

Mountains of Blues

'lectric news



West Virginia
Blues Society

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE

"Mountains of Blues" Thursday, January 15th, 2008

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*And since my sweetie left me, Harlem, well, it ain't the same old place...
Though a thousand dandies smile right in my face.
I think I'll mooch some homemade hooch and go out for a lark.
Just to drive off these mean ole Harlem Blues...*

CYNDA WILLIAMS "Harlem Blues" 1990 (Mo' Better Blues soundtrack)

The [WVBluesSociety](http://www.wvbluesociety.com) '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 website. If you do NOT want to receive any future updates please reply with, Please No More.

WHATS HAPPENIN' IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

BIG SHOW AT THE BLUE MOOSE!-

Attention ALL Blues fans of North-Central WV, Southwest PA, Western MD and elsewhere. This Saturday Jan 17th in Morgantown, [The Blue Moose Cafe](#) will host a fundraiser for the winners of the 2008 Appalachian Blues Competition held in Fairmont on Oct 4th. [SAM LAMONT](#) (solo) and [Ms FREDDYE & BLUE FAZE](#) (band) will represent the WVBS on Beale Street, Memphis next month at the [International Blues Challenge](#) Feb 4-7. The IBC's is the largest gathering of blues acts anywhere in the world. This years challenge will be the 25th year of Blues musicians from around the world competing for cash, prizes, and industry recognition.

However, it's not cheap to make the trip to Beale Street and compete. The WVBluesSociety and wants to send our winners off in style. Fans are ask to come help them out with some additional pocket change for associated expenses. All funds raised during this "Memphis or Bust" benefit will help defer their expenses.

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.

THANKS AGAIN YELLOW DOG-

Founded in 2002 with the goal of cultivating the American musical heritage, [YELLOW DOG RECORDS](#) has been backin' up the blues and the WVBS for a long time. Always there whenever we needed... Now they are offering even something more... a FREE Sampler CD to all members of the West Virginia Blues Society. YDR in Memphis features artists who emphasize innovative approaches to authentic American musical roots traditions — Blues, Jazz, Soul, and Americana styles.

To receive send an e-mail to sampler@yellowdogrecords.com and answer the questions in the auto-reply email... (thx Yeller Dawg!)

PICKIN' COTTON-

Nice conversation with Dan Ferguson aka "*Blues Man Dan*" last week. Hadn't talked in quite some time so it was good to see him. Did an article on Dan for BJFMS newsletter summer 2004 and this time, like the first, was very enlightning. During our hour or so we talked about everthing from the coalfields of southern West Virginia to his playing the clubs of Pittsburghs' "Hill District" during the 1950's. Dan had told me before he spent quite a bit of time in Arizona and California picking cotton. During this part of the conversation he made what I thought was an incredible statement. He said he could pick an entire bale of cotton by himself in one days time... I never questioned him but thought this to be remarkable. Seeing how one bale normally weights around 500 to 700 pounds! Now I ain't never picked no cotton so who was I to question. I did however contact the only source I thought might know something on the subject; our old friend

Roger Stolle (<http://www.cathead.biz>) in Clarksdale, MS. Roger said it was certainly possible. He cited examples of older bluesmen like *Big George Brock* and *Bilbo Walker* having made some pretty amazing claims also.

One story Roger did share was the following: "One interesting story on the subject came from folk artist *Willie Kinard*. He told me that he used to put a couple bricks in his sack of cotton, so that when they weighed it, he'd get credit for more poundage than was actually the case. Then, he go dump the cotton into a big wagon with everyone else's and retrieve his bricks. He thought he'd been pretty smart about it -- kind of "sticking it to the man" -- till he went back decades later after his boss had passed away. Mr. Kinard went out to the barn where they had kept the cotton scale, hoping to get it as a souvenir. He found it and took it (since it was old and useless at that point). When he turned over the balancing weights of the old scale, he found that it had been filled with lead in such a way that the weight of the cotton would come out light. While he thought he was pulling one over on the plantation, the plantation thought it was pulling one over on him." (thx Dan and Roger)

IZZY & CHRIS w/SPECIAL GUEST-

The upcoming [IZZY & CHRIS](#) show in Parkersburg will feature a "very special guest"... On Saturday Jan 24th at the [Overtime Bar & Grill](#), they will be joined by none other than Dan Ferguson aka "*BLUES MAN DAN*" for a few numbers. The long time Blues player who now lives in Marietta has agreed to sit in during the evening. Dan who was born in the southern coalfields of Fayette County, attended a segregated high school, picked cotton in Arizona and California, worked the steel mills in Pittsburgh and has played the Blues for over 70 years at all points in between. Should be a special evening, not to be missed.

The Overtime is located @ 4542 1/2 Emerson Ave, Parkersburg (the downunder place). Call Alison or Todd at 304-422-1225 for reserved seating.

NO BLOOD/NO BREAKS/JUST BRUISED-

Sorry to report this past Saturday Austin Walkin' Cane and wife were in a car accident. While in route to Marietta, OH for the Memphis or Bust benefit they were involved in an accident in Akron/Canton area. Austin was to perform during the Memphis or Bust benefit being held in his honor at River City Tavern & Grill at 9:00PM. North-East Ohio had anywhere from 6 to 8 inches of snow at the time and still snowing hard when the accident occurred. The car we are told was totaled but we are happy to say neither were badly injured (only shook up).

Blues Profile -GREG HAWTHORNE-

Birth Date: 12/5/49

Birth Place: *Wheeling, W. Va. (currently reside in Brooklyn, NY)*

Bands You Have Played With: N/A

Current Band/Instrument: N/A

Favorite Living Singer: *Etta James*

Favorite Deceased Singer: *Leadbelly*

Favorite Living Blues Musician: *Ana Popovic*

Favorite Deceased Blues Musician: *blues musicians never die*

First Record Purchased: *Rolling Stones: "High Tide and Green Grass"*

First Blues Record Purchased: *Etta James: "At Last"*

Personal Blues Statement: *"If you are not moved by the blues, you are either dead, or were never alive."*

BIRTHDAY:

Jan 14 1936 Clarence Carter Montgomery, AL

Jan 15 1909 Gene Krupa Chicago, IL

Jan 15 1930 Earl Hooker Clarksdale, MS

Jan 18 1941 David Ruffin Meridian, MS

Jan 19 1943 Janis Joplin Port Arthur, TX

Jan 19 1925 Henry Gray Kenner, LA

Jan 19 1936 Willie "Big Eyes" Smith Helena, AR

RIP:

Jan 15 1998 Junior Wells Chicago, IL

Jan 15 1956 Blind Alfred Reed Elgood, WV

Jan 17 1998 Junior Kimbrough Hudsonville, MS

THIS WEEKEND IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

Friday Jan 16th:

ELDORADO KINGS @ The Elrama Tavern, Elrama, PA

J.B. TENNEY @ Jabberwock, Elkins

PATRICK McLAUGHLIN @ Vonn Jazz Lounge, Columbus

FLAT FOOT SAM & EDUCATED FOOLS @ JV's Restaurant, Falls Church, VA

Saturday Jan 17th:

SAM LAMONT and Ms FREDDYE & BLUE FAZE @ The Blue Moose Cafe, Morgantown

SHAUN BOOKER BAND @ Vonn Jazz Lounge, Columbus

BILLY PRICE @ Thunderbird Cafe, Lawrencville/Pittsburgh

JUBAL KANE BLUES BAND & DIABLO BLUES BAND @ The Empty Glass, Charleston
LONG TALL DEB & THE DRIFTER KINGS @ The Brewery, Marietta, OH
THE SAUCE BOSS @ Moondogs, Blawnox, PA
THE MINISTERS OF SOUL @ Blue5 Restaurant, Roanoke, VA
BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA @ Templeton-Blackburn Memorial Auditorium, Athens, OH
THE CATCH BLUES BAND @ Elm Grove Eagles, Elm Grove/Wheeling
DC Blues Society "Obamarama Pre-Inaugural Party" @ Surf Club Live, Hyattsville, MD
JASON RING @ White Grass Cafe, Canaan Valley
JIMMY ADLER @ Cefalo's, Carnegie, PA

Sunday Jan 18th:

MAHAJIBEE BLUES w/ADRIAN NILES & THE EAST END DUKES @ Hard Rock Cafe,
Pittsburgh
CBA Blues Jam @ The Thirsty Ear, Columbus

"MOUNTAINS OF BLUES" AT A GLANCE:

Subject: "How To Sing The Blues...A Primer" Item #6- Teenagers can't sing the Blues. Adults sing the Blues. In Blues, "adulthood" means being old enough to get the electric chair if you shoot a man in Memphis...

Wed Jan 14th [Blue Ridge Blues Society](#) "Blues Jam" @ Blue5 Restaurant, Roanoke, VA...

thanks for the "thanks" Jason and DMBB... glad to do it...

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

congratulations to *Bruce Wheeler* of [Heritage Music BluesFest...](#) During International Blues Challenge, Bruce will host the Solo/Duo Finals Sat Feb 7th @ The Orpheum Theater!

for an excellent report on MAHAJIBEE BLUES trip to 2008 King Biscuit Festival... read "Blue Notes" of the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) at <http://community.post-gazette.com/blogs/bluenotes/archive/2008/12/02/the-burgh-s-mahajibee-goes-to-the-arkansas-blues-amp-heritage-festival.aspx> also has a photo of our favorite blues photographer, Dusty... (thx Patrick)

plans are being finalized for the 2nd Charlie West Blues Fest... stay tuned...

[Overtime Sports Bar](#), Parkersburg has available advance tickets & reserve seating for [IZZY & CHRIS](#) on Sat Jan 24th... Overtime is located at 4542 Emerson Ave (the down

under place)... stop by and see Alison or Todd...

COMING SOON--

Mon Jan 19th:

LADY D @ Zanzibar on the Waterfront, Washington DC, Mon Jan 19th...

EAST END DUKES Monday Jan 19th @ Hard Rock Cafe, Pittsburgh

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

Thur Jan 22nd--

CRACKER STACKWELL @ Black Bear Burritos, Morgantown

BILL LUPKIN & THE WORKERS @ The Thirsty Ear, Columbus

Fri Jan 23rd--

BILL LUPKIN & THE WORKERS @ The Brewery, Marietta, OH

THE BLIND TERENCE BLUES BAND @ The Empty Glass, Charleston

THE CATCH BLUES BAND @ Chapz Bar & Grill, Belmont, OH

Sat Jan 24th--

IZZY & CHRIS @ Overtime Bar, Parkersburg

RANDY McALLISTER @ Court Street Grill, Pomeroy

Acoustic Night w/*BILL DAILEY* @ Roadworthy Tavern, West Liberty, WV

IN THE NEAR FUTURE:

"[Mountain Stage](#)" Feb 8th *BUCKWHEAT ZYDECO*, Feb 15th *DEREK TRUCKS BAND*

[Winter Jazz & Blues Festival](#), Nelsonville, OH (Athens-2008) welcomes back *MARK PENDER*, from Late Night w/Conan O'Brien... Fri Feb 6th variety of musicians @ The Elks, The Mine, Rhapsody and more... Sat Feb 7th @ Stuart's Opera House w/Mark Pender, Alex Graham, Bobby Carson, Kathy Farmer and R&B Station...

"Evening of Old Time Blues" Fri Feb 7th w/*CRACKER STACKWELL* & *SOUP CAMEL* @ [Blue Moose Cafe](#), Morgantown

Friday Feb 7th *THE BLUES CANNIBALS* @ [Rendouvouz Club](#), Lubeck/Parkersburg

[Baltimore Blues Society](#) will sponsor *CEDRIC BURNSIDE & LIGHTNIN' MALCOLM* and *FLAT FOOT SAM & EDUCATED FOOLS* Feb 7th @ Rosedale American Legion Hall, Rosedale, MD... \$15 Adv tix must be received by Mon Jan 27th

"Blue Monday" Monday Feb 9th w/[The Juke Joint Duo](#)- *CEDRIC BURNSIDE & LIGHTNIN' MALCOLM* @ Court Street Grill, Pomeroy

one of our favorite venues/events in 2008 has more blues booked next month... [Union Hall Theater](#), Chesterhill, OH will host *WILLIE PHOENIX w/JESS KAUFFMAN* on Feb 28th...

in a little bit,
crawlinkingsnake