

# Capital Blues Messenger

Celebrating the Blues in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia  
May 2014 Volume 8 Issue 5



## Celebrating The Blues Harmonica

\* \* \* \*

## Recaps and Preview of DCBS Events

\* \* \* \*

### Plus More Blues News for the DC Area Blues Fan



© Ronald Weinstock



# 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. Members' 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, 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, or
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Dues per year (circle appropriate one):  
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Corporate: \$200 Canada: \$35 (US funds)  
Other Countries: \$50 (US funds)

Optional contributions (not dues): \_\_\_\_\_  
(All Contributions are tax-deductible).

Please allow up to six weeks for processing membership.

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, handbills, etc.)  
 Raise funds (sell ads, organize auctions, etc.)  
 Write reviews or take photos for Newsletter (see your name in print!)  
 Other? \_\_\_\_\_

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Unless noted, photos & articles were contributed by DCBS Board Members & Newsletter Editor.

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### 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; or web icons/ads on the DCBS website, Facebook page, or DCBS eblasts. Each web icon/event posting will remain on the DCBS 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.**

To get more information, or to establish corporate membership, visit:  
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1/3 page	\$55
1/2 page	\$75
2/3 page	\$110
Full page	\$140
<b>EBlast rates</b>	<b>2 for \$50</b>

Rates are based on camera-ready artwork. CBM ads must be received by the 7th of the prior month. Ads should be at least 300 dpi in PDF or JPG. Ad size & space allocation contingent on prior commitments & editorial content. DCBS reserves the right to refuse advertising it deems inappropriate. Visit [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org) for ad specs & on-line rates. Questions? E-mail: [ads@dcblues.org](mailto:ads@dcblues.org)

## President's Drum

### Raise the Roof Fundraiser

On Saturday, April 19, the DC Blues Society had Stacy Brooks, Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark, and Clarence "The Bluesman" Turner and their bands at a fundraiser to help The Blues Foundation build a Blues Hall of Fame. The three bands raised the roof of the Wheaton American Legion, keeping the dance floor packed all night. We had a practically full house. Thanks to the bands, supporters and volunteers who made this event successful. We'll soon be contributing over \$1000 to the Foundation from this event and other fundraising efforts led by Pete Salsbury. A special thanks goes to Pete for proposing that DCBS undertake this fundraising campaign and for doing much of the outreach at DCBS events. If you missed the opportunity to contribute to the Blues Hall of Fame "Raise the Roof" effort, you can always donate directly to The Blues Foundation at [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org). Photos below: R to L, Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner, the dance floor, and Stacy Brooks. Photo of Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark appears on the cover page.



### Happy Hour with the Lady Rose Band

It was raining outside the Silver Spring American Legion at our 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Happy Hour on April 26. Anything wet inside the Legion was steaming from the heat drummed up by the Lady Rose Band. The band (featured in the photos below) included Lady Rose (vocals), Kevin Robinson (guitar), Steve King (drums), Marty Pell (keys), and Allan Russell (harp - his photo appears on the cover page)); and they were off the chain. They were having a great time and so was the Happy Hour crowd. Few noticed there was no bass in the group. But you didn't miss the bottom with the drummer working overtime and the keyboardist adding plenty of thumping.



The next 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Happy Hour at the Silver Spring American Legion will be held on May 23, and Jesi Terrell & the Love Mechanic Band are sure to provide great music that evening. The DC Blues Society Band, now featuring the enigmatic Mama Moon, will hold down the June 27 Happy Hour. You really want to check out this band—for free—and rock to their contemporary spin on classic Blues sound. Visit the band's spring photo shoot on Facebook (just search for DC Blues Society Band). On July 25, the incomparable Dr. S.O. Feelgood Band & Show will be the featured act at that Happy Hour. Happy Hour prices start at 4:30 pm. The music begins around 5:30. Mark your calendars for these exciting shows and bring your dancing shoes.

### Regional Festivals (Look for the DCBS Booth!)

As festival season begins, remember to support DCBS and the Blues by getting out and having some fun in the sun. We'll have booths at many of the upcoming festivals. I urge you to stop by, say hello, renew your membership, and buy some T-shirts and trinkets. At the end of May, DCBS will be at the Western MD Blue Fest in Downtown Hagerstown, and in June check us out at the Silver Spring Blues Festival and the Tinner Hill Blues Fest. See the ads in this newsletter for more information on these great Festivals and others.

Blues Always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script.

p.s. DCBS is still very much in need of volunteers to assist with the Society's monthly newsletter. Please help us out if you can, or help spread the word that we are recruiting for a new Editor and Assistant Editors. Write to [newsletter@dcb Blues.org](mailto:newsletter@dcb Blues.org) for more information or to volunteer. Help keep the newsletter alive!!

Photos this page by Pat Bransford, except photo of Felix McClairen by Ron Weinstock

## The Blues Harp - Probably the Most Versatile, Soulful and Portable Instrument

By JW Rone

My wife has always known that if I disappear, I will be gone in the back of some funky van with a three-piece blues band that needs my special style of blues harp to make their sound.

Well, I'm still around but I do love the blues and what instrument is more essential to the blues sound than the French harp, mouth organ, blues harp, Mississippi saxophone... yes, you guessed it - the harmonica. It is probably the most versatile, soulful and portable instrument in the world. It has been around since the 1820's in one form or another.

The harmonica was created to play German and European folk songs but quickly spread around the world because of its portability and flexibility. According to Wikipedia, it was distributed to both the Union and Confederate soldiers in the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln carried one in his pocket and so did Wyatt Earp and Billy the Kid. In World War II, the War Department made sure that harmonica manufacturers had enough brass to continue manufacturing them so the Red Cross could distribute them to the troops.

This unassuming instrument has been around now for almost 200 years and has had an impact on all genres of music, but the blues is where it has found its true home. There are so many amazing players and styles of harp playing that it is hard to decide where to start. Whether you like the blazing speed of a John Popper or Sugar Blue or even more close to home Phil Wiggins (the fastest harp player I know, from right here in DC); the "Fat" tone of Charlie Musselwhite or Little Walter; or the country blues sound of Sonny Terry or DeFord Bailey; they are all playing the same instrument. That harmonica is the 10-hole diatonic, just like the plastic one you got in your Christmas stocking when you were a kid.

It is easy to play; you just put it to your mouth and blow and then suck (which is what a lot of harp players do). But to play it well takes time and practice just like any other instrument. Over the years I have taken classes to improve my playing and found that it is an amazing instrument that can play the simplest of tunes, or in the right hands (like say Howard Levy), it is capable of chromatic melodiousness.

Diatonic means that there are two sounds: one when you blow and one when you suck. The instrument is tuned in keys so that it is easy to play with other musicians if you have the corresponding harmonica (that is why you always see the harp player rooting around in his/her case for the right harp).

There are several types of harmonicas, which I was introduced to at an early age by the Harmonicats on the old Ed Sullivan Show. Four guys with all different size harps playing full band scores of the "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White," while the small person (with the biggest harp) runs around through the legs of the other players. It was an old vaudeville act, but it was great fun and it started my love affair with the instrument.

When you hear the old timers talking about when they started playing they say, "I saved up for a month to get that quarter so I could buy me a harmonica." Well that is not the case today. If you buy a harmonica today, you will pay between \$30 and \$40 for a good harp, maybe as much as \$100 for the high-end guys. (Specialty and chromatic harps can run \$300 or more.) A far cry from a quarter but I guess it is about the same when you consider 1920 dollars against today's currency.

So if you are a harp player and you want to play with a band, you probably need at least 5 or 6 harps. Most players have between 15 and 20 good working harps in their gig bag. You do the math. Not as cheap as it used to be, but still just as satisfying. *Photo at right - Bret Littlehailes' harp case.*



### Some Further Insight from Two DC-Area Blues Harp Men



Researching this article I got to interview two of the DC area's well known harp players, Ed "Fast Eddie" Crowley (photo at left) of *Fast Eddie and the Slowpokes* and Bret "Big Boy Little" Littlehailes (photo on next page) of the *Big Boy Little Band*.

I wanted to talk with them about their style, their tone and how they have developed over the years. A harp player's sound is made up of many things; the microphone, amplifier, additional electronics and, of course, the instrument itself. Obviously you would have to include the player. And his/her body; lips, tongue, throat, jaw muscles, lungs, posture, and more, all have an impact on the tone a musician can produce.

I started by asking who their favorite players are and no surprise both Ed and Big Boy started with Little Walter. Ed said, "He's the Big Daddy of them all, but like most harp players I was influenced by a lot of different guys. I started playing harmonica when I was in High School and at that time my favorites were Mark Wenner of the legendary DC blues band, The Nighthawks and J. Geils Band's incomparable 'Magic Dick'. Paul Butterfield had a great sound and I tried to sound like him a lot in my early years."

"My friends all played instruments and they were getting invited to parties and such. I was about 14. Harmonicas were cheap and I thought if I learned to play, I'd get more dates," was Big Boy's answer to how he got started, but he was more thoughtful when asked who inspired him, "Tough question. Different harp players do different things - Big Walter has that tone, and George Smith does those great octaves. I can tell you that Little Walter Jacobs is the greatest blues harmonica player there ever was or will be. As for my favorite, it changes. But I will say, I was pretty fond of Junior Wells, as a person and a musician."

*Continued on next page*



### The Blues Harp continued

There are so many brands of harmonicas now and each brand may offer different types of combs (wood, plastic, metal) or different reed plates with brass or steel reeds. I asked, "What brand of harp do you play, why did you choose it?"

Big Boy responded, "I now play Seydels, and am an endorsee. I prefer a wooden comb. I started on Marine Bands and have just always stuck with them until the Seydels. The combs of the Seydels are sealed and rounded. It's the most comfortable harmonica I've ever played."

Ed said, "I'm old school all the way. I play Hohner Marine Band harps almost exclusively. Like most harp players I have several other brands in my kit but the wood body gives me the warm sound I like. It's all about the sound, That's how I got started, the sound of the harp just spoke to me."

Big Boy added, "I have a set of Hohner Big Rivers in case the Seydels go down during a show. Hohner Big Rivers are cheap (\$29.49 @ Musician's Friend) and easy to find and play OK out of the box. Plus, I never throw old harps away, so I still have a bunch of old Marine Bands."

I was glad to hear that I am not the only one. I have drawers full of old, out of tune harps. You can always use them for spare parts, and they are great to throw in the car or a bag so you can put in the practice time and not blow out your good harps.

Not to get too far in the weeds, but a Chicago style blues player needs an amplifier and a microphone. What kind of rig do you guys use?

Big Boy replied, "I like the Shure 545 shotgun microphone. I have a Bullet and an Astatic and a beautiful Turner, but I prefer the shape and sound of the 545. Lately I've been using a modified 545 that harp tech Craig Gaylor lent me. It's killer."

I use Sligo Amps, made to order locally by Steven Clark, a real amp genius and one of the nicest people I know. Steve knows how to set up these amps for harp players. I can't remember the last time I had any feedback problems."



Ed uses an Astatic JT-30 and says, "I like to use a low watt output amp and then mic it through the PA. Right now I am using a '65 Gibson Kalamazoo. Those vintage tube amps give you that warm tone with the extra crunch to give you the real blues sound."

All of this information leads us to the final question. Who is your favorite contemporary player? Who are your role models/harp heroes?

Big Boy said, "It's hard to choose just one; James Cotton, Charlie Musselwhite, Stevie Wonder. I like the late Paul DeLay quite a bit - very original player, especially on chromatic. And William Clarke was extremely impressive. Paul Butterfield and Junior Wells were inspirational. But those Chess recordings of Sonny Boy Williamson - whew! I love his sound."

Fast Eddie had some different choices, "Mark Wenner (the Nighthawks) will always be at the top of my list along with Magic Dick, Rod Piazza, and Kim Wilson. 'Big Boy' is a good example of a great stage sound, that is so important for a harp player to blend appropriately with the band. I could name so many but one that stands out in my mind is Lester Butler (like so many he was lost too soon to a drug overdose) of the Red Devils. He did some amazing sessions with Mick Jagger that you can find on YouTube. There are so many great ones!"

Whatever your style, if you love the harmonica you have to listen to other players, and you have to "pay your dues, if you wanna' play the blues." Always remember to support your local musicians in local venues. Live music rocks.

JW Rone (photo at left) is a storyteller, musician and bon vivant, now living in the DC area. Watch for him near you. Visit his soon-to-be-launched website, [www.iwrone.com](http://www.iwrone.com) to learn more. Photo of JW by Paul Nurnberg. Photo of Fast Eddie on p. 4 provided by Fast Eddie. Photo of Bret Littlehailes from the Big Boy Little Band Facebook page.

#### Cover Photos: Local Blues Harp Players

From top to bottom, left to right:

- Row 1: **Phil Wiggins** (by Ron Weinstock), **Mark Wenner** (Pat Bransford), **JW Rone's Hohner bullet mic and custom harp pouch** (Paul Nurnberg),
- Row 2: **Bret Littlehailes** (from Facebook page), **Fast Eddie** Crowley (P. Bransford), **Charlie Sayles** (Ron Weinstock), **Dave Harris** (P. Bransford)
- Row 3: **Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark** (P. Bransford), **Allan Russell** (P. Bransford), **Steve Levine** (Mary Knieser), **Avon Dews** (P. Bransford)

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The DC Blues Society advertising rates for the *Capital Blues Messenger* monthly newsletter are shown on p. 2 of the *CBM*. Ads may also be placed on the DCBS website, [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org). In addition, ads may be placed in DCBS eblast emails; for only \$50 for postings on two eblasts. Visit the DCBS website for more information or contact [ads@dcblues.org](mailto:ads@dcblues.org).

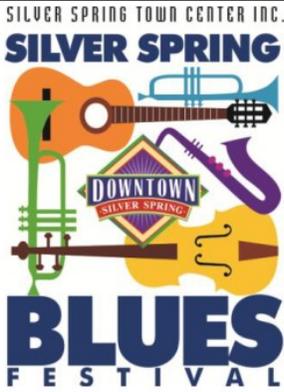
Read your DCBS emails and visit the DCBS website, [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org), and the Members Only website for the latest information on DCBS events, benefits, and ticket discounts/giveaways.

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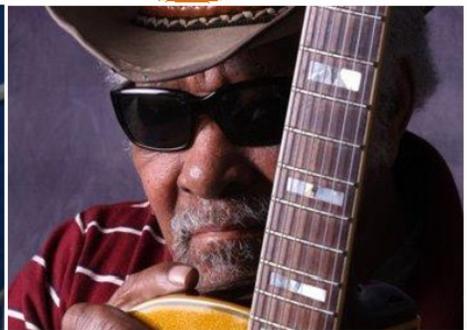


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**Miscellaneous Blues News**

- The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Blues Festival Guide 2014 is now available. DCBS expects to get a supply of the hard copy; however, the digital version is also available online at [www.bluesfestivalguide.com](http://www.bluesfestivalguide.com). Note: The April issue of the DCBS newsletter (which is available at [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)) also provided a listing of local/nearby 2014 Blues festivals.
- Chris DeProperty, one of the DCBS Key Volunteers, is returning to WPFW as a regular Blues programmer. She will host the WPFW Don't Forget the Blues Hour each Thursday, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Chris will also continue to host her Friday evening Blues show on [GoldRadio.net](http://GoldRadio.net), from 4 to 7 p.m. And congrats to Blues programmer Ida Campbell for recently celebrating her 5-year anniversary at WPFW (Friday's Don't Forget the Blues Hour).
- WPFW 89.3 FM is now back to full power, and just in time for the station's Spring Membership Campaign/Pledge Drive, which will be held from May 4-31. Support your favorite Blues and other programmers by donating during their shows or online, and also consider donating your time to be a Phone Captain or Volunteer. Call 202-588-0999, or write to [volunteers@wlfw.org](mailto:volunteers@wlfw.org).
- Jackie Scott, who will be the headliner performer for the June 14 Silver Spring Blues Festival, was the featured artist for the May 1 *Blues Blast Magazine*. Read the interview with Jackie at [www.BluesBlastMagazine.com](http://www.BluesBlastMagazine.com).
- Logan and Cole Layman continue to be in the spotlight. Logan and Cole are two of the members of the youth band, The UnXpected (which represented DCBS in the Youth Showcase at the 2013 International Blues Challenge). Most recently, they auditioned their duo act (In Layman Terms) for the TV show, America's Got Talent (they have to be mum about the results until the show airs). Logan also recently was named as a recipient of the Ann Rabson Memorial Fund and will attend the Pinetop Perkins Master Class Piano Workshop in Clarksdale, MS. Brother Cole also won a scholarship from the Pinetop Perkins Foundation to attend the Master Guitar Workshop. Logan also won the 2014 Sea Level Songwriting Contest in April, and was named the 2014 Emerging Artist by the Tidewater (VA) Arts Outreach Program.
- View the documentary *Led Zeppelin Played Here* on Friday, May 9 at the College Park Arts Exchange in College Park, MD; or Sunday, June 1 at Artisphere, in Arlington, VA, as a special screening at the DC Record Fair. The publicity for the documentary provides this overview: "1969. Man lands on the moon. A half million strong at Woodstock... And Led Zeppelin plays in the gym at the Wheaton (MD) Youth Center in front of 50 confused teenagers. Or did they? Filmmaker Jeff Krulik offers his take on an enduring local legend." Reservations at the College Park Arts Exchange are recommended (visit [www.cpae.org](http://www.cpae.org)). Purchase tickets at Artisphere at [www.artisphere.com](http://www.artisphere.com).
- The 22nd Annual Safeway Barbecue Battle (June 21-22) returns to the Blues this year after a temporary Blues hiatus - with 30 bands on 3 stages - including local and national Blues bands. Visit [www.bbqdc.com](http://www.bbqdc.com) for more information.

DCBS 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
**HOTTER THAN JULY**  
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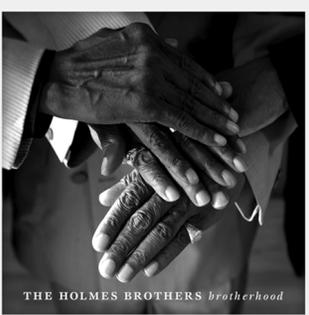
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**19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WESTERN MARYLAND Blues Fest 2014**  
**MAY 29 - JUNE 1**  
**CITY CENTER HAGERSTOWN & CITY PARK**

**FEATURING:**  
 Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters | Ian Siegal & Band  
 Eric Steckel Band | The Lee Boys | Indigenous  
 Carolyn Wonderland | Doug MacLeod | Samantha Fish  
 Homemade Jamz' Blues Band | Scott Ainslie  
 Mingo Fishtrap | Old Man Brown  
 Lower Case Blues...and More!



**TICKETS 301.791.3246 or [www.blues-fest.org](http://www.blues-fest.org)**  
**[blues-fest.org](http://blues-fest.org)**

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**Friends of Forkman Benefit**  
*There's No Place Like Home*  
**Sunday May 25 Memorial Sunday ALL Day!**  
**Rosedale American Legion Noon - 8pm**  
 1331 Seling Avenue, Rosedale, MD 21237

Longtime *Blues Nation!* & Baltimore Blues Society (BBS) members Ed Clopein & Tobi Tyberg were in a 'black ice' car accident in February. Both sustained substantial injuries. Ed was recently transferred from the hospital to a rehab facility for continued treatment of a Traumatic Brain Injury. Tobi was discharged after more than a week in the hospital with multiple broken bones and other injuries. The car is totaled and Tobi appreciates all the rides from friends to visit Ed 30 miles away! You may know Ed as "The Forkman" ([www.forkman.com](http://www.forkman.com)) and have seen his distinctive jewelry made from silverware. Tobi & Ed traveled extensively during the blues festival season to sell their wares.

**Benefit Music Schedule**

- 12pm - *Mikey Junior*
- 1pm - *The Nighthawks*
- 2pm - *The Forkman Big Band (Roger Girke, Jimmy Pritchard, Pete Kanaras, Tam Sullivan) and "The Forkman Horns"*
- 3pm - *Bad Influence*
- 4pm - *Automatic Slim and his Sensational Band*
- 5pm - *Big Boy Little Band*
- 6pm - *Ursula Ricks Project*
- 7pm - *Nothing But Trouble*

*Times are approximate and subject to adjustment!*  
 Arrive early for this all day event. Donations accepted. There will be raffles, a buffet table for "Pot Luck," and some food may be available for sale. It is open seating, BYOB, and the event is 'rain or shine.'  
 Visit [www.facebook.com/forkmanfriends](http://www.facebook.com/forkmanfriends) for more info.



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**BILLTOWN BLUES FESTIVAL**  
 10 hours of non-stop music on two stages!  
 Free Parking  
 Great Food  
 Arts & Crafts

**SUNDAY June 8**  
 K.G.+3

**The Nate Myers Band**  
**EG Kight featuring Sean Farley, Andy Seal, Jeremy Jaffe & Tim Hooper**  
**Brandon Santini**  
**The Kelly Richey Band**  
**Shawn Holt and the Teardrops**  
**Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials**

Acoustic tent featuring:  
 Steve Mitchell's "Circle of Drums"  
 Sean and Adam  
 EG Kight

**Lycoming County Fairgrounds**  
 East Lycoming Street, Hughesville, PA  
 Noon-10:00 pm ~ Rain or Shine  
 Gates open at 11:00

**Info: 570-584-4480 or [BILLTOWNBLUES.ORG](http://BILLTOWNBLUES.ORG)**

Supported in part by the Lycoming County Visitors Bureau & PA Council on the Arts



May		May cont.	
2	Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Seabreeze; "Big Daddy" Stallings & Bluez Evolution Band @ SpringFest (Ocean City); Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar; Mississippi Heat @ Madam's Organ; Nighthawks @ Old Bowie Town Grille	25	<b>DCBS 4th Sunday Acoustic Jam @ Mansion on O St.; BBS Benefit for Ed (The Forkman) Clopein and Tobi Tyberg feat. Ursula Ricks Project, Nothing But Trouble, Big Boy Little Band, Nighthawks, more @ Rosedale American Legion (see p. 8); Wolf's All-Star Blues Show w/ Wave Milor, Tom Maxwell, more @ JVs; Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ; Nighthawks and others @ Rockville Hometown Holidays</b>
3	DCBS Band w/ Mama Moon @ Sapphire's; Fast Eddie & Slowpokes, Built 4 Comfort @ NapTown BarBayQ; Joy Bodycomb @ Winery at Olney; Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar; Billy Thompson @ Hershey's; Skyla Burrell @ Madam's Organ; Nighthawks @ Tally Ho; Crimestoppers @ New Deal Cafe	26	Jacques & Margie! @ Westminster Presbyterian
4	<b>DCBS 1st Sunday Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion; Fast Eddie &amp; Slowpokes @ Sykesville Fine Arts and Wine Festival; Rick Franklin @ Flea Market at Eastern Market; Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ; Linwood Taylor @ JVs</b>	27	Baby Jake Band w/ Big Boy Little @ JVs; Jonny Grave @ Joe Squared
5	Stacy Brooks @ Westminster Presbyterian	28	Maryjo Mattea EP Release Concert feat. Jonny Grave @ Cherk
6	Jonny Grave @ Tryst	29	Nighthawks @ Herndon Festival; Walter "Wolfman" Washington @ Gypsy Sally's; <b>Western MD Blues Fest @ Downtown Hagerstown (see p. 8)</b>
7	Nighthawks @ Zoo Bar; Jonny Grave @ Black Cat	30	Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ; Moondog Medicine Show @ Zoo Bar; Nighthawks, Andy Poxon @ Rams Head On Stage; Indigenous @ Gypsy Sally's; <b>Western MD Blues Fest @ Downtown Hagerstown; Jeffrey Broussard &amp; Creole Cowboys @ Glen Echo</b>
8	Lauren Sheehan @ Archie's Barbershop	31	Over the Limit @ Londontown Pub; Andy Poxon @ Bare Bones; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Sunset Concert Festival; <b>Lee Boys @ Gypsy Sally's; Western MD Blues Fest @ Downtown Hagerstown</b>
9	Joy Bodycomb @ Quench Rockville; Little Red & Renegades @ Haydee's; Sookay Jump @ Zoo Bar; Bad Influence @ 219; Jonny Grave @ Gibson; Herbie D & the Dangermen @ Madam's Organ	<b>Early June</b>	
10	Billy Thompson @ Bootleg; Big Boy Little Band Crab Feast @ Mechanicsville Moose Lodge; Smokin Polecats @ Zoo Bar; Skinny Velvet @ Madam's Organ	1	<b>DCBS 1st Sunday Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion; Billy Thompson, &amp; others @ Washington Folk Festival; Western MD Blues Fest @ Downtown Hagerstown</b>
11	B.T. Richardson @ Madam's Organ; Jonny Grave @ IOTA; Preston Frank & Big Daddy Zydeco @ Glen Echo	2	Electrofied Blues w/ Charlie Sayles @ Westminster Presbyterian
12	Lou Jerome @ Westminster Presbyterian	5	Quinn Sullivan @ Weinberg Center
13	<b>Robben Ford @ Howard Theatre; Jonny Grave @ Wonderland Ballroom</b>	6	Over the Limit w/ Paul Pfau @ Zoo Bar; Bad Influence @ Raw Bar & Grill
14	Jonny Grave @ Nanny O'Briens	7	Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar; Billy Thompson @ Bootleg; Andy Poxon @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Bad Influence @ Ice House; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ <b>Beltway BBQ Festival</b>
16	Little Red & Renegades @ Ice House; Billy Thompson @ Old Brogue; Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ; Moonshine Society @ Zoo Bar; Bad Influence @ Stein Room; Nighthawks @ Bright Box Theater; <b>Songs and Seeds</b> feat. Jonny Grave @ Kennedy Center; Hard Swimmin' Fish @ New Deal Cafe	<b>See p. 12 for the Regular (&amp; Recurring) Blues Events Calendar</b>	
17	Joy Bodycomb @ Potomac Grill; Andy Poxon @ Local Chop & Grill; <b>Benefit for Child Welfare League of America feat. Janiva Magness @ Bethesda Blues &amp; Jazz; Big Boy Little Band @ Bare Bones; Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ; Bad Influence @ JVs; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Wine in Woods; Nighthawks @ Whalens Common Bandshell; Steve James Guitar Workshop @ Archie's Barbershop</b>	<p><b>Bolded</b> items on the Blues Calendar are picks by calendar editor, Mike Wolk, and include DCBS, BBS, and other events. <b>Musicians, promoters, and venues: Send calendar listings to <a href="mailto:calendar@dcblues.org">calendar@dcblues.org</a> by the deadline, the 15th of the month prior to publication.</b> 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 events.</p> <p>See the DCBS website, <a href="http://www.dcblues.org">www.dcblues.org</a>, for additional music links and information.</p>	
18	<b>Michael Roach</b> House Concert for Tinner Hill Foundation @ Address provided after ticket purchase: <a href="http://brownpapertickets.com">brownpapertickets.com</a>	<p><b>Attention Dancers:</b> 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: <a href="mailto:hc1829@aol.com">hc1829@aol.com</a></p>	
19	Nighthawks @ Westminster Presbyterian	<p><b>Attention bands &amp; venues: Send your June &amp; early July gigs/ events to <a href="mailto:calendar@dcblues.org">calendar@dcblues.org</a> by May 15 for inclusion in the June <i>CBM</i> blues calendar</b></p>	
22	Jonny Grave @ Nanny O'Briens		
23	<b>DCBS 4th Friday Blues Happy Hour w/ Jesi Terrell &amp; Love Mechanic Band @ Silver Spring American Legion; Wolf's Blues Jam @ Londontown Pub; Moondog Medicine Show @ Madam's Organ; Swamp Keepers @ Zoo Bar; Jonny Grave @ Gibson; Skip Castro Band, Karl Stoll &amp; Dangerzone @ Gypsy Sally's</b>		
24	Andy Poxon @ New Deal Cafe; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Bucket Sportsbar; Nighthawks @ Battly Cycles; Linwood Taylor, Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner @ JVs; Built 4 Comfort @ Potomac Grill		

**21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL  
TINNER  
HILL  
BLUES  
FESTIVAL**  
FALLS CHURCH, VA



**FRI. JUNE 13TH  
SAT. JUNE 14TH  
SUN. JUNE 15TH**

A TRIBUTE TO  
*John Jackson*

**BLUES  
BREW & BBQ**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 13 ♦ STATE THEATRE \***

220 N. Washington Street ♦ Falls Church, VA 22046

**SHEMEKIA COPELAND**

SOL ROOTS

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14 ♦ CHERRY HILL PARK \***

312 Park Avenue ♦ Falls Church, VA 22046

**TEENY TUCKER**

**MISSISSIPPI HEAT**

**BAATIN ♦ URSULA RICKS ♦ MICHAEL ROACH**

**TOM PRINCIPATO ♦ CATHY PONTON KING**

**DAVID COLE & MAIN STREET BLUES ♦ MR. TRUEWILL**

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**SUNDAY, JUNE 15 ♦ JV'S RESTAURANT**

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Father's Day Blues Brunch & Tribute

AEBHF Ensemble

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a list of FREE events all around Falls Church

**[www.tinnerhill.org](http://www.tinnerhill.org)**

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Little  
City*

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**DCBS Members Get These Great Discounts! Show your current DCBS membership card to get the discounts**

Show the vendor this newsletter to confirm discount. Restrictions may apply and discounts may be withdrawn at any time.

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<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>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 Empire Plumbing Plumbing Services</b> "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>15% Discount On Cell Phone Accessories</b> A2Z Wireless 7401 Baltimore Ave. College Park, MD 20740 301-985-2002/5111</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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**CD Review Bob Corritore *Taboo***

By Ron Weinstock

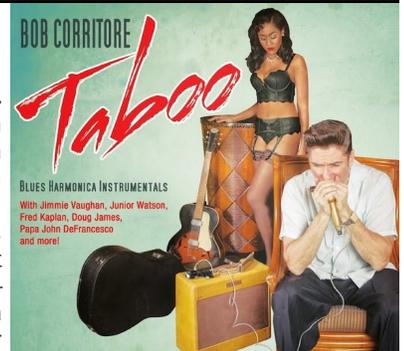
Bob Corritore has a new album of blues harmonica instrumentals, *Taboo*, on the Delta Groove label. Corritore, a Chicago native who moved to the Phoenix area in the 1980s, has been a significant figure in the blues world as a radio host (his excellent "Those Lowdown Blues" on KJZZ on Sunday evenings), a recording producer, a promoter who created a thriving blues scene in Phoenix, and as a superb harmonica player.

Corritore has lent his considerable talents to terrific recordings by such folks as Henry Grey, Dave Riley, Louisiana Red, Big Pete Pearson and John Primer. He has had several albums under his own name, but these have often been compilations mostly of his work with a variety of blues performers. *Taboo* is an album of 12 blues instrumentals that feature Corritore's swinging and fat-toned harp playing backed by a crackerjack combo of guitarist Junior Watson, keyboardist Fred Kaplan, bassist Kedar Roy and drummer Richard Innes. Two of the twelve selections have guitarist Jimmy Vaughan and organist Papa John DeFrancesco, on which saxophonist Doug James also plays (he plays on one other number).

On the album cover, Charlie Musselwhite observes, "Not many people can do an all instrumental harp CD and keep it interesting all the way through." Having some dream backing musicians certainly helps, as does a nice array of grooves and feels. Corritore is a player, not simply possessing a big harp tone, but also one who displays a nuanced phrasing and a strong sense of swing that is heard on the somewhat exotic-sounding title track as well as the driving "Harp Blast," a hot shuffle in the vein of Little Walter, while another harp feature, "Ruckus Rhythm," evoked the brilliance of the late Jerry McCain's classic "Steady." "Fabuloco (For Kid)" is a nice salute to Kid Ramos with a Tex-Mex groove.

"Mr. Tate's Advice" is one of the two selections with organist DeFrancesco and Vaughan, but Corritore's unison playing with saxophonist James is also noteworthy on this jazzy performance. His unamplified chromatic playing on "Fifth Position Plea" contrasts with the fat atmospheric amplified sound on "Many a Devil's Night" that would make Little Walter and George 'Harmonica' Smith proud. There is more outstanding chromatic on another Little Walter inspired instrumental, "Bob's Late Hours." On all three selections, Watson's guitar is the perfect foil for the leader.

The terrific rhythm section provides such backing throughout while keeping the groove at a nice, relaxed tempo. *Taboo* is a marvelously performed, recorded and programmed CD of blues harmonica instrumentals. To paraphrase Charlie Musselwhite, it is a dandy of a CD.



### Regular Blues Events.

The Regular Blues Calendar below is included in the newsletter each month to provide information on recurring blues jams/performances/blues dances. Also see the May & early June Blues Calendar on p. 9.

<b>Sunday</b>	DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion (1st Sunday); DCBS Acoustic Jam @ Mansion on O St. (4th Sunday); Skyla Burrell Jam @ Benny's Pub (every other Sunday); Sunday Afternoon Jam @ Old Firestation #3 (Fairfax); Blues Jam @ Battlefield Brew Works (Gettysburg) (every other Sunday)
<b>Monday</b>	Blue Mondays @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's; Capital Blues Ensemble @ 219 Basin St. Lounge
<b>Tuesday</b>	Blues Jam w/ Skyla Burrell @ Georgia Boy; CrawStickers w/ Jenny Poppen @ 219 Basin St. Lounge; Johnny Artis Band @ Madam's Organ; Open Mic @ Woodstock Inn (Woodstock, MD); Swampcandy @ Rams Head on Stage
<b>Wednesday</b>	Wolf's Blues Jam @ Blair's Londontowne Pub; Scott Wells Jam @ Pickled Herring Pub (all but 1st Weds.) (North East, MD); Classic Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Johnny Grave @ Madam's Organ
<b>Thursday</b>	Patrick Alban & Noche Latina @ Madam's Organ; Big Boy Little Band Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar; Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo; Open Mic @ El Gavilan; Blues Jam w/ Fast Eddie Galvin, David Saunders @ Bentz St. Raw Bar
<b>Friday</b>	DCBS Happy Hour (4th Friday) @ Silver Spring American Legion; Glen Moomau & Juke Drivers @ Bertha's; Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar (1st Friday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe
<b>Saturday</b>	Acoustic Blues Jam @ Archie's Barbershop; Davies Fish Fry & Open Mic (1st Saturday) @ Davies Memorial Unitarian Church (Temple Hills, MD); Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar (1st Saturday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe

### DCBS-SILVER SPRING AMERICAN LEGION

### 4<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY OF THE MONTH BLUES HAPPY HOUR

**DOORS OPEN 5:00 MUSIC 5:30 - 9:00 PM**

♦ **May 23** ♦  
**Jesi Terrell &  
The Love Mechanic Band**

♦ **June 27** ♦  
**DCBS Band  
featuring Mama Moon**

♦ **July 25** ♦  
**Dr. S.O. Feelgood**

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Silver Spring, MD 20910**

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