

Mountains of Blues

'lectric news



West Virginia
Blues Society

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE

"Mountains of Blues"

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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" is a service to our "blues friends" wherever you may be. Bluesletter is an attempt to CONNECT & INFORM of happenings in and at times outside our area. We never use your e-mail address 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 let me know. If you do NOT want to receive any future updates please reply with, Please No More.

WHATS HAPPENIN' IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

AND THE WINNER IS-

Band Category:

1st- JP Soars & the Red Hots/[South Florida Blues Society](#)

2nd- Ty Curtis Band/[Cascade Blues Association](#)

3rd- MonkeyJunk/[Ottawa Blues Society](#)

Solo/Duo Category:

1st- Little Joe McLerran/[Blues Society of Tulsa](#)

2nd- Alphonso & Richard/[Crossroads Blues Society of MS](#)

Once learned Austin Walkin' Cane was in the finals we were pulling hard for him. But felt it would be difficult being up against L.C. Ulmer. However, in the end neither won the big prize. Little Joe musta be awful good...

HYPNOTIC-

The Blues of North Mississippi Hill Country ain't like nothin' nowhere else. Hypnotic, trance inducing, drone like nothing anywhere else in this world. Uncompromising, in yer face Blues. Some might say it's rough. And it's probably not for everyone, but if you give it a chance, it'll grow on you. If you're not familiar with it, then you gotta find out for yourself. But if you know about *R.L. Burnside*, *Junior Kimbrough*, *Cedell Davis*, *Jessie Mae Hemphill* or maybe *Otha Turner* you know what to expect... [The Court Street Grill](#) had a excellent and knowledgable crowd on Monday night... and [CEDRIC BURNSIDE & LIGHTNIN' MALCOLM](#) turned the place into something you'd expect to find somewhere outside Gravel Springs, MS.

It's been said the legacy of R.L. Burnside (Cedric's grand-daddy) and his colleagues is in good hands. They showed that to be true. As I tore myself away around 11:00PM the last strains of Jr Kimbrough's "All Night Long" were drifting down the street towards the river. They surely didn't play too much after that... they have to be in Muscle Shoals, Alabama and meet with *JIMMY BUFFET* by 1:00PM the next day!

FEB 15TH-

This Sunday Feb 15th marks the passing of two Blues giants, although 13 years apart. *MARION WALTER JACOBS* aka *LITTLE WALTER* passed away in 1968 due to injuries sustained in a fight during a break in a club date in South Side Chicago. The official cause of death was a blood clot in the heart. Born in Louisiana, he became the most commercially successful Chicago blues performer of the post-war era. Playing harp with *MUDDY WATERS*, *JIMMY ROGERS* and later solo, he still has a strong following today. Buried on Feb 22nd at St. Mary's Cemetery, Evergreen Park, IL.

Check out-- "Confessin' the Blues" 1996, His Best (Chess 50th Anniversary Collection) 1997, and most anything from Muddy Waters before 1952.

MICHAEL BLOOMFIELD died in 1981 of a drug overdose in San Francisco. Born into a wealthy Jewish family in Chicago's North Side but preferred music to the family catering business. Became devoted to the blues as a teenager and spent much time in Chicago's South Side clubs. Talent was instantly obvious to all and his work with *PAUL BUTTERFIELD*, *ELECTRIC FLAG* and others is well known. Quote Bloomfield: "It's a natural. Black people suffer externally in this country. Jewish people suffer internally. The suffering's the mutual fulcrum for the blues." Buried at Hillside Memorial Park, Culver City, CA.

Check out-- "The Original Lost Elektra Sessions" w/Paul Butterfield Blues Band 1965, "Super Session" w/Bloomfield, Kooper & Stills 1968, "A Long Time Comin'" w/Electric Flag 1968, "In Memory of Michael Bloomfield" w/The Ford Blues Band 2002.

SPEAKIN' OF HARP PLAYERS-

Yeah I know, we often do... In the vein of Little Walter, *RICK ESTRIN* ranks up there with the best of 'em. We've seen some great ones, including Carey Bell, Paul Oscher,

Billy Boy Arnold, Rod Piazza, Kim Wilson, James Cotton, Bill Lupkin, Steve Guyger, Jason Ricci, James Harmon, Dennis Gruenling, Pat Ramsey, etc. Followed Rick Estrin close for some time. But extra close since seeing him with *LITTLE CHARLIE & THE NIGHTCATS* during 2005 King Biscuit Festival.

Rick now has taken over as the #1 front-man of the Nightcats. He had co-fronted them for over 30 years with guitarist *LITTLE CHARLIE BATY*. Now, with Baty's retirement, Estrin has taken the lead. *RICK ESTRIN & THE NIGHTCATS* have now signed with [Alligator Records](#) and they are preparing to release their debut CD and begin touring the country.

WAS SHE PIST?-

"N.Y. Daily News via Blues Festival E-guide" (edited for space)

Singer *ETTA JAMES* says she was only trying to get a laugh when she said she "can't stand" *BEYONCE* and made fun of Pres. Obama's ears during a concert in Seattle.

James told the Daily News yesterday that she meant no harm when she poked fun at the president and ripped Beyonce for her performance of James' hit "At Last" during the inauguration.

"I didn't really mean anything," James said.

Still, James acknowledged being miffed that she wasn't invited to perform her signature song for Obama's first dance with his wife on inauguration night.

..."feeling left out of something that was basically mine, that I had done every time you look around," she said.

James made the controversial comments before performing the song at a concert in Seattle last week.

...went on to say, "I tell you that woman he had singing for him, singing my song, she gonna get her ass whapped."

Yesterday, James said she kept the insults rolling only because the crowd was laughing so hard... "Nobody was getting mad at me in Seattle," she said. "They were all laughing, and it was funny."

She said the jokes were "not from a vicious place."

James pointed out that she posed for a picture and spoke with Beyonce last year before the premiere of "Cadillac Records," in which the young singer portrays the 71-year-old legend.

As for Obama, James said she "always thought he was handsome and he was cool."

"I still had my joke about him," she said. "That might be horrible. The president might not ever like me in life." She questioned how upset Obama could possibly be about the barb: "He's got other stuff (to worry about) besides Etta James."

***Pres. SmokestacJac IBC's & BEYOND REPORT-**

Wednesday, Donna and I flew down to Memphis, picked up the rental car and headed on into town. As soon as we checked into the hotel, we headed down to Clarksdale. crawlingsnake had been in contact with Roger Stolle of Cat Head Records and we were to pickup the "blues basket" items Roger was donating. La La agreed to meet us at Ground Zero and delivered the goods. La La also took us over to Red's Juke Joint - Red was the only one in and we had a nice little visit with him. He invited us back for a session on Saturday (T-Model would be performing). Back to Ground Zero for the pre-IBC's jam session. We had dinner with a couple from Iowa and their daughter Jesse who works at Silkie's back on Beale St. We were also befriended by a photographer from Minnesota Gary Eckhart, blues promoter, Blue Monday writer/photographer) who happened to mention a name familiar to me: Gary Vincent, co-owner of Ground Zero. Probably not the same guy.... but this Gary Vincent shows up for a meet & greet and sure enough, it is Gary Vincent I know. I sold Gary his first PA system 28 years ago in Wheeling. We had a little time to get caught up and then he introduces us to Super Chikan. WOW what a nice night. A cold night in the Delta was very warm with all the hospitality shown to Donna and I. We didn't want to leave but had to get back to Memphis for our volunteer gig at 8 am the next morning.

Thursday morning: We walked very briskly over the Double Tree and the first people we run into (just like at most Blues events) is none other than Dusty and Val. They show us to the Penthouse Suite which looks more like the warehouse/war room of the Blues Foundaton. We got our assignment and moved all the donated items for the silent auction down to the lobby and set it all up. Then we got to meet most of the folks checking in for their tickets, buying merch and purusing all the propaganda spread around. Ms. Freddye and Blue Faze was there - Ms. Freddye got to sing with the contestants from Holland right there in the DoubleTree Lobby. As soon as our time was up, we were off to get ribs at the Blues City Cafe on Beale. Had to go take a nap after that mess of good grub. And around 5:30 the action went into high gear: Ms. Freddye and Blue Faze tore it up at Club 152, then down to Rum Boogie where the Biscuit Rollers put on an excellent show (a comment from a staffer, "I've worked here 6 years and this is the first time I've seen an act come off the stage and perform right on the dance floor.") Everyone loved 'em. Then over to keep Sam Lamont company while he waited to go on. Then the crew from Morgantown showed up and Sam was ready to go. It was evident that Fiona Boyes enjoyed his show. (next week, Friday & Saturday)

Blues Profile -Austin "Walkin' Cane"-

Birth Date: 3.28.70

Birth Place: Cleveland, OH

Bands You Have Played With: Lonesome Stars - (2000 - present) - americana, Walkin' Cane Band - (1998-2008) - blues, Walkin' Cane & The Skydogs - (1995-1998) - blues, The Skydogs - (1985-1995) - rock

Current Band/Instrument: Austin "Walkin' Cane" / National Guitar

Favorite Living Singer: B.B. King

Favorite Deceased Singer: Howlin' Wolf

Favorite Living Blues Musician: Taj Mahal

Favorite Deceased Blues Musician: Blind Willie Johnson

First Record Purchased: The Who - The Kids Are Alright

First Blues Record Purchased: B.B. King - Live at The Regal - 1964

Personal Blues Statement: "Damn Fine Blues!"

[editor's note:] Austin made it to the IBC finals last week playing some "damn fine blues!"

THIS WEEKEND IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

Friday Feb 13th:

LIL' DAVE THOMPSON @ Surf Club Live!, Hyattsville, MD

R&B STATION @ Maplewood Inn, Athens, OH

WILLIE POOCH & THE UPSETTERS @ The Thirsty Ear, Columbus

SAM LAMONT @ Black Bear Burritos, Morgantown

WOODY PINES @ Casa Cantina, Athens, OH

NORM NARDINI @ Roadworthy Tavern, West Liberty, WV

Saturday Feb 14th:

HARPER BRIGGS @ Thunderbird Cafe, Lawrenceville/Pittsburgh

R&B STATION @ Home Tavern, Logan, OH

JIMMY ADLER @ Roadworthy Restaurant & Tavern, West Liberty, WV

JILL WEST & BLUES ATTACK @ The Spot Bar, Stubenville

THE EXILES @ Kanawha Valley Jamboree, Marmet, WV

THE CATCH BLUES BAND @ Sons of Italy, Bellaire, OH

CHIZMO CHARLES & THE RHYTHM ACES @ The Inn'Termission, Pittsburgh

2-BLUE @ Taylor Books, Charleston

ROGER HURRICANE WILSON & WILLIE "BIG EYES" SMITH @ The Sports Zone, Coshocton, OH

Sunday Feb 15th:

DEREK TRUCKS BAND @ Mountain Stage, Charleston

CBA Blues Jam @ The Thirsty Ear, Columbus

THE WIYOS @ The Purple Fiddle, Thomas, WV

BIRTHDAY:

Feb 11 1928 Aaron Moore Greenwood, MS

Feb 11 1914 or 1915 Josh White Greenville, SC

Feb 11 1940 Big Bad Smitty Vicksburg, MS

Feb 11 1943 Little Johnny Taylor Memphis, TN

Feb 11 1942 Otis Clay Waxhaw, MS

Feb 12 1923 Big John Wrencher aka "One Arm" Sunflower, MS

Feb 12 1900 Pinkney "Pink" Anderson Lawrence, SC

Feb 14 1937 "Magic" Sam Maghett Grenada, MS

Feb 16 1951 James "Super Chikan" Johnson Darling, MS

RIP:

Feb 13 1941 Fulton Allen aka Blind Boy Fuller Durham, NC

Feb 15 1981 Michael Bloomfield San Francisco, CA

Feb 15 1968 Little Walter Jacobs Chicago, IL

"MOUNTAINS OF BLUES" AT A GLANCE:

classes are now listed for "Blues Week" @ [Augusta Heritage Center](#) Week 2, July 12-17...

U.S. ARMY BLUES Tue Feb 10th @ [Carnegie Hall](#), Lewisburg... keeping with the tradition of America's original art form, jazz... Army Blues strives to preserve the music of such legends as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Woody Herman, and Stan Kenton...

Thur Feb 12th LADY D @ Mountain State University Academy, Beckley

[Blue Ridge Blues Society](#) presents the Winter Blues Bash & Benefit Wed Feb 11th. Featuring THE FAT DADDY BAND at [Blue5 Restaurant](#), Roanoke, VA... showtime is 7:00PM call 540-904-5338 for more info...

Sat Feb 14th THE EXILES @ Kanawha Jamboree, 90TH St, (former Marmet Jr High School) Marmet, WV... 7:00-10:00PM, \$10 door... for more e-mail Steve @ stephenjhopskins@hotmail.com

Dane Tilghman of [Tilghman Enterprises](#) displays his wares in NYC this weekend during [National Black Fine Art Show](#) Feb 13-15...

word from RoyD after brief discussion of HUMBLE PIE and his favorite deceased singer STEVE MARRIOTT, "He's (Marriott) dead and Peter Frampton's doing Geico commercials. What's up withat?"

"Best version of 'I Don't Need No Doctor', no offense to Brother Ray." "Wish I still had 'Live at the Fillmore' on vinyl..... along with about 200 others."

new venue Pittsburgh's South Side... [Doublewide Grill](#) 2339 E. Carson St...

word outa Cowtown-- perhaps the best little blues bar in Columbus (and other places too), The [Thirsty Ear](#) has been sold!... yeah, I know what yer thinkin', but not to worry. The new owners are busy working to add new restrooms and the adjacent 2200 sq ft with an additional stage for bigger crowds..... our #1 source with the [CBA](#) says, "we're hyped!"

after reading last weeks mention of RICK CALURA, one fan says, "let's make the drive to Columbus to hear him!"... hey I couldn't agree more...

THE DIXIE HUMMINGBIRDS:

Thu Feb 19th- Williamson High School, Williamson, WV

Fri Feb 20th- The Smoot Theater, Parkersburg

Sat Feb 21st- Randolph Co. Community Arts Center, Elkins

[BJFM](#) Society of Mid-Ohio Valley Blues Competition @ The Lafayette Hotel, Marietta, OH Feb 20-21...

[Columbus Blues Alliance](#) [<http://www.columbusblues.com>] "Traditional Acoustic Blues Fest" Feb 28th @ [Holiday Inn Worthington](#) Use code "CBA" to reserve your room...

[Charleston Blues Society](#) - Sat Feb 28th: "Legacy Gala Kick-Off" Reception/Discussion/Exhibit @ Heritage Towers, Charleston 5PM, free admission

Fri Mar 6th: [FRUTELAND JACKSON](#) @ Davis Fine Arts Building, WV State University, 7PM, \$5 door

in a little bit,
crawlinkingsnake