

# Capital Blues Messenger

Celebrating the Blues in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia

October 2011 Volume 5 Issue 10



**Inside: The Man Behind the Mic  
Annual Blues Festival Wrap-up  
Battle of the Bands Lineup. . . and more**

## THE DC BLUES SOCIETY

**P.O. BOX 77315  
WASHINGTON, DC  
20013-7315  
www.dcblues.org**



The DC Blues Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to keeping the Blues alive through outreach and education. The DC Blues Society is a proud affiliate of the Blues Foundation.

*The Capital Blues Messenger* is published monthly (unless otherwise noted) and sent by e-mail or U.S. mail to members. Past newsletters are available at [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org).

Send changes in name, address or membership status to [membership@dcblues.org](mailto:membership@dcblues.org) or mail to DCBS Attn: Membership at the address listed above.

*The Capital Blues Messenger* is your publication and members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, and ideas for articles, reviews, cartoons and photography. Please submit material via e-mail to: [newsletter@dcblues.org](mailto:newsletter@dcblues.org).

Blues listings for bands should be sent to [calendar@dcblues.org](mailto:calendar@dcblues.org).

**Note:** The deadline for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. DCBS reserves the right to edit or refuse any content, including advertising, that it deems inappropriate.

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Members are key to the livelihood of the DCBS. Member's dues play an important part in helping DCBS fulfill its mission to promote the Blues and the musicians who keep the music alive, exciting and accessible. Members receive discounts on advance sale tickets to DCBS events, DCBS merchandise and from area merchants and clubs when you present your DCBS membership card (see p 11). Members also receive the monthly *Capital Blues Messenger* (CBM) newsletter and those with e-mail access get the CBM via e-mail plus additional e-mail updates about DCBS events.

Becoming a member is simple, quick and easy:

- Use the mail-in application
- Apply on-line at [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org), or
- Sign up at DCBS events or DCBS-sponsored events/venues where you see the DCBS booth.

Members are invited to attend the monthly DCBS Board meetings. For information, send an e-mail to [president@dcblues.org](mailto:president@dcblues.org).

### D.C. Blues Society Membership Application/Renewal Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ If renewal, check here \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print clearly above) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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Dues per year (circle appropriate one):

Student: \$15 (Include photocopy of student ID)

Individual: \$25 Family: \$35

Corporate: \$200 Canada: \$35 (US funds)

Other Countries: \$50 (US funds)

*Contributions (not dues) are tax-deductible.*

*Please allow up to six weeks for processing*

If Family, list member names: \_\_\_\_\_

Your volunteer time/talent is always welcome. If interested in volunteering, check interest(s):

\_\_\_ Update Website

\_\_\_ Work a shift at a show (DCBS table, door, etc.)

\_\_\_ Promote shows (distribute flyers, etc.)

\_\_\_ Raise funds (sell ads, organize auctions, etc.)

\_\_\_ Write reviews or take photos for Newsletter

(see your name in print!)

\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with check to  
**THE DC BLUES SOCIETY**  
P.O. BOX 77315  
WASHINGTON, DC 20013-73

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Unless noted, photos & articles were contributed by DCBS board members and newsletter editor. Printer: Quick Printing Inc. Wheaton, MD [www.quickprintinginc.com](http://www.quickprintinginc.com)  
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### DCBS Members

Check the *Members Only* section on the website for ticket giveaways

### Corporate DCBS Memberships

DCBS offers a Corporate Membership option that provides small and large businesses the opportunity to advertise through DCBS while supporting DCBS programs. For only \$200 per year, businesses receive the same benefits of individual DCBS members (see above) PLUS 6 postings of any combination of 1/4 page ads in the DCBS monthly newsletter and/or web icons on the DCBS website. Each web icon/event posting will remain on the website for one week per posting – for a total of 6 weeks presence on the DCBS website. **This is a \$240-\$280 value for only \$200.** For more information on how to become a corporate membership, go to [www.dcblues.org/memb/mbr\\_join.php](http://www.dcblues.org/memb/mbr_join.php).

### ADVERTISE IN THE DCBS CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER

AD RATES	
Business card	\$20
1/8 page	\$25
1/4 page	\$40
1/3 page	\$55
1/2 page	\$75
2/3 page	\$110
Full page	\$140

Rates are based on camera-ready artwork and must be received by the 7th of the prior month. Design service is outsourced and a fee will be charged. Ads should be at least 300 dpi in either PDF or JPG. Submit in B/W and color when possible. Ad size and space allocation contingent on prior commitments and editorial content. DCBS reserves the right to refuse advertising it deems inappropriate. Ad specs and on-line rates: [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)  
Questions? E-mail: [ads@dcblues.org](mailto:ads@dcblues.org)





PRESIDENT'S DRUM



Sam'i and Ayaba Bey at the 23rd Annual DC Blues Festival. Photo: Mary Knieser

Well, how about that Festival line-up? Hope you had the opportunity to come out and enjoy the entertainment and the fine weather at our 23rd Annual DC Blues Festival. As always, we thank you immensely for your support and we appreciate your comments as well. Photos from the Festival below and on Page 5. There are also links to photos on the DCBS home page ([www.dcb blues.org](http://www.dcb blues.org)).

For the first time that I can recall, we actually ran out of the souvenir Festival t-shirts. I've had some requests for the shirts and I want to open up the offer to our Membership and anyone who may still want to purchase one. We're going to order a limited amount per request and pre-payment. (shirt design and ordering information below.) When we have all the order requests, we then can determine what the cost will be per shirt. Of course, a large order means a reasonable price per shirt. Hurry!

The death of David "Honeyboy" Edwards was announced just prior to our festival last month. Shortly after that, Willie "Big Eyes" Smith's homecoming was announced. It bought to mind all of the young Blues players out there with the mega pedal boards and wall-to-wall amps. A foundation of the Blues as 'bigger and louder' is not necessarily better. In your studying, make room for the guys like Honeyboy, Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, Johnny Shines and Robert Lockwood, Jr. Find their connection to Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters and all the true Giants of this Art. Study those Blues roots. Don't stop at the pyro-technical guitar slingers out there. They're good but there's a lot more to this than the "flash."

Come on out on October 15 to support your favorite Band at the Battle of the Bands for the International Blues Challenge (IBC) consideration. It's always the place to be. Read more about it in this publication.

I'll see you at The Battle. Let's chat it up a little.

Sam'i



Festival T-Shirt

- ♪ If you would like to order a festival t-shirt, please send an email to [merchandise@dcb blues.org](mailto:merchandise@dcb blues.org) or call (301) 322-4808.
- ♪ State the size(s), quantity and include your contact information (name, telephone and e-mail). We'll contact you for payment instructions once we know the quantity.

◀ Front      Shirt is available in white only      Back ▶



23rd Annual DC Blues Festival (continued on Page 5)



Row 1 (l-r) Eleanor Ellis; Willie Leebel; Alan Gray; Tom Cox; Sol Roots  
Photos by Morgan Louie  
Row 2: (l-r) Choo Choo Charlie Williams with harmonica workshop; Nadine Rae with vocalist; DCBS volunteers  
Photos by Pat Bransford



**The Right Prescription for The Blues**

It is Sunday afternoon at the American Legion Post in Silver Spring and the First Sunday of the Month jam, hosted by the DC Blues Society, is in full swing. Musicians come and go but a steady presence holds sway on the drums.

Studied and serious, Dr. S.O. Feelgood holds down the bottom through a number of well-known blues standards. Later, he'll show us another side of himself when he takes the mic and - behind a slow blues crawl from the band - slides into "I'll Drink Your Bathwater, Baby" a boisterous romp of a song about the virtues of drinking his woman's bathwater. A burly man, it is personality rather than size that allows him to take control of the stage and the house. Men guffaw and ladies squeal as he uses a barrage of slurping noises to emphasize his point that drinking a woman's bathwater is the only way a real man can show his love. Dr. S.O. Feelgood is a one-man entertainment package.

He assumes several roles for the DC Blues Society such as coordinator and MC of the John Cephas Workshop stage at the Annual DC Blues Festival and deejay at the Festival After-Party. He also coordinates the DC chapter of Blues in the Schools (BITS), a nationwide program designed to foster appreciation of blues among young people. As coordinator, Dr. Feelgood visits area schools, often accompanied by musicians, some of them nationally known.

"Well, the Doctor, I believe, is out of the Mississippi Delta and he's got a lot of those roots in his singing and in his feeling, and it is what he brings to the table," says guitarist Bill Bates, who plays in The Dr. S.O. Feelgood Band and Show with bassist Kenny Johnson and drummer Mike Elam. "And what we try to do is back him up to the best of our ability. We're always keeping an eye on what he's doing."

Dr. Feelgood admits his love for the blues but adds that his tastes are "all over the map." With more than 10,000 CDs and 7,000 albums covering every genre of music, his music collection reflects that statement. "I'm one of those people with eight tracks, cassettes and reel-to-reel because I listen to where my mood is."

He has a special love for the singers of the 1960's and 70's. "Simply put, they were characters musically in and of themselves," he says. "Unlike - and I'm not indicting every musician today - but many musicians today are cookie cutter musicians. An artist comes out with a hit song, and immediately the record companies feel like their artists have to do that same thing, follow that same track. And I understand the economics of why they do it, but it doesn't add anything to developing and creating an artist. Whereas those people like Otis Redding, Joe Tex, Solomon Burke, Teddy Pendergrass, these people had musical signatures in terms of their sound, their personality."

Dr. Feelgood uses some original material, such as "Jump Down, Turn Around, Kick a Hole in the Wall," a lively crowd pleaser which recently drew audience participation when he performed it during Blue Monday Blues, the weekly blues show at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Southwest DC. "I tell people you may not know it, but you're not going to come and see me and sit around and watch, okay?" he says. "You're going to get involved in what I do."

"Bathwater Blues" is not a Dr. S.O. Feelgood original, he says. "Some people come back to me, you know, and say 'Oh, I bought a copy of that, but it didn't sound anything like what you did.' I say 'well, that's

because, you know, I've rearranged it and done some things with it that made it my own.'" Dr. Feelgood doesn't use a set list when he performs. "Ninety per cent of the time, I don't know what I'm going to do until the moment that I'm doing it," he says.

Leaving Mississippi at the age of ten, Dr. Feelgood came to DC in 1959 after stints in Greenville, NC and Richmond, VA. At 14, he bought his first drum set, a Kelly-green four-piece, from "Quick Cash Kelly's," a pawn shop near the Navy Yard. He began playing professionally at 18. "Up and down 14th Street, H Street, Kennedy Street, I mean young guys could go and ply their trade and learn," he recalls. "And that was a significant learning ground, unlike the jam situations of today. I went in as somebody who thought they were a young hot shot, knowing what they were doing and the reality was, I didn't know squat. And they were very quick to let you know that you didn't know squat. But they were just as quick to train you."

A bass player named Fat Fanny who was well-known around DC paid him particular attention. "Fanny was a kind of kick-butt, take-no-prisoners type of person," Dr. Feelgood recalls. "But when you sit down behind a drum kit, in a few minutes he knew whether you had any chops and he could run you through crapola that you'd never heard of, and demand that you find a way to keep up, find a way to lock into the groove. As soon as you'd lock into the groove, he would change the groove, send you someplace else, and ask you 'what's your problem?'"

In the beginning of his career, the doctor was "...strictly just a drummer, who sang when necessary. And it became more and more necessary and in doing club gigs, basically the club owners would say 'we would much prefer to have you out front than sitting back there behind a kit.' So uh, it took a while, it took about three years to make the conversion, but, uh, you know for the last fifteen years I just been

out front."

To Dr. S.O. Feelgood, the stage brings a special passion. "I want to live out the life of Elmore James," Dr. Feelgood says. "He declared that, when he died, he wanted to die on stage. He thought that was the ultimate way to go. Just coincidentally, he died on stage - had a heart attack. But, hey, listen, what better way to go?"

~~ Kirk Jackson (reprinted with permission from his November 24, 2010 blog). Read more of his interviews with blues musicians at <http://beldonsbluespoint.blogspot.com>

*Ed. Note:* Dr. Feelgood was selected as the Grand Marshall for the 19th Annual Bluebird Blues Festival, Saturday September 24. In nominating Dr. Feelgood, Sam'i Nuriddin wrote:

*He's a singer, songwriter, storyteller and crowd pleasing showman. Most importantly, he's been a dynamic force for Blues music and the DC Blues Society for the last twenty-one years. He heads our Blues In The Schools program and is the author of "The Blues in the Key Of Life" which has been performed for the National Park Service and in elementary schools in Washington, DC. His other accomplishments include musical director and drum instructor for the Children's Youth Theater Group. He's currently working on a project designing a Summer Workshop Program to help inspire a greater interest in the musical art of Blues music. When we were first asked to submit a name to represent the 19th Annual Bluebird Blues Festival as its Grand Marshall, without any dissent or doubt, DR. S.O. FEELGOOD was our hands-down choice.*



(Top) Sam'i and Dr. S.O. Feelgood set up the John Cephas Workshop Stage at the Annual DC Blues Festival. Photo: Mary Knieser  
(Bottom) The Grand Marshall and The Wild Women of The Blues at the 19th Annual Bluebird Blues Festival. Photo: Sam'i Nuriddin



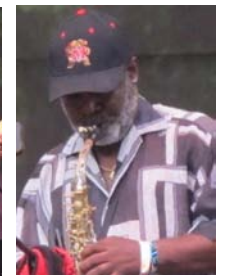


### 23rd Annual DC Blues Festival Photos

(For more photos go to [www.dcb Blues.org](http://www.dcb Blues.org) for links to Flickr)



Row 1 (l-r) Cute kid & Chester Chichester (WPFW); Pat Bransford; Emma Ward & Mona Kotlarsky; Memphis Gold & Grady Champion; Flash, our marvelous stage manager; very happy blues fans. Row 2 (l-r) Grady Champion; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark; Ayaba Bey; Kenny Sparks; JT. Row 3 (l-r) Grady's band members; Preston Shannon; Nadine Rae; dancers. Photos Row 1 - From Mary Knieser's camera but she suspects Mona took some of them. Photos Row 2 & 3 Pat Bransford



Want to see more photos? They're on FLICKR so go to [www.dcb Blues.org](http://www.dcb Blues.org) for links & check them out! Maybe you're in there!

### Festival After-Party with Preston Shannon



Preston Shannon (guitar); Tank (drums); Mac Truck (bass) (Photos: Mary Knieser)



**2011 Battle of the Bands**

(Biographies and photos submitted by the entrants and appear in random order)

**Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes**



Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes are guaranteed to get you up on your feet! Their blend of Chicago, West Coast, Swing and Jump Blues peppered with Soul serve up a menu to get the joint jumpin'!

Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes are Larry Younkins (guitar and vocals); Rick Jones (keyboards and vocals); Charles Solomon (bass - not pictured); Scott Chadwick (drums); Ed Crowley (harp and vocals).  
[www.reverbnation.com/fasteddietheslowpokes](http://www.reverbnation.com/fasteddietheslowpokes)

**The Brothers Bone**



*The Brothers Bone* is about carrying the torch of rock and roll, one jam at a time. It constantly evolves through the way they play, keeping the spirit of so many musical pioneers alive. They don't play the music; it takes over and plays them.

Originated in Frederick, MD, The Brothers Bone formed in 2011, with vocalist Salim Iam, guitarist Nick Buppert, drummer David Bernet, bassist Brandon Morgan and harp player Jimmy "Papa Reed" Griffith. Individually, each member brings plenty of heart and soul to the table. Together, they create a force that can bring a tear to any eye. [www.thebrothersbone.com](http://www.thebrothersbone.com)



**Clarence**

**"The Bluesman" Turner**

Clarence's first blues influence was from his father's collection of Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf LPs. He picked up the guitar at the age of eight and by the time he reached his early teens, Clarence was performing at local clubs in the Washington, DC area.

In his early twenties, Clarence abandoned the music scene for more than 10 years. After this long absence, Clarence realized that guitar was his true love and decided to play the blues again. His fiery playing and unique approach to guitar picking are his signatures.

[www.bluesmanturner.com](http://www.bluesmanturner.com)

**Terry Oates & the Mudcats**



Terry Oates and the Mudcats is a high-energy show band based on traditional blues with a modern flair. They draw inspiration from blues greats in original material and pay homage to the blues icons by playing their greatest performances the way they were originally recorded.

Their original material has been inspired by discussions on the blues theory, recording concepts of early days, instruments used, and the artists themselves. The combination of influences and backgrounds of our talented musicians and vocalists gives them the ability to cover a variety of blues with a unique perspective. Although, new as a blues group, their cumulative experience spans decades.

[www.terryoates.com](http://www.terryoates.com) Photo: Bob Blair

**Attention bands**

**Send your Nov. and Dec. gigs to  
[calendar@dcblues.org](mailto:calendar@dcblues.org) by October 15**



**Justin Pietrowski Trio (JP3)**



The Justin Pietrowski Trio is a rapidly growing name in Hampton Roads, Virginia. The trio delivers a breathtaking amount of talent and energy to each performance. For Justin; there is no separation between the guitar and his soul; it's a unified existence. Pietrowski is backed by two of Hampton Roads' finest musicians; David Dail on Bass, and Ron Silverthorn on Drums. When JP3 performs, one would think they have been playing together for years because of their unique ability to respond collectively to the feelings and vibes of their music. [www.mybandandme.com](http://www.mybandandme.com)

**Unruly Blues Band**



The band's name is derived from its eclectic mix of blues-inspired original and cover tunes, as well as the band's ability to provide a professional, enthusiastic and energizing performance for its audience.

Since 2006, the band has performed at numerous venues including festivals, charity & fundraiser events, and private parties. *Unruly Blues Band's* unique approach to performing the blues is rooted in each band member's musical background and influences... plus their goal to simply be different. *Unruly Blues Band* is Saskia Van Oot, Lance Nuckolls, Dale Hayman, Tony Byrd and Robert Gullace. [www.unrulyblues.com](http://www.unrulyblues.com)

**Bear Hutchinson**



Bear, the DCBS Youth Showcase nominee, is a piano player from Annapolis, MD. This 10<sup>th</sup> grader at St. Mary's High School has performed at school, recitals and private parties. In 2011, he was chosen as one of the artists for the Annapolis "Summer at City Dock Series." This past summer, Bear attended the piano/keyboard workshop at Berklee School of Music in Boston.

**JP Reali**



JP Reali, a 25-year veteran of the East Coast music scene, is the DCBS Solo/Duo nominee. He was the lead guitarist in the psychedelic blues band *The Next Step* (1980's), as half of the acoustic blues/roots duo *The Reali*

*Brothers* (1990's), and currently can be seen performing solo at venues such as The Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage and Hill Country BBQ. JP's electrifying guitar playing won him the 2010 Battle of the Bands in the solo category and he represented the DC Blues Society at the 2011 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN.

JP's debut recording of solo acoustic blues, "*Cold Steel Blues*," released in April, 2007, showcases his proficiency in both the delta and piedmont styles. J.P.'s second self-produced album, "*Bottle of Blooze*," was released in 2010. [www.jpreali.com](http://www.jpreali.com)

**The Steve Remy Blues Band**



Steve Remy has played in various bands in Arizona, Delaware, Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC for more years than he cares to share. He is one of the original founding members of the BMI Artist, Wammie nominated blues band, The Acme Blues Company, and co-wrote its 2006 Wammie nominated CD *I Think I Made It*. You may remember them from the 2008 Annual DC Blues Festival at the Carter Baron Amphitheatre.

The Steve Remy Blues Band now has a solid lineup consisting of Steve Remy on guitar and vocals, Russell Callender on drums and Jeff McWilliams on bass. [www.steveremyblues.com](http://www.steveremyblues.com)  
Photo: Glenn Thompson

**Hungry for Music**



*Providing the gift of music to underserved children with a hunger to play.*"

Help educate the next generation of musicians by donating your unused instruments to **Hungry for**

**Music**. Visit its booth on Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Annual College Park Blues Festival (Page 12) and see the possibilities. Hungry for Music website: <http://hungryformusic.com/>  
Festival information is on the DCBS website: [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)



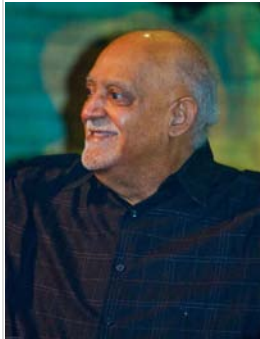
**In Memoriam****David "Honeyboy" Edwards****June 28, 1915 – August 29, 2011**

With the passing of David "Honeyboy" Edwards, the Blues world lost its remaining link to the first generation of Delta bluesmen like Robert Johnson, Big Joe Williams, and other original Delta bluesmen.

Mr. Edwards first heard the Blues in his early teens and quickly identified with the music, leaving home at age 17 and spending more than 20 years on the road playing blues guitar. After settling in Chicago in the 1940s, he worked with almost every bluesman of the era, Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter, and Muddy Waters. In later years he worked with Buddy Guy. He had early hits with "Long Tall Woman Blues" and "Just Like Jesse James," and continued to work during the blues revival of the 60s, performing and touring until 2008 when he reduced his schedule to 70 or so shows a year, including a performance at President Obama's inauguration. In 2011, he returned to our area for the Robert Johnson Centennial at The Strathmore and, along with Daryl Davis and Big Head Todd and the Monsters, performed several songs for the appreciative audience. His last appearance was in April and he had concerts scheduled through October in anticipation of improved health.

Mr. Edwards often told stories about his early years, such as growing up in a sharecropper's family and struggling to survive as a musician under Jim Crow laws. He also talked about being at the house when Robert Johnson drank the poison that ended his life. These and other stories are included in his 1997 autobiography,

*The World Don't Owe Me Nothing: The Life and Times of Delta Bluesman Honeyboy Edwards.* ~ Chris DeProperty

**Wardell Quezergue****March 12, 1930 – September 6, 2011**

A New Orleans native, earned the moniker "The Creole Beethoven" as a reflection of his ability to arrange for large groups. Mr. Quezergue (pronounced "kazair") did the charts for "Big Chief," the legendary Professor Longhair-Earl King Mardi Gras classic.

As a producer he gave us soul classics like King Floyd's "Groove Me," and Jean Knight's "Mr. Big Stuff." Other credits include The Dixie Cups "Iko Iko" and "Going to the Chappel," Dorothy Moore's "Misty Blue" and Robert Parker's "Bare Footin."

His arranging touch was utilized for big band albums by Charles Brown and Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown; several acclaimed Dr. John albums (including the Grammy® Award Winning "Goin' Back to New Orleans"); and the wonderful "Deacon John's Jump Blues." Listening to the renditions on this CD and DVD, and comparing them with the original recordings, one appreciates how Mr. Quezergue translated small combo recordings into a big band language with considerable grace and elegance.

In 2005, Mr. Quezergue, nearly blind from diabetes, lost most of his belongings in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He was the beneficiary of several fundraisers, led by Dr. John and other musicians, and spotlighted at a couple of Ponderosa Stomps in New Orleans as well as a special Stomp at Lincoln Center in New York City.

With the aid of a son, he continued to work

as his health permitted and even conducted a big band featured in Luther Kent's "The Bobby Bland Songbook." When Dr. Ike asked Dr. John if he would consider doing some of his older songs on which he played guitar, he agreed when he learned Mr. Quezergue would do the arrangements and conduct. This gives a sense of the contributions of this marvelous and talented person. ~ Ron Weinstock

**Willie "Big Eyes" Smith****January 19, 1936 – September 16, 2011**

This Grammy-winning blues vocalist, drummer, and harmonica player worked with Muddy Waters for the final 20 years of Muddy's career. In 1980, Mr. Smith and Pinetop Perkins formed The Legendary Blues Band, working with John Lee

Hooker in *The Blues Brothers* movie and recording seven albums during the next 12 years.

After the Legendary Blues Band split up, Mr. Smith and Mr. Perkins continued to work together and released several CDs, the last, *Joined at the Hip*, winning a Grammy for Best Traditional Blues Album in February 2011. Unfortunately the longtime collaboration ended with the death of Pinetop Perkins in March 2011.

This contributor had the pleasure of seeing Willie "Big Eyes" Smith and Pinetop Perkins together in early 2010 and will never forget the honesty of both men, with over 165 years of living between them, as they played the blues. I was in awe as I watched these men play from their hearts, the way it was meant to be played and the way they were meant to play it.

~ Chris DeProperty

Photos courtesy of Ron Weinstock

**Blues Camp: A Preview of Heaven**

If blues fans want to get a preview of heaven, they should attend a "blues camp," a several-day to a week-long love fest of learning and playing the blues with some of the world's greatest musicians. Everyone seems to have a smile on their face. Think of it as the adult version of Boy Scout camp, but substitute playing guitar or harmonica for making lanyards and drinking beer for eating s'mores.

While DC was sweltering in 100-degree heat in August, I toughed it out for a week-long program at the Centrum Country Blues Workshop ([www.centrum.org/blues/](http://www.centrum.org/blues/)) in Port Townsend, WA where the temperature peaked at 72. Some 200 students, from novice to advanced, gathered from across the country, Canada, Australia and France. They came to learn to play country blues guitar, harmonica, accordion, bass, mandolin, piano, banjo and the washboard from such teachers as Taj Mahal to DC-musicians extraordinaire Corey Harris, Phil Wiggins, Cheick Hamala Diabate and Jay Summerour who even taught a special class on whistling. Singing and gospel choir classes also are offered.

There are hundreds of various genre music camps around the world featuring well-known musicians and accomplished instructors to break down the music and help aspiring wanna-be-stars play better. I've attended several blues camps and Centrum quickly became my favorite

with Augusta Heritage Center at Elkins College in Elkins, WV a close second.

Days typically begin with a 1 ½-hour class at the crack of dawn (9:30 am) followed by three more throughout the day. Students pick their own classes. There is no attendance taken and you can switch instructors at any time and as often as you like. The class levels range from total beginner to advanced theory.

I learned from an array of teachers, including recording artist Guy Davis who taught Delta blues; Jeff Scott, the legendary John Jackson's nephew and a great player in his own right; and scholarly John Miller who delved into arranging and chord theory, actually making it understandable and fun. I ended my daily classroom experience in a Trance Music Band Lab led by bluesman Otis Taylor. Trance music builds on a several-note riff over some five minutes with multiple layers, parts and instruments

Students also can participate in afternoon "porch" jams with multiple instructors and as many as 50 or 60 students joining in. After dinner, either a second jam starts up or head over to various dorms and play to the wee wee hours with like-minded blues fans. Level of play is not an issue and you can just sit and listen to some awesome amateurs.

...continued on Page 11





<b>October</b>	
1	Moonshine Society @ Chef Mac's; Big Daddy Stallings @ Barebones; Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar; Gil Parris @ Madam's Organ; Tom Principato @ Franklin Park Arts Center; Bad Influence Band @ Dogfish Head Alehouse, Falls Church; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ P.G. Historical Society; Nighthawks @ Old Bowie Town Grille; <b>Stevie Ray Vaughan Tribute</b> @ Surf Club; Gil Parris @ Madam's Organ; Andy Poxon @ Riverdale Park Day
2	<b>DCBS Blues Jam</b> @ Silver Spring American Legion; <b>Takoma Park Street Festival</b> ; Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ; Andy Poxon w/ Scott Ramming & Crawstickers @ MPAArtfest; Imelda May @ Rams Head On Stage; Tom Principato @ JVs
3	Wolf's Blues Jam @ JVs; Nighthawks @ Westminster Presbyterian
4	Swing Dance w/ Nighthawks @ Clarendon Ballroom; Matt Kelley & the Idle Americans @ Cat's Eye Pub
5	Ursula Ricks' Project @ Cat's Eye Pub
6	Big Boy Little Band Jam @ Zoo Bar; Tom Principato @ WTMD Summer Concert Series (Baltimore); Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Acre 121
7	<b>Bill Kirchen, Nighthawks, Mary Ann Redmond</b> @ Jammin' Java; Moonshine Society @ Acre 121; Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar; Eli Cook @ Madam's Organ; Andy Poxon @ Kent Island Yacht Club; Bad Influence Band @ Chef Mac's; Big Boy Little Band @ Chocolate Festival
8	Moonshine Society @ Bayou; Over the Limit @ Martini's Lounge; Chris Polk @ Madam's Organ; Andy Poxon @ Fat Boys; Nighthawks @ The Globe; Smokin Polecats @ Zoo Bar; Tom Principato @ American University; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Proud Mary's; Ursula Ricks' Project (early show) @ Cat's Eye Pub
9	B.T. Richardson @ Madam's Organ; Nighthawks @ Hank Dietle's; Linwood Taylor @ Cat's Eye Pub
10	Wolf's Blues Jam @ JVs
12	Wolf's Blues Jam @ Emerald Cove
13	Big Boy Little Band Jam @ Zoo Bar
14	Wolf's Blues Jam @ Fat Boys; Joy Bodycomb @ Potomac Grill; Deb Callahan @ Madam's Organ; Sookey Jump @ Zoo Bar; Rodney Kelly Experience @ Chef Mac's; Dave Chappell @ Cat's Eye Pub
15	<b>DCBS Battle of the Bands</b> @ Wheaton American Legion (Post 268); Moonshine Society @ Ebb Tide; Hot Rods & Old Gas @ Bare Bones; Billy Thompson, Jay Summerour & Eric Selby @ Beale Street Grill; Andy Poxon @ Pickled Herring; Bad Influence @ Stil; Divas of the Blues @ Chef Mac's
16	Slow Blues Dance/Lessons w/Big Boy Little Band @ Glen Echo
17	David Cole @ Westminster Presbyterian; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Vincino
18	<b>Blind Boys of Alabama</b> @ Rams Head On Stage
20	<b>Jim O'Neal Benefit @ Surf Club Live</b> (see Page 11) ; Big Boy Little Band Jam @ Zoo Bar
21	Eddie Shaw & Wolf Gang @ Madam's Organ
22	Big Boy Little Band @ JVs; Billy Thompson Band @ Old Brogue; <b>Bobby Parker</b> @ Madam's Organ
23	David Bromberg @ Rams Head On Stage
24	Wolf's Blues Jam @ JVs; Pluckerland Blues Band @ Westminster Presbyterian Church
26	Wolf's Blues Jam @ Emerald Cove; Sonny Landreth, Tom Principato @ Rams Head On Stage
27	Big Boy Little Band Jam @ Zoo Bar

28	Over the Limit @ Capital Ale House; Joy Bodycomb @ Ice House; Skyla Burell @ Madam's Organ; Johnny Rawls @ Chef Mac's
29	Over the Limit @ Blue Dog Saloon; Bad Influence @ Dogfish Head Gaithersburg; Halloween Party w/ Nighthawks @ Rock Creek Live
31	Wolf's Blues Jam Halloween Party @ JVs; Reggie Wayne Morris @ Westminster Presbyterian Church

**Early November**

3	Big Boy Little Band Jam @ Zoo Bar
4	Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar; Lex Grey & Urban Pioneers @ Madam's Organ; Nighthawks @ Papa Mojo's
5	Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar; Lex Grey & Urban Pioneers @ Madam's Organ
6	<b>DCBS Blues Jam</b> @ Silver Spring American Legion; Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ
7	Charlie Sayles @ Westminster Presbyterian Church

**Regular Blues Events**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>DCBS Blues Jam</b> @ Silver Spring American Legion (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday); NRBK Open/Mic Jam @ Old Fire Station No. 3 (Fairfax, VA); Blues Jam w/Dogfather Blues Band @ The Whiskey; Blues Jam @ Benny's Pub (every other Sunday),
<b>Monday</b>	Blue Mondays @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays)
<b>Tuesday</b>	Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ (alternating Tuesdays)
<b>Wednesday</b>	Wolf's Hot Rods & Old Gas Blues Jam @ Emerald Cove (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays); Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Blues Jam @ Pickled Herring (North East, MD)
<b>Thursday</b>	Patrick Alban or Johnny Artis @ Madam's Organ; Open Mic w/Fast Eddie @ Spanky's Shenanigans; Big Boy Little Band Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar; Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo; Memphis Gold Jam @ JV's (1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday)
<b>Friday</b>	Glen Moomau & Blue Flames @ Bertha's; Wolf's Blues Jam @ Fat Boys (2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Café; Brian Gross Trio @ Café Ole
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Acoustic Blues Jam</b> @ Archie's Barbershop; John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe; Brian Gross & Steve Levine @ Sala Thai, Bethesda (2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday)

**Attention dancers:** See DCBS homepage for link to dance-friendly venues. To subscribe to a weekly e-mail newsletter "So Many Choices" with dance-specific information, often with a blues twist, send an e-mail to DCBS member and Blues fan Robin: [hc1829@aol.com](mailto:hc1829@aol.com)

**Bolded** items on the Blues Calendar are picks by calendar editor, Mike Wolk, and include DCBS, BBS, and other events.

**Musicians, promoters, and venues:** Send calendar listings to [calendar@dcblues.org](mailto:calendar@dcblues.org) by the deadline, the 15th of the month prior to publication. Events listed are based on the best information possible. DCBS cannot be held liable for errors in schedules, places or performances listed. It is recommended that you contact the venues to verify the event. See the DCBS website, [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org), for additional music links and information.

**DCBS MEMBERS CORNER**

DCBS's newsletter, *Capital Blues Messenger* (CBM) welcomes news, updates, photos and articles about its members. Information will be included in future CBMs, space permitting and as deemed appropriate by the editor. Send to [newsletter@dcblues.org](mailto:newsletter@dcblues.org)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Remember to check the DCBS Members Only Section on the website for updates and ticket give-aways.

FREE **4th Annual College Park Blues Festival** FREE

**Saturday, November 12, 2011**

**RITCHIE COLISEUM**

**ROUTE 1 ACROSS FROM UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CAMPUS**

**COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740**

**6:00 PM - 11:30 PM**

This is a fundraiser to offset expenses for the performer(s) representing DC Blues Society at the 28th Annual International Blues Challenge, January 31 - February 4, 2012, Memphis, TN ([www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org)). A great night of music is guaranteed plus there is food, beer, wine, dancing, vendors and a special raffle (see ad below).

Festival line-up includes

- ♪ **Warner Williams:** Our very own Piedmont Blues virtuoso was recognized along with B.B. King and John Lee Hooker as one of the nation's greatest traditional artists.
- ♪ **DCBS Battle of the Bands Winner:** The October 15 competition winner will perform at this fundraiser. Come to the Battle of the Bands and find out who the winner is!
- ♪ **DCBS Band with Ayaba Bey:** Our Bluesmen perform with this remarkable, multifaceted performer who wowed us at the 23rd Annual DC Blues Festival and we're thrilled to have her with us again.
- ♪ **Tom Newman:** A real, true musician with talent boiling in his veins, Tom works in every performance to create a musical atmosphere so fierce each audience member is left breathless and inspired.

**SPECIAL RAFFLE:** G & L Tribute Series Guitar (\$600 value) will be raffled off. It's been autographed by many musicians including Cyril Neville, Ronnie Baker Brooks, Preston Shannon, Grady Champion, Debbie Davies, Anders Osborn, Tab Benoit, Voices of the Wetlands: Big Chief Monk Boudreaux and Waylon Thibodeaux. Tickets are \$10 each or 2 for \$18. Purchase yours at any DCBS show.

A *BIG blues* thank you to *Rocketeria, Olney, MD* for this generous contribution. Other raffle prizes will include gift certificates and discount coupons to local restaurants.

- Vendor opportunities still available. Apply on-line at [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org) or e-mail [cp@dcblues.org](mailto:cp@dcblues.org) for information.
- Volunteers needed for setup and to staff the DCBS Booth and raffle tables. If you're available to help your blues organization, e-mail [cp@dcblues.org](mailto:cp@dcblues.org)

Thanks to the College Park Blues Festival Sponsors for their support!

- ~ University of Maryland ~ City of College Park ~
  - ~ Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission ~
  - ~ Rocketeria ~ College Park Arts Exchange ~ Atomic Music ~
- Need more info? [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)

**WIN This Autographed G&L GUITAR on NOVEMBER 12, 2011**

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Restrings • Set-ups  
Expert Service

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Enter for a chance to **WIN THIS GUITAR**  
at the **4th Annual College Park Blues Festival!**  
An International Blues Challenge Fundraiser  
**Saturday, November 12, 2011**

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with a Tortoise Shell pickguard.

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Rocketeria is located in Downtown Olney - Right behind HomeGoods  
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Raffle Tickets available at DCBS shows <http://www.dcblues.org>





**DCBS Members Get These Great Discounts! Show your current DCBS membership card to get these discounts on food and entertainment ( 🎵 ), and on services ( 😊 ).** Restrictions may apply and discounts may be withdrawn at any time.

<p><b>Half-price Admission Blues Alley</b> 🎵                  Many Blues Shows Sun. - Thurs.                  1073 Wisconsin Ave., NW                  Washington, DC 20007                  202-337-4141  <a href="http://www.bluesalley.com">www.bluesalley.com</a></p>	<p><b>20% Discount Royal Mile Pub</b> 🎵                  2407 Price Ave.                  Wheaton, MD 20902                  301-946-4511                  Discount applies to food  <a href="http://www.royalmilepub.com">www.royalmilepub.com</a></p>	<p><b>10% Discount J &amp; J Automotive</b> 😊                  9160 Euclid Court                  Manassas, VA 20110                  703-368-3600  <a href="http://www.ijautoservices.com">www.ijautoservices.com</a></p>	<p><b>10% discount GOT YOGA?</b> 😊                  Customized for you: Individual or group sessions available at your residence/office or our office. Includes gentle yoga, breathing techniques, meditation, poses, and laughter yoga.                  Call to schedule: 301-802-1879</p>
<p><b>20% Discount Three Brothers Italian Restaurant</b> 🎵                  4521 Kenilworth Ave.                  Bladensburg, MD 20710                  301-864-1570                  Until 9 pm. Not valid holidays or w/ other discounts. Restrictions may apply</p>	<p><b>10% Discount New Deal Café</b> 🎵                  113 Centerway Road                  Greenbelt, MD 20770                  Discount applies to food and non-alcoholic beverages  <a href="http://www.newdealcafe.com">www.newdealcafe.com</a></p>	<p><b>10% Discount Empire Plumbing</b> 😊                  Plumbing Services                  "Take The Blues Out Of Your Plumbing"                  202-438-4461</p>	<p><b>15% Discount BOK Custom Framing</b> 😊                  5649 Lee Highway,                  Arlington, VA 22207                  703-534-1866                  Hours: M-F 10-6, Sat. 10-5</p>
<p><b>15% Discount LA Bar &amp; Grill</b> 🎵                  2530 Columbia Pike                  Arlington, VA 22204                  703-682-1560  <a href="http://www.lowerarlingtonbarandgrill.com">www.lowerarlingtonbarandgrill.com</a></p>	<p><b>JV's Restaurant Drink Special</b> 🎵                  Buy one &amp; get 2nd drink free                  6666 Arlington Boulevard,                  Falls Church, VA 22042                  703-241-9504  <a href="http://www.jvsrestaurant.com">www.jvsrestaurant.com</a></p>	<p><b>10% Discount Capitol Hill Books</b> 😊                  Across from Eastern Market                  657 C Street, SE                  Washington, DC 20003                  202-544-1621  <a href="http://www.capitolhillbooks-dc.com">www.capitolhillbooks-dc.com</a></p>	<p><b>10% Discount The Logo Shack</b> 😊                  Logo Design &amp; Branding                  Marketing Consulting                  Silkscreening &amp; Embroidery                  Promotional Products                  Call Michael Tash 301-910-8551                  Or visit <a href="http://www.mylogoshack.com">www.mylogoshack.com</a></p>

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Before your next search, go to [www.dcb Blues.org](http://www.dcb Blues.org) and click on the GoodSearch link and designate DC Blues Society as your favorite cause. DCBS earns a penny each time you search the Web using [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com). It's easy – just click, search and support. Shopping for that one-of-a-kind gift? Try [www.GoodShop.com](http://www.GoodShop.com) with over 600 on-line stores. A percentage of each purchase will be donated to DCBS and its mission to preserve and promote the Blues. Grab your mouse, click the link and shop guilt free.

**Blues Camp continued...**

Concerts often are presented by one or more instructors. Taj Mahal spent an hour just answering questions about his influences and life on the road, followed by a major concert for some 1,000 people that evening. On Friday and Saturday nights various faculty members perform 45-minute-to-hour sets at Port Townsend clubs. The second night ends with a rocking faculty jam that goes until they shut the bar down.

Students give their own concert late in the week with performances ranging from as good as you would see in a club to pretty awful. However, having the guts to stand-up on stage is admired and ranks nearly as high as playing and singing ability. I had the pleasure of playing with my son Jason and even had the guts to post the performance on YouTube (Jug and Ace). It clearly demonstrates why I keep my day job, as well as the fun of writing and performing an original song, even if it is not even remotely ready for prime time.

Ages cover the full gamut but the typical participant is between 35 and 55. Eleven-year-old Shane Weinblatt-Dey summed up his first-time experience, "I had not really heard the blues before, but I've learned that I can play them and like it." He was accompanied by his grandfather, Bill Dey, who had been playing guitar since the 60's.

Faculty members get as big a kick out of the week as do students jamming or teaching one-on-one or in small groups. Summing it up best

was 87-year-young faculty member Nat Reese, "It's not work. It's a pleasure to show people something I know. I'm the lucky one." Echoing that sentiment was faculty member and former Kansas City Chief football pro, Sunpie Barnes, who plays and teaches a mean piano accordion, "I've been on the road playing music for five straight weeks, and this is a great way to chill and connect with people."

As week-long vacations go, it is fairly inexpensive: under \$500 for tuition, and about \$425 for a private dorm room and two meals a day. It probably would cost that much in cover charges just to see these artists in the same number of concerts. Beer expense...well that's another matter.

And the heavenly blues experience...priceless ~~ Jerry Daly



Camp memories  
 Jason Daly (student);  
 Guy Davis (instructor);  
 Jerry Daly (student & CBM contributor);  
 Jeffrey Scott (instructor)

**Memphis Gold Sponsoring Benefit for Jim O'Neal, Stackhouse Records**

Tuesday, October 20, 2011. 8:00 pm - 12 Midnight  
 Surf Club Live ~ 4711 Kenilworth Avenue ~ Hyattsville, MD  
 Jim O'Neal, CEO of Stackhouse for 13 years and the founding editor of *Living Blues*, is struggling with very serious medical problems and in need of help to cover expenses. Memphis Gold is sponsoring a special

fundraiser and hopes you will show your support for this life-long Blues champion. Tickets are \$15 and available at the door.

The line-up includes Bobby Parker, Memphis Gold (Stackhouse artist), Shirley Lewis and a host of others. You may also send donations to Building Bridges America, 4001 N. 9th St. Suite #1720, Arlington VA 22203.

For updates, go to Memphis Gold or Surf Club Live on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MemphisGold](http://www.facebook.com/MemphisGold) or [www.facebook.com/surfclublive](http://www.facebook.com/surfclublive)

**4th Annual College Park Blues Festival  
Ritchie Coliseum, College Park, MD**

**FREE Saturday, November 12, 2011 6pm-11:30pm**



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Contact CP@DCBLUES.ORG if you're a veteran!

**Holiday Vendors \* Food & Beverages \* Dancing**

Performers announced at the Battle of the Bands (Oct 15)! [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)  
Sponsors and Vendors Welcome! [CP@DCBLUES.ORG](mailto:CP@DCBLUES.ORG)



**DC Blues Society**

**Annual Battle  
of the Bands**

**Saturday, October 15  
7:00 pm—12:30 am**

American Legion Post No. 268  
11225 Fern Street  
Wheaton, MD 20902

**Bands & Solo Artists\***

Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes  
Clarence "The Bluesman" Turner  
Terry Oates & the Mudcats  
Justin Pietrowski Trio ~ Steve Remy Band  
The Brothers Bone ~ Unruly Blues Band  
JP Reali ~ Bear Hutchinson  
(\*Subject to change. See website for schedule)

♦♦Blues Lovers♦♦

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Buy Advance Tickets On-line  
\$10 Member/\$12 Non-Member  
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[www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)  
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Winners represent DCBS at the  
*28th International Blues Challenge*  
Memphis, TN Jan. 31 - Feb. 4, 2012  
Winning band performs at these events:

- *Annual College Park Blues Festival*  
Ritchie Coliseum/University of MD  
Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011
- *24th Annual DC Blues Festival*  
Carter Barron Amphitheatre  
Washington, DC ~ Sat. Sept. 1, 2012

Photos: Sheryl Adams (Clark); [www.bigboylittleband.com](http://www.bigboylittleband.com);  
Mary Knieser (Thompson); Ron Weinstock (Stallings)

**Recent Winners**  
2010 - Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark  
2009 - Big Boy Little Band  
2008 - Billy Thompson  
2007 - Big Daddy Stallings



**DC BLUES SOCIETY**

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