

Mountains of Blues

'lectric news



West Virginia
Blues Society
KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE

"Mountains of Blues"

Thursday, January 22nd, 2009

Vol. 2, Issue 4

*I don't know but I've been told,
Super Bowl champs, wearin' Black & Gold...*

HERE WE GO STEELERS, HERE WE GO!

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 webiste. If you do NOT want to receive any future updates please reply with, Please No More.

WHATS HAPPENIN' IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

JAMMIN' FOR JANE-

Attention ALL blues fans of Southern West Virginia, Southwest Virginia and elsewhere. This Saturday Jan 24th [Gary Bowling's House of Art](#) in Bluefield will feature some of the great musicians who have performed over the years at [Sister's Coffee House](#) in Princeton. All there as a benefit/fundraiser for Sister Jane Gibson who has been dealing with cancer and could use a little help and a lot of love. Jane is one of the sisters that has kept Sister's Coffee House going as one of the longest running Blues supporting venues in the area and state. Mojo Mama and I attended a great show a few years ago sponsored by Sister's at Concord University's Alexander Fine Arts Auditorium w/*Nat Reese, Greg Piccolo and EG Kight*. Sister's has been "backin' up the blues" for a long time.

Performing Saturday from 3:00pm 'til 11:00pm will be *NAT REESE, THE CARPENTER ANTS, BLUES UNLIMITED*, our very own WVBS Board member- *CHRIS SUTTON* and many-many more. Donations for Jane will be gratefully accepted for admission. Lasagna dinner with salad, dessert and drink for \$10 will be available at 6:00pm. Proceeds from the meal prepared by Cindy Romano will also be donated to Jane.

Gary Bowling's House of Art is located at 701 Bland St, Bluefield, WV. Call 304-327-9300 for more. (thx Chris)

BLUES FROM THE COALFIELDS-

Two miles north of Oak Hill on US Rt 19 turn left onto Lochgelly Road. One mile later turn left on Delta Road 48/Preacher Brown Road and you find yourself in the tiny coal mining hamlet of Lochgelly, WV; the birthplace of *Dan Ferguson aka "Blues Man Dan"*. Dan born March 20, 1930 had many different addresses while growing up in Southern West Virginia. Places like Deep Water, Summerlee, Greenbrier and McDowell Counties. He moved with his mother, and his mother moved a lot. During this time he attended the all black segregated Simmons High School in Montgomery until moving to Zanesville, OH. He completed the 10th grade there in 1946 and decided he was done with school. He then decided he wanted to see the world and at 18 years old found himself in Phoenix, AZ and later Bakersfield, CA. He then returned to West Virginia and lived in Kanawha City for a time. However he soon left and landed in Pittsburgh while working the steel mills of Aliquippa. During all this time Dan was playing the blues. His comment to me was that while playing the many clubs in the "Hill District" (specifically the Workingman's Club) he wasn't really very good, but those he played with had great patience and continued to help him. After leaving Pittsburgh he returned to Zanesville for a short time before coming to Marietta, OH in 1976. In Marietta he worked for and retired from Kardex Corp. and still lives there today.

Even though times were tough in the coalfields of Southern WV he still talks of it fondly. When ask if he ever worked in the mines, his answer was "for a half day." He saw his uncle injured in a slate fall and decided that was enough. He quite and never went back.

Dan's main influences in the blues are many that you would think; B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Albert King, Pee Wee Crayton, Wes Montgomery, etc.

Really enjoyed talking with Dan a couple weeks ago and arrangements were made for him to sit in with Izzy & Chris this Saturday in P-burg. He was looking forward to it, as was Izzy & Chris but... Dan called me last week with some bad news. He had recently been in the hospital and was released a couple days before I visited him. Everything looked good, but now his doctor said "no." He doesn't want Dan going out for approx 30 days. He will have a home nurse come in three times per week and he must continue to get stronger.

Spoke with Dan today (Tue Jan 20th)... on his way to the hospital to see his doctor and get medicine. Said he felt pretty good and hopes to be out and about again before too long. Hurry and get better "Blues Man Dan" and we'll try again soon.

BLUES HARP AT ITS BEST-

One of our favorites, [BILL LUPKIN](#) along with *THE WORKERS* (Watermelon Slim's band) Friday Jan 23rd. Outstanding Chicago Blues harp playing by Bill backed up by a great blues band tighter than the famed Steelers "Iron Curtain" defense. Showtime (we think?) is 9:00PM at [The Brewery](#) Marietta, OH.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN-

At the start of the new year *IZZY & CHRIS* took a little time off for some r&r. Now... rest time is over. They're on the road and at it again. This Friday Jan 23rd @ the beautiful [Roadworthy Restaurant & Tavern](#) in West Liberty, WV.

On Saturday Jan 24th (as we been advertising) @ [Overtime Bar](#) in Parkersburg. Although this show is not 'officially' part of the 2009 Blues Nite Out Series; the WVBS is a supporter/promoter/encourager/etc -- see poster on front page of [West Virginia Blues Society](#) website. Alison and Todd of [The Overtime](#) have been entertaining the idea of additional future Blues acts. Come out and catch one of the top acoustic Blues acts in the country this Saturday night and say to them Mo' Blues Please! [The Overtime](#) located at 4542 1/2 Emerson Ave, is offering advanced tickets and reserved seating. Contact them at 304-422-1225. Also see Izzy & Chris upcoming schedule at <http://www.myspace.com/izzyandchris>.

FULL MOOSE HOUSE-

Last Saturday night [The Blue Moose Cafe](#) had a "full house"! The Morgantown crowd came out to support *SAM LAMONT* and *Ms FREDDYE & BLUE FAZE* in their efforts to get to Memphis for the IBC's next month. Thanks to the fans who braved the winter weather, the venue, [Blues Revue](#), [DustyBlues](#) and especially those who purchased raffle and 50/50 tickets. Due to this WVBS was able to turn over a nice chunk 'o change to our IBC competitors. Also good to see Roy, Val & Dusty, Andrew, Dennis, Sam, Donna, Gary, Jason, Ms Freddy, Jack and many others... and oh yeah, the music was pretty @#\$\$% good too!

However couldn't help but wonder about those returning to Pittsburgh with the snow coming down the way it was. Hope everyone arrived home safe and sound y'all.

Blues Profile -CHRIS NACY-

Birth Date: 6/6/63

Birth Place: *St Louis Mo.*

Bands Have Played With: *Miss Freddy and Blue Faze, 706 Union, Night Owls, Acoustic duo with Smokin Joe Biscelia*

Current Band(s): *Izzy and Chris, Miss Freddy and Blue Faze*

Favorite Living Singer(s): *Izzy Stetar.*

Favorite Deceased Singer(s): *Smokin' Joe Bisceglia - The only other white guy besides Izzy I knew that could sing the blues and not sound white.*

Favorite Living Blues Musician(s): *Greg "Fingers" Taylor - If it was not for him I would have never have picked up a harmonica*

Favorite Deceased Blues Musician(s): *William Clarke - Nobody had better tone.*

First Record Purchased: *James Cotton, Live and On The Move*

First Blues Record Purchased: *Same As Above*

Personal Blues Statement: *No ma'am that is 'not' a harmonica in my pocket.*

[editor's note:] Chris is the most-excellent harp player with Miss Freddy & Blue Faze and Izzy & "Chris" He too will be representing WVBS in Memphis at the IBC's.

BIRTHDAY:

Jan 20 1885 Huddie Ledbetter aka Leadbelly Mooringsport, LA

Jan 21 1936 Snooks Eaglin New Orleans, LA

Jan 21 1943 B'nois King Monroe, LA

Jan 21 1948 Zora Young Prairie, MS

Jan 22 1931 Sam Cooke Clarksdale, MS

Jan 22 1908 Hammie Nixon Brownsville, TN

Jan 24 1949 John Belushi aka Jake Blues Chicago, IL

Jan 24 1950 Johnny B Moore Clarksdale, MS

Jan 25 1899 Sleepy John Estes Ripley, TN

Jan 26 1914 Buddy Moss Jewell, GA

RIP:

Jan 21 1992 Champion Jack Dupree Hanover, Germany

THIS WEEKEND IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

Friday Jan 23rd:

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

IZZY & CHRIS @ Roadworthy Tavern, West Liberty, WV

J.B. TENNEY @ Unexpected Treasures, Elkins

ELDORADO KINGS @ American Legion Clairton, PA

NO BAD JUJU @ Rhythm and Brews, Morgantown

HIP POCKET @ Eagles Club, Parkersburg

MOJO THEORY and AUSTIN WALKIN' CANE @ The Thirsty Ear, Columbus
MATT GILLICH JAZZ QUINTET @ Blue Moon Cafe, Shepherdstown
THE BLIND TERRENCE BLUES BAND @ The Empty Glass, Charleston
THE CATCH BLUES BAND @ Chapz Bar & Grill, Belmont, OH

Saturday Jan 24th:

IZZY & CHRIS @ Overtime Bar, Parkersburg
CHANNEL CATS BLUES BAND @ Honi Honi Bar, Deep Creek, MD
HOLY COW! @ The Brazenhead Inn, Valley Head, WV
JIMMY ADLER @ Little E's, Pittsburgh
JASON RING @ The White Hart, Lynchburg, VA
HIP POCKET @ Eagles Club, Parkersburg
THE CATCH BLUES BAND @ Sunni Rae's Overtime, Bellaire, OH
RANDY McALLISTER @ Court Street Grill, Pomeroy
CHISMO CHARLES & FRIENDS @ Intermission Lounge, Carson St, Pittsburgh
BILL DAILEY "Acoustic Night" @ Roadworthy Tavern, West Liberty, WV
RAY FULLER & THE BLUES ROCKERS @ The Thirsty Ear, Columbus
"Jammin' For Jane" @ Gary Bowling's House of Art, Bluefield

"MOUNTAINS OF BLUES" AT A GLANCE:

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

[THE CARPENTER ANTS](#) Wed Jan 21st & 28th @ [The Empty Glass](#), Charleston

Thur Jan 22nd--

[CRACKER STACKWELL](#) @ [Black Bear Burritos](#), Morgantown
[BILL LUPKIN & THE WORKERS](#) @ [The Thirsty Ear](#), Columbus

congratulations "*Miss Ella*"... she's been asked to serve as a judge during IBC's next month... will be working the semis at [Kings Palace](#) Friday night... sure to be fun, but certain also to be a difficult undertaking... and tell Rudy hello for us...

we understand *Maren* is home and doing well (and we didn't even know she was layed up)... has undergone hip replacement! hope to see you up and about again soon Maren... ya know the horse and dance floor awaits...

Sunday Jan 18th Channel 13, WOWK-TV Huntington/Charleston -- nice feature on [LADY D](#) and her traveling to Washington DC for Presidential Inaguration... congratulations again Doris!

[Marietta BJFM Society](#) 17th Annual River City Blues Competition Marietta, OH... Fri Feb 20th -- Sat Feb 21st @ Lafayette Hotel

the Canadians are coming, the Canadians are coming... <http://www.crossroadshotel.tv>.

[Columbus Blues Alliance](#) "Traditional Acoustic Blues Fest" Feb 28th @ [Holiday Inn Worthington](#). Use code "CBA" to reserve your room...

confirmed -- the first "official" Blues Nite Out of 2009 is booked... Sat April 4th [JOHNNY RAWLS](#) riding that Red Cadillac with "two Arkansas girls in the back" @ Christopher's Banquet Center, Fairmont...

Sarah (Event Coordinator) *Chesapeake Bay Blues Fest* tells us -- Despite the economy, the festival is on. Two reasons for going forward are:

- 1) It is especially important to the charities we support in light of greatly reduced corporate contributions.
 - 2) It's always good to have a party when things are bad.
- go to <http://www.bayblues.org> for more...

past issues of "**Mountains of Blues 'lectric news**" now available on WVBS website...

[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*...

[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

word on the street -- Greater Huntington Parks & Recreation District interested in doing a "*blues thing*" at Heritage Village downtown?... stay tuned y'all...

our friends at [Union Hall Theater](#), Chesterhill, OH are planning more Blues... *WILLIE PHOENIX & JESS KAUFFMAN* Sat Feb 28th...

"Fat Tuesday" aka Mardi Gras... February 24th, 2009

in a little bit,
crawlinkingsnake