

OCT2019



Issue 301

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October 2019



WINTERLAND AT MARION MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

Winterland (From left : Chad Slater-Scott, Kevin Wulf, Byron Stevens, Jon Wilson, Stacy Webster) Photo by Phillip Smith

Inside this October 2019 issue —



- Scatting 4/6 by Richard Finley.
- “Blewsman” Peter Lauro reviews The Music and Life of Big Jack Reynolds
- Frank Wilson’s Rev Rants on LCBS payin it forward.
- Prairie Dog Blues Festival report by Phillip Smith
- Local Music Schedules
- Marion Music and Arts Festival by Phillip Smith

Scatting 4/6

What Makes a Good Blues Band?



Richard Finley

What makes a good blues band? What makes a good blues show? The answer to that question is tough to nail down. It reminds me of what Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart famously said about the definition of pornography, "... I know it when I see it ..."

I am not about to declare myself as the judge of a band's quality for anyone but myself and I will leave the questions posed above unanswered. But just for this moment lets imagine that we are newspaper music writers and must critically evaluate a live performance. How should we quantify our experience?

Step one will be to get smart about what you will hear and see. Most bands have a social media page that will likely have a statement about the band. What style do they play? Who are the players who make up the band? What compliment of instruments do they play? Where else have they performed? Of course, social media is one thing and the actual performance you will go see is another. Many great bands are not too computer savvy, so if their page is clumsy it does not mean the show will be poor. Try not to judge, this is data gathering time.

When you go to the gig keep yourself open to the band's presentation. Let's look them over. I always like to take a moment to observe the way the musicians dress themselves. A lot of players wear a hat that is a statement, and tee shirts with various logos can tell us something. Some bands dress down, others wear coordinated garb, some wear business suits and some go all out and put on a tuxedo. Stage dress is generally not what the band members will wear when they go grocery shopping, so it means something and is a part of their stage persona.

Now to the evaluation of the music. Note the mix of songs chosen. Is the band able to perform a variety? Do they provide old, new, fast, slow, and (assuming I am reviewing a blues band) do they play 8 bar, 12 bar, and maybe even some irregular cadence (such as King Bee)? In short, how versatile are they? Are they talkative with the crowd? Are they chatty? Are they cheerleaders? Or maybe the band is quiet and just lets the music speak. Most bands interact with the crowd with a mix of providing short histories of the songs, revving up the enthusiasm of the crowd, and of course the music.

Along these same lines, I look for a band that can perform classic blues numbers while applying their own spin. It has always been a strong feature of the blues that bands cover songs, infusing them with their particular style. Some genres of music hold that there is only one "correct" version of a song, (often the one that they have heard on a recording), and see any other than the reproduction of the correct version as a failure. This tends to rob the music of its "art". Art is open to interpretation. The blues is art.

Of course, after all is said and done a reviewer must ask, "How did the music make me feel?" "Did this band's music, style, and presentation move me?" This difficult to quantify and explain but it is at the core of why we go see live music. This is the part of our imaginary write-up where we say, trust me. Trust me and go see this band, or trust me and stay away, it not worth your time. What makes a good blues band? What makes a good show? All I can say is, "I know it when I see it." Go and see it.

Richard Finley is the harmonica player and singer for The Blue Dog Band, and a blues historian.

The Linn County Blues Society is a way cool, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Blues music in Eastern Iowa as well as to provide charitable contributions to other community organizations. LCBS is an Affiliated Organization in the Blues Foundation's international network. The BLUESPAPER is a monthly publication of the LCBS. Website: lcbs.org

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Membership

To learn more about the Linn County Blues Society or to join, see the membership form in this Bluespaper or the LCBS website. Your membership includes;

- Discount admissions to many local Blues activities.
- Monthly LCBS Bluespaper.
- Voting rights in the LCBS elections.
- Being a part of the groove!

Bluespaper Contact information

Send news, band or club live entertainment schedules, advertising, donuts, Oreos®, or Bailey's® to: Evan Vulich at: evulich@mchsi.com.

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Moving? Send your new address to; LCBS, PO Box 2672, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2672 so you won't miss a single issue of your Bluespaper.

The Music and Life of Big Jack Reynolds

“That’s A Good Way To Get To Heaven” Third Street Cigar Records

By Peter “Blewzzman” Lauro © August 2019

“That’s A Good Way To Get To Heaven” includes a CD containing twenty tracks - of which a half dozen or so are archival, with absolutely no information available - and an eighty-minute DVD. The music disc features: Marshall “Big Jack” Reynolds on vocals, harmonica and guitar; Larry Gold on guitar; Johnny “HiFi” Newman and Joel Hazzard on bass; Slim Tim Gahagan and Chris Arduser on drums; Chad Smith on piano; and The Cobra Twist Horns which consist of: Brad “The Razor” Sharp on trumpet; Randy “The Slider” Knisely on trombone; and “Kevin “Nationwide” Maude on saxophone. Of its twenty tracks, eleven are originals and nine are covers.

The visual disc is loaded with: informative and sometimes hilarious interviews; footage of rare performances not seen since the eighties; other privately recorded performances that have never been seen anywhere; a never before seen performance between Big Jack and Sir Mack Rice of “Mustang Sally” and “Cheaper To Keep Her” fame; and footage of Big Jack’s only TV appearance.

The CD opens with “Honest I Do”, the first of its three Jimmy Reed covers and also the first of three never released anywhere tracks. Once you hear his vocal style, along with those piercing high-end harp leads, you’ll quickly understand the influence Jimmy had on Big Jack. With Larry, Johnny and Slim in that repetitive rhythm groove that so fit this song, Jacks not the only one with the Jimmy vibe going on. Nicely done cover.

This original track is more straight-up blues. It’s titled “You Better Leave That Woman Alone”, and if you don’t, Big Jack’s promising you a big dose of some blues of your own. Good piano-led rhythm by Chad with loads of slick blues guitar licks by Larry.

Singing in a much deeper tone, Big Jack - and the guys - do a killer rendition of Slim Harpo’s “Scratch My Back”. After the harmonica lead and the precise groove the band was in on the intro I was so expecting to hear Slim. Sometimes

taking a cover and making it your own is nice and others - like right here - doing it exactly like the original is perfectly fine.

If you’re going to cover a B B King song and you really want to do it justice then do it with horns. Being the only track featuring the Cobra Twist Horns, that’s exactly what the guys did on their rendition of “Rock Me Baby”. With Big Jack at his suave best on the vocals; HiFi and Slim right in the pocket on the rhythm; and Larry laying down the blues guitar leads; it’s the horns - with a stellar standout by “Nationwide” on the sax - that give this one its soul.

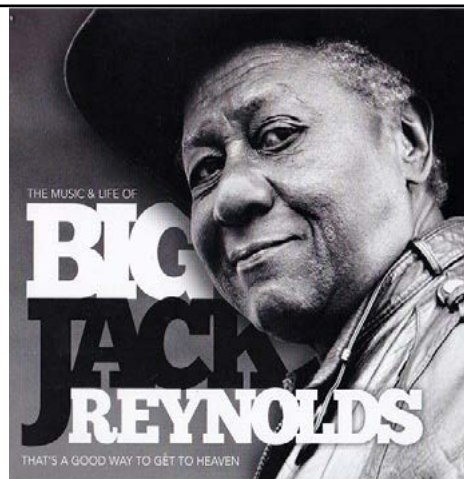
Unlike most of the tracks, an original titled “Gonna Love Somebody” is an acoustic solo track featuring Big Jack singing, playing harp and legitimizing his place as a real deal blues/roots artist.

“Made It Up In Your Mind”, a track Big Jack collaborated on, is also unlike anything else on the disc. It sounds like a duo that’s featuring the big guy singing and blowin’ harp with a pumped-up conga/bongo player providing quite progressive percussion.

One of the disc’s rockers, another of Jack’s originals and part of that shoebox full of stuff found in a storage closet somewhere - is called “I Had A Little Dog”. Obviously, from an earlier point in his career, Jacks sounding quite spry on this organ-led, rhythm fueled dance floor filler.

The disc closes with Jack doing another original solo titled “She Must Be A Millionaire”. The interesting thing about this song is why the big guy thinks she’s rich. Ya see, according to Jack...“Her father must was (sic) a millionaire, I can tell by the way she walks”. More importantly, though he also wants you to know...“That little girl is something and she’s really fine. Yep, she really is something and you’d better know she’s mine.”

The documentary DVD is highly entertaining. The footage was reminiscent of stuff you’ll have seen on the old Ed Sullivan Show, Hullabaloo and Shindig but with a restored sound quality that was absolutely outstanding. Along with interviews of band members, you’ll hear what



Eddie Shaw, Harmonica Shah, and others had to say about the often fun to play with and sometimes not fun to play with, Big Jack. Two stories that particularly cracked me up were the one where after the show, Jack came walking out of the club owners office with a bulge in his pants (not that kind) and told the band they got stiffed on the pay and another where (on more than one occasion) he just stopped the show in the middle of a song and started screaming at the band.

Other songs on the CD include: “Go On To School” (Reed); “Shame, Shame, Shame” (Reed); “Help Me” (Williamson); “Ah’w Baby” (Jacobs); “Going Down Slow” (Oden); “She Moves Me” (Morganfield); and these originals: “Mean Old People”; “Walk On Up (But Keep That Red Dress On)”; “Poor Boy”; “Hot Potato” “In My Room”; and “You Don’t Treat Me Right”.

In addition to “That’s A Good Way To Get To Heaven” being a sure bet to appear as a nominee in the “Historical” category on many of next year’s awards ballots, I’m saying it’s a good bet to win on some as well.

This very well produced, very well engineered and very well mastered CD/DVD set is loaded with real deal, old school blues, lots of informative and educational clips and photos and is a must-have for any true blues aficionado.

To get a copy of “That’s A Good Way To Get To Heaven” contact John Henry at the label’s website - www.thirdstreetcigarrecords.com. You can also learn more about Big Jack Reynolds by going to www.bigjackreynolds.com and you can search his name on FB where John has a page set up under his name. As usual, when you talk to John, please tell him the Blewzzman sent you.

Rev Rants

Paying it Forward for Linn County Blues Society



It's been about a year and a half since I wrote a "Rev's Rants" for the Linn County Blues Society Bluespaper; since I handed over the Presidency of LCBS to Dave Antin.

The motivation for my writing this article is to tell you about a side of the Linn County Blues Society that does not get as much publicity as it deserves. A side that is increasingly important to many of us. A side that you should be aware of. A side that we who are active in the club find very rewarding. And a side that many of you who are LCBS members I'm sure will also find very rewarding.

It's right there in the Linn County Blues Society mission statement:

"The Linn County Blues Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, promotion and perpetuation of Blues music in Eastern Iowa, as well as to provide charitable contributions to other community organizations."

So what does that underlined part really mean? This past year, what that meant was the financial and "in kind" contributions Linn County Blues Society made to local charitable organizations. Your membership in the LCBS has made this possible.

LCBS contributed \$5,900 to the HD Youth Center by way of the Blues and Buffet Chili Challenge. As many of you know, the HD Youth Center ceased operation,

and is transitioning to a scholarship program. There may be a few of you that do not know that Henry Davison was one of the founders of the Linn County Blues Society. Henry's passing this past February triggered that organization to transition to the "Henry Davison Scholarship Fund."

Also as part of the Blues and Buffet Chili Challenge, a similar contribution of about \$5,900 was donated to the Community Health Free Clinic. This was the charity chosen by the Isle of Iowa Parrothead Club, LCBS' partners in the Chili Challenge.

LCBS supports and contributes to the Chili Challenge by contributing items to the silent auction, by our members entering the challenge by cooking chili, by selling tickets, and by our members buying tickets.

LCBS contributed \$500 to the Community Health Free Clinic as part of our Mardi Gras event this year. Also, many who attended our Mardi Gras event contributed non-perishable food. We collected about 200 lbs. of food which was donated to Green Square Meals

Also, LCBS contributed \$500 each to radio station KCKK, The Eastern Iowa Arts Academy, the Community Health Free Clinic, and the African American Museum of Iowa. KCKK supports the Blues in their on-air programming, as well as operating the Blues in the Schools program in Eastern Iowa.

The Eastern Iowa Arts Academy (EIAA) is a nonprofit after school arts organization created for K – 12th grade students in the Greater Cedar Rapids metro area. EIAA offers classes in art, music, drama, dance, cultural arts and creative writing.

The Community Health Free Clinic provides free medical, dental, vision, and prescription services to the Cedar Rapids and surrounding areas.

From their web page: "The African American Museum of Iowa is a statewide museum dedicated to preserving, exhibiting, and teaching Iowa's African American history. As Iowa's leading educational resource on the topic, we educate more than 30,000 people each year through museum tours, traveling exhibits, research services, youth and adult education programs, and community and fundraising events."

That's nearly \$15,000 contributed into our community, supported by your membership in the Linn County Blues Society, and your participation in our events. A very tidy return on your investment. And this is something we should all be proud of.

Frank "The Rev" Wilson

prairie dog blues festival

All photos by Phillip Smith



Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band



Ghost Town Blues Band - Matt Isbell



Craig Erickson and John Hall



Eliza Neals

I had an absolutely amazing time during the two days I spent at the Prairie Dog Blues Festival this year. Besides the spectacular music, there was an amazing comradery between the blues fans. Upon first arrival on Friday evening, I staked out some prime territory within the beer tent to see one my favorite acts Ghost Town Blues Band. They tore it up on four separate sets that evening, playing all the songs I wanted to hear. Their covers of “Come Together”, “Whipping Post”, and “Statesboro Blues” were superb as always. It was great to catch up with those guys again. Between the GTBB sets, I made sure to shimmy over to the main stage to see more outstanding performances from Tas Cru, Reverend Payton’s Big Damn Band, Toronzo Cannon, and Nikki Hill.

Tas Cru and Mary Ann Casale teamed up to dazzle me with delight on “Heal My Soul”. Casale cowrote this one with Tas for his acclaimed Memphis Song album. It was cool to hear “Dirty Swerve” from Reverend Peyton. That one definitely put the fans in dance mode. Toronzo Cannon brought some of the best blues Chicago has to offer, and Nikki Hill commanded full attention for her powerful for her set of rockin’ soul. She even busted out a little AC/DC with a nod to Bon Scott on “If You Want Blood / I’m a Rocker”.

On the second day of the festival, I headed directly to the main stage to hear Craig Erickson and the Roadhouse Rockers. The man is a powerhouse when it

comes to playing guitar, and it is always a pleasure to see his band play. ZZ Top tribute band Eliminator from Chicago lit up the crowd with nearly ninety minutes of dazzling showmanship and spot-on covers. They were so fun to watch and hear. I was so glad to have finally caught Eliza Neals in concert. She has been on my radar ever since reviewing her 10,000 Feet Below album. This is another act which I highly recommend. Neals definitely puts the ‘rock’ in blues-rock, with her amazing vocals. Popping over to the beer tent to hear The Kris Lager Band was a lot of fun as well. The tent was filled to capacity, as they played their unique style of funky blues. The evening was capped off with a searing performance from Anthony Gomes. The first time I saw Gomes, he was opening for the king of blues himself, B.B. King. This my third time seeing him, and he keeps upping his game every time.

Prairie Dog Blues Festival, which is held annually on the historic St. Feriole Island in Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin, is very organized and cuts no corners when it comes to booking talent. I will definitely make a point of returning.

All photos by Phillip Smith

Visit phillycheezeblues.blogspot.com



Kris Lager



Toronzo Cannon

Local Music 2019

October 2019 Blues Calendar

Tue. 1	Parlor City Pub	Brook Hoover hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 2	QDogs BBQ Screaming Eagle	Skeeter Louis Trio. 6-9PM Marion Deja Blue hosts jam, 7-10PM Waterloo
Thur. 3	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub New Adventures	Matt Panek., 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Limestone Blues Jam. 7-10PM Waterloo
Fri. 4	Cedar Ridge Lincoln Wine Bar	Alicia Monee & Invisible Jazz, 6-9PM Swisher Nate Hines Dan Johnson, 7-9PM Mt Vernon
Sat. 5	Village Market Deja Blue QDogs BBQ Moco Game Room CRCC	Merrill J Miller Dan Johnson, 11AM-2PM Pumpkin Days in New Hartford, 1-3-PM Doug Ducey Johnson Duo, 6-9PM Marion Blue Scratch Band, 8-11PM FunkDaddies C.R. Wash HS CLS '69 Reunion
Sun.6	Stella on Melrose	Homebrewed at Oktoberfest, 4-6:30 IC, \$10
Tue. 8	Parlor City Pub	Ryan Phelan hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed 9	Screaming Eagle	Deja Blue hosts jam, 7-10PM Waterloo
Thur. 10	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub New Adventures QDogs BBQ	Charlie Morgan, 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Limestone Blues Jam. 7-10PM Waterloo Billy Lee Janey, 6-9PM Marion
Fri. 11	New Bo City Market Ramsey's WineBistro	FunkDaddies, Rock The Block. 6-8:30PM Blue Scratch Band, 8-11PM Marion
Sat. 12	Village Market	Skeeter Louis Johnson Duo, 11-2PM
Tue. 15	Parlor City Pub	Doug Ducey host jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 16	QDogs BBQ Screaming Eagle	Skeeter Louis Trio. 6-9PM Marion Deja Blue hosts jam, 7-10PM Waterloo
Thur. 17	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub New Adventures	Merrill Miller, 8-midnight. McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Limestone Blues Jam. 7-10PM Waterloo
Fri. 18	Cedar Ridge Winery	Invisible Band, 6-9PM, Swisher
Sat. 19	Village Market QDogs BBQ Czech Museum	Nate Hines Johnson Duo, 11AM-2PM Skeeter Louis Trio. 6-9PM Marion FunkDaddies. 6:30-9:30PM
Tue. 22	Parlor City Pub	Brook Hoover hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 23	Screaming Eagle	Deja Blue hosts jam, 7-10PM Waterloo
Thur. 24	J.M. O'Malley's QDogs BBQ New Adventures Parlor City Pub	Rush Cleveland, 8-midnight Billy Lee Janey, 6-9PM Marion Limestone Blues Jam. 7-10PM Waterloo McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM
Fri. 25	Hy Vee Market Grill QDogs BBQ Coe College	Mike Maas Trio, 5:30-8:30PM Jeff Banks, DJ & Eric Schnell 6-9PM. Marion FunkDaddies Homecoming Alumni Party
Sat. 26	Village Market J.M. O'Malley's QDogs BBQ Deja Blue	Bob and Jovita Long, 11AM-2PM DDOG and the BBITS Reunion 5-8PM Mike Maas & Carlis Faurot, 6-9PM Halloween at Federal Pub, 8-12 Hudson
Sun 27	Old Neighborhd Pub	Bryce Janey Trio with DJ & Eric Douglas, 5-8
Tues. 29	Parlor City Pub	Bob Dorr & Jeff Petersen host jam, 7-10
Wed. 30	Whisky Joe's QDogs BBQ Screaming Eagle	Mike Maas & Carlis Faurot, 5-8PM Skeeter Louis trio w/ B. Dorr, 6-9PM. Marion Deja Blue hosts jam, 7-10PM Waterloo
Thur. 31	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub New Adventures	Craig Erickson 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Limestone Halloween. 7-10PM Waterloo

Be sure to CHECK this out!

EVERY

Sat. - The Village Market w/ Dan Johnson 11-2PM
Sun. - The Rumors Jam, 4-7PM
Tues. - The Famous Parlor City Jam. 7-10PM
Wed. - 5th Wednesday B. Dorr, Skeeter & DJ @ QDogs BBQ
Thur. - New Adventures, Limestone Blues, 7-10PM
Thur. - J.M.O'Malley's, Tom T-Bone Giblin Jams, 8-midnight
Thur. - CR VFW, Wild Bill & Pony Express, 5-9PM
Thur. - Dennis "Dadddy-O" McMurrin at Parlor City 7-10PM



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You can also join us for our popular full lunch buffet with deluxe salad and soup bar Monday-Friday 11am-2pm.

The LCBS meets on the 1st Monday of each month!

See you at The Best Western Longbranch on Oct 7, 6:00PM for a soft-start. General meeting begins at 6:30PM. Guests are always welcome!
90 Twixt Town Rd., Cedar Rapids • 377-6386.

A very special THANK YOU to these businesses who Keep the Blues Alive!

- Cedar Ridge Winery
- The BW Longbranch
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- Kings Materials
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- Tomaso's Pizza
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Look for the LCBS on Facebook & Twitter!



Marion Music & Arts Festival Low Park, Marion, IA Sunday, August 18, 2019

Photos and review by Phillip Smith

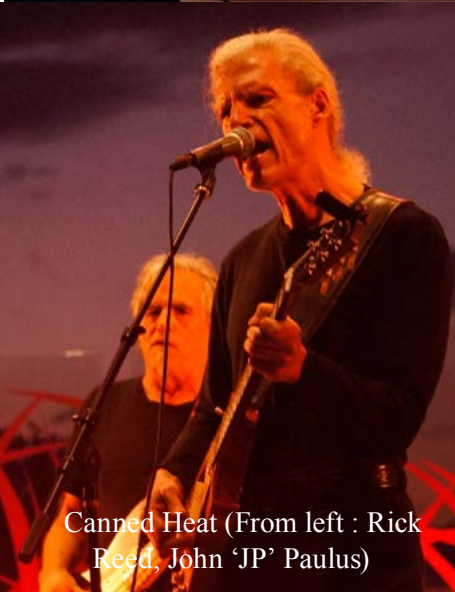


Ron LaFleur (Boy Scout Hippies)



Beaker Brothers (From left: Dan Hummel, Ed English, Bill Peterson)

It was a gorgeous day in Marion, Iowa to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the famed Woodstock Festival. Area bands Zoot & Newt, the Boy Scout Hippies, Moving Target, the Beaker Brothers, and Winterland descended in Low Park's Klopfenstein Amphitheater with Canned Heat to treat healthy-sized attendance to a glorious day of peace and music. It was a very nice touch to have Canned Heat, one of the many bands which performed at the original Woodstock festival in Bethel, New York, close the show.



Canned Heat (From left: Rick Reed, John 'JP' Paulus)



Adolfo De La Parra (Canned Heat)

★ Linn County Blues Society Membership Application

Name (Please Print) _____ Phone _____ / _____

Street _____ City/State/ZIP _____

Email (Please Print Clearly) _____

Annual Membership Levels

- \$20 Member
- \$100 Blues Booster/ Corporate Sponsor
- \$250 Blues Contributor
- \$500 Friend of the Blues
- \$1000 Sustaining Member

2019

Please mail form & check to: Linn County Blues Society, P.O. Box 2672, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2672.
We at the LCBS thank you for pledging your support for LIVE music in the Linn County area.

Linn County Blues Society
 PO Box 2672
 Cedar Rapids, IA
 52406-2672



scan for LCBS web info

Current list of members of the IBHOF

Andre Mosqueda
 Ardie Dean
 Big Mike Edwards
 Billylee Janey
 Bo Ramsey
 Bob DeForest
 Bob Dorr
 Bob Pace
 Bruce McCabe
 Catfish Keith
 Chicago Rick Lussie
 Craig Erickson
 Dan "DJ" Johnson
 Darrell Leonard
 Dartanyan Brown
 Del Saxman Jones
 Dennis McMurrin
 Dwight Dario
 Eddie Haywood
 Ella Ruth Piggee
 Ellis Kell
 Elvin Bishop
 Ernie Peniston
 Eugene Jackson
 Frank Strong
 Fred Walk
 Gary Gibson
 Gary Jackson
 George Davis

Gilbert Davis
 Grant Townsell
 Greg Sutherland
 Harlan Thomas
 Hawkeye Herman
 J.C. Anderson
 James Kinds
 Janey Hooper
 Jay Sieleman



Jeff Banks
 Jeff Petersen
 Jeff Taylor
 Jim DeKoster
 Jimmy Pryor
 Joanne Jackson
 Joe Price
 Kevin Burt
 Louis McTizic
 Mel Harper
 Patrick Hazell
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 Richie Hayward
 Rico Cicalo
 Rob Lumbard
 Robert "One-Man" Johnson
 Ron DeWitte
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 Ronnie Brewer
 Rose Marie Webster
 Sam Salomone
 Scot Sutherland
 Scott Cochran
 Shaun Murphy
 Sid Wingfield
 Sonny Lott
 Speck Redd
 Stephen Miller
 Steve George
 Steve Hayes
 Tom Giblin
 Tommy Gordon
 Tony Blew
 Vicki Price
 Willis Dobbins



Friday Blues-

- 6-10 PM - The Big Mo Blues Show
- 10-11 PM - Backstage Blues
- 11 PM to midnight - KCCK Jams
- Midnight Blues CD

Saturday Blues -

- 6-10 PM - Da Blues with Bobby D
- 10-11 PM - The Crawfish Circuit
- 11 PM -midnight - The Melting Pot
- Midnight Blues CD