

Mountains of Blues

'lectric news



West Virginia
Blues Society

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE

"Mountains of Blues"

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The [WVBluesSociety](#) 'lectric bluesletter 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 "bluesletter" goes out as a service to our "blues friends" wherever you might be. The bluesletter 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 news in the future a membership service form is provided on the webiste. If you do NOT want to receive any future updates please reply with, Please No More.

WHATS HAPPENIN' IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

QUOTE:

"I think if I wander into another store and hear some pop star, with a trembling voice they think makes them sound sincere, singing a Christmas song, I might vomit."
COOTIE STARK (1927-2005)

2008 RECAP-

[Bob Corritore](#) 2008 recap: "Little Walter inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame... Grammy awarded to a CD featuring Robert Jr. Lockwood, Pinetop Perkins, Henry

Townsend, and Honeyboy Edwards... Cadillac Records (movie about Chess Records) was released, and a president was elected that has Howlin' Wolf on his iPod!"

[Note:] Thirty-three years ago this Saturday (1/10) Chester Burnett "Howlin Wolf" died at Hines VA Hospital in Hines, IL, and is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Hillside, Cook County, IL. The large gravestone with etched image of guitar and harmonica allegedly purchased by Eric Clapton.

2008 THANKS & RETURN THE LUV-

Start 2009 with a subscription or renewal to [Blues Revue](#). Contact our pals Ken or Lora through the website or call 304-782-1971 in Salem and tell 'em the WVBluesSociety sent ya. BR was a big supporter of the WVBS through out 2008 and we appreciate it very much. Return the luv by getting your subscription before the April/May annual Festival Issue comes out. Perhaps even pick up a t-shirt or cap or other BR merchandise.

Also check out our friends in Memphis at [Yellow Dog Records](#). Yeller Dawg has backed the WVBS for quite some time. They have an extensive list of authentic American roots Blues, Jazz, & Soul from both established and emerging artists. Contact them thru the website or call 800-289-6923. You can also tune into YDR Radio by clicking on "listen" on website.

BLUES MECCA?-

Can't remember a time there was more "live" Blues available in my immediate area of Parkersburg/Marietta then right now. Keep in mind, this ain't no metro area. Understand also since the opening of the new US Rt 50 bridge over the Ohio River, I also now gotta include Pomeroy in my neighborhood. Cuts about 15 min off my time to the Court Street Grill.

The cause of this recent rise? Probably 2 blues societies, some venue owners that are receptive to live music and a fairly solid fan base.

Before if you didn't wanta drive to Columbus or Pittsburgh, you would sit around waiting for River City Blues Fest, perhaps the competition in February, maybe an occasional act at Bogie's or The Crow Bar. However right now, over a 6 week period there will be no less than 10 quality acts here in the Mid-Ohio Valley. Is this area becoming the "Blues Mecca" of Ohio/West Virginia? Probably not, but if it keeps up at this rate... who knows? Keeping the Blues alive around here doesn't seem to be a problem right now.

Don't believe it? Check out this recent past and upcoming schedule--

Dec 11th JOHNNY RAWLS @ The Thirsty Turtle, Parkersburg; Dec 12th & 13th JOHNNY RAWLS @ The Court Street Grill, Pomeroy; Dec 31st DENNIS McCLUNG BLUES BAND @ The Thirsty Turtle, Parkersburg; Dec 31st CODE BLUE BAND @ Lafayette Hotel, Marietta; Jan 3rd JON JUSTICE BAND @ The Brewery, Marietta; Jan 6th COLIN JOHN @

The Brewery, Marietta; Jan 10th AUSTIN WALKIN'CANE & MOJO THEORY @ River City Tavern, Marietta; Jan 17th LONG TALL DEB & THE DRIFTER KINGS @ The Brewery, Marietta; Jan 23rd BILL LUPKIN & THE WORKERS @ The Brewery, Marietta; Jan 24th IZZY & CHRIS @ Overtime Bar, Parkersburg... 'nuf said.

MEMPHIS(S) OR BUST(S)-

The [WVBluesSociety](#) and the BJFM Society both want to send their winners off in style. Fans are ask to come help them out with some additional pocket change for associated expenses. These winners will travel to Memphis Feb 6-7 to compete in the International Blues Challenge (<http://www.blues.org>) on Beale Street. The "Memphis or Bust" benefits will help off set some of the expenses traveling to 10-E-C.

This Saturday Jan 10th @ [River City Tavern & Grill](#), Marietta, OH the [Mid-Ohio Valley Blues, Jazz & Folk Music Society](#) is having a M-o-B benefit for winners of the 2008 River City Blues Competition. Our buddy [AUSTIN WALKIN' CANE](#) from Cleveland and [MOJO THEORY](#) from Columbus will perform. Good photo of AWC on front page of "Free Time" section Friday Jan 2nd [Parkersburg News](#). Showtime is 9:00PM. Donation at the door is \$10.

River City Tavern & Grill located in The Comfort Inn, 700 Pike St, just north of I-77 & St Rt 7 interchange. Call 740-374-8190 for more.

Next Saturday Jan 17th [WVBluesSociety](#) will sponsor a fundraiser for 2008 Appalachian Blues Competition winners @ [The Blue Moose Cafe](#) in Morgantown.

Performing will be [SAM LAMONT](#) with [Ms FREDDYE & BLUE FAZE](#) winners of the competition in Fairmont.

Plans for raffles, silent auction, 50/50 drawing and a "blues jam" after the show. Showtime 8:00PM... \$6 door. Check out the poster at [West Virginia Blues Society](#) website.

Blue Moose Cafe located in downtown Morgantown at 248 Walnut St. Call 304-292-8999 for more.

[NOTE:] This just in... Thank you [Mountain Stage](#) for the donation. Two tickets for the Mountain Stage show w/[LEO KOTTKE](#) @ WVU Creative Arts Center, Morgantown Sunday Jan 18th.

DENNIS McCLUNG BLUES BAND // "there's a show in the back row"-

When you see the [Dennis McClung Blues Band](#) you're entertained by 4 excellent musicians that love what they do and give you their best shot everytime. New Years Eve at The Thirsty Turtle, Parkersburg once again were very entertaining playing thru many old blues standards and some originals.

Just another blues band? Not hardly... Do they need refreshed? Maybe new tunes? Some might say so, but certainly not much. Be careful, don't go changing for the sake of change. I'd hate to see DMBB and not hear their rendition of "How Blue Can You Get" or "Jelly Jelly" or "Seven Ways"...

The guys are flat out good... *Randy Franklin* (Showtime Music, Meadowbrook Mall, B-Port) on keyboards can at times make you stop and go "WOW!" *Jason Corder* on bass aka "Mr Steady"... never out of sync. Always right there in the groove or setting the groove. *Dennis* on lead guitar and vocals is a pro. Takes pride in his work and pride in the band... end result- something the crowd gets into.

However, "there's a show in the back row"... After seeing Sam Carr couple years ago, along with help from Spider K (he too plays drums), I pay more attention to drummers. *Linnell "Linny" Merchant* is up there with the best of 'em. And I also trust Spiders opinion. The way he describes Linny-- of course, very talented but also animated. His animation comes across that he's having fun and the crowd appreciates it. Next time you see DMBB, check out what's going on behind the drums. Don't ignore Randy, Jason or Dennis. But keep an eye on Linny... guaranteed no disappointment with the "show in the back row!"

Blues Profile -LINNY MERCHANT-

Birth Date: *6/30/1959*

Birth Place: *Clarksburg, WV*

Bands You Have Played With: *Rosa Lee Boyles & Backstage Pass, Al Anderson, Bobby Nicholas, The Flavor, The Dennis McClung Blues Band, Charlie Thomas' Drifters, The Crystals, The Vogues, Jay Siegel & The Tokens*

Current Band/Instrument: *Dennis McClung Blues Band / Drums*

Favorite Living Singer: *Patti Labelle*

Favorite Deceased Singer: *Luther Vandross*

Favorite Living Blues Musician: *Allman Bros. Band/Greg Allman*

Favorite Deceased Blues Musician: *Stevie Ray Vaughn*

First Record Purchased: *Jimi Hendrix / Axis Bold As Love*

First Blues Record Purchased: *Allman Brothers/Beginnings*

Personal Blues Statement: *Blues is not dead. It's here--it's there--it's everywhere. It's life. Blues fans are loyal. It's up to us as musicians to help those souls who are unaware, what this strange feeling is and it can be very uplifting.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Jan 07 1936 Blind Joe Hill Dunbar, WV

Jan 08 1904 Tampa Red Smithville, GA

Jan 08 1935 Elvis Presley Tupelo, MS
Jan 09 1941 Barbara Carr St Louis, MO
Jan 10 1897 Sam Chatmon Boltmon, MS
Jan 12 1904 "Mississippi" Fred McDowell Rossville, TN

RIP:

Jan 10 1976 Chester Burnett aka Howlin' Wolf Hines, IL

THIS WEEKEND IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

Friday Jan 9th:

NO BAD JUJU @ Sunseri's, Pittsburgh
LUKE JIVETALKER (CD Release Party) @ V Club, Huntington
ERIN BURKETT @ Little E's, Pittsburgh
CHRIS SMITHER @ The Bottling Works, Romney
SAM LAMONT w/BEN GILMER @ Golden West Cafe, Baltimore, MD
LADY D (6PM) @ Tamarack, Beckley
LADY D (9PM) @ Maxwell's Sports Bar, Beckley
THE CATCH BLUES BAND @ Nicolozakes Cafe, Fairpoint, OH
THE BLUE NOTES @ Sam's Uptown Cafe, Charleston
SHAUN BOOKER @ J Lindsays, Columbus, OH
BILL TOMS & HARD RAIN @ The Purple Fiddle, Thomas, WV
Ms FREDDYE & BLUE FAZE @ Macedonian Cultural Center, Homestead, PA
BRIGHTON BLUES BAND @ Orange Carpet Lounge, Lancaster, OH
CRACKER STACKWELL @ Black Bear Burrito, Morgantown
BLU RAZOR BAND @ Jay's Sports Bar, Canonsburg, PA
THE ELDORADO KINGS @ Roadworthy Restaurant, West Liberty, WV

Saturday Jan 10th:

AUSTIN WALKIN' CANE & MOJO THEORY benefit @ River City Tavern, Marietta, OH
CRACKER STACKWELL @ Mountain State Brewing, Thomas, WV
JILL WEST & BLUES ATTACK @ The Spot Bar, Stubenville
THE BLUE NOTES @ Sam's Uptown Cafe, Charleston
THE DELTA SHEIKS @ Roop Brothers Bar, Delaware, OH
THE PAWNBROKERS @ Thunderbird Cafe, Lawrenceville/Pittsburgh
THE CATCH BLUES BAND @ Oglebay Institute/Towngate Spotlight, Wheeling
KELLY RICHEY @ The Thirsty Ear, Columbus, OH

"MOUNTAINS OF BLUES" AT A GLANCE:

WVBS secretary, super-geek-computer-guru, Donna Price has had her mom in and out of the hospital a lot lately... please keep her in your thoughts and prayers...

COLIN JOHN @ [The Brewery](#), Marietta, OH Tue Jan 6th

Wed Jan 7th THE CARPENTER ANTS @ [The Empty Glass](#), Charleston

[DEB CALLAHAN](#) @ [The Purple Fiddle](#), Thomas, WV

LADY D @ [Rockhouse Java & Gelato](#), Beckley Thur Jan 8th

Thursday Jan 8th CRACKER STACKWELL host open-mic @ [Blue Moose Cafe](#), Morgantown...

SAM LAMONT ('09 IBC contestant) w/BEN GILMER:

Mon 1/5 @ [The Blue Nile](#), Harrisonburg, VA

Tue 1/6 @ [White Hart Cafe](#), Lynchburg, VA

Wed 1/7 @ [The Triple](#), Richmond, VA

Thu 1/7 @ [Evening Star Cafe](#), Alexandria, VA

Fri 1/8 @ [Golden West Cafe](#), Baltimore, MD

COMING SOON:

THE CARPENTER ANTS- [The Empty Glass](#), Charleston Wed Jan 14th

SAM LAMONT w/BEN GILMER- [The Purple Fiddle](#), Thomas, WV Thur Jan 15th

J.B. TENNEY- Jabberwock, Elkins Fri Jan 16th

BILLY PRICE- Thunderbird Cafe, Lawrencville, PA Sat Jan 17th

LEO KOTTKE- Carnegie Lecture Hall, Pittsburgh Sat Jan 17th

WVU Creative Arts Center, Morgantown Sun Jan 18th

PAM ROBERTS- El Gran Sabor, Elkins Wed Jan 21st

hear DEB LANDOLT belt out great vocals next Saturday Jan 17th with [LONG TALL DEB & THE DRIFTER KINGS](#) @ [The Brewery](#), Marietta, OH...

[JOHNNY WINTER](#) @ Rams Head Tavern, Annapolis, MD Fri Jan 16th & Sat Jan 17th

one of the nation's top acoustic blues acts [IZZY & CHRIS](#) @ [Roadworthy Restaurant & Tavern](#), West Liberty Fri Jan 23rd... and Sat Jan 24th @ [Overtime Bar](#), Parkersburg... Overtime has advanced/reserved seats as of Jan 1st... contact Alison or Todd at 304-422-1225...

super harp player [BILL LUPKIN & THE WORKERS](#) at [The Brewery](#) in Marietta Friday Jan 23rd....

CHANNEL CATS BLUES BAND @ Honi Honi Bar, Deep Creek, MD Sat Jan 24th

IN THE NEAR FUTURE:

[Mountain Stage](#) @ Cultural Center Theater, Charleston-

Feb 8th BUCKWHEAT ZYDECO

Feb 15th DEREK TRUCKS BAND

shows start @ 7PM... adv tix \$12.50, \$18 @ door... available online or 1-800-594-TIXX also @ Taylor Books downtown Charleston...

blues fans in northwest West Virginia can catch up with [THE CATCH BLUES BAND](#) over the next few months... booked into Big C's, Middlebourne Fri/Jan 30, Fri/Mar 20 and Fri/May 15... Big C's, a way cool "juke joint/roadhouse" venue owned and operated by good folks @ 212 Main St downtown Middlebourne approx 50 south of Wheeling, 50 miles northeast of Parkersburg and 12 miles southeast of New Martinsville on WV Rt 18... contact Big C's at 304-758-4619...

word on the street is [NICK MOSS & THE FLIP TOPS](#) w/LURRIE BELL will play Friday night Mar 20th @ River City Blues Fest, Marietta, OH...

Kelly of the Washington Co. Convention & Visitors Bureau, Marietta tells us Red, White Blues Fest in parking lot of Lafayette Hotel will be Fri July 3rd and hot wing competition with a blues act (TBD) is Sat July 4th...

make plans for [Augusta Heritage/Blues Week](#) July 12-17 @ Davis & Elkins College in Elkins... 2009 class information coming soon... check out "*Fever in the Ice House*" one of the MANY/NIGHTLY '08 jam sessions held on campus @ the Ice House <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfJLwI9OSVQ> jam sessions that last 'til 3, 4 or 5AM?

in a little bit,
crawlinkingsnake