



The South Sound Blues Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the blues as an American art form on behalf of its performers and fans through education, community and performance.

The SSBA is an Active Affiliate of



since 2005

2012 General Membership Meeting, IBC Homecoming and Election of Board of Directors

March 8th, 6:00 PM
 The Harmon Brewery
 1938 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma
 Free, All-Ages Event!

Words From Our 2012 IBC Representatives

The Red Hot Blues Sisters

The Red Hot Blues Sisters were proud to represent the SSBA in Memphis this year.

This was my 3rd time at IBC. Every year I go to the IBC and come back, I am reminded about the Grammys and the Academy Awards shows that air shortly thereafter.

All these amazing nominees, narrowed down to the best in their class. Is it a competition or really just a recognition of all your great work and the dues that have been paid to get you this far down the road? And there you have it wrapped up with a bow...all on camera... the nominees with close-up shots as the field narrows and then only one name is called as the winner...only one can win...



but all have been put in that category of great talent, acknowledged for their outstanding contribution.

Indeed a rollercoaster, but worth every minute of the ride. As Joe Whitmer, Deputy Director of the Blues Foundation put it at band orientation, "If the only reason you came was to win, then you are not making the most of your time here." I was so happy to find out we got to play our two nights at BB Kings Blues Club! Almost everyone thought it was the best stage and best sound in all the venues.

You never know what the judges are thinking or writing out there beyond the stage lights. All you can do is play your best set, bring your game and be yourself. I am proud to say we delivered a great set and the whole band brought their 'A' game both nights. We made a lot of industry contacts and a really good impression on a lot of blues professionals and fans.

We also made it a point to go out and support our regional buddies, Robbie Laws at the New Daisy and Wired! at the Hard Rock Café and Orpheum Theatre Finals!

We are all proud to say Washington took home the gold! We congratulate Wired! and the Washington Blues Society for achieving such an enormous goal and want to thank everyone for the opportunity you gave us to go to Memphis! Thanks from the whole band for all your fundraising efforts and support to get us there!

Teri Anne Wilson

(Continued on page 5)

Homecoming **Party** for IBC Participants
 General Membership and
 Board of Directors' Election

March 8, 2012 Thursday
 6:00 PM
 All Ages

Free!

Pizza and more Delicious Food

Live Blues Jam
 (Musicians bring your Instruments)

at
The Harmon Brewery
 1938 Pacific Ave
 Tacoma, WA
 253-383-2739
 SouthSoundBlues.Com

poster by R. Peto

The Prez says ...



Congratulations to The Wired! Band for taking top honors at this year's International Blues

Challenge, in Memphis, on February 4th. The Wired! Band represented the Washington Blues Society at the 2012 event. I had the opportunity to witness

their performance at the Orpheum Theater finals, and they were great! Every band that makes it to the finals undoubtedly is on the top of their game. Each group gave a stellar performance, but the buzz that The Wired! Band created was something extra special. When they announced the winner, those of us from the Northwest were jubilant! Kevin, Keith and Rick worked hard to get to where they are today, and they absolutely deserve it. We are very proud of you guys, and honored to be associated with you.



Jumpin' Josh and Felicia certainly made their mark on Memphis as well. I was only able to catch one night of their performance, but you could tell by the crowd that they were a hit. (Please see Josh and Felicia's articles on page 5.) What I found especially remarkable was that Felicia and Josh made it a point to support all of the other Northwest musicians' performances. The Red Hot Blues Sisters made their mark at BB King's.

Please plan on attending our annual SSBA General Membership/Election meeting scheduled for 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 8th at The Harmon Brewery in downtown Tacoma. We plan on having hors d'oeuvres for all our members, along with live music. To all you musicians: Please plan on bringing your instrument to sit in on this jam.

If you have a desire to serve on our Board of Directors this would be a great time to get involved. We are also planning on celebrating the homecoming of our Memphis contestants. Hopefully the Red Hot Blues Sisters and their entire band, along with Jumpin' Josh and Felicia, will attend. In addition to our SSBA musicians we hope The Wired! Band and Randy Norris and Jeff Nicely from WBS will join us.

The Gray Sky Blues Music Festival scheduled for April 14th in downtown Tacoma is all set to go. This year's headliner will be Karen Lovely from Oregon. Karen has been nominated and won numerous awards including 2011 Blues Music Award Nominee, Best Contemporary Blues Female Artist, Best Album, Best Song of the Year and 2011 Blues Blast Music Award Nominee to name a few. Along with Karen Lovely, The Rafael Tranquilino Band, CD Woodbury Band, The Billy Shew Band, Palmer Junction, The Chester Dennis Jones Band, James King and Southsiders, Jumpin' Josh/ Felicia, Alyx and Chris Phippen and an all youth band called "ZEB," from the Puget Sound Music for Youth Association are scheduled to perform.

(Continued on page 3)

Hey, Blues Fans! Wondering why you should join the SSBA? For a \$20 yearly individual membership fee, you will receive:

- * A regularly produced copy of this newsletter
- * Monthly calendar of South Sound blues events
- * The opportunity to submit articles & music reviews
- * Special event email blasts
- * Event and merchandise discounts
- * A vote on important association matters
- * The satisfaction of knowing you're a part of the South Sound Blues community AND MORE!

South Sound Blues Association Membership Application

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: Home/Work/Cell _____
 Email _____

NOTE: If you want to receive your newsletter and special events information by email, the SSBA does not give out email or membership information.

- _____ Student/Senior Membership \$10/year
- _____ Individual Membership \$20/year (Email News)
- _____ Individual Membership \$30/year (Snail Mail News)**
- _____ Family Membership \$30/year
- _____ Band Membership \$50/year
- _____ Lifetime Individual Membership \$200 (one-time fee)
- _____ Lifetime Family Membership \$300 (one-time fee)
- _____ Corporate Membership \$TBD/year
- _____ Venue Membership \$TBD/year
- _____ Additional Donation

Occupation _____
 Volunteer Skills _____
 Musicians — Instrument(s) _____
 Interested in a Committee Position? _____

Please make checks payable to:
South Sound Blues Association
P.O. Box 26303, Federal Way, WA 98093-3303

Have questions?
Call Gary at (253) 230-6851, or visit our Website:
www.southsoundblues.com

** The additional \$10 charge for Individual Snail Mail Memberships is required to cover the costs of providing hard-copy printing and delivery of the Association Newsletter and the monthly Calendar of Events.

SSBA Newsletter Advertising Rates

Full Page: \$60 Half Page: \$35 Back Half Page: \$45
Quarter Page: \$20 Sixth Page: \$12 Business Card: \$8

Ad discount policy: 20%/12-month advance; 15/6; 10/3

Text: Word '97-03 (.doc), text (.txt) or rich text (.rtf)

Graphics: 300 dpi / jpg, gif, tif or pdf formats

Deadline: 20th of every month

Jeff Hayes

A perfect **DRUMMERBOY** storm this month with gigs all over western Washington and some of the best players on the planet pitching in to make this a wonderful month to join me at a show. Whether you want to dance, listen, or just chill, there's a **DRUMMERBOY** event for YOU.

A special announcement this month. It looks as though I will be joining a new band called **Modern Relics**. I say "looks as though" because these are some of the most respected & connected, roots/alt. country/Americana musicians around and I'm still holding my breath that they'll include me in their venture. **Modern Relics** is the baby of Josh Schramm. Josh is a GREAT singer/songwriter and I'm grateful for this opportunity.

But fear not, **DRUMMERBOY** will continue and if you need a drummer for a night, or a tour, give me a buzz. And of course, the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of every month you will continue to see the "**DRUMMERBOY presents**" nights @ **The Highway**

99 Blues Club featuring the BEST in NW blues!

Wednesday, March 7

w/**Joe Doria & Polly Keary** for "**DRUMMERBOY presents**" night @ **Highway 99 Blues Club**

Friday, March 16

w/**Modern Relics** @ **Molly Maguires** in Ballard

Sunday, March 18

DRUMMERBOY w/**The Mark Whitman Band** @ **The Central** in Kirkland

Saturday, March 31

DRUMMERBOY w/**Lady A** @ **Egan's Ballard Jam House** for her **Delta Music Experience Show**

Wednesday, April 4

w/**Ben Rice** for "**DRUMMERBOY presents**" night @ **Highway 99 Blues Club**

<http://joedoriamusic.com/about.html>

<http://www.ballardjamhouse.com/>

<http://www.highwayninety-nine.com/>

<http://www.ladyababyblues.com/>

<http://www.seattleirishpubs.com/mollys/>

<http://www.benricelive.com/>

<http://markwhitman.com/>

<http://www.joshschramm.com/press.htm>

Jeff the DRUMMERBOY

"A REVOLUTION in ROOTS Music"

<http://drummer-boy.org/>

206-909-6366

drummerboy1961@aol.com

(Continued from page 2)

An "After Party" is planned at The Stonegate in South Tacoma again this year. Please see our poster on page 4 and visit our website, www.southsoundblues.com for more details.

Gary W. Grape

"If you get a chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it."

The next two **SSBA Board Meetings** will be held on March 6th and April 3rd at 6:30PM at Porter's Place, 5026 South Tacoma Way in Tacoma. All members are welcome to attend the meeting, but must inform Gary ahead of time if they wish to speak so they may be placed on the agenda. Minutes of the board meetings will be made available upon request.

Gary and the gang



Photo Acknowledgement

My apologies to Larry Williams for omitting the credit for the photo he submitted last month of the Red Hot Blues Sisters and Robbie Laws taken at the Oxford Saloon. Larry takes fantastic photos of blues artists and events all around the Sound. Thanks Larry and keep up the good work and we always look forward to seeing your work.

Mike Brooks

Hardcopy SSBA Newsletter Printing Services Courtesy of:

Frank Elliott

ELLIOTT SALES/GEIGER

Custom Printed Promotional Products

2502 S. 12th Street, Tacoma, WA

800-576-3945

5th Annual GRAY SKY BLUES MUSIC FESTIVAL

DOWNTOWN TACOMA
Saturday, April 14, 2012
Starts at NOON
after the Daffodil Parade

FEATURING

National Recording Artist
 2011 Blues Music Award Nominee
 IBC 2010 2nd Place Winner
 MUDDY Award Winner

4 VENUES

Including The Harmon Brewery

10 BANDS

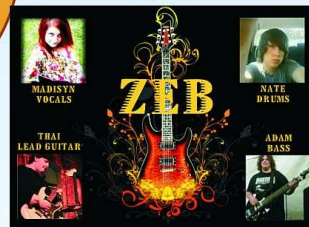
Palmer Junction
 Chester Dennis Jones Band
 CD Woodbury
 James King & the Southsiders
 Billy Shew Band
 The Rafael Tranquilino Band
 Jumpin' Josh and Felicia
 Alyx and Chris Phippen



**THE
 Karen Lovely
 Band**

at The SWISS 6:00-7:30pm

AND



at The Harmon 1:15-2:15pm

Presented by:
 Puget Sound Music for Youth
 Association

After Party
STONEGATE
 5419 So. Tacoma Way 253-606-2255

with
Chester Dennis Jones BAND
 & All Ages Jam Hosted by
 Felicia Agrelius & Jumpin' Josh Violette
8:00 pm

THIRD ANNUAL
HARMON BREWERY
ROD AND CUSTOM SHOW
 9:00am - 3:00pm



PRODUCED BY:
TACOMA EVENTS
 COMMISSION
 www.TacomaEvents.com

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CUTTERS POINT
 1936 PACIFIC AVENUE



(Continued from page 1)

Jumpin' Josh and Felicia

On January 30th, 2012, after long hours of practicing (and flying), my plane touched down in Memphis. It was the trip that I had been looking forward to for quite a while, and that made the week even more exciting.

Jumpin' Josh Violette and I represented the SSBA in the solo/duo category, which was an honor in itself.

I landed on Monday, and even in the airport, I could feel the blues vibe. Not to mention the fact that I ran into Suzanne Swanson, a photojournalist from the Washington Blues Society, who let me rub a piece of cymbal that she had on a necklace. She told me that she had gotten it while watching Sonny Landreth perform Congo Square. That made the mojo even more amazing because Josh and I played that song in our competition set.



Once I actually made it to Beale Street, the whole energy of the place engulfed me. The food, the locals, and the atmosphere, plus all of the other blues players from around the world, made the place a pocket of brilliance, the likes of which I had not really been exposed to before. The IBC is one of a kind, in that it is the mass gathering of people devoted to keeping the blues alive, which is the aim of the Blues Foundation, which organizes the entire event.

Tuesday night, almost everyone who was to compete had arrived, and we all gathered at the New Daisy to watch the International Showcase. The Blues Foundation filled our bellies with tasty barbeque, and the acts from out of the country filled our ears with their foreign flare. It set the stage for Josh and I to compete the next day, as well as getting the ball rolling for the rest of the week.

The next two days in the competition were phenomenal. Josh and I only played in the first round, but it was definitely worth it. I had the time of my life in the Blues Hall (our venue), and feel like we played our sets better than we had ever done before. The other acts were spectacular to watch, too. As a friend of mine said while down there, "there are many shades of blue." It's true! Everyone had their own unique sound.

The jams were even better. I played once at Alfred's on Wednesday, with Randy Norris and the Dutch musicians. Thursday and Friday I was at the Hard Rock Café during the youth jam run by Cassie Taylor. These nights allowed all the performers to do what they loved to do, minus the pressure of competing. On top of that, the jams meant massive networking opportunities. I met youths and adults from France, Germany, the Philippines and across America. Playing with them gave us an instant connection of being fellow musicians. After the official jam on Friday was over, all of the youths hung out on the street, singing classics, until the manager of the Pig on

Beale invited us to play in his club. We did, and into the wee hours of the night; that is, until our parents declared it bedtime.

During my little time not playing drums, one of the things I did was help Josh, the "Roving Reporter," interview long-time blues great David Bowen, who is a wonderful person. It was inspiring listening to his stories, as well as hearing about his passion for music. Seeing my friends in Wired! win the band portion of the competition (that's right, first place for Washington!) was almost too much to handle. They deserved it so much and it was a fabulous culmination to the week. We got to watch them, Randy Norris and Jeff Nicely (also from the Washington Blues Society) and the Red Hot Blues Sisters (the SSBA band) play their sets. It was great to show fellow Washingtonians that we supported them.

My trip to Memphis was a non-stop whirlwind of fun. From drum clinics to shows, organized competition to impromptu jams, I would do all of it again. Hopefully, I will! See you next year, Beale Street!

Felicia Agrelius, drummer, 16

Hey blues fans,

as y'all might know, I was fortunate enough to be able to represent the SSBA down on Beale Street in Memphis. This year's International Blues Challenge was the largest yet with 119 bands and 86 solo/duo acts, one of which being Jumpin' Josh and Felicia! On the first two days of the competition, we competed at the W.C. Handy Blues hall for the quarter-finals. Unfortunately, we didn't make it through that round, but there were some really amazing musicians at our venue and we didn't have any hard feelings. We were there to do our best, and that's what we did! The next day was spent watching as many semi-finals acts as we could. Even though there is no way to see everything, I got to see so many great performances including the northwest acts Wired! Band and the Robbie Laws Band. Later on that night Felicia and I played at the youth jam at the Hard Rock Cafe, as well as start up a sort of jam of our own at Pig on Beale with some of the other youth musicians from back at the jam. Saturday was finals day, where the best of the best fought for the title of IBC Winner. Of course with my luck, we left the band finals a little bit early to avoid the crowd of people leaving and missed the winner announcements, so I didn't get to hear the announcement first hand, but news spreads fast on Beale, and it didn't take long for me to hear that Wired! Band won! What a way to end such a great week! So congrats to the first pacific northwest band to win the IBC, and a big thank you has to go out to the SSBA for supporting Felicia and me on our fantastic trip!

'Til next time,

Jumpin' Josh

Saturday, March 17



12 ACTS...

Coyote Kings w/Mush with Kenny "Blue" Ray
Jimmy Lloyd Rea & The Switchmasters
Randy Oxford Band ~ Junkyard Jane
Kevin Selfe & The Tornados ~ Sammy Eubanks
Vaughn Jensen Band ~ Joe Smart & Laredo Drive
Gary Winston & The Real Deal
Philly KingB & The Stingers
Wasteland Kings ~ Siol

Motel/Fest packages available



Win this guitar!



5 VENUES...

In Downtown Walla Walla

Sapoll Cellars ~ Walla Walla Elks Lodge
Charles Smith Winery ~ CrossRoads Steakhouse ~ Walla Faces
Festival Kick-off Party Fri 3/16 at Sapoll Cellars w/The Randy Oxford Band

www.wallawallaguitarfestival.com



2012 IBC Recap: Bob Corritore

I once thought that going to the IBCs (AKA The International Blues Challenge) was all about the band competition, and perhaps for some it is. But for a number of years now I have chosen to attend to be a part of what I feel is the bigger picture of this event. To me this event is a family gathering of blues people who come to get the feeling of community that is so powerfully demonstrated in these few days. Everyone is there for the blues, and that's a powerful thing. Hundreds of bands determined to make their best appearance, blues societies, seasoned musicians, agents, writers, bloggers, photographers, booking agents, publicists and blues people of all types are all there.

In addition to the band contests, the IBCs feature great showcases and after-hours jams, tasty southern dining experiences, clinics, seminars and the Keeping the Blues Alive Awards Brunch. One must applaud the amazing organization of the Blues Foundation, whose small staff call upon and coordinate volunteer members to work many of the tasks of this smoothly run event. These are just a few examples of the many ways that this event nurtures a powerful blues camaraderie. You could not walk down the street without bumping into a familiar

face every few steps. Many introductions and exchanged business cards combine with a wide array of great bands all playing their hearts out to their blues family.

While at the IBCs I had a number of fun playing opportunities; a Thursday late night jam at the New Daisy Theater with Jonn Del Toro Richardson, Sean Carney, and Rich DelGrosso, a Thursday later night jam where host Nick Moss called upon me to join him for a couple of classic Chicago blues numbers, a walk back to the hotel with Hawkeye Herman where I played harp and Hawkeye sang some gospel classics, Bob Margolin's Friday blues showcase where I got to play with Bob, Tad Walters (who opened the show playing some great harmonica!), Matt Hill, Chuck Cotton and the Peterson Brothers. And then an impromptu lobby jam at the Doubletree hotel after the KBA Brunch.

Speaking of which, Saturday's KBAs were a very reflective and joyous time as the Blues Foundation honored the behind the scenes heroes of our industry. I sat between my friends Jean Guillermo (Blues Sur Seine) and Karen McFarland (Mississippi Valley Blues Society) watching some very heart-warming speeches by some very accomplished award recipients!

Shortly after the KBAs it was off to the band finals at the beautiful Orpheum Theater which was part concert and part lobby party. Immediately after the band finals was a dinner with friends Steve Simon and his lovely lady Downing, Paul and Jean Benjamin, and Bill Wax, whose birthday we were celebrating! I called it an early night around 10:30pm because of my early Sunday morning flight back to Phoenix where later that night my radio show celebrated it's 28-year anniversary!

Coming home, I was on the same flight as my friends Common Ground Blues Band who represented Phoenix at the IBCs. A fun time in Memphis!

Blues is Celebrated at the White House!

On February 21st, President Barack Obama presented an evening honoring the blues as part of Black History Month. Many aspects of the blues and it's popular crossover were featured and the artists included were B.B. King, Mick Jagger, Buddy Guy, Shemekia Copeland, Trombone Shorty, Warren Haynes, Jeff Beck, Susan Tedeschi, Derek Trucks, Gary Clark, Jr. and a house band led by Booker T (of Booker T and the MGs fame). President Obama even joined in for a few lines of "Sweet Home Chicago!" Both Etta James and Hubert Sumlin were memorialized. The White House blues celebration in its live raw form was watched by millions and should give all of us in this industry a boost! To see more, run an internet search on "Blues at the White House."

March 2012

- BEN- Benders Sports & Music, Renton (425-277-3307)
- CAS- Casey's Grill/Sports Bar, Kent (253-236-4137)
- CHA- Charlie's, Olympia (360-786-8181)
- DAW- Dawson's, Tacoma (253-976-1421)
- HAF- Half Time Saloon, Gig Harbor (253-853-1456)
- HDH- HD Hotspots, Kent (253-854-5653)
- HUB- The Hub, Tacoma (253-683-4606)
- JAZ- Jazhouses, Tacoma (253-396-9169)
- JUN- The Junctions, Centralia (360-273-7586)
- JOH- Johnny's Dock, Tacoma (253-627-3186)
- LOU- Louis O's, Fife, (253-253-926-9700)
- LUC- Lucky Eagle Casino, Rochester(800-720-1788)
- MAN- Mandolin Cafe, Tacoma
- MAS- Massimo's, University Place (253-503-1902)
- OCA- O'Callaghan's, Lake Bay (253-884-9766)
- RED- Red Wind Casino, Olympia (360-412-5000)
- REN- Rendezvous, Enumclaw
- SCO- Scotch & Vine, Des Moines (206-592-2139)
- SPA- The Spar, Tacoma (253-272-2122)
- STO- Stonegate, Tacoma (253-472-7493)
- SWI- The Swiss 253-572-2821)
- TEM- Tempest Lounge, Tacoma
- USA- Uncle Sam's, Spanaway (253-507-7808)
- UPS- Upstage, Port Townsend
- VES- Blues Vespers, Tacoma (253-627-8371)
- WES- Westgate Inn, Tacoma (253-756-7072)

The South Sound Blues Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the blues as an American art form on behalf of its performers and fans through education, community and performance.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 DAW- Tim Hall Jam USA- Shelly Ely Jam WES- Billy Farmer Jam SPA- TBA HDH- James King & Southsiders	5 SWI- TBA	6 STO- Jam w/ Rafael Tranquilino	7 HAF- Billy Shew Jam CHA- Blues Attitude Jam	8 Beale Street Blues Jam The HARBORION Plus the usual jams, as listed below....	9 JAZ- Two Slim & Traildragers	10 Rafael's ALL AGES JAM Stonegate Poverty Bay Wine Fest- Brian Lee & Orbitars
11 DAW- Tim Hall SPA- TBA USA- Shelly Ely Jam WES- Billy Farmer Jam HDH- Maia Santelli & House Blend	12 SWI- Jerry Miller	13 STO- Jam w/ Rafael Tranquilino	14 HAF- Billy Shew Jam CHA- Blues Attitude	15 HUB- Jam w/Rafael DAW- Billy Shew Jam STO- Billy Scoops OpenMic JUN- Blues AttitudeJam USA- Jerry Miller OCA- Tim Hall Jam	16 JAZ- Military Fundraiser w/ Cec Cec James & more Pt. Townsend Elks- Maia Santelli & HB MARY- Rafael Tranquilino UPS- Lisa Mann	17 SCO- Brian Lee Trio
18 VES- Duffy Bishop Henry Cooper HDH- Cody Rentas DAW- Tim Hall Jam USA- Shelly Ely Jam JOH- Bloss Redemptioce SPA- TBA SWI- PSMFYA Youth Jam	19 SWI- Dakota Bob & Businessmen	20 STO- Jam w/ Rafael Tranquilino	21 HAF- Billy Shew Jam CHA- Blues Attitude Jam	22 HUB- Jam w/Rafael DAW- Billy Shew Jam STO- Billy Scoops OpenMic USA- Jerry Miller OCA- Tim Hall Jam JUN- Blues AttitudeJam	23 JAZ- Ty Curtis Band	24 UPS- John Nemeth
25 UPS- Lloyd Jones DAW- Tim Hall Jam USA- Shelly Ely Jam WES- Billy Farmer SPA- TBA HDH- Maia Santelli & House Blend	26 SWI- aek Band	27 STO- Jam w/ Rafael Tranquilino	28 HAF- Billy Shew Jam CHA- Blues Attitude Jam	29 HUB- Jam w/Rafael DAW- Billy Shew Jam STO- Billy Scoops OpenMic JUN- Blues AttitudeJam USA- Jerry Miller OCA- Tim Hall Jam	30	31 Key Peninsula Civic Club- Cody Rentas SCO- Brian Lee Trio

March 2012



BANDS AND VENUES: CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLICATION. SEND TO: jhendersonwa@earthlink.net

The South Sound Blues Association
P.O. Box 26303
Federal Way, WA
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www.southsoundblues.com