Volume 30: Issue 3 June-July 2009





This issue highlights our presence at the 40th New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival (JazzFest) and at the Blues Hall of Fame Awards in **Memphis**

INSIDE THIS Moffett's Musings 2 **BITS News** 3 JazzFest 4 Checking Out the Scene 30th Blues Music Awards 6 A Review 8 **CD** Reviews 9

ROY ROGERS AT JAZZFEST-BY VJ

PHOTO BY BOB COSMAN

It is always fun to travel and run into someone from home. While Roy is a veteran of JazzFest, he is now "one of us", residing in our foothills. Roy is also SBS' newest artist member.

This year Roy highlighted songs from his just-released cd, Split Decision for Blind Pig. This is his first album in seven years with his own band. Rogers



Roy Rogers

can dazzle us with his precise quitar work of various tones as he goes from rippin' to distortion to a mellow slide.

But I really admire his songwriting skills. Watching a live performance seems to add to the meaning of the words of his songs, which all tell the stories of life that give us the blues.

Jon Cleary performs with Bonnie

Raitt and with his Absolute Mon-

ster Gentlemen. George Porter,

Jr. plays bass—and that is an

understatement. Known for his

work with the Meters, he now

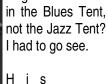
Check him out next time he plays in town.

BLUES AT JAZZFEST-BY V.I.

John Scofield, jazz guitarist extraordinary, debuted with Gerry Milligan and Chet Baker (a year or two ago) and has maintained his status as one of the best in the jazz world. When he put out his tribute to Ray Charles cd, he opened up a whole new world to me. But what was he do-



Jon Cleary



e w Piety Street Band

is comprised of New Orleans musicians - Jon Cleary on keys, guitar and vocals and George Porter, Jr. on bass. Ricky Fataar on drums is the exception.



John Scofield

Ricky Fataar was a Beach Boy and plays with Bonnie Raitt.



Ricky Fataar

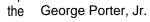
Joining this group for the N e w

plavs with Por-

ter-

Batiste-

Stoltz.



Orleans set were John Boutte on vocals and Shannon Powell on percussion and vocals. John Boutte is called a jazz singer. He sings blues rock, gospel,

Continued page 9

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MOFFETT'S MUSINGS— BY DENNIS MOFFETT

It's starting to warm up and summer the blues schedule is fillina up. Willie Brown, our good will ambassador Internet and liaison, is staying busy keeping track of all the blues shows and festivals coming up this summer. Keep up with all that happening by visiting our web page at



Get The Blues
www.sacalurs.com

Dennis at the drums

We had lots of good events in the past few months. Ricky V is working hard to keep the blues going with great shows at the Powerhouse Pub. As you all know, we usually get in free as blues society members. Brenda Taylor has some great events at Po Boyz in Folsom also, with special prices for SBS members to some events, and the soul-food is tasty.

We got our Musician's Crisis Fund going with our two fundraisers and applications are now available on our web page, www.sacblues.com. BITS (Blues in the Schools) project has a concert this month at the VFW hall on Stockton Blvd. These funds help pay our music teachers (Mick, Jimmy, Lew, Joe and many others) teaching the kids how to play music and especially the blues. Many of the students will perform at the fund-raising concert to expose them to actual stage work.

I must put a good word out to Valerie Simpson and her Blues Lovers meet-up group. She has over 100 members that support blues music around our area also. We hope all of her members are as always, the Torch Club schedules many great local as well as national performers. No one has an excuse not to get out and hear live music. We have it everywhere every evening.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for doing a great job keeping track of all that is going on. They are working on lots of great new ideas to help promote and support the blues in town. If vou are a member of our society, thank you for your support. If you are not, please conmembers of The Sacramento Blues Society.

Of course, Big Mike has had a Heritage Festival event this year and I am sure he has more planned for this summer.

Don't forget to attend our SBS sponsored blues jams. They are at Louie's lounge on W e d n e s d a y nights, San Juan Club, Torch Club, Po Boys and Powerhouse Pub. And

sider the small amount it costs compared to the great benefits you receives as a member of the Sacramento Blues Society. We cannot maintain our Blues in the Schools, monthly events, partnerships with local venues to bring in talent and maintain our website and this newsletter without your membership. So support the blues (and live music) though the Sacramento Blues Society.

Dennis Moffett, President, SBS



Blues Guitar Blowout Competition Rules

The Winning Blues Guitar Player will receive a \$500 cash award. Second and Third place awards will
be \$100 and \$50. This is a blues competition and the performing material must be Blues
oriented. Blues Guitar players may perform solo or bring bass or drum back-up (max 3 people on
stage). Backine equipment will be provided including sound, drums and amps. All acts will perform 15
minutes and observe a 5-minute change-out rule. Judging will be by audience applause generated by
human means only (no cowbells, etc.) and will be electronically measured. The top three players will
advance to the "finals" and perform in the "BlowOut". You need not be a member of the Sacramento
Blues Society to compete. This is an "all ages" competition. Performance slots are limited.
Contact crossroadsman123@gmail for sign-ups, extended rules and more information.

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BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS NEWS BY CYNTHIA JAYNES. CHAIR

With one remaining Blues In Schools lecture/ the performance happening in June, our BITS school year will be dismissed for the summertime blues. This year we were able to branch out to local schools that had never

experienced the BITS program. I'm excited to report we added some elementary grade schools and the vounger students are very receptive and readily took to the music. They just love this stuff!!!

We continue to benefit from the worldwide exposure via the internet - and a hearty "Thank You!" to Dave Baldwin, our extraordinary Webmaster who goes that extra distance to keep our site updated and looking good. We have been contacted by a student from the United Kingdom who is writing her thesis on Blues In The Schools in the United States. She is making her way out to California and hopes to catch our program in action. In the meantime, she will be interviewing BITS Committee members about how our program works.

Jimmy Pailer and Lew Fratis have reconvened the after-school guitar lessons at



Rosemont and West Campus High Schools. I hear the students are sounding really good and I, for one, can't wait to see and hear them perform at our upcoming BITS Benefit on May 30, 2009. You'll be there, right? You don't

want to miss out on this one.

The Benefit will start off strong with Paris Clayton, Kyle Rowland, Rat-a-tat Pat Balcom, and Joe Lev with Tess Honn on vocals. I'm hoping to hear some of the songs written by students in the Court and Community Schools BITS program. These songs are gritty and real, written by some of our troubled youths who have been given a voice and a way to express themselves through writing blues songs. Thanks to Paris Clayton who arranged the music

for the winning songs.

The Daniel Castro Band will perform at the benefit they always put on a sizzling hot blues show! Daniel plays a smokin' blues guitar and has such a great time onstage you can feel his positive energy! Of course the BITS Student band(s) will perform and everyone will take the stage at the end of the day for a big ol' blues jam. The lovely Miss Dana Moret will emcee and perform. So come on out to the benefit and help us keep the BITS program alive!!

2 to 6 pm May 30 at the VFW Hall #67. 2784 Stockton Blvd. Sacramento \$15 Cover General \$8 SBS members \$8 students All Ages Welcome

Do you like the "blues"? Do you like to camp out? Here's your chance to enjoy both and support Blues in the Schools.

June 26th – 28th, 2009 Greenhorn Campground/Wagon Wheel Camp **Rollins Lake (outside of Colfax)**

This is a collaborative event sponsored by Sierra Blues Society and Sacramento Blues Society. Camping, open jam (there's a stage and power available), music workshops, potluck dinner and fun, fun, fun. The cost is \$15 per person for camping and \$5 per person for a day pass (half the costs to benefit Blues in the Schools.) This is an all age's event and families are encouraged. Please contact Liz Walker, Sac Blues (916) 712-7277 or Thom Meyers, Sierra Blues (530) 559-4509, for additional details.



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NEW ORLEANS JAZZFEST-NOTHIN' LIKE IT! - BOB COSMAN

The

40th

an-

I thought attending Jazz Fest in New Orleans would be fun. After all, I have been to the Chicago Blues Festival, the Waterfront

Blues Festival numerous times, and The Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise 5 times. I have been to countless festivals large and small over the vears. I



Neil Young on the Main Stage

thought I was ready for the "big one." But I had a thing or two to learn.

to Gospel to everything you could want from a music festival were performed.

Some of the featured performers included The Neville Bros., Neil Young, Bonnie Raitt, Bon Jovi, Emmylou Harris, Dave Mathews, Joe Cocker, and Tony Bennett. Moving around the site was difficult at times, but considering the size of the crowd, easier than expected. The army of staff and support personnel was knowledgeable and pleasant.



Kenny Neal

The Blues venue was a very large tent with rows of misters suspended from the ceiling to

Tab Benoit

keep us all "cool." The line up of Blues artists

was world class, with entertainers such as Rov Rogers, Tab Benoit, Johnny Winter, Lil' Ed, Marva Wright,

John Mayall, Bryan Lee.

Kenny Neal, Buddy Guy, and many, many more. A good number of performing artists had been nominated for Blues Music Awards, with several of

them going on to win in their category on the following week-



St. Louis Slim

end in Memphis. These folks know how to run a musical city.

Cedric Burnside

Lightnin' Malcolm

The massive Blues Tent niversary New Orleans Jazz &

Heritage Festival took place over 2 long weekends, Friday April 24 thru Sunday April 26, then Thursday April 30 thru Sunday May 3rd. This festival had 12 venues and hundreds of vendors spread over an area that contained a 1 mile horse race track, the grandstands and surrounding area. This Fest is a MONSTER. Two of the stages are capable of holding 100,000 + people, at the same time. By my rough count there were 506 acts over the 7 day period. From Jazz to Blues to Zydeco to Pop to World to Rap



Neil Young



Marva Wright

Continued next page

CHECKING OUT THE SCENE LINDA MCSHANE

Country Music at the Torch Club? Well, it was 4/15 - Tax Day so why not? Watch out Blues lovers Rowdy Kate drew in a hefty crowd on a Wed night or they just happened to wander in but they were there! I was pleasantly surprised at the good sound coming from Keri Carr vocalist, Geoffrey Miller lead guitar, David Garrity bass guitar, Robert Sidwell rhythm guitar, Larry Carr drummer, and Larry Tracy on the slide guitar. It was high energy country with a rockin sound - some old tunes, some written by Geoffrey. It took a while for the dancers to give it a try since it wasn't blues, but eventually we got the hang of it and had a bunch of fun!



Rowdy Kate—Photo from website

More Memphis.

For those of us who didn't travel with Liz to Clarksdale on Wed night, there was plenty of good music in Memphis. It started with a Meet & Greet event at the New Daisy Theater - a buffet of complimentary tasty treats from the Beale street restaurants - yum!



the Kick-Off Concert hosted bv none other than Zac. Harmon! Featured "Homemade Jamz Band"

Followed by

Zac Harmon—by Vj

- a family band, full of energy, with a 10 yr old girl drummer, a14 yr old boy bass player,& daddy on the double neck guitar - great beat so you just had to dance! "Trampled Under Foot" was an equal opportunity band with 1 male and 1 female guitar player - both left handed! The

"Sean Carney Band" started out with jump blues but quickly ran thru the gamut of several styles of blues in order to show off their talent. Zac Harmon and John Richardson were the last act and provided us with lots of fantastic, nimble finger playing and of course Zac's dreamy singing! A woman of a certain age right up front of the stage got so carried away by Zac that she offered up an intimate article of clothing but he delicately passed it off to the harmonica player who had a lot of fun with it and his harmonicacrazy!

A Tale of W 0 Jams Just couldn't get going early one Sunday SO later the after $n \circ o n$



Johnny & Pat by Vj

stopped by El Patron for some chips with spicy salsa and a beer. At first the jam sounded less like blues and more like jazz - no problem - then a gentleman sang "I Can't Give You anything but Love" - a song my dad sang in the 30's and I happen to have on 78 & CD - so that was a treat. I have to admit I was surprised the band even knew the song!

On to the Torch Club where Johnny, Pat, & Aaron were just getting started with some good 'down home blues'. Steve Boutte joined Aaron on Carmelita, and the jam just got better with many musicians appearing including Ray "Catfish" Copeland and Rick Estrin. Turned out to be a pretty good eve for music.

NEW ORLEANS—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The

festival

hours

are



from 11AM until Solomon Burke 7PM. but the

great music does not stop when the fest closes it's gates. The multitude of clubs and venues with after-fest shows is mind boggling. Shows at clubs such as The House of Blues, Howlin' Wolf, The Rock 'n' Bowl, One Eyed Jack's, Tipitina's, Mimi's and various hotels and bars can keep you up 'til dawn if you are so inclined. After fest shows this year included Dr. John, Susan Tedeschi, Marcia Ball, Walter "Wolfman" Washington, Sonny Landreth, Buckwheat Zydeco,

Trombone Shorty, Charlie Musslewhite, The Radiators, Eric Lindell, Blind Boys Of Alabama, Bonerama, Ivan Neville, and a host of many other local and national stars. Who needs sleep?

Now, the thing or two that I learned was: you can't see everyone that you want to, wear your walkin' shoes (but not your best ones in case of rain), and THIS FESTIVAL IS A MONSTER.



Cyril Neville

30TH BLUES MUSIC AWARDS RECAP- BY STEVE CAGLE

The Awards Formerly Known as Handy's returned to Memphis for the 30th annual ceremony celebrating the best in blues, 2008. While an official headcount of attendees was unavailable at this writing

(my guestimate is around 2000), spacious the ballroom of the Cook Convention Center was packed wall to wall with an impressive showing



blues artists and industry insiders. It was an emotional evening as well as an enormously entertaining one, with the award presentations interspersed with unforgettable performances throughout the lengthy program.

The evening officially began with a cocktail reception in the lobby at 5:30. However, the evening had informally begun even earlier in the adiacent hotel lobby

> quests hooked

where most out of town stayed. I

up there with my Sacramento blues brother Bo Ely (who had also attended the previous year's awards held in nearby

Tunica. Mississippi), where we exchanged greetings with Michael Burks, Johnny Rawls, Jackie Payne and Gave Adegbalola. the crowd moved across the street. Bo and I found the sidewalk scene at the



Steve, Koko Taylor and James Wolfe

Band. The 2 brothers and sister were joined by their dad on harmonica for a smokin' set that had everyone moving to their Tupelo grooves. Eldest brother Ryan Perry (17 years old!) laid into his customized double-neck guitar with dual

voung and

Homemade

exhaust pipes for the body. When he

our way to the far end to

catch the last act before

the main event, the

talented

Jamz

jumped into crowd the pipes bellowed out smoke as if still attached to a

car. While the crowd made its way into the ballroom to sit down for a fine dinner. Bo and I hooked Pinetop Perkins and Bo Ely up with my longtime

> friend James Wolfe, who was there representing his wife and nominee for female soul blues artist of the year Denise LaSalle. As we settled at our respective tables the program began with Bettye

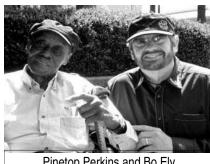
> > LaVette belting out Lucinda Williams' "Joy" with heart and soul. Pinetop **Perkins** presented the Piano Player of the Year award named after him to another legend of the keys, Marcia

> > Ball. The evenings honors continued along traditional lines from that point.

with awards going to B.B. King, Koko Taylor, Etta James, Bobby Rush, Buddy Guy, Irma Thomas

Eden Brent and Bo Elv

Continued Page 8



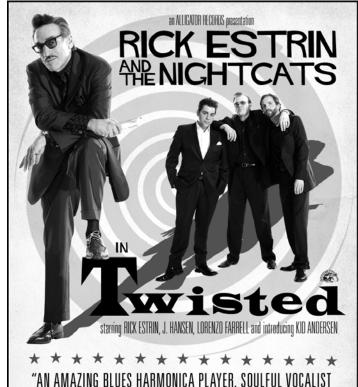
to be sideshow in itself. The most "Hollywood " entrance was undisputedly that of former action movie

door-

star and current bluesman Steven Seagal, who quickly vanished inside after bounding from his limo before anyone could utter a word.

After chatting with several friends and artists including Chicago quitarist Lurie

Bell, we made our way in to the crowded lobby area, grabbed a beverage and worked



AND BRILLIANT, ORIGINAL SONGWRITER." -San Francisco Chronicle

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May 17 - Sacramento Blues Revue

Mav 24 - TBA

May 31 - Daniel Castro

June 7 - Tom Rigney & Flambeau

lune 14 - Lara Price

June 28 - Sacramento Blues Revue

July 12 - Mighty Mike Schermer

July 19 - Insomniacs

July 26 - Sacramento Blues Society Event



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30TH AWARDS- From page 6

and Willie "Big Eyes" Smith. Afterwards I joked with "Big Eyes" about how he was going to need to build a bigger mantle for all his awards for best drummer over the years.

Janiva Magness had an exceptional night, winning both contemporary female blues artist and the coveted B.B. King Entertainer of the Year awards, the latter handed to her by the King himself and joined by Bonnie Raitt, who made a surprise appearance at the event. Janiva was visibly moved and knowing what a long, hard road it was for her from homeless teenage mother to this, it was every bit as moving to watch her accept it.

Jeff Healy won the new Rock Blues award posthumously and his wife Cristie accepted gracefully but not without a few tears that spread throughout the room along with her. Fellow rock blues nominee Sonny Landreth took the Best Guitar

prize deservedly for slide his wizardry. Deanna Bogart, known primarily as a keyboard player, took the Best Instrument – Horns honors for her saxophone skills that she's been honing since high school. Newcomer Eden Brent swept the acoustic awards for album and artist, evidence that her years of training with Boogaloo Ames definitely paid off.

Performance highlights included multiple award nominee Curtis Salgado's best



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song entry Years of B.B. King" with B.B. joining in with Lucille afterwards for a scorchversion ing O'Clock "Three Blues". Curtis has sounded never better, an amazing feat considering his life-threatening health issues a few years ago. Other artists joining forces included Hall of Fame inductee Taj Mahal and Maria Muldaur, Koko Taylor with the Mannish Boys, Gaye Adegbalola with harmonica whiz kid Jason Ricci, Marcia Ball along with Irma Thomas and Elvin

Bishop, and Kenny Neal's reunion with his family performing the Best Song winner "Let Life Flow."

When the lights went up at 1:30 a.m., a sizeable portion of the audience was still there and not yet ready to call it a night, many including Bo and I made our way back to the hotel bar for a few more hours of camaraderie and celebration of the blues

SHORT CD REVIEWS

Lay Your Burden Down Buckwheat Zydeco

Blind Pig Records

Zydeco is known for reering rollicking music that causes us to rise out of our chairs and dance. His first post-Katrina album, the formula works. With his New Orleans friends contributing, (Sonny Landreth, Warren Haynes, Steve Berlin, JJ



CD REVIEWS—CONTINUED

Grey and Trombone Shorty,) Zydeco leads us to party on! If you like a fun time and New Orleans music, don't wait to go find this CD.

TwistedRick Estrin
Alligator Records

This is the 10th album for the Nightcats, the first without Little Charlie Baty, who retired from the road. It features Rick as the new leader and Kid Andersen filling in with the guitar. It is definitely harmonica-driven, and contains original songs by Rick and Kid. Kid really shows off his guitar licks on this one, and makes an impressive addition to the group. This is another rocking and rollicking CD to put us in a party mood, and one you need for your collection.

A REVIEW BY A BLUES FAN

Had a fun time on Sunday, 19 Apr. 09, at the Sacramento Heritage Festival out at the Horsemen's Association clubhouse. The concert was out doors, so much nicer than the indoor events during inclement or cold weather. It was a great day. Nice warm weather (almost too warm, but I had a seat in the shade under a canvas canopy so I was OK) and great blues

Roy Gaines was first up, a bluesman from Texas who has been playing 50 years. I was not familiar with this artist before this show. He played a fine blues guitar and did good vocals. His band had a tenor and an alto sax, a trumpet, bass, drums, and keyboard. The keyboard played piano instead of organ, which made me very happy. So, it was a fairly big band with a lot of brass. I'm not a real fan of brass in blues but this music was well integrated and I really

liked it. The band covered 10 songs.

Tommy Castro was up second. They covered 12 songs. Unlike most bands, which take between 30 seconds and one minute after ending one song and starting another, Tommy doesn't stop playing but goes from one song to another. So, it's constant music. I remember once at the Stoney Inn about 5 or 6 years ago, Tommy started playing at 10:30PM or 11:00PM and played continuously until about 1:00AM. I was deeply impressed that he could put out such high quality and uninterrupted blues over such a long period of time. That takes tremendous stamina!

Michael Burks, the headliner, was last up and he didn't disappoint. Great blues, long set, covering 14 songs. That concluded the show.

BLUES AT JAZZFEST—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



John Boutte

funk, and anything else that comes along. He consistently wins the local "vocalist of the year" award, a bundle of energy that does nothing halfway. Shannon Powell has played with Harry Connick, Jr., Danny Barker and every one else in New Orleans, I believe.

So how could I go wrong? I certainly didn't. This was an outstanding set—

one of those that you visualize for days after the last note is played. John was completely at home in this environment, and kept exclaiming that he had to record more with these "amazing musicians". I'll be waiting for the next recording, and hope I can see him in person again soon.



Shannon Powell

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THE SACRAMENTO BLUES SOCIETY (SBS)

is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization formed to preserve and promote blues music as an art form.

The Sacramento Blues Society is one of the oldest blues societies in California, founded 1979.

The SBS has kept the blues tradition alive in the Sacramento area by promoting the local blues music scene and bringing internationally renowned artists to the region.

SBS is an affiliate member of The Blues Foundation.
We provide educational opportunities for young people with the foundation's "Blues In The Schools" Program.

The Sacramento Blues Society produces a newsletter, "Blue Notes" on a Bi-Monthly schedule (six times a year) to our membership.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
WWW.SACBLUES.COM

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento, CA.

All SBS members in good standing are invited.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Blues In The SchoolsPatty Furey & Cynthia Jaynes

BITS Benefit Liz Walker

Blue Notes Newsletter Editor Valeriejeanne Anderson

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