



CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER

Vol. 1, Issue 4

August 2007



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"He makes it look so easy!"

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THE DC BLUES SOCIETY

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The D.C. Blues Society is a non-profit section 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to keeping the Blues alive through outreach and education. Annual membership: Student \$15 (send copy of photo id); Individual \$25, Family \$35, Canada \$35 (US), other countries \$50 (US). Contributions (not dues) to the D.C. Blues Society are tax-deductible. To join, send a check & address to the P.O. box above. There is an application on page 11.

The DC Blues Calendar is usually published monthly (except for a combined December-January issue and occasional other double issue). It contains information on society events, blues listings and other items of interest. Recent issues are also downloadable as PDF files from the Society's website, www.dcblues.org.

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Note—The deadline for each issue is the 15th of the previous month. Send advertising and newsletter contributions to newsletter@dcblues.org Calendar listings should be sent to Steve Levine, 5910 Bryn Mawr Rd, College Park, MD 20740 or e-mailed to cypressgrove@hotmail.com. Changes in your name and address and/or membership status should be forwarded to membership@dcblues.org or mailed to: P.O. BOX 77315, Washington, DC 20013-7315.

Cover: Warner Williams serenades an attendee at the DCBS July 14th Fish Fry & Blues Jam (plus Bike Show) at the Surf Club. His rendition of "One Day at a Time (Sweet Jesus)" was absolutely inspirational. (Photo © Glenn Thompson)



Mike Wescott Walkin' his talk.
© Glenn Thompson



Stacy Brooks leads the band in a round of "Wang-Dang-Doodle."
© Glenn Thompson

The D.C. Blues Society 14th Annual Fish Fry & Blues Jam Has its Biggest Turnout Yet!

Was it the reputation the DC Blues Society has built for fantastic summer food and hot Blues grinding way into the night? Or was it the draw of vintage and custom bikes decked out in the parking lot of Chick Hall's Surf Club? Was it the prospect of getting together with good friends and new acquaintances over a plate of vittles and a cold beer? Perhaps it was the promise of seeing up-and-coming acts before they hit the big time, or rooting for musicians who have carved out niches in the local Blues scene.

Whatever the reason, this year's turnout at the DC Blues Society's annual pre-festival fundraiser—the 14th Annual Fish Fry and Blues Jam (and 1st Annual Bike Show) had its biggest turnout yet. "I'd say we had over 200–250 persons attend this fish fry easily," said DCBS president **Felix McClairen**.

The weather was perfect for sitting outside and chatting while music blared from inside. Inside the club, though, it was cool enough to dance to the non-stop jams, capped off with blazing late-night performances by up-and-coming prodigy **Matt Wigler** and **Blues on Board** (big thanx to **Mike Wescott & BOB!**).

Dick Culp made an early energy injection too, proving that young blood is definitely flowing strong through Blue veins. Plus a couple mighty ladies—**Ruby Hayes'** drummer **Tovia** and vocalist **Stacy Brooks** really kept the dance-floor full. Of course, the other jammers, **Tony Fazio David Harris**, **Carl Cimino**, **David Satterwhite**, **Larry Younkins** and **Paul Jones** were heavily appreciated by the overflow audience. And in between sets, **DJ Dr. Feelgood** kept the sound moving in his inimical style.

Outside, the food was plentiful, doled out tirelessly by DCBS volunteers: and generously catered by DCBS volunteers and artfully managed by Membership Coordinator **James Ginyard**.



The winning motorcycle at DCBS's First Annual Bike Show: a 2006 Harley Davidson Thunder Mountain.
© Phillip Brown

Frank Perkins Wins 1st Annual DCBS Bike Show

Our First Bike Show was a successful event thanks to all the Bikers who participated and registered their Bikes to be Judged. The Second Place winner, who rode in on a 1995 Harley-Davidson Heritage Softail, walked away with a commemorative trophy. The First Place winner, **Frank Perkins**, who stole the show with a 2006 Harley-Davidson Thunder Mountain edition bike with a 103 ci motor, walked away with a commemorative 1st Place Trophy and \$100 in cash.

Votes were collected through the day from ticket holders and the winner was announced at 9:00 p.m.



Chick Willis, with Jacques 'Saxman' Johnson on sax.
© Ron Weinstock

Upcoming DCBS Festival Fundraiser features Chick Willis

The DC Blues Society is proud to present the original "Stoop Down Man," **Chick Willis** and sax master extraordinaire **Jacque Johnson** at an exclusive fundraiser for the DC Blues Festival. The fundraiser will take place 8:00 p.m., Saturday, August 25,

Society News Continues on P. 7

President's Drum



DCBS president Felix McCaliren introduces the incomparable Corey Harris at the DC Historical Society July 7.

© Ron Weinstock

Fish Fry Tales

Did we fry and eat some fish or what at the annual Fish, Brew, & Blues Jam AND Motorcycle Contest! We were overwhelmed by the mass turnout for whom we fried fish nonstop from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30p.m.! This was by far the most successful fish fry in the last three years. The Surf Club was packed with crowds who bopped and danced to music by a variety of performers until nearly midnight.

Special thanks to all the volunteers that made it happen. It wasn't easy. We had two fryers popping most of the time. We ran out of everything—except fish—before we were done and had to re-supply in the face of a long line of hungry fish lovers. Before the second fryer was fired up, antsy customers were soothed with singing and joke-telling led by our Fundraising Director, **Arneda Bownens**. Arneda and Fundraising Committee member **Emma Ward** also celebrated their birthdays at the fish fry. And a very special thanks to **Chet Hines** [aka Dr. S.O. Feelgood] for suggesting this model for the fish fry and DJ-ing between live sets. We'll try to do it the same way next year!

Our first bike contest was a surprising success, too. Over 25 motorcyclists rolled up to strut their stuff. What stuff it was! Beautiful bikes came from all over to have their babies judged and attempt to carry away the first place trophy and \$100 cash prize. The second place winner took home a commemorative trophy. [Read more on the bike contest on page 3.]

VOLUNTEER! [There! I said it again!]

Hey Blues Folk! Where you at? [Don't tell me: Behind that preposition!] The fish fry is a good example of why we need your help. The long line of folk waiting for hot fish wasn't only because we were frying some of the best tasting fish in town, but as much for our not having enough folks to serve it up

quickly. As I keep saying, the more of you who step up the easier it is for everyone who is trying to do the work. Of course the fish fry is also a good example of what a slaphappy good time the DCBS throws down. And that's another reason to volunteer. Be in the midst of making all that merriment!

We desperately need an administrative type to serve as **Secretary to the Board of Directors**. Responsibilities include:

- Prepare clear written accounts of all official Board meetings
- Maintain a schedule of Society events and messages and notices from the President for record
- Prepare all outgoing correspondence for the President and the Board
- Collect, report and preserve all incoming correspondence

Commitment: 6 hours per month (includes at least one 2-hour monthly meeting) for at least one year

Despite **Jazs'** best efforts in keeping the website updated she is overextended and needs relief now. There must be scores of you who have the skills to make short work of updating our website. Calling on a **part-time Webmaster!** We invested considerable funds in making the website more inviting and valuable to our members and the general public. But it is all for naught if the pages get stale. Help us keep the website fresh and interesting.

Commitment: 8–10 hours per month for at least one year

Pay Pal Administrator. Since we brought you the modern convenience of conducting transactions (ticket purchases, new memberships & renewals) online, we've created the need for someone to interface with Pay Pal to update events, improve member services, and develop new uses, etc. If you have experience with Pay Pal and its business tools, let us know—NOW!

Commitment: 4 hours per month for at least one year

We need other help. But I won't press the point any more here. Visit the website: www.dcb blues.org and click on Volunteers for more information and details on how you can pitch in. Contact Jazs, our Volunteer Coordinator, when you're ready to give a little to promote your passion. I guarantee you will not be bored with the volunteer experience.

Can't Miss!

You cannot miss the 25 August Festival Fundraiser starring **Chick Willis & Jacque Johnson**. Get down, jump down, and stoop down with Chick, a consummate musician and showstopper starting at 8:00 p.m. Get your tickets online at www.dcb blues.org. \$15 for members and \$20 nonmembers. Don't wait to buy at the door! That'll set you back \$25, member or not.

President's Drum Continues on P. 8

Who's Gonna Play the Festival?

On Saturday, September 1, 2007, the DC Blues Society will celebrate its 20th Anniversary with a no-holds-barred lineup for our Annual DC Blues Festival! In honor of our two decades of keeping DC Blues alive, we're holding a reunion with some of our previous Annual DC Blues Festival performers, along with others who weren't even born when we held our first festival.

To help gear you up for a full day and night of hot Blues, here is a brief look at each of the performers.



Clarence Turner

We sponsored **Clarence 'The Blues Man' Turner** this year at the International Blues Challenge [that's the blues version of American Idol] and he made the finals! Every time we see him perform, we know why he got there and it's just a matter of time before he wins with his "fiery guitar playing and passionate howlin'!"

In February 2003, Turner was named "Who's Who in DC Blues" by *Washingtonian* magazine and has been featured a number of times in the *Washington Post*. Turner and his band, The Clarence Turner Blues Band, have brought the house down at Blues Alley and a slew of other clubs throughout the DC metropolitan area.

Turner has developed something of a cult following, dazzling crowds with his frantic

fret work and a compulsion to jump, dance, and play the guitar in unusual positions. Turner and his band have developed a reputation for making dancers sweat!



Mary Shaver & the Smokin' Polecats

(Taken from her website:
www.maryshaverband.com/)

Mary Shaver has been singing all her life. She is first and foremost a blues artist influenced by the likes of **Slim Harpo** and **Big Mama Thornton**. She labels her own style as "Texas, Louisiana and Chicago Blues meets Memphis Soul." But her path as an artist has not been a particularly straight or smooth one.

Her twenties saw Mary's music confined mostly to acoustic jam sessions with friends. Then, in 1989, Mary joined the rock/blues cover band **One Thin Dime**. They had a few original tunes and opened for some national acts. However, in early 1998, Mary found herself making the difficult decision to leave One Thin Dime to create music on her own terms.

With the help of **Nighthawks** drummer **Pete Ragusa** as producer, Mary assembled and cut her first disc, *No Time Like Now*. It was a long time coming, a labor of patience and love.

The release of her first album raised Mary's profile on the DC music scene, and built a buzz around her live shows. Regular airplay of *No Time* on WPFW 89.3

FM, and Wammie nominations for best female blues vocalist followed, along with hard-earned respect from fellow musicians.

(Taken from their website <http://www.thesmokinpolecats.com/>)

"Virtuosos of the blues..."that's what **William Triplette** of *Washingtonian Magazine* called The **Smokin' Polecats**. The reason for this, according to **Bill Wax**, the programmer of Bluesville on XM Radio, "they play the blues in all styles for all tastes." A lot of people feel that way because the Polecats aren't just the Polecats. Sometimes they feature **Mary Shaver** on vocals. And then other times they feature **Marianna Previti** on vocals. And then other times they become **The Bobcats** and feature **Bob Malardi** on vocals and bass. All three groups have their own sound, but they are all The Smokin' Polecats.



The Legendary Orioles

(Taken from their website:
www.thelegendaryorioles.com/)

In 1947, a Baltimore group known as **The Orioles** (now **The Legendary Orioles**) embarked on a career that continues after more than 50 years. The Orioles have been honored as the founding fathers of Rhythm & Blues and hailed as one of the most influential Black vocal groups in music history. Originally led by charismatic vocalist **Sonny "Til" Tilghman**, the group fused traditional pop songs with gospel style, and arrangements of blues and gospel with smooth harmonies. The result was fresh, distinctive music that has appealed to a wide audience.

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Who's Playing? Continued from P. 5

The Orioles recorded their first million seller hit, "It's Too Soon To Know", in 1949. Four years later, their multi-million seller "Crying In The Chapel," garnered national and international notice. Their hits, including "What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?" and "Tell Me So," have become classics. In 1954, Sonny Til joined **Diz Russell and the Regals** with a new cast of singers while retaining the name, The Orioles. Russell is the current group leader and owner of The Orioles name.

The Legendary Orioles have appeared with the **Four Tops, The Supremes, Jackie Wilson, Paul Anka, Frank Sinatra, Ann-Margret** and **Connie Francis**. In 1993, they sang for **President Clinton's** inauguration. Two years later, The Orioles were elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Their latest CD, *The Orioles Sing for Lovers Only*, has been acclaimed for the Doo Wop sound that made them legends. Today the group consists of performers from the Washington metropolitan area and performs the same sweet harmonies that have delighted audiences for decades.



The Nighthawks

(Taken from their website www.thenighthawks.com)

Over the last 30+ years, **The Nighthawks** have earned a reputation as one of the best and hardest working bands around. They have gotten their widest acclaim for being one of the first and best white boy blues bands of their generation, and for putting on a great live show. But their

acclaim and accomplishments go far beyond that.

They are among the top musical acts to come out of the Washington, D.C. area—and are still based there. They play a wide variety of music that has appeal to a diverse audience, mixing the blues, rock and soul—along with rockabilly and swing. They've played all over the U.S., and they've toured around the world, establishing especially strong followings in Germany and Japan.

The Nighthawks were founded in 1972 by vocalist/harmonica player **Mark Wenner** and guitarist **Jimmy Thackery**, and joined early on by bass player **Jan Zukowski** and drummer **Pete Ragusa**. Based in Washington, D.C., they built on their Chicago blues roots to create a unique musical repertoire that features blues, roots rock, rockabilly and soul. They became known as one of the country's hardest working and most popular blues bands as they toured nationally in the '70s and '80s, playing 300 shows a year

They have played as the opening act or backing band for such legendary blues artists as **Muddy Waters, Otis Rush, Big Walter Horton** and **Elvin Bishop**. They also played in the Rosebud Agency's blues all-star tours with **Pinetop Perkins, John Hammond, Charlie Musselwhite** and **John Lee Hooker**.

Three of the four band members have been playing together for 30 years, a stretch that few in rock or blues can match. They continue to bring great musical skills and energy to all that they do—it's a remarkable road they've traveled and story they have to tell.

The entire band past and present deserve a huge amount of credit both for energizing and maintaining a dedicated fan base for great blues/rock music, and for enlivening the D.C. music scene throughout their career.



Bobby Parker

(Taken from his website www.bobbyparkerblues.com)

During the 50's Bobby started out by working with the doo-wop group **Otis Williams and the Charms**. He played lead guitar with **Bo Diddley**, toured with **Paul Williams, Sam Cooke, Jackie Wilson, Laverne Baker, Clyde McPhatter**, and the **Everly Brothers**. He also toured with **Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly** and **Little Richard**. In 1958 while working with **Paul "Hucklebuck" Williams** and playing at the Apollo in Harlem, he wrote and recorded "Blues Get Off My Shoulder."

In 1961, Bobby relocated to Washington DC and began appearing at all the major clubs. He recorded "Watch Your Step" in 1961, which became a regional hit and was later covered by **Spencer Davis Group, Dr. Feelgood** and **Santana**. In 1968, he toured England and recorded "It's Hard to be Fair."

The 70s and 80s found Bobby performing heavily in the Washington DC area and he became a key figure in the city's Blues scene.

In 1993, Bobby Parker recorded his first album, *Bent Out of Shape*. In 1995 it was joined by his second album *Shine Me Up*. Bobby continues to play weekly in DC clubs and has developed a following of both old and new blues fans. His powerful guitar licks and superb songwriting make him one of the most exciting artists around today!

Society News Continued from P. 3

2007 at the historic Chick Hall's Surf Club. This will be your last chance to support the 2007 DC Blues Festival. Don't miss it!

In addition to being a first rate guitarist and vocalist, Chick plays drums, keyboard, harmonica, and bass. Sometimes he plays the guitar with his tongue and with it under his legs. Anything is possible in his pursuit to electrify an audience with his dynamic stage presence.

He was surrounded by music as a youngster and taught himself to play guitar. He already had vocal experience, gathered by singing with a gospel group he, his brother and cousins sang with at their family church.

He became good enough in his late teens to begin working professionally in Atlanta at the old Royal Peacock Club, where he backed or played with a wide variety of talent such as **Jackie Wilson, Ray Charles, Sam Cooke**, and many others at venues ranging from the Apollo Theater to the Magnolia Ballroom.

Advance tickets for the DC Blues Society's presentation of Chick Willis and Jacque Johnson are \$15 if purchased by August 1, \$20 if purchased by August 15, and \$25 at the door. See the DCBS website for advance tickets and directions— www.dcb Blues.org. Check out more about Chick at www.chickwillis.com.



Corey Harris performed an acoustic solo show at the D.C. Historical Society Saturday, July 7.

© Ron Weinstock

Corey Harris Mesmerizes the Nation's Capital

It was a small, intimate affair—the best place to see Blues troubadour Corey Harris converse with his guitar. In the Library

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Saturday

- 10:55 Patty Reese
(Singing of the National Anthem)
- 11:00 The Chesapeake Bay Blues Band
w/ The Nighthawks, Dean Rosenthal,
Paul Reed Smith, Jim Jacobs, and Ron
Holloway
- 12:10 Howard and the White Boys
- 1:15 Otis Taylor Band
- 2:25 The Chicago Rhythm and Blues Kings
w/ Cash McCall and Eddie King
- 3:45 Rod Piazza and the Mighty Flyers
- 5:15 John Kay & Steppenwolf
- 7:00 Aretha Franklin

Sunday

- 11:00 Shemekia Copeland
- 12:15 The Bernard Allison Band
- 1:30 The Legendary Rhythm and Blues Revue
feat. The Tommy Castro Band,
Magic Dick and Deanna Bogart
- 3:00 Three Dog Night
- 4:45 Robert Randolph and The Family Band
- 6:30 Buddy Guy

Tickets available through TicketMaster 1-800-551-SEAT

Society News Continued from P. 7

of the DC Historical Society that hot July evening, his simple songs reverberated through the ears of one-hundred plus souls.

Corey performed material from his repertoire, including songs from his upcoming album, to be released July 24th

Eastern Market Music Series Features Blues and More

Several blues artists will perform in a new music series at the Eastern Market on Sundays, beginning July 22. The music will contribute to the lively street fair atmosphere at the Eastern Market, with its array of food, antique, and craft vendors.

The Eastern Market Music series will present a sampling of the Washington area's best blues, bluegrass, jazz, contemporary, and international musicians. The market is located at 7th St. and North Carolina Ave. SE., Washington, DC—one block north of the Eastern Market Metro station.

There will be two performances each Sunday, a morning set from 10:30 am to 1, and an afternoon set from 1 pm to 3:30 pm. Here's the confirmed lineup:

- Jul 22 Rick Franklin (blues)
The Resonators (blues)
- Jul 29 Daryl Davis (boogie woogie, rockabilly)
Little Bit a Blues/Warner Williams & Jay Summerour
(blues, honkytonk)
- Aug 5 Tom Mitchell & Robert Redd (jazz)
Blue Rhythm Boys (blues, swing, gypsy)
- Aug 12 Unusual Suspects (contemporary acoustic)
Over Under Down Yonder (bluegrass, rockabilly)
- Aug 19 Blues works (blues)
Pam Parker (jazz)
- Aug 26 Archie's Barbershop Jambassadors (acoustic blues)
Bill Baker Trio (contemporary acoustic)
- Sep 2 (TBA)
Barrettones (bluegrass)
- Sep 9 Travessia (Brazilian jazz)
Sears Trio (blues, jazz, samba)
- Sep 16 Reverb
Blue Rhythm Boys (blues, swing, gypsy)
- Sep 23 Dead Mans Hollow (bluegrass, Americana)
Shackbreakers (blues)
- Sep 30 Barrelhouse Brawl (blues, New Orleans jazz)
Irish Breakfast Band (Irish, with step dancers)

The Capitol Hill Community Foundation—www.capitolhillcommunityfoundation.org—is sponsoring the event. The foundation has been instrumental in helping raise money to support the vendors who were displaced from the market after the fire in April.

President's Drum Continued from P. 4

Get your tickets now for the Festival After-Party featuring **Clarence "The Bluesman" Turner** on September 1st, 8 p.m. right after the free 19th Annual DC Blues Festival at the Carter Barron Amphitheater. Come out and help us celebrate our 20th anniversary. Both the Chick Willis and Clarence Turner shows are at Chick Hall's Surf Club 4711 Kenilworth Ave. Bladensburg, MD. Call 301-322-4808 for ticket information.

Blues Always,
Felix

Volunteer Opportunities

Supreme thank you's go out to ALL the musicians and volunteers and attendees who made the Fish Fry a super success! Some attendees even stepped in to help!

Ben Garner (cooked fish) **Janie Garner** and **Jenny Drake** (sold merchandise/memberships) **Bettina and Beate McCloud** (served food) and there are many others who we're so very grateful for their participation! Check out the pictures in this issue and don't miss it next year!

It's time to gear up for the 20th Anniversary DC Blues Society Festival and as always, we'll need plenty of volunteers! If you'd like to volunteer, contact me at volunteer@dcb Blues.org

Visit the DCBS web site frequently to find updates and perhaps free tickets! We just gave away 2 tickets to the Falcon Ridge Festival worth \$250 (thanks to **Neil Senning Enterprises**) and Sol Creech tickets (thanks to **Tarara Winery**).

See you at the DCBS booth at these events:

- Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival at Sandy Point Beach, MD on August 4-5
- 15th Annual Hot August Blues Festival in Oregon Ridge Park, Cockeysville, MD on August 18

Thanks as always for your support!
Jazz



August Blues Calendar

- 1** Esther Haynes, Rusty Bogart, Eric Shramek @ La Porta's
Melanie Mason Band @ Columbia Lakefront
Blues Jam hosted by One Bad Jack & Friends Band @ Beach Cove
George Thorogood @ Birchmere
Junkyard Saints @ E-Citi Cafe
- 2** Daryl Davis @ JV's
- 3** Idle Americans @ Glen Echo
Robert Allen Blues Band @ Irish Channel
Junkyard Saints @ Belvedere Square
- 4** **Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival** @ Sandy Point State Park
ACME Blues Company @ Country Store
Melanie Mason Band @ Tarara Winery Festival
Curbfeellers @ JV's
Junkyard Saints @ The Avenue at White Marsh
- 5** **DCBS Jam** @ Chick Hall's Surf Club
Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival @ Sandy Point State Park
Blue Rhythm Boys @ Eastern Market Concert Series
Dave Chappell, Dan Hovey and Mike Westcott @ JV's
- 7** Dave Chappell Band @ JV's
- 8** Esther Haynes & Alan Oresky @ Willow Garden
- 9** **Sleepy Labeef** @ Chick Hall's Surf Club
Hokum Jazz @ St. Luke's Methodist Church
- 10** Flatfoot Sam & Educated Fools @ JV's
Idle Americans @ Murphy's Pub
Robert Allen Blues Band @ Cactus Flats
Junkyard Saints @ Bay Cafe
Melanie Mason @ Ruby's Cafe
- 11** **B.B. King, Etta James, Al Green** @ Pier Six Pavilion
BG & Mojo Hands @ Sala Thai, Bethesda
ACME Blues Company, Blues on Board, Roustabouts @ Chick Hall's Surf Club
- 12** Fabulous Thunderbirds, Nighthawks @ Birchmere
BluesWorks @ Eastern Market Concert Series
Yardbirds @ State Theatre
ACME Blues Company @ Glen Echo

- 13** Fabulous Thunderbirds @ Rams Head
- 14** Fabulous Thunderbirds @ Rams Head
Bad Daddy Band @ JV's
- 15** Blues Jam hosted by One Bad Jack & Friends Band @ Beach Cove
- 17** Hey Norton @ JV's
Junkyard Saints @ Golden Bar and Grill
- 18** Hot August Blues @ Oregon Ridge Park
Charles "Big Daddy" Stallings @ Lurman Woodland Theatre
Piece By Piece @ Down Town Saloon
Junkyard Saints @ Inner Harbor
Amphitheater
- 19** Junkyard Saints @ Hanover Arts & Activities Center
- 21** Dave Chappell Band @ JV's
- 23** Tommy Lepson Band @ JV's
- 24** Brian Gross @ Wild Lake Village Center
ACME Acoustic @ Frisco Grille
- 25** **Chick Willis & Jacque Johnson (festival fundraiser)** @ Chick Hall's Surf Club
Bad Influence @ JV's
Tom Cunningham Orchestra @ Glen Echo
Charles "Big Daddy" Stallings @ Lexington Market
BG & Mojo Hands @ Sala Thai, Bethesda
Idle Americans, Clarence Turner @ Bangkok Blues
Junkyard Saints @ Old Shadowlawn Mansion
- 26** Big Joe Maher, Marty B & Stingers @ JV's
Archie's Barbershop Jambassadors @ Eastern Market Concert Series
Blues Jam hosted by One Bad Jack & Friends Band @ Beach Cove
- 29** Yardbirds @ Rams Head
- 30** Chicago Blues Reunion @ Rams Head
Doc Reed Band @ JV's
- 31** ACME Blues Company @ Zoo Bar
Robert Allen Blues Band @ Steer Inn

Regular Events

Sundays

- Big Four Combo (Swingin' Blues Brunch)@Gordon Biersch, 11 am
Steve Kraemer@Cat's Eye, 4 pm
Brooks Tegler Big Band@Starland Cafe, 5pm
Detroit Slim@Full Moon, 6 pm

Matt Bishop@Zoo Bar
Jim Bennett & Lady Mary w/ Unique Creation Band@Lamont's
Mary Ann Redmond@Flanagan's Harp & Fiddle
Cheryl Jones, Wayne Wilentz, Jim West@U-Topia
Hardway Connection@Thai Seafood House, Waldorf MD
Mark Mandel's Sunday All Star Blues Jam 8-11pm@Bangkok Blues

Mondays

Fast Eddie's Open Mic from 8pm-midnight@Spanky's Shenanigans
Phil Cunneff Jazz Trio@Cats Eye

Tuesdays

Blu Lou & The Roadhouse Crew@Chick Hall's Surf Club
Bill Heid Organ Trio@U-Topia
O'Donel Levy@Holiday Inn Capitol

Wednesdays

Dean Rosenthal@Rams Head Tavern (Downstairs)
Lyle Link Quartet@Twins Lounge (Colorado Ave)
Steve Smith Band@Round Table
GOVT CHEEZ@The Vegas Lounge
Robert Lighthouse acoustic@Chief Ike's Mambo Room
Rude Dog & Special Guest Blues Jam@ Club 347

Thursdays

Hillbilly Jazz (Chick Hall Jr., Jim Stephanson, John Previti, Dave Elliott)@Chick Hall's Surf Club
Johnny Castle's Thrillbillys@Sunset Grille
The Unforgiven@The Saloon
Open Mic Blues Jam hosted by Idle Americans@The Country Store (every other Thursday)

Fridays

Friday Night Jazz@Westminster Presbyterian Church, 6 pm
Blue Flames@Bertha's
Butch Grant & Crossfire Band@My Bakery & Cafe
Dean Rosenthal@Acme Bar & Grill

Saturdays

Sir Walter Robinson Band@Pharaoh's
Blue Flames@Bertha's (2nd and 4th Saturdays)

Blues Reviews

The Manish Boys *Big Plans (Delta Groove)*

A smorgasbord of blues players and styles, the main featured players are vocalists **Finis Tasby** and **Johnny Dyer** with support from the likes of guitarists **Frank Goldwasser**, and **Kirk Fletcher**, pianist **Leon Blue**, bassist **Tom Leavey** and drummer **Richard Innes** with guest appearances from **Jody Williams**, **Rick Holmstrom**, **Mitch Kashmar**, **Rob Rio** and **Larry Taylor**. There is a mix of covers and originals that are well played and performed. Certainly it's a delight to hear the West Coast blues singing of Tasby, whose world-weary sound adds to the appeal of his reworking **Long John Hunter's** "Border Town Blues," and **T-Bone Walker's** "I Get Worried," (with **Kid Ramos** laying in crisp T-Bone guitar run.) **Roy Hawkins'** "Why Do Things Happen to Me?" is a charged rendition of the great West Coast singer who had the original "The Thrill is Gone." Chicago singer **Bobby Jones** handles an original shuffle by bassist Leavey. **Mary Jane**, with producer **Randy Chortkoff** add some **Jimmy Reed**-ish, high register harp, along with a moody reworking of **Howlin' Wolf's** Memphis recording, "California Blues," into a slow-drag blues with Fletcher taking lead on guitar and Kashmar adding some choice harp. Johnny Dyer covers **Muddy Waters'** recording, "Just to Be With You," and it is well played if not

adding to the original. While **Leon Blue** does **Homesick James'** "Got to Move," with Goldwasser adding solid slide in the Homesick James vein (Blue tinkles the ivories and delivers a strong vocal, again modeled on James' original.) **Jody Williams** recreates his "Groan My Blues Away" with an amiable if unspectacular vocal, but his vocal on **Chortkoff's** "Young & Tender" is more compelling against the atmospheric backing he receives. In contrast, **Chortkoff's** rendition of his "Mine All Mine" has a too-busy accompaniment and a weak vocal (certainly in comparison to the other performers.) Even if much of *Big Plans* is hardly original, it is a delight to hear some solid bluesy rock.

—Ron Weinstock

Joan Armatrading *Into the Blues (429 Records)*

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—Tony MacFarlane

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The Nighthawks want you to jump into the fire at the 25th Annual DCBS Blues Festival, Sept. 11 at Carter Barron Amphitheater. Biography on P. 8

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