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LOCAL ARTIST FEATURE - GEAR REVIEWS - OFFICIAL BLUES VENUES - MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

OSM BLUESLETTER

JANUARY 2022

THE SOURCE FOR THE BLUES



A VISIT WITH MARTY JONES

INTERVIEW & STORY BY GEORGE HUNT



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THE JANUARY BSO BLUESLETTER

FROM THE BSO PRESIDENT



Dear valued members of the Blues Society of the Ozarks,
Hello everyone!

The New Year is here and the Blues Society of the Ozarks is excited

about all that is happening! The December Board of Directors meeting provided us with insight and opportunities on our increasing membership and new venues supporting our organizational efforts. Becoming a member of the BSO is now easier than ever and brings with it additional vendor perks and BSO merchandise.

With this momentum we will have an even more prosperous and exciting 2022! Renew your memberships now and stay informed as we promote the blues in the Ozarks in the New Year! .

Sincerely,
O'Neill Blues
President-Blues Society of the Ozarks

BSO MISSION STATEMENT

Since 1991 our goals have been to encourage appreciation of the Blues, an original American music; to provide a forum in the Ozarks for performance of the Blues at live events and on radio and television; to educate and entertain the people of the Ozarks; to provide an organization through which people can share their common love of the Blues; and to join with similar organizations to accomplish the forgoing goals.

BLUES SOCIETY OF THE OZARKS
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ON THE COVER: MARTY JONES - PHOTO PROVIDED COURTESY OF MARTY JONES, MUSIC MAN PHOTOGRAPHY
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS PROVIDED COURTESY OF BSO BOARD MEMBERS.

A VISIT WITH MARTY JONES

INTERVIEW & STORY BY GEORGE HUNT

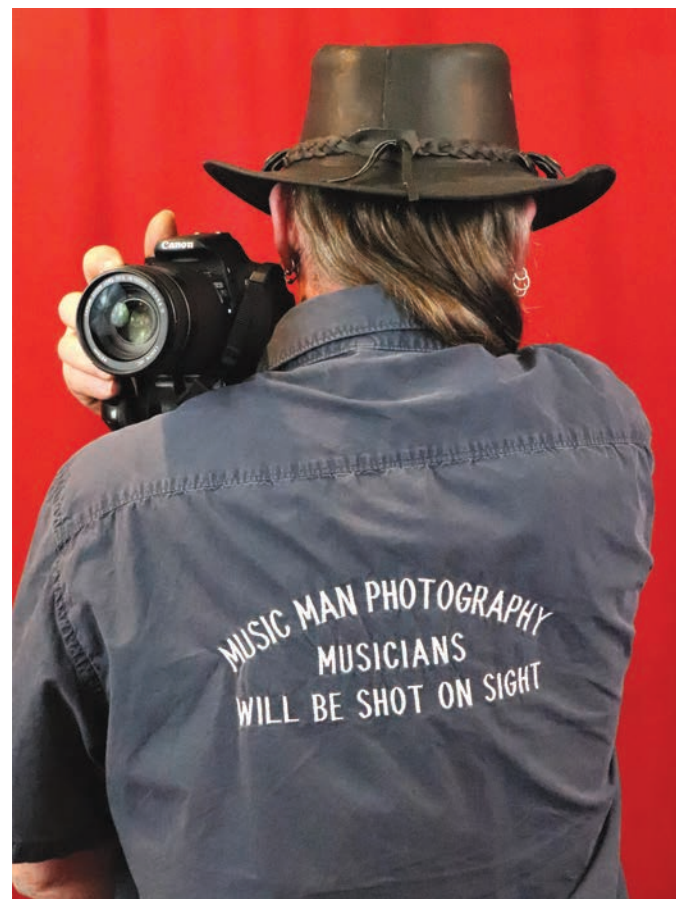
Marty Jones of Music Man Photography grew up in Springfield, Missouri. Marty tells me he went to Parkview, Central, and Hillcrest. We both laughed. He would have graduated in 1987. He earned his GED in 2014. Marty said "I grew up country until 6th grade. I liked Hot Wheels; things that kids play with. Then my stepdad's son came to live with us. He brought the first Foreigner, the first Kansas, Frampton Comes Alive, and Kiss Dressed to Kill albums. Ever since that day it has been nothing but music in my life".

I asked Marty what he thought happened with this music? "It was definitely a change. I grew up with Conway Twitty, Loretta Lynn, Merle Haggard, and George Jones. On the LP 'KISS Dressed to Kill' there were two songs, *Getaway* and *Rock Bottom*. These songs changed my life forever. I thought 'Holy Cow', I need to do something with that". In 2011 Marty started to get into photography pretty heavy.

"I have always taken pictures at shows. I have every issue of Metal Edge and Hit Parade for the last 15 years. All are in mint condition; all are in sleeves. The posters are all intact. Before I started collecting those, I would buy them, and this is no exaggeration, from floor to

ceiling, I would cut around outlets etc. There was nothing but musicians covering my walls. There were no walls visible, only posters."

Marty got a Cannon T3I camera for \$300 and started taking pictures of bands. Getting on Facebook, Marty noticed that there would be an advertisement for a show, but then there would be no follow up by anyone. Pictures were Marty's passion. "I thought, as much of a music freak as I



am. I am going to go out and take pictures of bands and start posting them. I think it would help put butts in seats. People look at my pictures. People say, 'Well, that band must be good, there are people there'. People will go check them out. I make sure that there are always crowd pictures in everything I take. Even if there are ten people there, I will make it look good".



My wife, Renee', noticed at Erin Coburn's show how Marty moves through the crowd with professionalism and ease. Marty says a weird thing happened the last time Samantha Fish was here. "I headed up toward the front of the room, and it was like the red sea parted. I was like, WOW! Then, when I got to the front of the stage, people moved back and gave me the whole run of the stage". Marty recognizes that this it was "cool". Yes, everyone knows and respects Marty.

Marty said "I get to hang out with cool people and listen to cool music. That is all I am after. Everything else is just a bonus". I asked what his favorite rock bands are. "Ozzie and Black Sabbath are at the top of the list. I am an 80's





child. I'm big on the hair bands. I like the obscure bands. Jake E. Lee of Badlands is a favorite. He played with Ozzie, but his stuff is great. Richie Kotzen is another great, he has some blues influence in his playing. Dave Meniketti of the Y & T band has a blues album. Jon Lord of Deep Purple has a blues album also. Cindi Lauper's blues album will fool you. She does not sound like herself.

Five or six years ago a few musicians got together and bought me a new camera. This was the 'it' moment. When people give you money to buy a camera, you know that you have made an impact and you are doing the right thing, when people care about what you do".

"One of the first things I did was Bikes, Blues, and Hot Cars. Anthony Gomes was the headliner. This was the first time I was able to be on the stage. When Anthony got finished with a song, I said 'Hey man let me have that pick while it is smoking'. He handed me his pick, that is 'cool shit right there'. Anthony snickered like yes; it is still smoking". A moment with an artist is something you never forget.

Marty's favorite moments to catch are: when a guitar player bends a string up and touches another string, or a bass

player might hit a string and catch a vibrating string. These happen rarely, but that is what he tries for, some just happen. Like a drummer who broke a stick with his hand in the air, and the broken half was in the picture. Yes, luck does happen in photography. You still must be there clicking away to capture the obscure shots.

Marty does not want to be the center of attention when he is on stage. He wants to take his pictures and get out. Marty always asks of course, about coming up on stage. Marty figures out what he wants to shoot before he even approaches the stage. "The first year I started, I ran myself in the ground. If there was a show at 5 o'clock. I would go there and stay until another show would start. I have been known to shoot the Chili Cookoff all day. I would go to 6 shows after that. But not anymore. Now an hour or two on Friday night and hour or so on Saturday night. Plus, the venues have changed over the last couple of years".

"I respect drummers. They must be in shape to play all night. I also have a thing for bad ass guitar players. Robin Trower is someone who I respect a lot. There is just something about him. He is



true to his style. Look how many bands have lasted for 30 years. They may not have the same members, but they are still popular. They stand the test of time. I would like to do more nature pictures".

Marty is always improving his technique. Marty has also done some podcasts. "I would like to be published in Metal Edge magazine or something like that". Marty has had several pictures printed in the newspaper. "That is a big



thrill. To be accepted. I want people to look at my work and say that is a bad ass picture. To be a music fan and to have this all going on. I am way cool with it". We are too Marty.

Marty's impact in the music community really extends beyond what he captures through his camera lense. Below are comments and testimonials from folks that reflect their thoughts and feelings about the man behind the camera.

Kelsey Cummings testimonial:

To me, music is a necessity. It can change people's moods, make people happy. To be able to do that for people as a performer is an amazing feeling. Music has had such a big impact in my



life and it's so great seeing all the talent and happiness in this little community of Springfield.

Dean Daisy testimonial:

As my wife just said, "Marty has given us memories that will last a lifetime!" and I agree wholeheartedly with that comment. For me personally, "Marty has provided me so many memories that I can't count them. Awesome photos that capture moments on stage that might be forgotten otherwise. Marty works hard to capture those special moment in time."

For the music scene in general Marty loves what he does and it shows in his work ethic. He's a bit of a local "Beatle Bob" in that he's always out at a music

venue hearing a band and always armed with his camera capturing a local band and then taking the time to share those photos with the band and musicians. These photos are often posted on Facebook and shared among the local music scene which is awesome to get the word out about local bands to check out.

Marty's contributions really mean a lot to me and I'm sure others who get to enjoy seeing all his great photos.

Marty's contributions to the local music scene shouldn't be understated. He's a great guy that puts in the effort with no expectation compensation but does it for his love of music and photography. I'm thankful he's willing to share his time and talents with the local music scene.

Paul Thomlinson testimonial:

I knew I was going to like Marty Jones the first time I heard his tagline for Music Man Photography: "Musicians will be shot on sight, all others will be framed." It was clever as hell and had just the right amount of dark humor, which is also a pretty good description of the man himself- if you add super talented, good hearted and incredibly generous to the list.

But another important thing I learned about Marty right away is that he is a music fan first and foremost, with a near encyclopedia knowledge of rock and blues, and a memorabilia collection to make us all green with envy. Put all that together and you begin to see why he means so much to the music community around here, and certainly gives of his time and talent simply because he loves music, and he loves to support musicians in what we do. He has consistently shown

up at gigs near and far, early, and late, indoors, and outdoors, and has donated untold thousands of dollars' worth of his work to the music community here. Why? For the same reason all my favorite artists do what they do...for the love of music. All of us owe Marty big time, and I hope he knows how grateful we are for him.

Nathan Bryce testimonial:

Marty has been a big supporter of our band since the beginning. He helped me out multiple times with photo shoots and provided us some great live shots when he came to our shows for no charge. His photography work is excellent but what I love most about Marty is his passion.

He truly cares about people. It's more about sharing his passion for photography and music than money and always has been. He is a tremendous help to all of us musicians that have been lucky enough to know him and he is overall he is one of the kindest people I have ever met. I will always have a lot of love for him. Thank YOU Marty Jones for everything and for being a great friend. Nathan Bryce. 🎸



ART BENTLEY IBC FUNDRAISER

THAT'S A WRAP!

STORY BY DEBRA ROONEY



Did you catch it? Were you there?

The fabulous Art Bentley fundraiser to help send him to the Memphis International Blues Challenge? If you weren't there, you missed an exceptional experience!

We really did have a wonderful turnout to listen to Art's special sound. Family, friends, Blues Society folks, a little bit of everyone was there! Raffle tickets were flying for hopes of winning the blues gift basket and I have never seen so many 50/50 raffle tickets being sold at one gathering.



Art played solo for 3 hours, with a little help from George Hunt on the harmonica on a few songs. He only took a couple of breaks to catch his breath and the Blues Society took advantage of those breaks to conduct some fun business, like drawing for a CD giveaway (by Art's band - Blue Contagion) and the BSO gift basket drawing won by our own Mike Fisher and his wife Becky. Congratulations on that! And at 8:30 p.m., as the fun was winding down, O'Neill Blues and George Hunt drew a winning raffle ticket for the 50/50 (that

ART BENTLEY IBC FUNDRAISER

brought in a considerable sum), which was won by a wonderful lady in the crowd who so graciously donated the money back to help get Art to Memphis!! What a beautiful gesture!



The total fundraiser brought in \$1,313.00, which the Blues Society was able to present to Art Bentley for his trip to Memphis. Thanks go out to so many people who had a hand in getting this off the ground. All the Blues Society board



members, and many other members, helped make Art Bentley's fundraiser an outstanding benefit.

Lots of food, drink, and fun was had by all and I think I can speak for Art on how proud he is to be representing the Ozarks Blues Society as the solo act in Memphis' IBC in January. Special thanks go out to Galloway Station for hosting this event. We are so grateful for your wonderful establishment. The Station was rocking the blues with Art Bentley on November 20!

The Blues Society learned just before this newsletter went to print that the International Blues Foundation has postponed the January scheduled Memphis IBC, due to the increased surge in Covid. I spoke with Art following the event and he replied, "I sure hope they reschedule this year!" I think Art Bentley wants his time to play on Beale Street in Memphis. 🐝



ALYSSA GALVAN IBC FUNDRAISER

D.R.Y.M.S. - DEBBIE RULE YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAM UPDATE

STORY BY MARY CERTAIN



Alyssa Galvan has been chosen as the Blues Society of the Ozarks 2022 representative to

the International Blues Challenge Youth Showcase, which will be held in Memphis, Tennessee later this year. She was awarded \$500.00 via the Debbie Rule Youth Music Scholarship (D.R.Y.M.S) Program, which was set up in 2021 to help youth attend music workshops.

The Blues Society of the Ozarks co-hosted a fundraiser on 11/14/2021, along with Hold Fast Brewery, to help



Alyssa with expenses for her trip to the IBC and Youth Showcase. Justin Larkin, Mike Snow, Justin Coble and The Yetis (George Hunt and Ron Love) were guest artists. Fund raising activities included the BSO raffling a gift basket created by board member Renee' Hunt, as well as holding a 50/50 cash drawing. All together over \$1,500.00 was raised to help with expenses for Alyssa's trip. Al Rule and Renee' Hunt presented the symbolic "oversized" check to Alyssa at the end of the fundraiser.

Alyssa Galvan is a rising singer and songwriter from Southwest Missouri. Alyssa, who is now 16, always enjoyed listening to music and singing along with songs on the radio as a tyke. She first picked up a guitar and took lessons with Shane Smith, at Ernie Williamson's Music





in Joplin, MO at the age of 10. After about a year and a half of lessons, her instructor was confident that Alyssa knew the basics of guitar. That was when she began to learn more by immersing herself in music, going to her first open mic at the age of 12, and playing her first gig at the age of 13. Alyssa has now performed in four states and continues to perform at local breweries, restaurants, and large festivals in NW Arkansas.

When asked about her influences, she said she was really into Iggy Pop/ The Stooges, as well as Jack White. This opened her up to old blues, such as Blind Willie McTell, Bessy Smith, Rosetta Tharp, etc. Alyssa loves seventies punk music, and that is what really got her into wanting



to explore and consider music. Eventually through exploring music, she found a big love for Delta Blues.

Alyssa recently released a self-titled acoustic album, which can be found on all streaming platforms.

Please check out her website at www.alyssagalvanmusic.com, and catch



one of her shows! Impressive to say the least! George Hunt, BSO Vice President, met Alyssa when his band was playing at an event for Music Therapy of the Ozarks. He invited her to an upcoming BSO Jam. This started a relationship with the Blues Society of the Ozarks. The BSO is pleased to have Alyssa Galvan be the first recipient of the Debbie Rule Youth Music Scholarship that was formed in 2021, in honor of Debbie Rule who had a love for blues music and an unwavering passion to keeping the blues alive. 🙌



ON STAGE WITH ERIN COLBURN

STORY BY GEORGE HUNT



Cincinnati native and perpetual misfit, Erin Coburn is known for her prolific songwriting and modern approach

to American Rock and Roll. Her relatable lyrics and soul gripping vocals are a striking compliment to scorching guitar solos and infectious riffs. She is unafraid to be authentically herself, always delivering an unforgettable, high-energy performance that leaves people wanting more. As Erin always says, "expect the unexpected!"

This show at The Riff was December 2nd and featured 20-year-old Erin Coburn on guitar with her band, with Papa Green Shoes opening the show. Papa Green Shoes featured Jody Guy

Cottengim on drums and vocals, Stoney Lee Cottengim on guitar, harmonica, and vocals, Casey Kavanagh on saxophone,



keyboards, and vocals, and Dean Daisey on bass and vocals. This band has been a staple of Springfield music for quite a while. Papa Green Shoes has a good following, as was seen at this show. These guys are as tight as any professional band should be. They had the crowd dancing in their set. The band was flying from the first note!

Erin Coburn is a graduate of The Pinetop Perkins Workshops in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Young men and women who are interested in The Blues come there for training in their chosen



instrument, by professional musicians. The Blues Society of the Ozarks is always looking for young musicians to send to The Pinetop Perkins Workshops. Please let us know of any young musicians who would benefit from this. Erin attended the workshops when she was 14 years old. Erin's proficiently on guitar, and that of a



band leader, are staggering for her age.

Erin's music cannot be put in a box. She is innovative and a band leader beyond her years. I am anxious to see what she does in the future. On this tour Brandon Pettiford played drums and Kainan Shank played bass. These fellows



were top notch and fun to watch. A friend who has known Erin since she was at Clarksdale, put me in touch with her. She was glad to have me play two songs with her. She told me the songs we would be doing and the keys that they would be played in. I showed up for a sound check. We played a short version of "I've Got A Problem With You", which we would play that night on the show. Erin mentioned that we would jam longer that evening. It is interesting when you meet and jam with someone for the first time. I could feel that I had surprised the band with my playing. Of course, this makes me happy!

As I said, the band was top notch, so playing with a band this good, raises your level also. That night at the show, the first song went great, with me doing a small lead. "The Sky Is Crying" was the second song I played on. Somewhere



in the middle of this song, Erin started throwing licks at me to return for a "Call and Response". Wow, a simple blues technique, that has been around a long time. This was magic, because the music meld happened with energy of acceptance and respect towards each other.



This turned into Erin and I face-to-face, down on knees, throwing fiery notes back and forth at each other. This turned into a "moment" for everyone in at the show. Erin kept throwing notes at me that I would return. The crowd was a side thought to me, as we both concentrated on the music. The song ended and the place

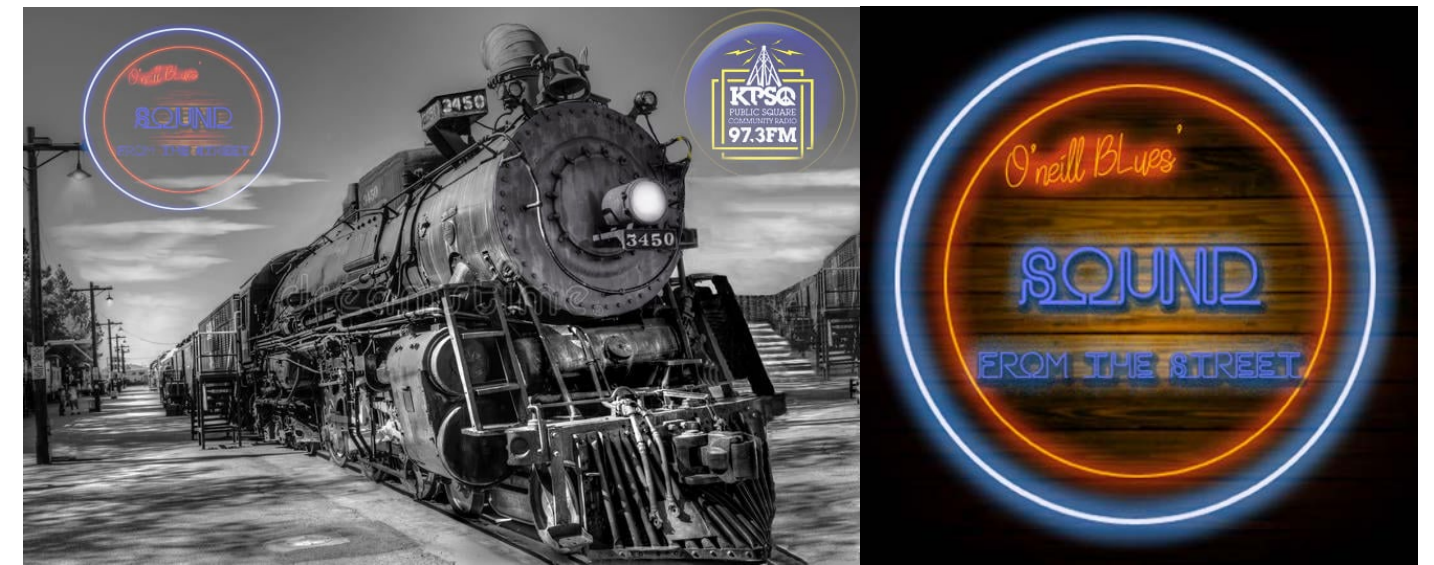
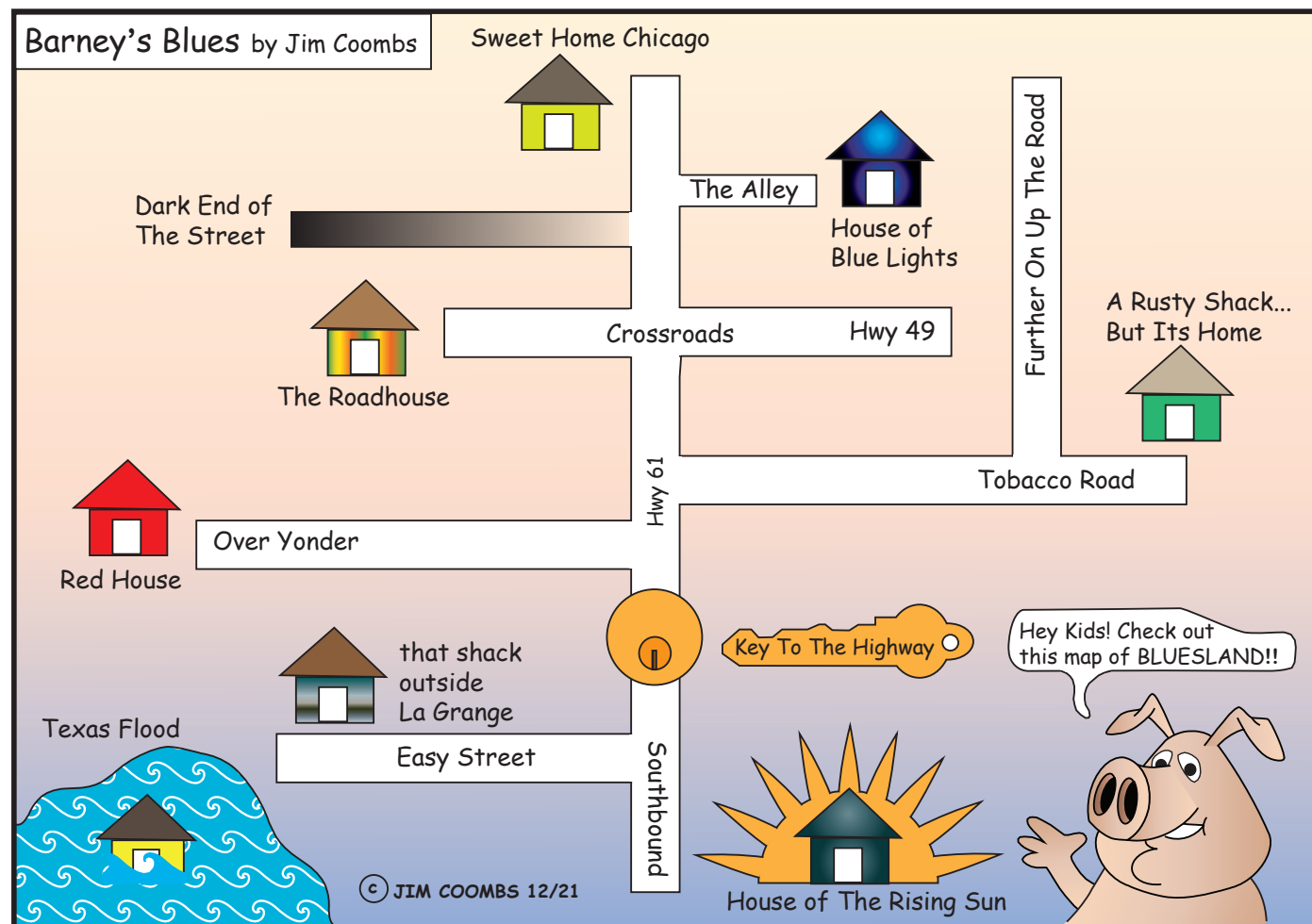
erupted, with the band all smiling. Erin and I bumped fists in the air, and exploded them. Wow what a "moment" for sure. The attention that I soon would have from my musical peers in the audience, told me that my feeling was right. This was one of my lifetime highlights of being on stage!

I believe that music can transcend and make people happy. This magic was in the room this night.

Erin and the band were very nice people. Erin's parents were also with her on this tour, working and overseeing everything. I told them that I would be smiling about this experience for a long

time. Yes, today I am still smiling! A wide range of artists and genres have inspired Erin throughout her musical journey. Everyone from BB King, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and the Rolling Stones, to Alice In Chains, Arctic Monkeys, and Nothing But Thieves. You can hear these influences lightly woven throughout her repertoire of songs. While she brings the sounds of modern Rock front and center, Erin never forgets her heavily Blues and Classic Rock influenced past. Fans of Royal Blood, Black Keys, Gary Clark Jr, and White Stripes will thoroughly appreciate Erin's music. ↑

Special thanks go out to Marty Jones of Music Man Photography for capturing the excitement of Erin's Show.



Hey everyone it's O'Neill Blues' Sound From The Street, a new radio show airing the first and third of every month on KPSQ 97.3 FM.

Thank you so much for tuning in. Here is the latest word from the street.

Behind the scenes:

It's been a great month getting my feet wet in my new radio digs on KPSQ 97.3 FM. Everyone in the Fayetteville, Arkansas area has been most gracious helping me with the technical aspects of my show.

If you missed last month we had Stacy Mitchhart come in and talk about his career and some of his new projects. One of those projects is getting involved in building cigar box guitars. Stacy is putting plenty of mojo into these instruments and they are top notch



and I highly recommend them to any musician looking to learn this exciting way of playing guitar.

Also, Stacy is donating a proceed of his sales to the Awareness of Breast Cancer Cause. A win-win situation if I ever heard one and another reason to reach out to the Nashville Bluesman and start strumming on these boxes immediately!

Meanwhile off of Dickson Street...

While strolling down the thoroughfare of downtown Fayetteville I was able to meet several brother musicians busking and started to learn about some of the artistic pulse that is beating steadily in the area.

Brothers and sisters, the Sound From The Street is the WORD from the street and we may be extending all the way to the hallowed halls of the University of Arkansas very soon. We will keep you in the loop my babies.

Well that's all for now. So stay tuned because we will have a lot more for you in the months to come....This is O'Neill Blues', Sound From The Street. 🎸

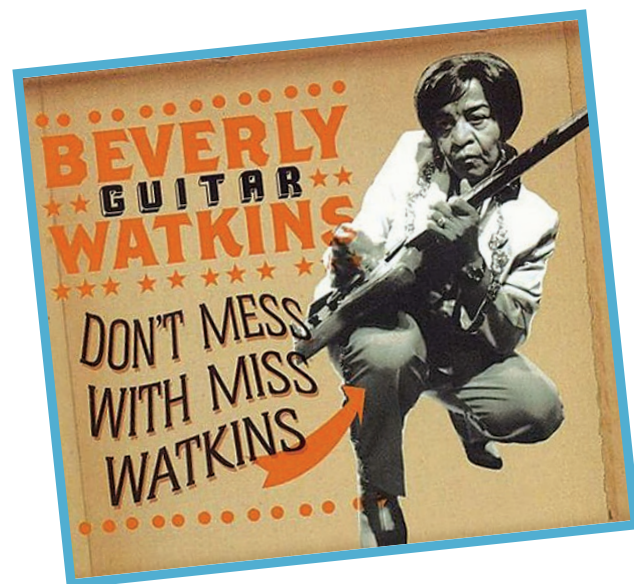


BLUES HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

BY MARY CERTAIN

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins was born April 6, 1939 in Atlanta, Georgia, and raised in the country by her sharecropper grandparents (her mother died when she was three months old). Watkins was a "tomboy" who went fishing and rabbit hunting with her grandfather. She also listened to her aunts sing in churches, as well as the gospel and guitar stylings of Sister Rosetta Thorpe.

She was given a guitar when she was eight years old, which she took to barn dances, where her grandfather and his friends would set around a big fire playing banjos and drinking wine.



When she was 11 years old, she went to live with her aunt in Atlanta.

At 16 she met William Lee 'Piano Red' Perryman, a larger-than-life black albino singer/pianist, who asked her to play rhythm guitar in his group *Piano Red & The Meter Tones*. "He was like a father to us", she said. "He taught me stage presence".



A professional musician since the late 1950s, Beverly worked with the likes of Piano Red, BB King, Ray Charles, and James Brown, but never achieved breakthrough success for herself. After falling off the radar in the 80s, she bounced back in 1999 with a brilliant album, aptly titled 'Back In Business'.

Beverly's style was extraordinarily flashy, and one of her trademarks was



playing her guitar behind her head. She played songs that inspired the 60's wave of rock and roll.



When the great Taj Mahal heard Beverly, he fell in love with her playing and took her on a 42-city tour with him. He called her a “flat-out musician, who could duke it out on a stage with the best there is – man, woman, or child prodigy”.

Watkins latter career was hindered by health issues including cancer, a heart attack, and a brain aneurysm, but she never stopped performing.

She was re-discovered by Music Maker Relief Foundation founder Tim Duffy, who started booking her in package shows, and in 1998, with Koko Taylor and Rory Block, was part of the all-star Women of the Blues "Hot Mamas" tour. Her 1999 CD debut, *Back in Business*, earned a W. C. Handy Award nomination in 2000.



She passed on following a heart attack on October 1, 2019, at the age of 80. 🎸



BSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM THE BSO PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dear valued members of the Blues Society of the Ozarks, Hello everyone!

To all of our members and board of directors I want to thank you for all of your hard work and dedication in keeping the Blues Society of the Ozarks on track in 2021.

The New Year is here and the Blues Society of the Ozarks is excited about all that is happening! The December Board of Directors meeting revealed another increase in organization membership along with establishing a single membership fee. Becoming a member of the BSO is now easier than ever and brings with it additional vendor perks and BSO merchandise.

December was Board elections and Joel Chamberlain provided the appropriate ballot. Election results included Tyson Martin as BSO Treasurer for the coming year. Ron Smith was elected as a new Board member and will shadow the new Treasurer.

The fundraisers for Art Bentley and Aylssa Galvan were very successful in providing funds for their respective trips to the Blues Foundation International Blues Competition. Additional information can be found in articles inside this Bluesletter issue.

Mike Fisher - BSO Editor, reported that the January issue of the BSO Bluesletter will reflect additional style and content improvements for our readers and membership. This will be ongoing from issue to issue, so watch for new articles and opportunities for BSO membership.

The Board also discussed updates to the BSO web presence with adding e-commerce capabilities to facilitate improved online membership enrollment and opportunities for the sale of BSO merchandise; men's and women's tee-shirts, scarves, and other swag, etc.

Special thanks go out to everyone who gathered items and participated at our annual **Jingle the Blues Away Charity Fundraiser** for **Rare Breed** and **Great Circle**, held on December 11th. Also, a **Special thank you to QuikPrint Printing** for donating event flyers and materials for the event. For more information about the annual event, contact the BSO.

As always, thank you all for your support. If you would like to learn more about the BSO, feel free to come to our Board Meetings, every second Wednesday of each month at *Skybox Lounge* at 6:00 p.m. We'd love to see you.

Have a wonderful day and we'll see you all out and about as we go Blues'n in 2022. 🎸

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BSO BOARD

RAY ROSS

INTERVIEW BY GEORGE HUNT

Ray Ross and the Sometimes Righteous

That name was given to Ray by a fellow coworker who saw that he could be a bit preachy on certain subjects. But there is a great deal more to Ray Ross. Ray retired from a career at City Utilities of Springfield - Electrical Transmission and Distribution, as the Director for Pricing and Forecasting. Besides being a full-time musician, Ray has been the Treasurer for the Blues Society of the Ozarks and an active member on the Board for several years.



PHOTO BY JAMIE ROSS PHOTOGRAPHY

Ray and his family; wife Jamie, son Ray Henry, son John, daughter Emily, and stepson Colton, love living in the Ozarks. Ray was born in Brandon, Mississippi and is a graduate of Mississippi State University - as an Electrical Engineer. Ray said his first guitar was given to him when he was 8 or 9 years old, and he got serious about it when he started college. Ray said, "I got an electric



guitar to keep up with the rest of the people in the dorm rooms." His first real gig came after Ava Jane and her mom would listen to Ray and Gary Gibson - a musical partner and fellow employee. They would practice in a community club house. Ava Jane wanted Ray and Gary to play for her birthday party. Ray added, "From there I played open mic venues. We played at the Moon City Pub quite a bit."



Ray is attending Musicians Institute - College of Contemporary Music online. Ray said, "I'm making sound grades and learning a lot about music production and performance. The program is probably better for people in their 20's. I have craved the knowledge but did not have it. My online guitar instructor is Tom Kolb, and Mike Mennell for bass guitar. The beginning of an assignment is a train wreck. But by the end of the assignment, it sure makes more sense. The process of learning is a valuable lesson. The class is also moving into nylon string guitar."

Rodrigo y Gabriela is a Mexican acoustic guitar duo featuring Rodrigo Sanchez and Gabriela Quintero. These two, 'beat box' the guitar besides playing it. Ray, Jamie, and Colton saw this duo in concert in Kansas City. "They are amazing with an entertaining performance. Their musical



influences range from flamenco, jazz, rock; even Metallica." We started talking about the power of music and how it effects people. One of Ray's long-term friends Greg was soon to ask Teresa to marry him, and at their wedding Ray played this song by Drive-By Truckers, 'Everybody Needs Love'. When the chorus came around, everybody was singing along. "I'm not a rock star, but the magic of those people singing the chorus was magical." Ray continued, "It was a



special moment for us and anybody who was there. Your song selection can do it. A person is at a show and you play a song that is important to them or a pivotal point in their lives. You can make them think of something differently. These occurrences seem to provide a supernatural direction to them. The power of music, there is nothing like it. The opportunity for all who are there to experience this at the same time is incredible. I think when this happens, everybody's heart





PHOTO BY JAMIE ROSS PHOTOGRAPHY

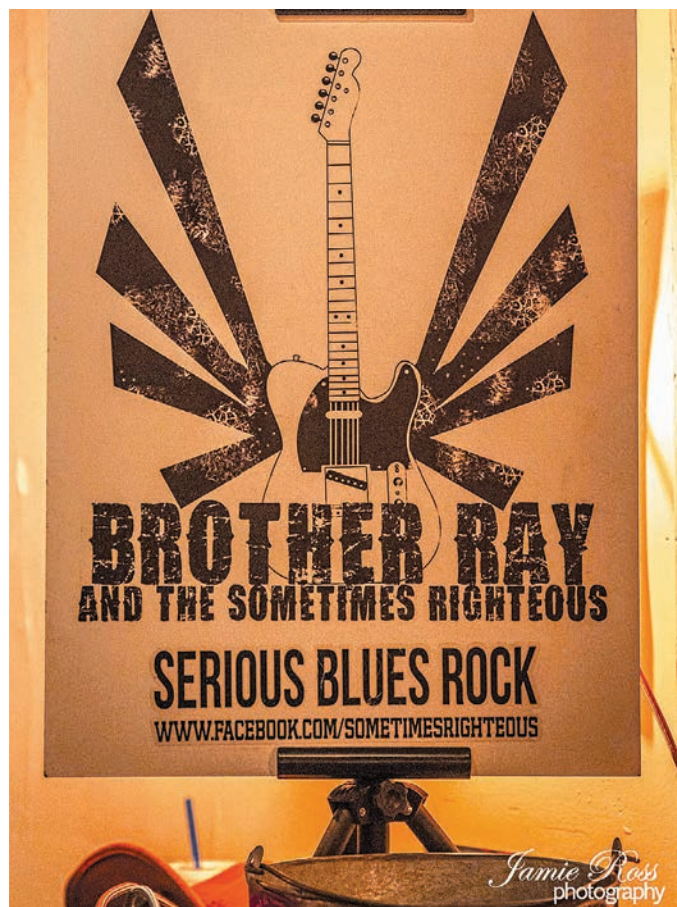
rate is in sync. At least that is how it feels. 'Fisherman's Blues' a song by the Waterboys. This is a song that by the end you figure out this guy is in prison and dreaming of freedom through fishing. Very subtly, our moods are influenced by the music we make, and by other people also. Happiness, sadness, anger can all be felt in a few short words. You can take 20 or 30 words and couple that with music. Now you have a complete idea that can compel people to envision or apply this to their own life. Sometimes a 6-minute song can contain a novel worth of ideas." Ray added, "We have to believe in ourselves as musicians. I just want to play music for



the rest of my life. I think it is pretty cool that we are into something that will never wear out. We will never be out of learning, playing, or enjoying music. Hanging out in a music store can give you inspiration. A new set of strings, a different pick can make things sound different enough to get new inspiration."

As this brief interview concludes, it's clear that this musical journey continues for Ray Ross.

As Ray wraps up his tenure as BSO Treasurer in 2022, the Blues Society of the Ozarks expresses its' sincere thanks for his exceptional service, commitment, and dedication as a trusted Board officer, as a valuable member, and as great friend. Bravo! 🎸



JINGLE THE BLUES AWAY EVENT

Annual BSO Fundraiser for Local Charities

STORY BY RENEE` HUNT



The Blues Society of the Ozarks hosted their annual *Jingle the Blues Away* on Saturday,

December 11th at Galloway Station.



This year's recipients were *The Great Circle* and *Rare Breed*. We hosted three successful fundraisers, (D.R.Y.M.S., Alyssa Gavan & Art Bentley) leading up to this event. Our Blues Society Members/Supporters did not disappoint. Proceeds from Silent Auction items and cash donations at the door, allotted each organization \$546, plus three carloads of clothing, blankets, food, electronics, school supplies, etc.



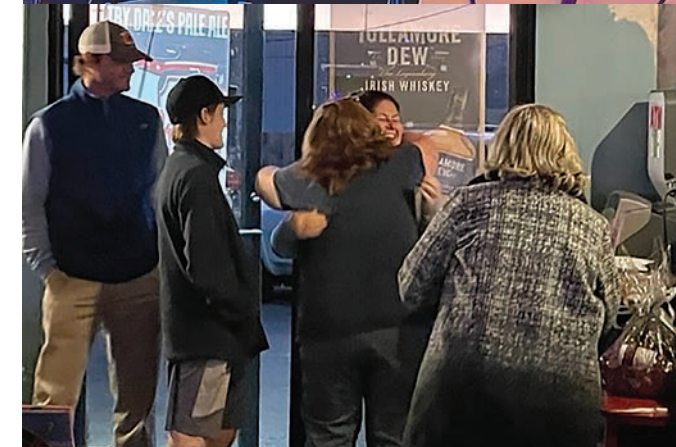
JINGLE THE BLUES AWAY EVENT

ANNUAL BSO FUNDRAISER PHOTO GALLERY

Our BSO Jam Band had over 10 musicians sign up to play. The highlight of the night was our guitar drawing. Our winner was Amy Anderson. Thanks to Springfield Music for donating the \$750 Telecaster. We sold raffle tickets for the past year and made over \$2,500 for the B.I.T.S. program. It was a fun night and an honor to support local Springfield organizations. 🎸



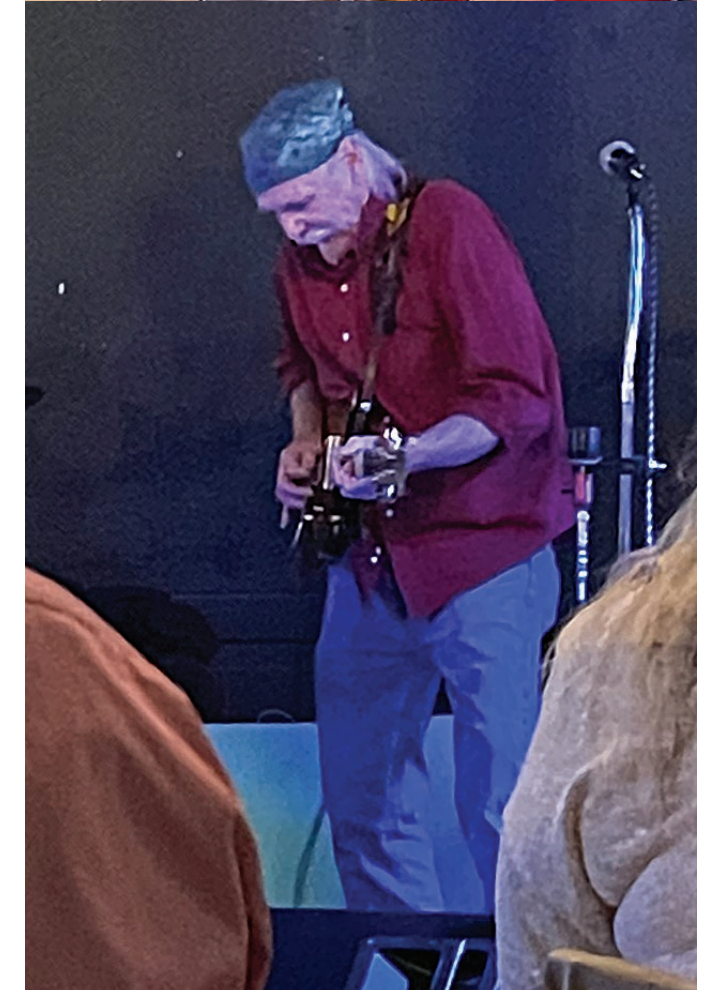
JINGLE THE BLUES AWAY EVENT



JINGLE THE BLUES AWAY EVENT

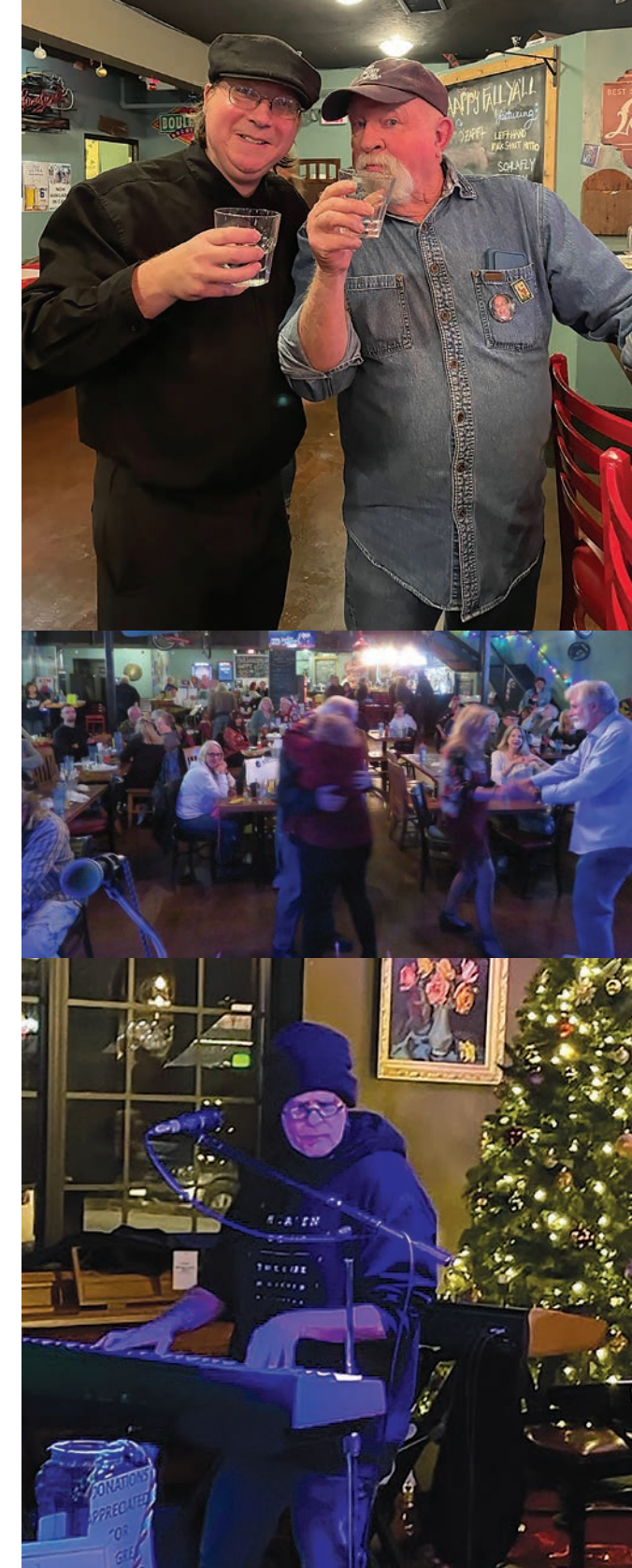


JINGLE THE BLUES AWAY EVENT



JINGLE THE BLUES AWAY EVENT

JINGLE THE BLUES AWAY EVENT



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AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support. The **Blues Society of the Ozarks** as a 501(c)(3), is a qualifying public charitable organization and has the registered listing as "**Blues Society Inc**", Fairplay , MO.



If you're an Amazon online shopper, switching to AmazonSmile, at no cost, is easy way to support your local Blues Society through your online purchases. On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation. AmazonSmile will occasionally contact you about donation amounts disbursed to your chosen charity or about the program.

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BLUES VENUES ABOUT TOWN PLACES TO GO...PEOPLE TO SEE



January 20 - **Karaoke Thursday** 8:00 p.m.

January 21- **Remnant** 8:00 p.m.

January 22 - **Identity Crisis -Masquerade Ball/ Erin's 41st Birthday Bash** 8:00 p.m.

January 23 - **Blues Society 4th Sunday Open Mic Jam** 6:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.

January 25 - **Karaoke Tuesday** 8:00 p.m.

January 26 - **Dave Ellis Presents: Jam Night 8:00 p.m.**

January 27 - **Karaoke Thursday** 8:00 p.m.

January 28 - **RiffRaff** 8:00 p.m.

January 29 - **That 90's Band** 8:00 p.m.-

February 1 - **Karaoke Tuesday** 8:00 p.m.

February 3 - **Karaoke Thursday** 8:00 p.m.

February 4 - **Nathan Bryce & Loaded Dice** 8:00 p.m.

February 5 - **Uncle Buster** 8:00 p.m.

February 8 - **Karaoke Tuesday** 8:00 p.m.

February 11 - **Vic Vaughn & Souled Out** 8:00 p.m.

February 12 - **N2Deep** 8:00 p.m.

February 18 - **Brad Williams & Dance Hall Prophets** 8:00 p.m.

February 19 - **Live Bomb** 8:00 p.m.

February 25 - **Black Note** 8:00 p.m.

February 26 - **Plaid Dinosaurs** - 8:00 p.m.

March 4 - **RiffRaff** 8:00 p.m.

Watch for addition bookings on [Carrie's FB Events](#)



January 22- **Stone Assembly** 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

January 29- **Tony Menown & Co.** 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

February 5 - **Vic Vaughan & Souled Out** 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

February 12- **Like Before** 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

Watch for additional bookings on [Galloway Station FB Events](#).



January 21 - **Matteson Gregory** 7:00 p.m.

January 26 - **Books & Brew Book Club** 6:00 p.m.

January 27 - **Beer Stein Painting Party** 6:00 p.m.

January 29 - **Acoustic Open Mic** 3:00 p.m.

February 9 - **Trivia Night** 6:00 p.m.

Watch for additional bookings on [Hold Fast Brewing FB Events](#).

Show your support for the Blues in southwest Missouri with official BSO merchandise!

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Get your BSO Swag!



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The Blues Society of the Ozarks has a variety of fashion apparel for purchase.

Get your BSO Swag!



Harmonica Necklace
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\$8

Contact a BSO Board Member for purchase details! Show your support in style!

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BECOMING A BSO SUPPORTER

Beginning in 1991, the goal of the Blues Society of the Ozarks has been to encourage the appreciation of the Blues, an original American music. The BSO provides a forum in the Ozarks for the performance of the Blues at live events, radio, and multimedia platforms, and in doing so, with a commitment to educate and entertain all people of the Ozarks.

The BSO Newsletter is a full-color digital publication distributed in both electronic and print formats. And, as organizational membership continues to grow, the BSO Newsletter provides their readership with local and regional opportunities to connect with the Blues community. Sponsorship and advertising revenues provide marketing support for the organization.

The BSO Bluesletter has a significant digital distribution with a bimonthly, or six (6), issues per calendar year. With several size and placement options available, your paid ad placement supports your business, as well as the efforts of the BSO Blues community.

Please join our advertising supporters and partners in keeping the Blues an active cultural contribution to the musical heritage of southwest Missouri.

The available ad spaces available are provided below for your convenience. With several options to choose from; business card size, banner, to a full page layouts, etc.

To learn more about the BSO, and new opportunities for an active role in the Blues community, please contact any BSO Board member or visit the BSO FaceBook page, or visit the BSO web site at <https://ozarksblues.com/>

For additional information regarding opportunities to advertise your business in the BSO Bluesletter, contact Mike Fisher at mikefisher@missouristate.edu.

Full page inside	*8X10 inch.	\$525.00
Full page inside	8X10 inch	\$500.00
Half page landscape	8X5.25 inch	\$300.00
Half page portrait	4X10.5 inch	\$300.00
1/4 page banner	2X8 inch	\$115.00
Business card	2X3.5 inch	\$ 50.00
*Note: A full page inside front/back cover is a Prime placement.		

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Just a reminder, as live music venues are continuing to offer a variety of performing musicians and musical groups. We still need to be safe and smart about ourselves, our friends, and our neighbors. Where ever and what ever you do in supporting live music, please support our community's response and recovery to the pandemic.

To learn more about the BSO, and new opportunities for an active role in the Blues community, please contact any BSO Board member or visit the BSO [FaceBook](#) page, or visit the BSO web site at <https://ozarksblues.com/>



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In this January issue, we celebrate our 11th edition of the BSO Bluesletter and the beginning of a new year-2022. Last year provided hope and new opportunities and our goal remains the same: to connect BSO membership and the Blues Community with news, feature artists, and community information. We continue our focus on recognizing the extraordinary, talented musicians of the region. The New Year is here and music is continuing to fill the emptiness we experienced over the last two years. Several live music venues are bringing back the songs and friends, we are eager to see and hear. Please support area venues that keeping the spirit of the Blues alive.

The BSO continues to add value to the benefits of BSO membership, now is the time to become a member of an mature organization that has a clear focus for the future. Be it keeping the Blues alive through monthly music Jams and live venue events, or Blues in the Schools, or our upcoming fund raisers, the BSO has a need for you. Please consider being a member of the growing BSO family.

This issue includes expanded articles on our 2021 fundraiser events and includes partner venues with live performance listings of area musicians. Look for an area musicians and groups listing in the March 2022 issue. Until then, let's keep the music going and growing.

Now is the time for you to take that step and start writing your contribution to the next BSO Bluesletter. Feel free to contact me, Mike Fisher at mikefisher@missouristate.edu. 🎸

MEMBERSHIP WITH THE BLUES SOCIETY OF THE OZARKS

Since 1991, our goals have been to encourage appreciation of the Blues, an original American music; to provide a forum in the Ozarks for performance of the Blues at live events and on radio and television; to educate and entertain the people of the Ozarks; to provide an organization through which people can share their common love of the Blues; and to join with similar organizations to accomplish the forgoing goals.

Becoming a member and playing an active role in the BSO is easy. As a volunteer organization, there are opportunities to membership benefits:

- BSO merchandise: Tee-shirts, scarves, earrings, scarves, etc.
- Social networking with meeting other people who also love the blues.
- Opportunities to volunteer at BSO fundraisers and sponsored events.
- Ability to attend meetings and have a voice on upcoming organizational issues and elections.



BSO MEMBERSHIP FORM

Sign up at ozarksblues.com or remove and complete this form, and send with check or money order to:
Blues Society of the Ozarks, P.O. Box 8133, Springfield, MO 65801

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(Two adults at same address, please list both names)

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Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Birthday _____

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BAND/ENSEMBLE MEMBERSHIPS - ONLY \$30/YEAR

As an active member in the **BSO**, I would be willing to help in the following areas:

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Advertising/Sales

BSO Fundraising

Public Relations/Marketing

Bluesletter Contributor

Social Media & Website

Merchandising

Musician/Performance/Ensemble

Other _____