow at the nearby Graham Farm.(Chromatic harmonica players who win, first may choose instead a Seydel Chromatic DeLuxe (choice of key), second and third place may apply retail value of prize toward a Seydel Chromatic DeLuxe harmonica.)

Belleville located on WV Rt 68, 12.3 miles south of P-burg & 14.5 miles north of Ravenswood, WV

REGIONAL/AREA BAND IN HELENA-

Pittsburgh area band, [MAHAJIBEE BLUES](#) has been selected by the "[Arkansas Blues & Heritage Festival](#)" to perform and compete at this years festival. Mahajibee will compete for the title of 2008 Emerging Artist. Formally known as the King Biscuit Blues Festival began in 1986 for the purpose of preserving the traditions of the Delta blues. Today it is one of the biggest, most well known and most popular festivals in the world. Artists are selected to participate in the contest by meeting several requirements like original music and blues traditions. Emerging Artist Contest has created much excitement thanks in part to "Blues Revue" and "Beale Street Caravan" who have joined as the national media sponsors.

Congratulations to Mahajibee and best of luck to you! Trust us when we say, "yer gonna love it!" Was there in '05 and it is quite an experience. Arkansas Blues & Heritage is set for Oct 9-10-11 on the levee of the mighty Mississippi River in Helena, AR.

And now for the even better news.... Mahajibee Blues will perform for the WVBluesSociety the weekend before they leave for Helena. Competiting in the Appalachian Blues Competition in Fairmont set for Oct 4th at Christopher's Banquet Center.

"M FOR MISSISSIPPI"-

"We planned this road-trip movie for two years," said Roger Stolle. "We avoided big concert stages and rock-star narrators in favor of intimate houseparties and rockin' Delta juke joints. The results speak for themselves."

A new film celebrating the raw, raucous spirit of Mississippi's surviving Blues scene... worldwide premiere Sat Oct 11th at the Delta Cinema in downtown Clarksdale. "M for Mississippi: A Road Trip through the Birthplace of the Blues" follows a couple of Blues producers (Roger Stolle- Cat Head Delta Blues & Folk Art and Jeff Konkel- Broke & Hungry Records) on a weeklong journey across Mississippi visiting a dozen of the state's most fascinating Blues figures in rustic environments ranging from juke joints to cotton

fields... follows Konkel and Stolle traveling dusty highways and byways, calling on such seminal regional Blues figures as James "T-Model" Ford, Robert "Wolfman" Belfour, Terry "Harmonica" Bean, Wesley "Junebug" Jefferson, Jimmy "Duck" Holmes, Pat Thomas, L.C. Ulmer, Robert "Bilbo" Walker, and more... shines a long-overdue spotlight on these men, their music and the land from which the Blues sprang.

Released on DVD this fall along with companion CD... Pre-orders through the Web site at <http://www.mformississippi.com>. International rollout will follow with the DVD and CD soundtrack expected in stores beginning Nov 18th. (blueswax)

MORE "DIAMOND TEETH MARY"-

Open letter from [LIZ PENNOCK & DR BLUES](#) of St Petersburg, FL...

"Thanks so much for a wonderful Diamond Teeth Mary Day! Know you all worked hard to put it together & we (& MARY) so appreciate your efforts. It was an honor for us to be there. Great to finally meet Jack & Chris & enjoyed Chris' music too. Thanks to Donna too for the table space & Steve for all the PR work, and thanks to Dave for the fine extensive newspaper coverage!! (Sure hope you'll be there for the next one!) Thanks to Pat for the nice venue & stage at the V Club, too!! Look forward to next year & till then, keep the blues music & Mary's spirit alive!! "

Love & God bless you all

Liz Pennock & Dr. Blues (thank you Liz & Doc)



APPALACHIAN BLUES COMPETITION-

The stage is set for the WVBluesSociety 2008 Appy Blues Comp Saturday Oct 4th in Fairmont. Larry and Butch at Christopher's Banquet Center were such wonderful host for our BLUES NIGHT OUT/"Muddy Waters Birthday Party" in April... the decision was made to have the competition held there also. A "blues throwdown" will begin at 1:00PM with 20 min slots per act. A dinner break scheduled from 4:40PM-6:30PM, during which Christopher's will offer one of their delicious buffets for \$11.99. Competition resumes after that and will continue until 9:30PM when the judges will retire to tally up the scores. At that time any & all musicians are welcome to join into what looks to be an outstanding "blues jam". Make your plans now for this outstanding event. We will

announce the line-up/time slots for all competitors next week. Winners from this competition will qualify to go to Memphis in February 2009 for the International Blues Challenge sponsored by [The Blues Foundation](#).

THIS WEEKEND IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

Friday Sept 19th:

"LITTLE WALTER TRIBUTE" w/Gruenling, Guyger & Deming- Court Street Grill, Pomeroy
Billy The Kid & The Regulators- Woolly Bully's, New Brighton, PA
The Catch Blues BAnd- The Farm House II, ????, ??
Willie Pooch & the Upsetters- The Mudflats, Galena, OH
No Bad JuJu- Sunseris, North Hills/Pittsburgh
The Jimi Vincent Band- Rocking Horse, Mansfield, OH
Billy Price Band w/Fred Chapellier- Thunderbird Cafe, Lawrenceville, PA
Sam Lamont- Black Bear, Morgantown
Colin John- The Brewery, Marietta, OH
Zach Tyler & Blu Razor- Oktoberfest, Canonsburg, PA
Code Blue Band w/Patrick McLaughlin- Blennerhassett Hotel, Parkersburg
The Kinsey Report- The Thirsty Ear, Columbus

Saturday Sept 20th:

MOV HARMONICA CHAMPIONSHIP- Belleville Homecoming, Belleville, WV
BIG LICK BLUES FEST & RIB COOK OFF- Elmwood Park, Roanoke, VA
GRANVILLE HOT LICKS BLUESFEST- Granville, OH
Steve & Steve Blues Band- Creek Side Club, Hurricane, WV
The Catch Blues Band- Froelich's Classic Corner, ????, ??
Eric Sardinias- House of Crave, Columbus
Jimi Vincent Band- Hales Harley Davidson, Mansfield, OH
Mojo Theory- The Thirsty Ear, Columbus
Lady D- "Taste of Parkersburg"/3rd & Market St, Parkersburg
Double Barrel Blues Band-Millstone BBQ, Logan, OH 2-Blue- Chimney Corner
USA, Hwy.60 and 16, Ansted
Code Blue Band w/Patrick McLaughlin- The Brewery, Marietta, OH

Sunday Sept 21th:

Mars Home For Youth Benefit- Grazie!/Oxford Club, Wexford, PA
Tommy's Triple Threat Blues Revue/jam- The Pour House, Dunbar, WV
Columbus Blues Alliance Blues Jam- The Thirsty Ear, Columbus
Diablo Blues Band- The Empty Glass, Charleston
Nat Reese- Appalachian South Folklife Center, Pipestem, WV

"MOUNTAINS OF BLUES" AT A GLANCE:

Tue 9/16 IZZY & CHRIS "Tuesday Blues Nite" @ Bocktown Beer & Grill, Pittsburgh

Wed 9/17:

LADY D @ Maxwell's, Beckley

MONTE MONTGOMERY @ The Court Street Grill, Pomeroy, OH

CRACKER STACKWELL @ Blues Moose (open-mic), Morgantown

Thur 9/18: THE CATCH BLUES BAND @ Wheeling Racetrack & Gaming Center, Wheeling

big thanks to DONNA for beee-uuu-tee-ful new graphics on "Mountains of Blues"/"lectric news!

thanks to RoyD, Jason and others, the "post-competition jam" @ Christopher's, Fairmont 10/4 looks to be shaping up as quite an event itself... probably worth the price of admission alone... looking forward to it y'all.....!

[Mars Home For Youth Benefit](#) ((304) 285-3241) Sun 9/21 "Blues-Rockin' Divas" features many of the top blues women in the Pittsburgh area... at Grazie! Restaurant, Wexford, PA

word on the street is "do not miss" [MONTE MONTGOMERY](#) Wednesday 9/17 @ The Court Street Grill in Pomeroy, OH... a true guitar virtuoso... "Los Angeles Times" says, "He's a legend in the making. Astounding! Unforgettable, raw passion and incredible artistry at it's finest!"

lil' outa our neighborhood but, some CLEVELAND STUFF:

[1] chance to become a founding member of the [CLEVELAND BLUES SOCIETY](#)... those in northeast Ohio or elsewhere... officers are being nominated & committees are being formed... contact John at jadams@nacs.net (thanks Scott)

[2] nice article on COLIN JOHN at

<http://www.clevescene.com/stories/15/71/summertime-blues>

[3] Late Night with Conan trumpeter and showman xx-tra-oor-din-air, [MARK PENDER](#), saw him last winter in Athens is with R&B STATION Sat Sept 20th @ Fat Fish Blue, Browns City...

CAT HEAD NOTES: JAMES T-MODEL FORD was in great spirits in Greenville couple weeks ago and wisely heeding his doctors orders to forgo "jack daniel time" for now.

PLEASE... When you see him playing fests and clubs in the future, don't buy him

whiskey. He's in his mid-eighties now. We need him to make it to at least a hundred!

Oh... here's a slight update via Mudpuppy Recordings' Kari Jones; she just talked to T-Model and Stella by phone, and T-Model performed at the BB King Museum gift shop in Indianola last week. (thanks Roger)

check out "Cheap Thrills Records" in Beckley and/or Princeton at

<http://www.cheapthrillsrecords.com>

our friends @ [Blue Ridge Blues Society](#) reporting the "[Big Lick Blues Festival & Rib Cook-Off](#)" Sat 9/20 Elmwood Park, Roanoke, VA... 2 hours from Beckley... lineup includes SHEMEKIA COPELAND, JIMMY THACKERY, ANA POPOVIC and more... After-Fest Party @ Blue 5 Restaurant... Fri 9/19 SAFFIRE UPPITY BLUES WOMEN @ Blue 5...

[Hot Licks Bluesfest](#) Granville, OH Sat 9/20 Music begins at noon... Headliner JAMES COTTON... go to <http://www.columbusblues.com/BB.htm>... SEAN CARNEY BAND host post-fest jam @ Brews Cafe, Granville... 1hr 45min NE of Parkersburg... approx 20 miles east of Columbus I-270, State Rt 161.

last week Grand Opening of [BB KING MUSEUM & DELTA INTERPRETIVE CENTER](#) Indianola, MS

The Blues Foundation is accepting donations for KOKO TAYLOR's band. THE BLUES MACHINE was involved in a serious accident in Wisconsin on Aug 23rd. Some remain in the hospital and it will be awhile before they are able to return to performing. For details go to <http://www.blues.org/about/news.php4?Id=660>

next week:

Thur 9/25 CRACKER STACKWELL @ The Purple Fiddle, Thomas, WV
Fri 9/26 WILLIE "BIG EYES" SMITH @ Moondogs, Blawnox, PA
Sat 9/27 DENNIS McCLUNG BLUES BAND @ Shinnston Days, Shinnston, WV
Sat 9/27 DENNIS TARMAN & THE BLUES CANNIBALS @ Cambridge Moose, Cambridge, OH
Sat 9/27 2-BLUE @ Chimney Corners USA, Ansted, WV

coming soon:

Sun 9/28 DOUG MacCLEOD @ Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Charleston (Chastun Blues Society)
Mon 9/29 DOUG MacCLEOD @ House of Art, Bluefield, WV (also from our friends @ CBS)
Tue 9/30 JJ GREY & MOFRO w/LUKE JIVETALKER @ V Club, Huntington
Sat 10/4 "Acoustic Blues" w/R.BLOCK, J.CEPHAS & R.BOOK BINDER @ Fur Peace Ranch, Pomeroy
Sat 10/4 Appalachian Blues Competition @ Christopher's Banquet Center, Fairmont
Thur-Sat 10/9-10-11 Arkansas Blues & Heritage Festival, Helena, AR

in a little bit,
crawlinkingsnake