



December 2009
Newsletter

Time to Renew Your Membership for 2010

Renew or join by our next show on Jan 2nd and you could win \$100 cash or a room package (a Jacuzzi suite, dinner and breakfast for 2) at the Parkway!!!!

Invoices will not be mailed out this year—you may renew online, at the jam, at the show on Jan 2 or just mail your dues to WBJs, P.O. Box 1643 Evansville WY 82636. Everyone is welcome—encourage your fellow music lovers to join, and help grow our membership!

Upcoming Events: (print for future reference/reminders)

December 20th – Monthly Jam at Gigz,– Rockin’ 3 Bar hosts, 4-8 PM

January 2nd, 2010 – *Ballroom Full of Blues* –Nick Moss & the Flip Tops, featuring Lurrie Bell and more—in the Parkway Ballrooms (full details on next page)

January 10th – Membership meeting, 4 PM at the Parkway, all members welcome to attend

January 17th– Monthly Jam sessions return to the Parkway, 4-8 PM

February 12th – James Armstrong performs at the Attic (make this your Valentine’s Day celebration)

February 14th – Membership meeting, 4 PM

February 21st – Monthly Jam

March 13th – The Insomniacs perform at the Attic

March 14th – Membership Meeting 4 PM—and don’t forget to set your clocks ahead

March 21st – Monthly Jam

—If your band would be available to host a jam, please call Jody Taylor – 234-4120.

The “rest of the story” on Jan 2, Ballroom Full of Blues

Start the New Year out right with an evening of great music in the Parkway Ballrooms—what a night we have arranged for you!

Nick Moss & the Flip Tops are 14 time Blues Music Awards Nominees, for “Band of the Year” the last 3 years in a row. They are billed as “the real deal in Chicago blues”. As a bonus, they are featuring 2010 Grammy nominee Lurrie Bell on this tour.

Nick has long been a favorite player at Buddy Guy’s club, and has worked with Willie “Big Eyes” Smith, Jimmy Rogers, Anson Funderburgh and Curtis Salgado.

Nick says” I feel like I’m one of the only bands from Chicago that’s actually still playing Chicago blues the way people think of Chicago blues” and has been praised for possessing “mastery of the classic Chicago sound”.

But wait, that’s not all

You may recognize this bunch, now known as “The Wyoming National Band”



The Wyoming National Band.....or IS it?

But, enough of that. The Wyoming National Band’s line-up is:

Jody Taylor: guitar, vocals and awesome shoes.

Kenny Garrett: keyboards, vocals, songwriting and nice do-rags.

Cory McDaniel: snappy frontman, guitar, vocals and songwriting.

Amy Gieske: bass, vocals and no make-up. Nick Smith: drums, vocals and cool fedora

By now it’s unlikely that anyone reading this hasn’t run into one or more of these musicians playing in some band or other around town since, between the five of them, they have almost two hundred years of professional experience! And about fifty cents worth of common sense or they wouldn’t still be doing it...but that’s another story.

But, in all those years, they’ve never all been in a band together. So, one night, over cups of herbal tea, they all got to talking and figured....well.....WHY NOT? Their debut performance was a knockout as the hosts of the WBJs monthly jam session in October 2009, and their next public performance, predicted to be equally stellar, will be as the opening act for the WBJs’s first concert of the new year: Nick Moss and the Flip Tops on January 2, 2010.

Oh....and, back to the headline of this article.....maybe it isn’t! The band is soliciting suggestions for names and if they decide to use yours, they’ll give you a WBJs autographed T shirt at the Jan 2 show.

This is a show not to be missed—plan now to make this your New Year’s Celebration! Tickets are \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. Under 21 are welcome to attend (until 10 PM), children 12 and under free with parent. A non-smoking event.

Doors open at 5:30, music starts about 6:30. When the Wyoming National Band finishes, we will be presenting the Ray Patterson Memorial Scholarship to a Casper College music student. All those who have paid their 2010 WBJs dues will be entered into a drawing for \$100 cash, and one for the room package at the Parkway.

Get a room and breakfast for 2, only \$65. Enjoy an Italian style buffet at the beginning of the evening for only \$10 per person. Come early, get good seats and have dinner! The Parkway is a major sponsor of this event, along with Dr Curtis Li, Mike & Starla Mammon and Larry & Kara Linn.

Wear that holiday outfit one more time, or come in your jeans—just don’t miss this show!

Our Favorite Doctor reports from Utah

Greetings from Utah!!

I do not have a lot to report, only that I am in fairly good shape. I went for a routine exam this morning, had some blood drawn, and had a flu shot (which I have avoided for years . . .)– not the h1n1 vaccine, but just the normal shot. No flu-like symptoms yet, which is good news for me.

I have had a number of visitors, which many of you know about by now. Great visits from Bob M., Sonnie R., and various family members. I will have my cousin Mallory (from CT) come by for Thanksgiving.

Hannah, my niece, is back in the area. She just got her nursing degree from U. of Utah, as well as passing her board exams. She now works for a hospice here, and is going to be a tremendous help to me after my surgery.

I am still in the dark as far as when the surgery will actually be. My assumption is that I am not in critical enough condition to be bumped up in the time line. But I am here– like the transplant team asked me to be. In the meantime I am practicing the organ at the Episcopal Cathedral downtown and working on a Blues project (with my little studio here – I will send some files when I get them).

Particular thanks to Janie for capturing the “Toddstock” event. Bob M. and I got a real kick out of looking through the DVDs – especially the “Little Help from my Friends”, which Bob was the star.

My recollection is that a good time was had by all, and such a good send-off for me. I have the tie-dyed signed sheet as a bed cover. I sleep with all of you . . .!!

I get emails from a number of you, keeping me apprised of the music scene and related activities. My mother sent me a clipping about the 12/24 “no class” reunion – featuring the “Novells” , and the column about Travis’ plight.

I do miss the band activity, especially the musicians. Have heart– SUPPORT T-ROY!! Times will get better.

That’s about it for now – I will keep you informed as to my progress. MISS YOU ALL !!!!

Todd

UPDATE:

Todd reports “The big news for me is that I had an opportunity to play the Tabernacle organ. I could die tomorrow and be just fine.....”

Review of a Blues Cruise:

Contributed by Kara & Larry Linn

What’s the closest thing to heaven on earth? A BLUES CRUISE ! Picture yourself all tucked into a comfortable stateroom. King-sized bed, veranda, flat screen TV (not that you’ll need it). Safety drill is over (Susan Tedeschi happens to be on your life boat assignment and helps you with your life vest). You’ve freshened up and now you go to the aft-most (is that a word?) deck, which has nothing above it but the open air of San Diego Harbor. *Coco Montoya* is playing, waiters meander through the crowd with trays of hors d’oeuvres and margaritas in blue martini glasses. You hear the horn blow as the ship disembarks and you feel sorry for anyone stuck on shore. But, at least they can hear some really good music, albeit briefly. There’s a party going on with nothing but blues music and you’re part of it for 7 days! You look into the eyes of your partner and feel so close, so excited, and so happy, you think you just might burst!

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And it just gets better from there! If you and your significant other are truly blues lovers, this is an ideal vacation. We had been watching the line-ups for several years, and when the one that grabbed us the most came up, we knew it was our turn to go.

Susan Tedeschi has a phenomenal voice, great versatility, and a world-class band. Her saxophonist toured internationally with Dizzy Gillespie for several years, and there is nothing that man can't do on the sax. We saw them 3 times and they got better each time. Susan also made a great contribution to the songwriters forum by being the articulate, professional she is. Her music comes straight from the soul and we heard her perform some soft ballads that gave us goose bumps.

Last, but definitely not least, the real sleeper for us was a wiry, head-banging, feisty little blonde woman from California named **Laurie Morvan**. She is the best female picker we've ever seen besides Kelly Richie. She's been featured in the prestigious Guitar Player and Modern Guitars magazines. We liked her so much we went to her show at Humphrey's in San Diego where she opened for another cruiser, **Ronnie Baker Brooks**, the night the cruise ended. We were still walking funny anyway, so we figured we might as well have some musical vibrations under our feet.

Of course we could just go on and on. There were so many other great entertainers on this cruise and a unique experience to see people like **Dave Mason** and Coco Montoya eating across from you. We met fabulous people. It was so romantic. We can't imagine taking any other kind of cruise because we'd probably be too bored. It's a blessing that every blues lover should experience at least once!

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FYI from the WBJB Board—we have just arranged to have Laurie Morvan here in Casper July 9<sup>th</sup>—!

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Fabulous Festival in Laramie that not many people went to, so we thought you might like to know what you missed.....

SNOWY RANGE MUSIC FESTIVAL SEPT 5-7 2009

Submitted by Janie Wait

As compiled with help from several co-contributors with my thanks!

Some friends and I went down to the Snowy Range Music Festival in September and camped out at the fairgrounds surrounded by great music. The line up was great but the festival was lightly attended with between 300-500 people spread throughout the Albany County Fairgrounds, depending on the act. Very disappointing given the depth of talent they presented. Part of it was because of weather, rainy, but also the UW Cowboys football game. They also had up to 3 shows going at a time and that had a tendency to dilute the crowds, which is good if you are a music lover. The main stage acts at the arena started at around noon and the show arena shows at 1:00. They opened the Red Barn on Saturday and Sunday nights as a third venue around 9 pm. This my review!

Saturday we didn't get there and get camp set up until late afternoon. We got to see Dave Beegle and were really impressed with the young girl that played with him. He really stepped up to the plate to match the energy of this great young female guitar player.

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Rod Piazza and the Mighty Flyers were great. I really liked their showmanship. Between he, and his wife on keyboards, they really ripped it up. We stayed at the main arena to see Jonny Lang. The 25 minute Stevie Wonder "Just enough for the city" cover was a little over the top. Jonny has changed his direction, and is doing a lot of gospel these days, but I am hoping he will get back to his blues roots.

We did go check out Reba Russell at the show arena after Jonny left the main stage and decided we wanted to see her again.

Jonny Lang headed over to the show arena eventually for the late show with Gino Matteo and us late comers were treated to a rare Jonny Lang jam with Gino and the Family Phunk. It was awesome and very intimate – for a barn setting. Everyone was really into it and the crowd broke up slow and late around 2 pm, or so I heard.

We went back into the festival around 2 Sunday. When we went back it was to see Reba Russell again. She was still rockin' but on the main stage this time! Her voice was really solid and rich. We only get a few big female blues voices in Casper so it was a real treat.

Then came our home state boys, Blind Dog Smokin'. Their set was typical of their shows with the great sense of humor we know them for. They really worked the crowd and got everybody involved. Carl Gustafson, their lead singer and harmonica player, was the festival promoter so they had a lot at stake. He talked about how great it was to be able to give back to his home community of Laramie. He told a story about how he ran away from home in east Laramie to...west Laramie with his best friend where he learned the blues. Some people have to travel way further to get that kind of inspiration.

Eric Sardinias has great energy. We got to see him at the Attic last spring but missed him the night before the festival at GIGZ in Casper because we were already here in Laramie. His voice really carries and leans more toward a rock sound than traditional blues.

We got to see Samuel James, who I was terribly impressed with. He had a deep bluesy feel was really supported by the rainy drizzly weather. He sounded like such an old soul that when we really got a look at him it was incongruous. James really has a feel for the old, old blues for a 20 something year old. Unbelievable.

Susan Tedeschi really rocked the house. The sound was set up for a much larger crowd, so up close the reverb was kinda hard on the ears but it was hard to convince me to step back when I had such a great view of the finger work she was shinin' on during the show. She really had the crowd in her hand. I really thought her covers were great but you really get a feel for her personality when she plays her own songs and interacts with her band!

We went back to camp and just relaxed after the show. It was interesting to be in the camp ground at the fairgrounds. Sometimes the music would collide from the main stage and the show arena. Depending on how you turned your head or how the wind shifted you would get clear sound from one or the other. It was like having a radio that was changing stations of its own accord. Pretty strange but fun!

We got up and around earlier on Monday to catch the end of Jasco. That is Jason Coombs who used to be Blind Dog Smokin's lead guitar player before Carl left for California. He plays really progressive jazz which probably went over the heads of most people there. As we know there is a much large appreciation for blues in our state than for jazz, to date. It was interesting but I didn't really appreciate it like I should have, I am sure.

On to Seth Walker on the main stage who does more folk songs and Americana sounds. He was my surprise sleeper. But then again, I only just figured out in the last 10 years that I even like Bluegrass, so there you go. I am way into ballads and story songs so he really did it for me.

Carl Weathersby is a big, big guy with a mean guitar. It was essentially Gino Mateo's Band with Carl so the sound was familiar to what we had been hearing all weekend.

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My favorite was Derek Trucks but that was why I went in the first place. He is an amazing guitarist, especially for his age, even for his years of experience.

The rain held off and he played longer than booked. The cream was having Susan come out for the last 4 songs. It was great that she was joining Derek's band and didn't steal the show but really brought out the best in the boys. I was in heaven. His lead singer, Mike Madison, has an extraordinary voice. It is very unique, you can tell who it is, one of those signature voices. A real pleasure to end the night with.

We waited in the show arena for the rain to end and Gino to show up. Although Gino fired up again we were wore out and headed back to camp. What a weekend.

I don't know how it could be that so few people showed up for such a great show of talent. At the end, Carl even got frustrated. He thanked the crowd but really expressed his disappointment in the community support the festival received. We can only hope it was enough for him to try again.

Thanks to our 2009 sponsors

The Attic	The Parkway	Mountain States Lithographing
Dr. Steven Orcutt	Larry & Kara Linn	Mike & Starla Mammon
Dr. Todd Scott	Coors/Western Distributing	Frosty's

You may not realize just how critical sponsorship is to the Society. Without the help of these generous people we would not be able to bring National artists to Casper.

**Please consider becoming a sponsor now for one of our shows in 2010
that we have scheduled:**

James Armstrong – February 12th	The Insomniacs – March 13th
Laurie Morvan – July 9th	

Sponsorships levels of \$300, \$500 and \$1000 (and up) include free show tickets, reserved seating, and your name/business name in all print advertising.

On a smaller level you could pay poster and ticket printing costs, an ad in the Journal or the Quik Quarter, or postcards and postage.

The board feels it is particularly important now to secure sponsors at all levels, in order to keep our ticket prices as low as possible in this economy. Our concerts must be kept affordable for everyone.

If you are able to in sponsor in any way any, please call Lou – 259-8725, or email wycluelou@hotmail.com.

**The Wyoming Blues & Jazz Society is a non-profit organization–
consult your tax professional regarding donations**

Bits & Pieces

- * There are only a few of the 10 Year Anniversary T-shirts and hats left, no more will be printed, so get yours at the jam or at the Jan 2 show, only \$15 each. Also a few of the Toddstock tie-dyed shirts for \$10.
- * The Lazy 8 has a jam session every Saturday night, call Sam Gale for more info: 224-0263
- * There has been some interest in having “youth” jam sessions. Some very talented youngsters have shown their skills at our jams. Is there anyone out there who would step up and take charge of this project? The WBJs offers support, but without a few people to donate some time and energy, it won't happen. The young musicians here need a place to get together and play too. Travis has a great venue for them at Gigz, and has said he would support this project.
- * Friday night live music may be coming back! The Parkway and The Ramada have both contacted the WBJs seeking contact info for local bands. Any band that is interested should get in touch with them.
- * The Wyoming Blues & Jazz Society has joined the Casper Area Chamber of Commerce, and is now an Affiliate of the Blues Foundation.
- * HELP WANTED:
Someone proficient in excel to help me with the membership/ mailing list/database! I need a couple of hours of your time – please call me – 259-8725. Thanks, Lou
- * Your help at a concert is always appreciated. If you can spend 30 minutes helping out at the door, or selling T-shirts please just let a board member know. We have recently seen a few new faces volunteering, and sure would like to see more! Let's not be that kind of group where only a few are active.
- * All members are welcome at our monthly meetings. Your input and ideas are needed and welcomed.
- * Page is working on setting up a Facebook page for the WBJs – any other ideas out there for marketing/advertising?
- * If you are not receiving your email notifications, send your addy to wybluelou@hotmail.com. We are trying to update the list.



P.O. Box 1643
Evansville, WY 82636-1643

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season!

The 2009-2010 Wyoming Blues & Jazz Society Board

President – Lou Morris (259-8725)
Vice-President – Jeff Bryden (265-6463)
Treasurer – Jody Murray (265-6749)
Secretary – Deb Cheatham (258-1423)

Thanks for your support over the past year!