



Preserve Promote and Present the Blues

Inside this issue:

Central Florida
Blues Challenge

The Smokin
Torpedos 1-3

Letter from
the President 4

CD Reviews by
Daryll Davis 6

Traveling the Blues
Highway By
Chuck Highfield 7-8

Good Bye
McWells 9
by Double D

Member Spotlight 10-11



OBBS Events
Blues in School /
Ladies of the Blues 12

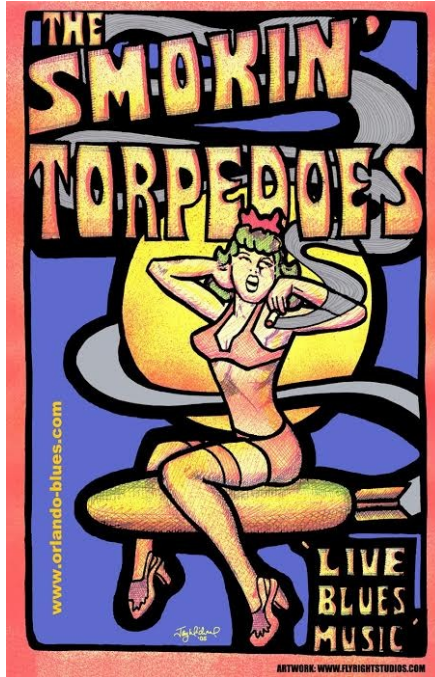
Band Listings 13

About OBBS 14-15

Our BOD
Membership
Our Mission

Karen Stott –Editor

Central Florida Blues Challenge Winners : The Smokin' Torpedos (2007 & 2008)



In this series you will be introduced to the past and present Central Florida Blues Challenge winners. We start with the one and only SMOKIN' TORPEDOS who were the first (2007) and second (2008) winners from Central Florida who represented the Orange Blossom Blues Society at the International Blues Competition (IBC) in Memphis TN. This interview is with Jeff Wiley the founder of this awesome band.-K Stott

You have won the Central Florida Blues Challenge twice in a row (2007 & 2008). How did you prepare for the competitions and what did the band like most about the International Blues Competitions in Memphis?

Both years involved a lot of preparation including hard work, planning & focus on what it would take to set us apart to win locally in order to advance to Memphis and have some g time blues fun on Beale Street. (First lineup included Rob Mola, Leroy Cooper, Tom Bastedo, Mike Baker & Myself – Second lineup included Dave Birks, Dave Weaver, Reno Mussatto & Myself)



The best part of the first trip included a chauffeured RV ride, thanks to Mickey Craig, and the stories that Leroy Cooper told all the way to Memphis and back. He had a truly remarkable life and we were very fortunate to have him in ours. Both trips were a blast and we ate

BBQ, enjoyed all the bands from around the world, networked with industry contacts, as well as getting to meet and hang out with some of best touring, present day blues artists out there.

What is your performance schedule?

Currently the Smokin' Torpedoes are performing roughly 6-10 nights a month and constantly searching for new venues or special events to bring our brand of live blues entertainment to. Our schedule can be found on our website: www.orlando-blues.com. We've produced over a dozen theater shows, festivals & special events and always on the lookout for new venues & opportunities to bring our form of good time live blues music .

Two Time Central Florida Blues Challenge Winners

Does any artist in particular influence your style of music? Who in your band writes your music?



All the great artists have influenced us as long as the material has a great groove, tone, dynamic volume control and a passionate performance either live or recorded. I'm particularly intrigued by live performance and since my teens have taken the extra time & effort to go out to observe and study what qualities successful touring artists have to offer and learn from it. Surprisingly it's not always the talent that wins audiences over as much as making them feel comfortable enough to have a good time and feel like they're part of the show. Making sure the audience is having a positive experience should always be the #1 priority for any entertainer.

Currently the Smokin' Torpedoes perform a variety of cover tunes with our own interpretation and variations, combined with some original tunes written by Clayton Cole. We base our success on the ability to adapt to any room or situation while maintaining a high level of "Torptitude" no matter what conditions we're confronted with.

Who is in your current lineup of the Smokin' Torpedoes?



Jeff Willey
Harp, Guitar, Vocals
Albany, NY

Founding member of the Orlando based band, the Houseshakers and two time winners of the Orlando International Blues Challenge (IBC), the Smokin' Torpedoes. Jeff has produced numerous theater blues showcase events & blues festivals featuring local, regional & national acts. With a strong marketing & sales background Jeff offers each client an added incentive for doing business with the Torps.



Philip Washington
Drums
Westchester, NY

A recent arrival to the Orlando area, Philip offers an extensive background in jazz, blues, R&B, orchestra & big band both as percussionist and band leader including recording & touring experience.

With an extensive resume, including two music degrees, Philip has received numerous honors and achievements and has studied with several well-known artists.



Clayton Cole
Guitar & Vocals
Abilene, TX

Founding member of the 2004 version of the Smokin' Torps. Clay was born in 1957 the same year as the greatest Fender Stratocaster ever made, was unleashed on the public and has been playing ever since the age of seven. Influenced by just about anyone who plays traditional blues. When not performing, Clay is fishing while listening to the Blues!



Gus Ramage
Electric Bass & Upright
Orlando, FL

Between gardening, his 65' T-Bird and tending his flock of chickens, Gus plays a 1940 German made Lyric upright and G&L electric bass. His taste in music ranges from bluegrass to rockabilly and has toured with several Orlando bands and opened for nationals acts



Steve Holt
Tenor, Baritone, Flute & Vocals
Duluth, MN

Steve performed in stage band and concert band in high school as well as several rock bands and moved to Florida in 1980. Steve has played with a number of working Blues, Rock, and Pop bands including Orlando's own Bowery Boys.

Two Time Central Florida Blues Challenge Winners

What is your involvement with the Orange Blossom Blues Society?

As a founding member of the Orange Blossom Blues Society and occasional consultant, I've seen the OBBS through its infancy and beyond as a volunteer managed, nonprofit organization. At present it seems rather difficult for leadership to separate personal emotions from professional duties when the common goal for all should be to build a successful society as a means to promote, present & preserve blues music. Personally I would like to see more quality live blues events organized, produced and promoted by the OBBS for not only driving membership but to better unite the local blues community. I believe that by adding more business & nonpartisan minded professionals (non-musicians) with a strong passion for the blues to the board of directors would result in the most constructive strategies for advancing this organization in the right direction.

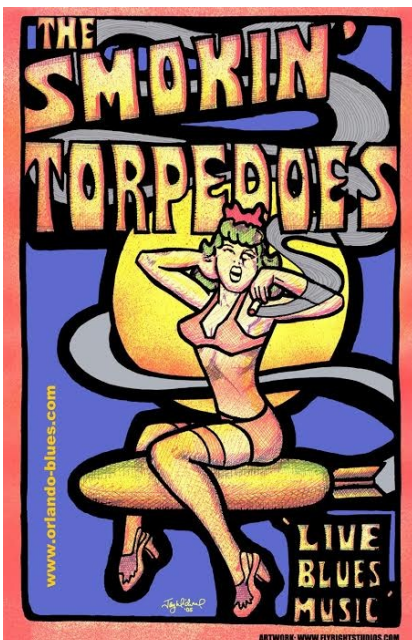


As a blues bandleader for over 25+ years, I've learned that it takes a lot of hard work and perseverance in order to regularly perform the music we love whether it's a serious hobby or a full time profession. All too often the word "blues" or "blues bands" conjures up negative responses from folks who have had a bad experience and have not really been exposed to the true power of what a great band or artist can provide when executed properly.

Nowadays, it's much easier (and cheaper) for folks of all ages to stay home and watch HD TV and party safely in the comforts of their own homes compared to being faced with a long risky drive, loud & unrehearsed music and a large tab at the end of the night.

So, if you're an existing or aspiring blues band or artist, study the art form. Learn from other blues artists to see what is working for them and then put forth all the extra "behind-the-scenes effort" (hard work) of applying what you've learned by rehearsing regularly, performing at reasonable, well mixed volume levels while being courteous, humble and professional on all levels. Above all, make sure a satisfied audience (clients too!) are always given the highest priority by giving them what they're looking for...quality entertainment.

It's a win-win for everyone; performers go home with profitable money in their pocket and a blues "fix", audience members go home with the feeling of getting their money's worth and proprietors can keep their doors open for even more quality events in the future.



Words of advice to all BOD members...

Ignore all the negative criticisms unless the source for this negativity is willing to volunteer their time, effort & money.

Base **ALL** decisions on the average blues music listening audience member and simply collect, review and consider all unsolicited input & ideas from musicians, agents, promoters and venues.

Letter from the President



Good Morning Central Florida's Blues Loving Nation!!

OBBS ELECTIONS FOR 2014

Held at:
STP - Sloppy Taco Palace
(the old Underground Bluz)
4892 S Kirkman Rd
Orlando, FL 32811
from 2:00pm- 6:00pm

Hope everyone is planning for a wonderful and happy holiday season. Hope you ring in the New Year with the best live music you can get in the Central Florida area where ever you may be. Also hope that your family, friends, and other close loved ones love are in great health and you are too.

We have a huge year on tap for 2014!!

We will kick the year off with a membership appreciation party and membership drive event on **January 11th starting at 2PM at The Sloppy Taco Spot in Orlando**. At the event we will conduct the election of our board of directors. Attached to this email you should see an updated ballot with the names of the potential officers. If you cannot attend the meeting, please send in your vote!!!! If you would like to be a nominee or know of someone who wants to be a nominee for the BOD, please forward the names to obbs4u@gmail.com. We will add the names to the ballot and resend to the membership. We will be hosting a membership jam at the meeting so if you are a musician please plan on playing! Better yet, bring a friend to join the organization and the jam!! Jann Childers will be our host for jam that afternoon. We are soliciting for volunteers to help run the stage and assist. Please let us know if you want to help out for the day.

In addition to the elections, we are having a membership drive!! For that day, memberships are \$10 for a full year!! New members or renewals! We have had great successes in 2013 and it was due to the support from the membership. We would like to get these numbers up! Our participation in events like Craft Brews and Blues, Orlando Blues B-Que, Ladies of the Blues, and GRP Legends events has given us great exposure. To keep our participation in these events successful, we need more active support going forward. These events have also drawn in new members and sponsors. We appreciate all the support and love attracting new blood!!

THANK YOU ALL FOR A GREAT 2013!! We started the year with a new marketing plan and revamped budget for the year. We saw great success in new events and our traditional events such as Blues In The Schools, Ladies of the Blues, and The Central Florida Blues Challenge. Central Florida is the home of some great Blues music. We have the best fans and supporters! Let's continue making OBBS the premier organization for all thing Blues in Central Florida! Happy New Year Everyone!

Herb Ransburg—President Orange Blossom Blues Society

www.obbs.org

ZSHOWZ ALIVE
Zshowz.com

Friday January 10
ALBERT CASTIGLIA At Café Annie

Thursday, January 16
MIKE ZITO & THE WHEEL
At: Belle Isle Bayou

Saturday, January 18
LIL' ED & THE BLUES IMPERIALS
At: Café Annie

Saturday, January 25
RICK BIRKBECK'S ANNUAL SHINDIG

Friday, January 31
ANNI PIPER & BRENT JOHNSON

Friday, February 7
AUSTIN WALKIN' CANE

Saturday, February 15
KIM SIMMONDS & SAVOY BROWN

Saturday, February 22
TODD WOLFE

Friday, March 7
FREDDY'S FINEST
special guest JIMMY HALL of Wet Willie

Thursday, March 20
COMMANDER CODY

Friday, March 21
SEAN CARNEY

Saturday, March 29
BASTARD SONS OF JOHNNY CASH

Saturday, April 5
BRANDON SANTINI

Blues on
Internet
Radio

*Biscuits, Bacon
&
Blues*
Sundays 10 am - noon
91.5 fm WPRK
wprkdj.org



BLUES MUSIC
MAGAZINE

CD REVIEW

By Daryll Davis



I had some down time over the holiday weekend to finally get around to reviewing one of my top ten cd's for 2013: The Holmes Brothers release *Brotherhood*. Check this out and find out why:

<http://obbsbluesblog.wordpress.com/2013/12/01/brotherhood/>

I came upon the Holmes Brothers following the release of their cd, *State of Grace*. Since then I've had the good fortune to meet Sherman and Wendell Holmes and Popsy Dixon. The more I found out about these three elder statesmen of the music scene made me wonder why I hadn't stumbled upon them before. Truth be told, I've heard their music many times over the years but never made that connection to these three southern gentlemen.

More amazing and a testament to their talent is the fact that their last several releases have all been so strong and had so much mass appeal. Their work on Rounder Records beginning in 1989 garnered a lot of attention from folks in the music industry but when the group signed to Alligator in 2001, the band seemed to hit a stride that began with the critically acclaimed *Speaking in Tongues*, included *Simple Truths*, then *State of Grace*. Both *Simple Truths* and *State of Grace* reached the Billboard charts and the top five of the Blues Album chart. *State of Grace* would garner the band the Soul Blues Album of The Year. Pretty good for a couple of brothers who formed their first band in 1963, 50 years ago.

Sherman plays bass, Wendell holds down guitar and piano and Popsy is on drums. They're a vocal triple threat and share the songwriting. Their sense of roots and gospel inspired blues, soul and country ground their plaintive vocals while their musicianship is high caliber, if understated at times. It's all about the song and the simple truths they sing about that bring a kind of universal appeal to their music. Their latest release, *Brotherhood*, continues with the same southern sense of soul and blues that is their trademark.

The biggest appeal of this release is the slice of life songwriting that hits a chord with me, and probably will with a lot of you out there. These are the songs that will have you singing along in short order when you remember that time when... We've all had those moments and events in our lives and this cd seems to sing about the changes and the people in our lives up close and personal. The cd begins with the uptempo "Stayed At The Party (Just a Little Too Long)" and while celebrates isn't the right word, it acknowledges with affection the party animal in us all. They bring the three part harmonies up front for the next cut "I Gave Up All I Had" and in the spirit of being a musician with years spent on the road, share that experi-

Next up is some old fashioned rock and roll with that big fat sax sound, gritty blues and then some sweet soul. Another highlight is the repentant tale of the former womanizer proclaiming to his woman, "My Word Is My Bond." "Drivin' In The Drivin' Rain" is reminiscent of vintage Al Green; and then the brothers break into the kind of 60's soul that used to fill our radios and summers when we were just kids, "My Kind Of Girl."

"Darkest Hour" goes exactly where you think it would, walking straight into that smoky gin mill with the ratty pool tables and questionable clientele. The power of the Holmes Brothers though, has always been their uplifting spirit and the joy of life they share with their audience. Nowhere is that more evident when they proclaim that when everyone else fails you, they'll be the "Last Man Standing." The closing number, a live performance staple for the Holmes Brothers, is a nearly eight minute version of "Amazing Grace." The song receives a tender and emotional treatment, truly reflecting what's in the heart and provides a powerful closing to a wonderful cd.

My childhood was filled with early country and bluegrass growing up on the reservation and then classic soul and R&B when my family moved to the city when I was just a kid. Hearing all the elements of those sweet sounds from my youth on one cd makes this one of my top ten cds for the year

Traveling America's Blues Highway

By Chuck Highfield
www.wchighfield.com



*Chuck has been a friend of mine since 2001 when we started visiting Ft Myers Beach. He is an accomplished author/writer and has been traveling the United States writing about his adventures. I recently read his book **In Sun Down Far** which I enjoyed so much I read it in one day. I felt this article was a great representation of a Blues adventure.. Enjoy!- Karen Stott*

(Reprinted from the Island Sand Paper 2006)

Traveling to Memphis, Tennessee and the Mississippi Delta region is an educational and enjoyable experience. It is a trip that every American should make. Home to the origins of American blues music, this area mixes the contrasting qualities of financial poverty and personal friendliness. It is a combination that most people would not think possible.

Memphis is a metropolitan city bordered on its western edge by the Mississippi River. A laid-back, southern-friendly feel is prevalent. In recent years, the urban area has undergone revitalization and renovation, which has restored buildings and boosted the city's self-esteem. Let it be known, however, that the fine craft of panhandling is alive and well in this municipality that is home to numerous tourist attractions. The main difference, compared to other cities, is that the panhandling scenario involves friendly conversation. The best course of action in dealing with this practice is to just say "no thanks" and walk on.



Sun Studio (where Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and many others got their start), Elvis' Graceland, and the National Civil Rights Museum are among the sights to take in. The Civil Rights Museum is attached to the site of the Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in 1968. With the historic impact that a tour of the museum provides, a visit ought to be a requirement of every American. A trip to Memphis would not be complete without a stop in the lobby of the lavish Peabody Hotel where the world-famous ducks strut their stuff promptly at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. each day.

For any blues aficionado, the three to four block stretch of Beale Street is the Mecca. Nightly, the street is blocked off to vehicular traffic, creating a mall of music. Vendors peddle a variety of beverages and the sound of the blues wafts from the many clubs along Beale Street. B.B. King's Blues Club, W.C. Handy's Blues Hall & Juke Joint, and Rum Boogie Café are but a few of the venues that offer great live music. There are also several outdoor areas where bands perform. Just take a seat on a park bench and enjoy. It is one rocking blues experience.



Seventy five miles to the south, down U.S. Highway 61, is the town of Clarksdale, Mississippi. Along the way, lies Tunica, the South's Casino Capital. It is America's third-largest gaming resort destination. The casinos and associated golf courses have infused the area with an economic shot in the arm.



Arriving at humble Clarksdale, the traveler comes to the renowned crossroads of Routes 61 and 49. As legend has it, it is the intersection where early bluesman Robert Johnson sold his soul to the devil to become the greatest blues guitarist. A pole adorned with the route numbers and multiple guitars memorializes the site that Eric Clapton celebrated in his well-known hit "Crossroads."

Although the town is noticeably depressed from a socio-economic standpoint, Clarksdale is tourist-friendly on a personal level. A smile, a nod, or a warm "hey" can be expected from modest citizens encountered on the streets. Within the past several years the creation of the Delta Blues Museum and the next-door Ground Zero Blues Club has established a physical location to what is considered the roots of blues music.

The museum, located in a former railroad station, contains artifacts, photographic collections, books, tapes, records, videos, and memorabilia. A life-size wax figure of local legend McKinley Morganfield (better known as Muddy Waters) seated inside a replica of his early one-room home is an impressive exhibit. Area-born musicians such as John Lee Hooker, Howlin' Wolf, Ike Turner, as well as many others, are honored as part of the museum's display.

Ground Zero, which opened in 2001, is owned by a three-way partnership that includes actor and local resident Morgan Freeman. The rustic appearance of the building, with no identifying sign, is intriguing. The traveler may even encounter a friendly local who, sitting on a sofa on the front stoop, is eager to perform a magic trick or two. Ground Zero's rugged storefront exterior belies the modern conveniences contained within. Food, drink, and music flow freely inside the warehouse-like nightclub. The club features weekly performances by local and national blues acts. A Wednesday night in early October rocked with headliner Jimmy Thackery on the Ground Zero stage.



Beginning the following day, a weekend blues fest in nearby Helena, Arkansas kicked off its first act with Ft. Myers Beach personality and Sand Paper reporter Sean Carney and his band. The Sunflower River Blues Fest in August and the Juke Joint Festival in April are several Clarksdale gatherings that observe the region's rich musical heritage.

A fifty mile jaunt southeast to Greenwood, Mississippi provides the traveler with views of flat, rich farmland primarily used for raising cotton. Greenwood, known as the Cotton Capital of the World, is a larger and more vital town than Clarksdale. Beautiful antebellum style homes, a hospital, and specialized professions blend with one of the world's largest cotton markets. As with other towns in the Delta, the citizens of Greenwood exude a friendly demeanor and an engaging manner.

A visit to the Greenwood Blues Heritage Museum is a unique experience. Located in the historic downtown area, the museum is located on the second floor above a stylish little restaurant. The compilation of blues memorabilia is the private collection of Stephen C. LaVere, who has spent decades in the music recording industry. Highlighting Robert Johnson, whose gravesite is located nearby, the display contains rare albums, photographs, and posters. A map of the Delta region notes the birthplace of numerous blues musicians, including B.B. King, who was born in nearby Itta Bena.

The Tallahatchie River flows through Greenwood, which is the hometown of Bobbie Gentry of "Ode to Billie Joe" fame. A member of the museum's staff was quick to point out that, as youngsters, the employee and her friends had jumped off of the Tallahatchie Bridge many times. This revelation presented an interesting collision of myth and reality.

Memphis, the Mississippi Delta, and their inhabitants present the traveler with a glimpse of a region and a way of life that is distinctive and enlightening. It is a geographic section of our country that can be easily overlooked. However, the music of the blues combines accordingly with the lifestyle, and a visit to the area is both rewarding and worthwhile. It is a journey that all Americans should experience.



McWell's:

Central Florida Blues Institution **By Double D**

A long time Orlando institution, McWell's, closed suddenly at the end of September 2013 following some equipment problems and a dispute with the building owner. The McCarthy family, Sue and Gary (parents); Ryan, Toni and Andy owned and operated the bar and restaurant for the past nine years. The alignment of the planets being what they are at the time prevented McWell's from hosting a finale kind of show, stealing away an opportunity for many of us to say goodbye.

The bar would become a blues institution following the McCarthy's partnering with **Zaida Zoller** and her **ZShowz Productions**. The ZShowz mission is bringing top-notch entertainment in a small venue setting to Central Florida. McWell's provided that opportunity for national touring blues and Americana music in a small intimate setting, up-close-and-personal. The ability to attend a great concert where the artist is only a few feet away made for memorable shows and artist and audience interaction that came to be the McWell's homespun hallmark.

So how did this mom and pop establishment come to be so near and dear to our hearts? I believe the reasons were Sue, Gary, Ryan, Toni, Andy, and a bunch of other fine folks we would all get to know; Jennifer and Dave Watkins, Brian Valance, Rachel Krantz, Lenore "Lala" Webb, Ivi Vilar, and a couple of other nice folks known to a lot of you, Jae and Bing Futch. These people were the roots of the McWell's Family that would continue to grow over the years to include you and me.

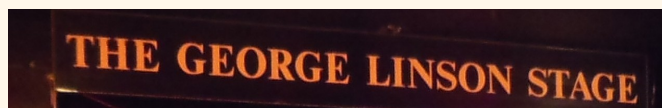
Toni told me, "You were only a stranger once," and the friendly atmosphere was what made this place so popular. So popular in fact, that when different situations arose, without asking, customers stepped up and participated. Remember the night the water main broke and when the restaurant had to be closed due to the flooding, it was the customers who stood up and helped mop the place up? When the kitchen was busy, there were customers known to get up and help with the food service!

And while the blues nuts across central Florida came to be a part of the McWell's Family, there were other groups who also became regular fixtures. The Orlando area Parrotheads called McWell's home for the past several years. The place was also known to cater to the firemen in the area. Not only were dinners and luncheons hosted on behalf of the Orlando Fire Department, McWell's accepted the call from time to time and opened at 8AM so the midnight shift could have someplace to relax after work and enjoy a hearty meal and enjoy happy hour; even it was only 8:30 in the morning. There was also Jhon Builes' Simon Sez trivia shows, and Bing Futch hosted a Dulcimerpalooza or two.

Toni and the family raved about several shows and performers over the years. A lot of that had to do with the relationships with the artists being hosted that night. When asked about the performers that stood out, Toni said three names in quick succession: E.G. Kight, Grady Champion, and J.P. Soars. Many of you know these folks too but Toni said they went out of their way to be respectful not only of her and her family, but also of the staff on duty; took the time to talk to them on a personal level; and found their own place in the McWell's Family.

There were many other notable shows that would go on to be truly memorable evenings. Mem Shannon wowing the house with his humorous repertoire; any of the rowdy Nouveaux Honkies performances; and fan favorite and IBC champ, Selwyn Birchwood. And we can't leave out the Chubby Carrier OBBS Christmas show a few years back! Who didn't get up and dance that night!? I remember somebody asking then OBBS President Jerry Waller, "is every blues show like this?" To which Jerry calmly replied, "That's the plan!"

As it stands now, the McCarthy clan is not finished. The McWells Family lives on and for now, the family is taking a much welcomed vacation from the bar business. A chapter may have closed in the blues pantheon that is the central Florida blues scene, but the family is optimistic and excited about what the future holds for them.





Member Spotlight

Jerry Waller

What got you involved with the blues and who was the most influence on your playing?

Well, my Grandma Ruth gave me my first guitar at age 7, and the first song my father taught me to play was Ice Cream Man (by John Brim, not Van Halen). I was probably most influenced directly, and sometimes indirectly, by Willie Dixon. The bands and musical projects started at age 11, but in the Blues arena I am probably most proud of Roadblock (Steve Guerra, Rachel Maurer, Tom Nordn, and J.J. Jensen aka Johnny Glass) for receiving the award for "Live Vibe At BB Kings", the best self-produced CD 2009. We played, produced, and edited all those songs in less than a day, and I still love to go back and listen to it.

I have met and played with so many wonderfully talented blues musicians since coming to Central Florida in 1999. If I started naming them now, I know I would miss somebody, but I will never forget Gary Ingber and Jeff "Gutterman" Van Treese, who are no longer with us. They had a passion for everything they played. Currently I am playing solo as The Texas Outlaw, I am also in a duo with the very talented Jill Walker called The DoubleShot Bandits, and as always there is a project in the works... details coming soon.

What is your performance schedule?

There are no recording sessions on the schedule now; however, I do host Wednesday nights with my partners in crime at the Loaded Hog on the Wall Street Plaza.

*Biscuits, Bacon
n
Blues*

Sundays 10 am - noon

*91.5 fm WPRK
wprkdj.org*

The gigs range from Dexter's to Muldoon's, Pisces Rising, Bombshells and Holy Smoke.

Please check my Facebook page for details (Texas Outlaw Jerry J. or Biscuits, Bacon, and Blues).

I have also taken on production and promotion responsibilities for the Mt. Dora Blues and Groove Festival May 17th and 18th 2014. [Mt. Dora.com](#)

This is a collaborative arrangement that also involves students in Full Sail University's Music Business Program.

What do you do for a living?

Well, my day job, and the best gig in the entire world, is writing curriculum and lecturing as a Course Director in Full Sail's Music Business Program. Since 2004, I have lectured and written curriculum for Business Accounting, Artist Development, Product and Artist Management, and my current endeavor - Concert Management and Publicity.



Approximately 18 months ago, I was approached by the staff at 91.5 F.M. WPRK to produce a local radio show to reach out to blues lovers of all ages in Central Florida. Although this is purely a labor of love, and the initial shift was 7-9 am on Saturday mornings, which is way too early for most blues fans I know, I am proud to say that we have grown to over a thousand listeners each week and have been moved to a more "palatable" time slot which is every Sunday from 10 am to noon.

Who is your all-time favorite blues artist and why?

There are so many, but like I said before it would have to be Willie Dixon, mainly because of the simplicity and emotion behind his songs



Member Spotlight

Jerry Waller continued

What is your involvement with the Orange Blossom Blues Society? Tell me how you first got involved in with the OBBS?

About ten years ago I met Tim Williams, Jeff Willey, and Jay Futch on Wall Street Plaza when they were looking to form the organization. I was not only impressed by their passion for the Blues, but also by their organization and follow-through. I became a founding member in 2004, ran for the board in 2008, and was appointed president.

What's your fondest memory of working with OBBS?

Well there are many, many memories, but I would have to say I am most proud of all the members, board members, sponsors, and blues fans that helped us produce the very first Central Florida Blues Challenge at what was then called Timmy Mac's in Altamonte Springs.

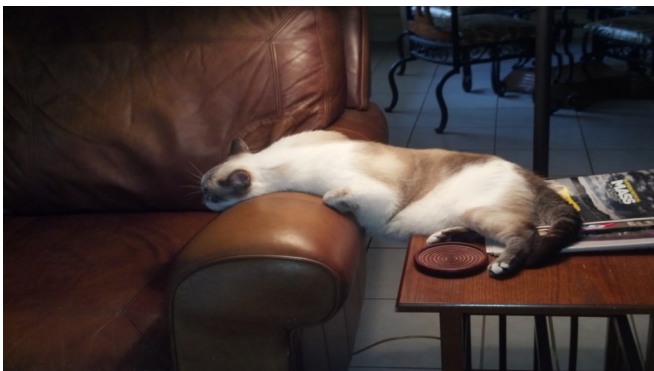
I am also proud to have had a small hand in helping to establish the local network of Blues lovers and musicians. Although often criticized, the local Blues Jams have brought many people together to listen, play, learn to play and establish an appreciation for the genre.

What's it like to be a volunteer, be a sponsor and board member for OBBS?

Without sounding like JFK, the OBBS has always been the way for me to give back and "do" for an organization with which I shared a passion. As a sponsor, I have always felt any contributions whether labor, money or otherwise have been a win –win endeavor and have helped to further the cause of Blues education. And finally, I felt privileged to serve a short tenure on the Board and accomplish tasks that we felt were needed at the time for the organization to grow.



The 5th Annual Mount Dora Blues And Wine Festival May 17 & 18, 2014



Place your ad Here

2 months for \$40



As part of our ongoing dedication to community service, the OBBS sponsors Blues In The Schools (BITS) programs on the local level. Based on The Blues Foundation's Blues in the Schools program, BITS is designed to introduce students to the blues and educate them about the origins, styles and history of the music through exciting, interactive presentations at elementary, middle & high schools levels.

OBBS is looking for musicians and volunteers to help out with the BITS program.

This entails volunteers receiving training on the BITS program and attending the school programs throughout the school year. (Our goal is once a month). The programs are during the school day, so you will need to be available at those times.

Review our website to see the impact this is making on students in the community and the fun the musicians are having with this program. www.obbs.org/blues-in-schools.html

For more information or volunteering, please contact the OBBS at obbs4u@gmail.com.



Preserve Promote and Present the Blues

The Gary Ingber Memorial Fund was created by the Orange Blossom Blues Society in April 2008 in honor of our dear friend, Gary Ingber, who passed away in February 2008. The mission of the fund is to offer modest financial aide in a timely and practical manner to any deserving area musician (or their immediate survivors.). The range of assistance is from \$100 - \$500 and the types of assistance that will be considered are medical, prescriptions due to illness, accident, emergency needs and burial/final expenses.



The fund is available to active, professional musicians (or an immediate survivor) in the Central Florida area. A recipient does not have to be an OBBS member to receive funds, but requests for assistance must come from an OBBS member. Assistance is limited to one application per person each six months, or a one-time request for funeral expenses. Please click on the below email link to email the board for further details.

All inquiries are confidential. Please email us at info@obbs.org for more information



OBBS holds fundraisers featuring the Ladies of the Blues a few times a year.

Please email or check our calendar for updates to these events.

Order your copy of the Ladies of the Blues—info@obbs.org








Band Listings

If you are interested in having your band listed email info@obbs.org. Also list your gigs on our calendar. obbs.org/calendar.

- Joe Caruso Blues Band** www.reverbnation.com/joesurvivalcaruso
- Bird Dog Bobby Band** <http://www.birddogbobby.com/>
- Black Top Blues Band FL** www.facebook.com/.../Blacktop-Blues-Band/
- Daniel Heitz Band** www.facebook.com/pages/.../Daniel-Heitz-Band
- Paul Stott Group** www.paulstottgroup.com
- The Smokin Torpedoes** www.orlando-blues.com
- Nightly Blues Band** www.nightlyblues.com/
- RJ Harmon & Co.** www.rjharmanmusic.com
- Mike Quick Band** www.mikequickband.com/
- Black Dust Revival** www.facebook.com/BlackDustRevivalfl
- Bobby Blackman** www.facebook.com/.../Beautiful-Bobby-Blackmon
- Robert Top Thomas** www.wildrootsrecords.com/RobertTopThomas
- Selwyn Birchwood** www.selwynbirchwood.com
- Shaun Rounds Blues Band** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shawn-Rounds-Blues-Band/163840504448>
- Domino Effect** www.facebook.com/domino.effect
- Joel DaSilva & the Midnight Howl** www.jdandthehowl.com
- Pitbulls of the Blues** www.thepitbullofblues.com
- Matt Sams Band** www.facebook.com/pages/The-Matt-Sams-Band
- Damon Fowler** www.damonfowler.com
- JP Soar** www.jpsoars.com
- Victor Wainwright** www.wildrootsrecords.com
- Doc Williamson** www.facebook.com/doc.williamson
- Big Rick**
- Mud Rooster** www.reverbnation.com/mudrooster
- Betty Fox Band** www.bettyfox.net
- Josh Miller Band** www.joshmillerblues.com
- Plan B**
- Baby Blues & the No Attitude Band**
- 2 Guys Named Moe** www.2guysmoe.wix.com/2guysnamedmoe

The Orange Blossom Blues Society Board of Directors

	Board	Title	Email
	Herb Ransburg	President	president@obbs.org
	Jann Childers	Secretary	secretary@obbs.org
	Jan Dakel	Treasurer	treasurer@obbs.org
	Joe Eberline	TBA	TBA
	Michael Pappademos	Director	director@obbs.org

The Orange Blossom Blues Society (OBBS) was founded in 2004 and is comprised of volunteers including board and committee members and a paid membership devoted to the preservation, promotion and presentation of the blues.

This organization has been established for its membership and the advancement of education and charities related to blues music, by the distribution of its funds for such purposes and particularly to preserve, cultivate, nurture and promote one of America's indigenous artistic cultures in support of the blues in Central Florida and throughout the State of Florida.

This society provides a forum for exchange of current blues news and events while increasing awareness of and appreciation for the blues through educational efforts, sanctioned by the OBBS, while providing a network of association for Florida blues lovers and its supporters.

JOIN US!

Armed Forces \$10 Student \$15 Individual \$25 Family \$40 Business \$150

<http://obbs.org/membership.html>

Orange Blossom Blues Society Events



OBBS ELECTIONS FOR 2014

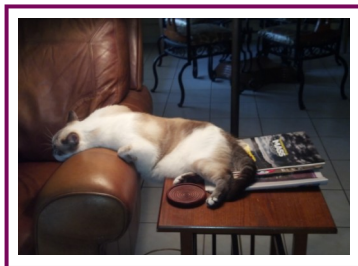
Held at:
 STP - Sloppy Taco Palace
 (the old Underground Bluz)
 4892 S Kirkman Rd
 Orlando, FL 32811
 from 2:00pm- 6:00pm

We are looking to the membership to assist with these committees –

**Publicity/Press - Marketing/Promotions—
 Newsletter, Membership, Entertainment -
 BiTS—Sponsorships and Volunteers.**

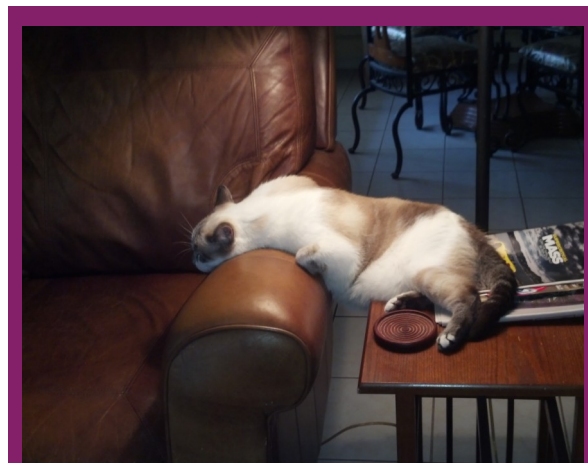
Elections for the Board of Directors is upon us soon, so please contribute and participate. More details to follow!!!

Please contact OBBS at info@obbs.org



Place your ad here

2 months for \$10



YOUR AD HERE

Place your ad here

2 months for \$30

Place your ad Here

2 months for \$20