



Got Blues ? It could be you !

The Wyoming Blues Challenge

The Wyoming Blues and Jazz Society is searching for the best Blues musicians in Wyoming, to represent us at the International Blues Challenge.

The 2012 International Blues Challenge will be the 28th year of Blues musicians from around the world competing for cash, prizes, and industry recognition. The Blues Foundation will present the 28th International Blues Challenge January 31-February 4, 2012 in Memphis, TN.

The only way to enter this prestigious event is to be sponsored by a Blues Society that is an Affiliate of the Blues Foundation, and each one has the right to send a band and solo/duo act to represent the organization at the IBC. This will be the first time we have held such a competition, and it will be in the Parkway Ballrooms on Sunday July 17th, following the IBC format and scoring system. Full details on that can be found on www.blues.org - click on the IBC logo.

Any band, solo or duo act is invited to compete, providing they are Wyoming residents or natives. In the case of a band, that at least 75% of the act are Wyoming residents/natives. Any entry must also be committed to attending the IBC. The WBSJ will assist in fundraising and promotion, but is not responsible for bearing the cost of the trip to Memphis.

A \$50 non-refundable entry fee per act will be charged, payable at the time of registration. Deadline for entering is June 30. Entry form is on our website www.wvobluesandjazz.org. The entry fees will be used to pay the expenses of holding the event, and anything left will be used to fund the winner's trip to Memphis. Contact Lou Morris, Wyoming Blues and Jazz Society President, wybluelou@hotmail.com or 307-259-8725.

Thanks to our sponsors:



CJ's Sound

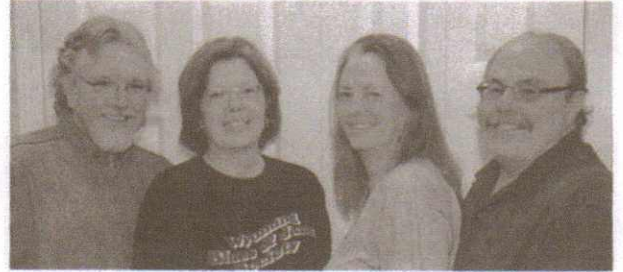


Plan to attend the Wyoming Blues Challenge; all ages are welcome and encouraged to do so. We hope to have a lot of entries; we will start at 3:00 PM, so there may be time to jam when the competition is over. Each act **will** do a 25 minute performance. Full details will be announced when **all** entries have been received (deadline is June 30 to be postmarked).

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Society Business and Such from your Board of Directors

Treasurer Jody Murray, President Lou Morris,
Secretary Deb Cheatham, V.P. Jeff Bryden



New T-shirts are here!

New Wyoming Blues & Jazz T-shirts are available!

They have our logo on the front, and a list of shows we have done on the back. Available for sale at our next jam, still just \$15 each. Buy one and wear it proudly to show your support and promote the Society.

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We are still working on organizing all age's jams on a regular basis, and will be pursuing it again in the fall. These will not replace our regular jams, just give an opportunity for the younger musicians and fans to attend and participate on a regular basis.

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Thanks to all of you who showed your appreciation to Nora Fagan, of Fagan Jewelers, for donating a very nice item for our raffle last fall. She has generously agreed to donate again this year because of your courtesy. Please remember to thank all of the individuals, and patronize businesses that support the Society - we couldn't do it without them!

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We will have a booth at Beartrap Summer Festival, August 6th & 7th. **If** you are planning to attend, and could help man the booth for an hour or so, it would be much appreciated. We will be selling WBJS T-shirts and promoting the Society.

In addition we will be offering some of those little things forgotten by campers, or all day visitors to the Festival, like band aids, sunscreen, toothpaste, toothbrushes, trash bags, soap etc etc, for a small donation. **If** you have ideas, or could donate a few of the above items, please call Lou-259-8725.

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Word of mouth is the best advertising possible - keep talking about the Society and our events to your family, friends and co-workers! We have seen a lot of new faces at our concerts and jams -keep up the good work!

Forward those email notices to them, print and post in your office -whatever works - get the info out so that more people attend, and the Society continues to grow!

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Membership meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month, at 4:00 PM in All That Jazz (in the Parkway). Member attendance and input is appreciated. Non-members are welcome to address any business concerns before the actual business meeting begins.

Some Local and Regional Events

Save for future reference. This just a sampling, there are too many to list here.
www.bluesfestivalguide.com is a good source for events nationwide

NicFest June 24, 25, 26. At the Nicolaysen Museum, downtown Casper.
www.thenic.org. **Hamilton Loomis** opens on Friday night!

June 24-25-26 9th Annual BLUES FROM THE TOP

Winter Park, CO. Nick Moss and the Fliptops with Special guest Joe Moss, John Nemeth Soul Revue, Albert Cummings, Ashley Cleveland, Matt Schofield, Joanne Shaw Taylor, Samantha Fish/Cassie, Taylor/Dani Wilde, Mary Bridget Davis, Dustin Pittsley, Sammy Mayfield Band, and Ashley Cleveland, Young Austin & No Difference hosting the Future of the Blues stage, Michaela and

the Stingrays and more! For more info & tix go to www.grandblues.org

A limited number of tickets have been offered to the Wyoming Blues & Jazz Society for just \$15 per day – call Lou to purchase, 259-8725.

Donkey Creek Jazz Festival - June 25 & 26, in Gillette, at the College.

www.donkeycreekfestival.com Free and open to all! Blinddog Smokin', Another Kind of Magick and lots more! 10 AM til 10 PM both days.

Wednesday Night Live at the Nic (downtown Casper) starts July 7. 5:30 -7:30, every Wed through Aug 25th. See www.the.nic.org for line up. Outdoors –bring chairs or blankets- no charge to attend.

July 17 OLD ARVADA BLUES & BARBEQUE

Old Town Arvada, CO Lineup- Duke Street Kings, Teresa Lynne and the Dreamboats, The Big Motif, Young Austin and No Difference, Reckless Red, more to come. For more info & tix go to www.bluesnbbq.com

Aug 6, 1st Annual BLUE STAR BLUES FESTIVAL

Clement Park, Littleton, CO

11am-8pm. Line-up: Tommy Castro, Ana Popovic, Mike Zito, Zac Harmon, & Jack Hadley. Proceeds of the Festival benefit the Blue Star Connection. For more info & tix go to

www.bluestarconnection.org

The Blue Star Connection mission is to provide access to musical instruments for children with life threatening illness through a personal instrument for home use or through sponsored Children's Hospitals or similar programs, primarily in the USA.



BEARTRAP SUMMER FESTIVAL '11

Featuring **Taj Mahal**
AUGUST 6-7

BearTrap Summer Festival Aug 6 & 7 on Casper Mountain

www.beartrapsummerfestival.com Taj Mahal headlines!!!

If you haven't attended for the last couple of years, make sure to go this year. A beautiful setting and a great variety of music, check out their website and make plans. 2 day armbands are available for as little as \$40 – what a deal!

A huge weekend of music: the WBJs will start it out on Friday night at the Attic with Mike Zito in concert. See details on the next pages

Thursday-Sunday, August 11-14 Magic City Blues Billings, Montana, George Thorogood and the Destroyers headline on Friday, more artists TBA –

www.magiccityblues.com tickets now on sale

The Second Annual, 2011 Ataevious Music & Arts Festival will be held at the Central Wyoming Fairgrounds in the Outdoor Arena on August 13th, 2011, in Casper, www.ataevius.com

Aug 26-27 TRINIDADDIO XIII Trinidad, CO. Saturday festival Lineup: Charlie Musselwhite, Rosie Ledet, Harper, Dave Specter, Albuquerque Blues Connection, Erica Brown, Ken Saydak, and Jaquie Gipson. Friday night Prefest has Papa Juke and more. For more info & tix go to www.trinidaddio.com

Aug 28 ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield featuring: The Fabulous Thunderbirds, plus 15 more bands.

www.therockymountainmusicfestival.com

Sept 2-3-4 The 3rd Annual SNOWY RANGE MUSIC FESTIVAL Laramie, WY (Labor Day Weekend) 39 Acts this year! Support Wyoming's own Carl Gustafson (of Blinndog Smokin') who puts this together for us. The first two have gotten very good reviews.

Lineup (not finalized)- Moreland & Arbuckle, Texas blues man- Sherman Robertson, Chubby Carrier, David Maxwell, Bernie Pearl, Davina & the Vagabonds, Miss Blues Another Kind of Magick George Clinton & the Parliament Funkadelic, Paul Thorn, Ruthie Foster, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Ave., Oli Brown from England, Ryan Shupe & the Rubberband, the Colorado Blues Dancers, Gino Matteo, and more to come. For more info & tix go to www.snowyrangemusicfestival.com

Upcoming WBJs Jams and Shows:

Jam Schedule: always the 3rd Sunday of each month, from 4 -8. Held in All That Jazz, unless specified otherwise.

June 19th – IndiSoul hosts

July 17th – Wyoming Blues Challenge, in the Ballrooms, open jam afterwards if time allows-Will start at 3:00 PM

August 21st- Mitch & Sonnie and the Grease Monkeys

Sept 18th – open

Oct 30th – A special Jam, hosted by Dr Todd Scott, who planning a Beatles Tribute. If you would like to participate in please contact him – 258-5072.

In the ballrooms for all ages to attend and enjoy.

Nov 20th – open

Dec 18th – Dion and Friends, opening with some Christmas tunes for us!

If you can host, please contact Jody Taylor, 234-4120. Pay is \$200 and a sandwich for each band member! You don't have to have "a band"; it can be a few buddies who just like to play together. The Host band opens with a set, then opens the floor to all the musicians in attendance who have signed in. Limit of 3 songs per group/individual please, to give everyone a chance to play.

Thanks to all of those who have hosted for giving us great live music the third Sunday of every month.

Upcoming Concerts:

Friday August 5th- Mike Zito, winner of this year's Blues Music Award for Song of the Year. At the Attic, full details coming soon.

Saturday November 26th – Lionel Young Band (2 time IBC Winner) performing in the Parkway Ballrooms, for all ages.

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Remember – anyone is welcome, and encouraged, to submit reviews etc for publication in the newsletter. Tell us about a performer, festival or venue you have particularly enjoyed. Just email wybluelou@hotmail.com

Some Blues thoughts:

Why Blues Jams are Important, by Rick Davis

Blues music is kind of like baseball: It is often passed from father to son, from sister to brother. Without that generational link it will wither. Blues is oral history... It is three chords and the truth. Blues jams have been an important tradition nearly since the beginning of the form, with raucous head-cutting sessions among jazz and blues players in New York City, and jams from Delta juke joints to Chicago night clubs. The blues Jam I host on Sundays at Ziggies Saloon in Denver is at the end of a long, long train of blues relationships, and I expect it will eventually help pull more boxcars that hook up along the way. Blues jams are about keeping that train rolling.

One of the things I like best about hosting the jam is encouraging new players. Playing in front of a crowd can be terrifying, especially the first time. The newbies who come to the jam and bust out their chops on stage for the first time are my heroes. Every blues jam has a debt – an obligation – to nurture the music. That means attracting, helping and inspiring new blues players.

I've seen new and intermediate players blossom over the year and a half I have hosted the jam at Ziggies. Playing on stage every week with musicians of all levels, some of them develop a real talent for the music and the show. A few have moved on to working bands.

Accomplished players frequent the jams to see friends, to try out new chops or gear, or to just share the joy of playing the music with others. Blues is a performance art. Practice is just waiting.

One of my goals for every jam is to put together at least one killer feature set; a set that includes some of the best working pros who drop in, perhaps backed by members of my band. My main duty as a jam host is to put on a good show, and that killer set can bring people back to the jam and help inspire the new players. At jams, aspiring performers pick up riffs and showmanship and attitude from the more seasoned players. They hear great tunes to add to their repertoire. It's about paying it forward. The blues will abide.

Blues jams are about doing a simple thing very well. They are about a shared understanding – a visceral instinctive joy – for the sound of the Delta, and Memphis, and Chicago, and West Coast Jump, and all the regional dialects of the blues language.

A big shout out to my brothers and sisters who host blues jams. It doesn't pay much, it is often chaotic, and you have to deal occasionally with drunk and/or egotistical jerks. But it is service to the blues tradition. It is helping to keep the blues alive.

When telling others about our shows, or the Society, do you hear things like; "oh, I just don't like blues", or "oh that B.B. King stuff?", or "I just like rock", or even "jazz just doesn't interest me"? Most people who think they don't like blues just don't know what "blues" is.

How many times have you mentioned the Society and someone has said "oh yeah, I really like that band!" or "you have to be a musician to join, right?"

Let's all keep trying to bring a better understanding of "blues", and what the Wyoming Blues & Jazz Society is all about, to the rest of the folks around us.

See the next page for one opinion on "blues". Send yours to wybluelou@hotmail.com for the next newsletter.

Some blues thoughts from Dr Todd Scott:

If you listen rock or jazz, you are listening to music whose heart is the blues. It is at the core of most styles of popular music. If you listen rock or jazz, you are listening to music whose heart is the blues. It is at the core of most styles of popular music.

Blues is the intersection of feelings and musical expression. What makes any kind of music attractive is its ability to project these elements convincingly.

The beauty of the blues is in its simplicity. Structurally, it utilizes the three primary chords of the musical scale "and . . ." as Richard Betts (Allman Bros.) describes ". . . that's not a lot to hide behind . . ." Melodically, it uses maybe half a dozen tones. Poetically, the "verses" comprise two or three short lines. These structural elements are easily found on the guitar, the musical instrument most identified with the blues.

What is conveyed in the blues results from the performer expressing his or her (usually passionate) feelings. The listener, given the simple structural elements, can easily identify with these feelings.

The uniqueness of a blues performance also lies in its simplicity. The simple formal design facilitates interaction among musicians. Rehearsal is not critical to a performance of the blues.

"Jamming" is a frequent feature of a blues performance, as different players are often invited to join in the event, ensuring freshness and variety in the experience.

The blues offers the performers the opportunity to express emotional relief. The listener is given the opportunity to share that relief. These performances offer all participants a temporary escape from the world of unpleasant realities, which makes the blues an enduring art form.

Some Random Tidbits:

Ryan Wykert, one of our Scholarship winners, is now playing percussion with The High Plains Drifters

Jody Taylor was the subject of a segment of Wyoming Portraits, shown on Wyoming PBS, Sundays at 6:00 PM. It aired on April 24th, but will be repeated, although we do not have the dates – keep watching or checking the schedule at www.wyomingportraits.com . It was produced by Dennis Rollins, who also did a segment about Another Kind of Magick, and their trip to Memphis – another one to watch for.

If you have a favorite artist that you would like to see here in Casper, let the Board know –we are already trying to plan for 2012.