**Paul Oscher Headlines**

**Blues in the Schools Fundraiser!**  
Liz Walker

Paul Oscher, “Alone with the Blues”, is coming to Sacramento for the first time. And we got him! Yes, it’s true. This legendary bluesman will be performing at our annual Blues in the Schools benefit on May 7th at Swabbies on the River. We are so excited to bring this astonishing award-winning blues singer, songwriter, recording artist, and multi-instrumentalist to our program.

Paul has been playing those low down blues for over four decades. He was the first white musician to become a member of the great Muddy Waters blues band (1967-1972). He was Muddy’s harp player and recorded with Muddy for the legendary Chess label. Besides Muddy, Paul has performed and/or recorded with a who’s who in the world of blues including John Lee Hooker, T-Bone Walker, Big Mama Thornton, Otis Spann, Buddy Guy, Big Joe Turner, Eric Clapton, Keith Richards, Levon Helm, Jimmy Rogers and the list goes on and on.

Sacramento Blues Society’s mission is to promote and preserve the Blues. It does this by bringing great local and national talent to the area. It also furthers this mission by bringing Blues in the Schools (BITS) to local schools and youth organizations. Music reflects the feelings of the times and by exposing students to Blues music, it helps lead them to new found interests that will, in turn, help them to develop and grow with increased self-esteem and confidence in themselves. Your support of our events allows us to expose more students to BITS through concert/lectures, after school programs and an upcoming summer camp.

Sacramento Blues Society is very excited to bring Paul Oscher to Sacramento for this event. It’s sure to be a winner and you’ll want to be there. Watch for further information coming out in the next month (check back to www.sacblues.com for details and watch for flyers, etc.) You can check out Paul’s bio, etc at www.pauloscher.com. Spread the word and come out to support Blues in the Schools. We’ll see you in May down on the river!
Greetings Sacramento Blues Society (SBS) members and blues enthusiasts,

Ah, Spring in Northern California. Isn’t it great? This is why we live here; motorcycle weather, 2nd Saturdays in downtown Sacramento, outdoors scenes, a vibrant club scene and wonderful blues shows popping up everywhere. As I’m writing this, our “St. Patty’s Blues Show” (our first show of the year) is about to happen! Thanks to our Event Chair, Ms. Liz Walker, the fine folks at VFW Hall #67, great volunteers, the Volker Strifler Blues Band and the Mind X Trio for providing a great time for us all!

Things are starting to shape up nicely. Our “Blues In The Schools Programs” (BITS) is humming along. A BIG thanks goes out to Joe Bonamassa for taking time to give a special BITS presentation to students and parents at the Crest Theater in downtown Sacramento this past March 11th.

As we proceed, I’d like to give a special ‘shout-out’ to Randy & Kathy Meusling and the Blue Room Lounge, the Powerhouse Pub & Rick von Geldern for consistently bringing some wonderful entertainment for us ‘old folks’ on Sunday afternoons (shows starting at 3:00 PM) with Elvin Bishop, Janiva Magness, Roy Rogers, Chris Cain & more, Ms. Brenda Taylor and her Po Boyz Sports Bar & Grill for bringing ‘top notch’ blues performers – like Sonny Rhodes, Kenny Neal, Zac Harmon, Joe Louis Walker & more, Louie’s Cocktail Lounge in Rancho Cordova and Marina Texeira and the Torch Club for continuing to keep the blues alive in our area. Thanks to all of you!!

I’m very pleased to announce the Sacramento Blues Society’s participation in the 2010 Northern California Blues Festival. We’ve stepped up to support Jason Haxton Productions as a major sponsor for this year’s benefit event. This event will be held on August 7th at the Auburn Regional Park and feature Elvin Bishop, Zac Harman, Dennis Jones, Chris Cain, The Sacramento Blues Review, the Volker Strifler Blues Band and the Kaye Bohler Blues Band. There will be discount tickets available to SBS members and plenty of volunteer opportunities for us all. Personally, I can’t wait for this festival to be a part of our area again! The SBS will be selling “Festival T-Shirts” to support of our BITS program, so come with a few extra bucks to pick one up! For up-to-date information go to: http://www.norcalbluesfest.com/.

There will be a handful of SBS members heading back to Memphis this May to attend the Blues Foundation’s “Blues Music Award Show” (formerly the WC Handy Awards). This will be my first time going to Memphis for this special show (being a 5 time IBC attendee). I’m sure you’ll be hearing about our adventures, sights & sounds in the next issue in these “Blue Notes”, so stay tuned and please consider becoming a member of the Blues Foundation.

We are always looking for blues volunteers to help with our events and fundraisers. If you would like to know more about volunteer opportunities, please contact us at membership@sacblues.com. I’m sure that Valeriejeanne Anderson, the editor of this fine publication would love to have some ‘cub reporters’ out there to capture what’s going on in our blues community!

Thanks again for your continued support of the Sacramento Blues Society, the Blues In The Schools Program, the benefits, the local clubs, the festivals and the wonderful blues musicians in our area. As always, “Save me a seat”, Willie Brown – President, Sacramento Blues Society.

Li’l Dave at The Torch
Linda McShane

Lil Dave Thompson came all the way from MS to play the Torch Club and not by choice it turned out to be a Thursday night so attendance was not what it could have been I’m sad to say. Those of us who attended paid a measly $6 to see the fingers of this accomplished musician dance across the strings of his guitar. His bass player and drummer added to the sound nicely but he was definitely the star. I thought he played some good blues that made dancing easy but some said he played too loud and too fast & the later set was introduced by him as “soul blues” & turned out to be some old standards. But hey, nothing wrong with “old standards” eh? All in all I’d say it was a treat to see him play!
Well, springtime is definitely happening, the daffodils are popping and the blues society is getting ready to celebrate the next generation of bluesmen and women. The students from our Artist in Residency programs will be performing at our annual **Blues in the Schools benefit** on May 7th. Yes, that’s a Friday night and we are very excited to announce that **Swabbies on the River** will be hosting this fun party. Paul Oscher, "Alone with the Blues" will be coming to Sacramento for the first time. This legendary bluesman has played and recorded with a who’s who of bands and performers. Please check out his website [www.paulaoscher.com](http://www.paulaoscher.com) for his bio and sample of music. He's incredibly talented and I'm sure you'll be entertained. Save the date for this sure to be awesome show.

By the time you’re reading this our St Patty’s Day Party will have been a huge success (I’m sure). I’d like to thank everyone for their support of our effort to try something new. I’d especially like to thank our cooks, Rhonda and Cathie. This was uncharted territory for us and they stepped up to take it on. This event came out of an idea that one of our members gave me. If you’ve got an idea about something for us to be involved in or to try, let me know. I’m always willing to listen and even more willing to help when someone comes with a plan.

Currently we’re looking for someone who’d like to put together a small road trip. Maybe your brother-in-law has a fleet of limousines or you’ve got a converted school bus you can fire up to take a group to the city for some Biscuits and Blues or maybe out to Murphy’s to a show at Ironstone. I’m also on the lookout for a property where we can have an outdoor nighttime show in the middle of the summer with no sound limitations (we wouldn’t have to shut down at 10.) Someplace people can get to, has power and possibly camping opportunities.

SBS is proud to be a partner on the Northern California Blues Festival coming up August 7th. My personal favorite, **Zac Harmon** (I’m sure you’ve heard me mention his name before!) is among the headliners. It’s guaranteed to be a great show. Keep your eyes opened for discount opportunities.

By now you might have noticed that SBS is no longer doing events every month. Our strategy has changed somewhat to doing fewer, bigger events in various locations. We also want to partner more with other promoters and agencies. Becoming more integrated into the Sacramento music and art scene would allow SBS to provide a wider range of opportunities to preserve and promote the blues!

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The Grammys recognized the Blues this year, not with just three, but with four selected award recipients. Grammy Awards for albums went to:

- **Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album**
  - *Buckwheat Zydeco*—*Lay Your Burden Down.*

- **Best Traditional Blues Album**
  - *Ramblin’ Jack Elliott*—*A Stranger Here.*

- **Best Contemporary Blues Album**
  - *Derek Trucks*—*Already Free.*

- **Best Historical Album**
  - *The Complete Chess Masters 1950-1967*
On Friday, January 22 a capacity crowd at Oakland’s grand old Fox Theatre was treated to a blockbuster music marathon that lived up to its big-name billing and fulfilled or exceeded any expectations leading up to the highly anticipated event. Organizers had no difficulty assembling a lineup of rock and blues elite to raise money for the family of Norton Buffalo, the beloved California harmonica legend who fell to cancer in October.

From the first moment upon entering the doors of the immaculately restored music palace and throughout the evening the room overflowed with a festive spirit and collective positive energy among the audience and on the stage. Norton’s band the Knockouts kicked off the show with a brief set to get the crowd warmed up, and from that point the heat was definitely on. Bonnie Raitt then took the stage and started her set with a couple of heartfelt acoustic songs accompanied by Charlie Musselwhite’s high lonesome harmonica wails. Gradually other musicians began taking their places, including Buffalo’s long-time musical partner Roy Rogers, who paired his acoustic slide guitar wizardry with Bonnie’s electric slide responses.

The crowd was surprised and delighted with the sudden appearance of Maria Muldaur, who laid down some sweet vocal harmonies on two Delta-style blues tunes with Bonnie. The other musicians rejoined for a rousing version of Roy Rogers’ “Patron Saint of Pain.” Bonnie and Roy took turns singing the verses while Charlie added his harmonica magic in between. The energy was abound through the final songs of the set, with Bonnie at one point shouting exuberantly “Charlie, come on!” When the lights went up, those present had already recouped the value of their tickets, yet there was plenty more to come.

After a short intermission, the Doobie Brothers were up for their set as “host band” to the pending guests, and they wasted no time getting down to business for what was arguably the musical high point of the night. With original singer-songwriter Tom Johnston back in the fold, the eight band members could not have performed a set any tighter or more inspired than what they delivered. With original front men Johnston and Patrick Simmons giving the myriad familiar songs the stamp of authenticity, it was the overall musicianship that was mind-boggling. After barreling through a trio of hits, Elvin Bishop joined the band and cranked out some ferocious fretwork, most likely inspired by the expert craftsmanship already on display. Musselwhite returned, joined by Musselwhite’s trombonist, Ed Early, and through another set of well-known tunes nearly every one on stage had the opportunity to display their singular talents in a solo. The audience hit a new decibel level cheering as the stage cleared to pave the way for the final set.

That set, clocking in at approximately 2 hours, featured headliner Steve Miller, who had forged a friendship and musical partnership with Norton Buffalo for over three decades. It was Miller who came up with the idea for a benefit and had even talked it over with Buffalo shortly before his untimely death to get his longtime cohort’s blessing. Like the Doobies, Miller brought out his own seemingly endless string of hits with his signature delivery, notably lighter and more buoyant than that of his predecessors. Making his first appearance was blues rocker George Thorogood, who joined the ever-present Charlie M. and Miller for “I Live the Life I Love” and “Got Love If You Want It.” Then Bonnie, Elvin and others began to regroup in various formations before bringing the unforgettable night to a close.

When the highly anticipated 5-hour event was finally over, the only complaints came from the considerable share of attendees who hobbled out after standing for the duration. While their feet eventually forgave them, it was hard to imagine what it was like for the musicians to return the following night and do it all over again! Yet that’s what they did, for the love of a great musician and human being who was certainly there in spirit.
Blues In The Schools is in full gear, and moving forward quickly. The presentations in Yolo County are going very well – the concert at the Palms in Winters was exceptional! The students came in ready to hear some serious Blues, do some singing and jamming. Many members of the SBS Board of Directors attended and enjoyed the program.

After school guitar & bass lessons are underway and I understand the young bluesmen and women are perfecting their blues licks and will ready to blow us away at the upcoming BITS Benefit on Friday, May 7, 2010. This will be a fabulous show – Don’t miss it! Check out the details elsewhere in the Blue Notes.

Our BITS students and musicians were thoroughly entertained by master Bluesman and nationally recognized BITS lecturer, Joe Bonamassa. Liz Walker wrote an article on that show and I don’t want to be redundant, but would like to mention the many messages we’ve received from parents and students that had never experienced a BITS event and were just blown away by Joe’s personality, skilled guitar playing and generosity. Everyone who attended was given a 14 song Joe Bonamassa CD available only for BITS students. I would like to thank the Eagle for excellent promoting of this afternoon clinic. They got the word out to parents who didn’t know about BITS, but heard about it on the Eagle and brought their kids out.

I would like to thank Dave Alcock, one of our unsung BITS heros. Dave has been doing all the scheduling for the BITS events and the driving force behind the Joe Bonamassa event. He is ALWAYS thinking about, and doing things, to bring music to the area’s youth. Thanks, Dave, for many jobs well done!!!

Members of the BITS and Newsletter Committees continue our involvement with Mayor Kevin Johnson’s For Arts Sake Initiative. We want Sacramento to know the SBS is strong and capable of providing wonderful enriching events for the Sacramento region and beyond. Sharon Gerber, of the Mayor’s Office, has attended a few of our BITS events and has been quite impressed. We have learned much, made important connections with other arts providers, and are ready to move forward. Stay tuned, there are some exciting things planned for the region!!

Blues at Sacramento Jazz Festival
May 28 to 31, 2010
The following blues bands are confirmed for the Sacramento Jazz Festival:
Mick Martin and the Blues Rockers, Sacramento Blues Revue, Catfish and the Crawdaddies and the Delta Wires

Torch Club Celebrates 10 Years at 15th Street Location
Sacramento’s premiere blues club will be celebrating the 10 Year Anniversary of the opening of their current location on Saturday, April 10, 2010, featuring reunions of popular local bands.

The Torch Club will celebrate their 10 Year Anniversary of their most recent location on Sat, April 10th (40 Years in Texeira family). The Anniversary party will be a free event to thank all of our friends & supporters of the Torch Club.

Marina Texeira, the third generation owner, states, “it is a bittersweet celebration”, referring to the recent loss of her father in May 09., “I know he is proud of this achievement and I am sad that he will not be here to celebrate.”

The Anniversary party will feature some reunions of popular local bands that began playing at the Torch Clubs’ prior location. The bands will include The Chrome Addicts featuring Johnny Guitar Knox, Jimmy Pailer Band, Hollywood Texas, Lee Bootz & Southside Shuffle, The Beer Dawgs, The Lewminators.

The Anniversary show will run from 2-8pm, on Saturday, April 10th with plenty of appetizers & drink specials.

The Torch Club is located at 904 15th Street, between I & J Streets, directly across from the historic Memorial Auditorium. For more information, visit visit www.torchclub.net or call (916)443-2797.
Wow, what a day! I’m still out rolling @ 7pm when I get a call, “How fast can you get to the Crest?” Well, hell. I’m shopping; I got corn beef to order, tablecloths to pick up, let alone big pots! (The blues society’s St Patty’s day party is Saturday.) I’d done my BITS (Blues in the Schools) thing for the day but an invite for the sold out Joe Bonamassa show? Come on, like I’m not so all over that!

Let’s rewind tape a few hours, days, months, years. My fellow BITS committee member Dave Alcock has been squeaking about this dude since he came on board. “We gotta do something with this guy! He’s really, really good”, etc, etc, etc.

Roll forward…Joe Bonamassa is playing the Crest. Dave asks for and receives his gift (you know that saying about the squeaky wheel getting the grease?) This afternoon (Mar 11th) Joe presented a BITS lecture/performance to some 300 local high school students at the Crest Theater.

It was up close and personal for an hour. Stories of touring with B.B. King when he was 12, and returning to school in the fall to write the annual “How I Spent My Summer Vacation”, life on the road and what it’s like to build a career. This international touring, award winning star is relating to these kids in an articulate, professional way with humor and passion. His greatest lesson was to share that whatever you do, do it with heart and conviction.

One of the young men from our BITS after school program was chosen to come up on stage and show the crowd what he’s got with Joe’s gold Les Paul. Another got time after-wards to not only play Joe’s guitar but have Joe play his. I’m sure the smiles stretched across their faces lasted the rest of the day.

Well, Dave Alcock. Thanks so much for living your passion and making today happen for those boys, the rest of the students and me!

Roll tape forward, I’m so glad I answered the phone. I make it back into town, park and am walking through the lobby when the first stick drops. And Dave is right, this Joe is good. Really, really good. Everyone in the sold out house is rocking, yelling, woo hooing right off the bat.

Great show. Tight, well rehearsed but still feels fresh. The whole set up from the lights (I especially dug the 8 small spots throwing the light show on the ceiling) to the sharp, clean, audible sound was done in a very professional manner. The Crest is a great house if you’ve got a sound guy who knows what he’s doing. It was loud but not rip your head off loud; you could hear every note squeezed out of those strings. And Joe squeezes out every bit of sound possible.

This is not your down in the swamp, gut-
What a Day! Continued from page 6

Joe—Photo by Vj

The Sacramento Blues Society sponsored their first “Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner and Show” on March 13, 2010 at the VFW Hall on Stockton Boulevard in Sacramento, with The Volker Strifler Band and Mind X Trio. It was a traditional St. Patrick’s day event with non-traditional music. There were many musicians, dancers, and blues lovers alike who filled the Hall with heartfelt joy. Both bands play locally and gave us something to remember them by, so if you have the opportunity to go take a listen, treat yourself and go.

Thank you to all of the SBS volunteers who helped make this party a success. Special thanks to Liz Walker, Events Coordinator, who always seems to put it all together for the organization, it’s members and our fine musicians. Look for more events like this one to come and get the Blues.

Remember when I told you about taking the journey’s of your choice? Well, what a journey today. Watching this young man give back to the next generation and then experiencing his show was quite a trip. He gives full value for your ticket, played rock solid for over 2 hours. He’s appreciative of his audience and he gave of his heart. All in all, it was one of the most astonishing shows I’ve ever seen.

Meet Linda McShane

Hi - My name is Linda McShane, I’ve been an SBS member since early 90’s and I’ve served on the Board 2002-2003, 2008-2009, and was just re-elected for the 2010-2011 term.

I handle Membership and I’m proud to say that our numbers are increasing! Thank you all for supporting your local Blues Society!

Recently I took on the challenge of ‘Volunteer Coordinator’ so I just want to say that I am looking forward to working with many of you who are interested in helping out with events, PR, Newsletter, grant writing, etc. Just let me know at membership@sacblues.com how you want to help and I will add you to my volunteer list and direct you to the correct committee chair if needed. I’m looking forward to meeting you at the next event so please introduce yourself!
I enjoy all types of music, but the blues is the friendliest and most accessible genre of them all. With so many affable fans and musicians, every Sacramento blues event I attend makes me feel like I’m at a family party. The 2010 International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis was no exception. It was one big extended family reunion!

After a quick drop of my luggage at the hotel on Wednesday, I headed for the New Daisy Theater for an incredible meal (my favorite kind: free) at the meet and greet party for all IBC participants and attendees. Super Chikan, who is nominated for four 2010 Blues Music Awards including the B.B. King Entertainer of the Year, was out front greeting people as they arrived. I was barely in the door when I congratulated Kate Moss of Nick Moss and the Flip Tops for their Band of the Year nomination. Kate’s husband, Nick, was performing solo aboard the Caribbean Blues Cruise and missed Memphis.

Volker Strifler, along with his manager Liz DiGiorgio, and Dave Channel’s Fire & Wheels, the Sacramento Blues Society’s solo/duo and band entries, respectively, arrived at the meet and greet wondering if there would be any food left after finding out I had already been through the buffet line. Luckily there was plenty of good eats supplied by the Beale Street Merchants Association. I met up with friends from the Mississippi Blues Societies (Marsha, Janet, Will, and Missy) who extended their Southern hospitality and gave me a tour of the Beale Street nightlife. Blues bands were abundant at all of the different venues and I was in blues heaven! At Rum Boogie we ran into my friend from Nashville (Gina) with the Galaxie Agency who invited us to The Roots Blues Showcase on Friday afternoon just prior to the start of the IBC band competition.

Thursday started off with a little tourist shopping to support the local economy. As the sun started to set, it was time for the competition to begin with 110 bands, 82 solo/duo acts, and 32 youth acts consisting of 730 musicians performing at 21 venues. Time to put my running shoes on! Fire & Wheels played early in the evening at Rum Boogie in the middle of the Beale Street action. After their show, Steve Wall and Leigh Lunetta and I ran from club-to-club to check out the competition and have a few beverages. Along the way, the guys were recognized and greeted with tons of compliments. We were at the Tap Room at 11:30 p.m. to catch Volker Strifler’s great performance. Both Volker and Fire & Wheels were well-received by the fans, festival promoters, blues societies from around the world, and record label executives, as well as the judges in the packed clubs.

Friday morning Memphis was host to the Roots Blues Showcase presented by Blind Raccoon, Galaxie Agency, Burch Entertainment Group, and St. Blues. A dozen bands performed at two venues, Rum Boogie and King’s Palace on Beale. Highlights for me were Bob Corritore and Davina & the Vagabonds. A raffle was held to benefit the Sean Costello Memorial Fund for Bipolar Research. Zac Harmon, one of the IBC judges and host of a blues jam at Rum Boogie, greeted everyone at the event. I saw another friendly face, my buddy (Michael) who is the guitar player for The Bad Influence Band from Washington, D.C. The week before in Anaheim I had the pleasure of hearing his band back up Rick Estrin at a special showcase for the Hohner Company.

I was bummed I missed the Smokin’ Bluz Youth Showcase on Friday afternoon. However, I heard the kids play at the jams where they honed their skills with the best adult players from around the world. These talented kids are the promising new blues artists of the future. I met young Jumpin’ Josh (guitar/vocalist) and his father, John Violette, from the South Sound Blues Association of Washington who explained they came from Canada to scope out the Youth Showcase to prepare for next year. Now that’s a savvy dad!

Friday also gave way to a special surprise when I ran into Laurie Morvan and her band exploring the music on Beale Street. Laurie came to Memphis for her nomination for the Best Self-Produced CD which she won along with The Informants out of Denver. This is Laurie’s second CD to win this coveted award.

As the Friday night IBC competition fired up, I hooked up with my Mississippi friends to see...
2010 IBC EXPERIENCE—Continued from page 8

our favorite acts that included the Sacramento and Mississippi entries as well as our new favorites from night before. So much blues, so little time, but we did our best. Steve joined us again after his performance. Both Volker Strifler and Dave Channel’s Fire & Wheels put on impressive shows. Now it was up to the judges! We decided to eat (and drink) to help calm our nerves as we awaited the announcement of the 11 band finalists and the eight finalists for the solo/duo division. To kill more time, we headed to the New Daisy Theater to enjoy the jam sessions led by Bob Margolis and Kandy Cane with her smokin’ guitarist, Laura Chavez.

It was past 1:00 a.m. before the judges came to their decisions and the announcements were made. Alas, Sacramento did not place in the finals, but everyone was truly a winner by participating and competing with the best in the world. Win or lose, the exposure alone could be a spring board for a successful blues career, not to mention all the new fans and friendships gained.

Saturday morning started with the Keeping the Blues Alive Awards ceremony honoring the significant contributions made by the people behind the scenes. Afterwards it was time for the solo/duo finals at the Orpheum Theater. Voted first place solo/duo act was Matt Anderson representing Harvest Jazz and Blues and second place was Alphonso Sanders and Bill “Howl-n-Madd” Perry of the Crossroads Blues Society of Mississippi. After a brief break to reset the stage, the band finals were up next. The winner was the Grady Champion Band representing the Mississippi Delta Blues Society of Indianola. Second place went to the Karen Lovely Band of the Cascade Blues Association Blues Society and third place went to Cheryl Renee and Them Bones of the Cincy Blues Society. Matt Kelly of the Big Boy Little Band (DC Blues Society) was named best guitarist and awarded a beautiful blue custom Gibson guitar featuring The Blues Foundation’s logo.

Sunday came way too fast with many goodbyes to my blues family of friends old and new. Where else can fans be up close and personal with the artists and feel so welcome? Will I be back next year? Can anyone give me a “hell yes”? Many thanks go out to the Sacramento Blues Society, The Blues Foundation, the musicians, and the folks behind the scenes that make this event such a great experience every year!


Welcome new SBS Band Members!

New Bands receive a Free Business card size ad in the first Blue Notes following your membership date and follow-up listings for as long as you remain a Band Member. You will also receive a link from our website to yours and the announcements and offers to Musicians received on our website.

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When you introduce your business to our members with a contribution of a $100.00 annual business membership you will receive a web-link from our site and a business card size acknowledgement in each of our bi-monthly newsletters to show your support for our Blues Music and Education programs.

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