

BLUES NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY
 "...PRESERVING, PROMOTING AND PERPETUATING THE BLUES."

Louisville, Kentucky

February 2014

Incorporated 1989

KBS 2014 IBC REPRESENTATIVES



D.J. RICE



HOODOO BLUES BAND

D.J. Rice photo courtesy of D. J. Rice. Hoodoo Blues Band photo by David True

D.J. Rice and the Hoodoo Blues Band are representing the Kentuckiana Blues Society (KBS) at this year's International Blues Challenge. This is the 30th year for the competition that takes place in Memphis, TN and is sponsored by the Blues Foundation. Rice from Lexington, KY is representing the KBS in the solo/duo category. The Hoodoo Blues Band is comprised of (from left to right) John Burgard, Rick Cain, Mike Alger and Mike Lynch and they are representing the KBS in the band division. Baldwin Street Blues of Franklin, IN is the KBS youth representative for this year. A fundraiser held at Stevie Ray's on Sunday, February 19 raised about \$1,000 to help the competitors make the trip. For more information on the contest and the Blues Foundation, check out their website at <https://www.blues.org/>.

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**February 2014
Volume 27 Number 2**

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The views expressed by the authors and advertisers are their own. Contributions by anyone offering pertinent and thoughtful discussion on blues issues are welcomed.

news@kbsblues.org

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Blues News

The monthly newsletter of the
Kentuckiana Blues Society

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We appreciate your support and welcome your input. If you have any comments, suggestions, ideas, etc., contact us at this address:

**Kentuckiana Blues Society
P. O. Box 755
Louisville, KY 40201-0755**

As usual, please check your mailing label to see if your membership will expire soon. Our single membership is a bargain at only \$20.00 US per year. Double membership (two members at the same address, two membership cards, one newsletter) is only \$25.00 US per year, and we now offer a special band rate of \$30 per year, which includes one newsletter plus a membership card for each band member. If you see a notice on your mailing label, that means that it's time to renew!

KBS LEADERSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2014:

**Gary Sampson – president
Debbie Wilson – vice-president
Les Reynolds – secretary
Chris Grube – treasurer**

KBS MONTHLY MEETING

If you are interested in reviewing new blues music, come on out to the KBS monthly board meeting (**held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at The Pizza Place in Hikes Point**) and take your pick! We receive promo releases from the major blues labels as well as regional and local bands. If you review a CD, it's yours to keep!

PLEASE check your MAILING LABEL for your renewal date and please be sure to keep your membership current.

“TIME TO RENEW” will appear at the top of the label when your membership is expiring. PLEASE NOTE: IT COULD TAKE UP TO A COUPLE OF WEEKS TO GET YOUR NEW CARD. If you need it sooner, leave a voice message for Natalie at 893-8031 or send an email to membership@kbsblues.org.

**The Louisville Blues Compilation Volume II
is available exclusively at**



Letter From The Prez



Photo by Cheryl Cissell

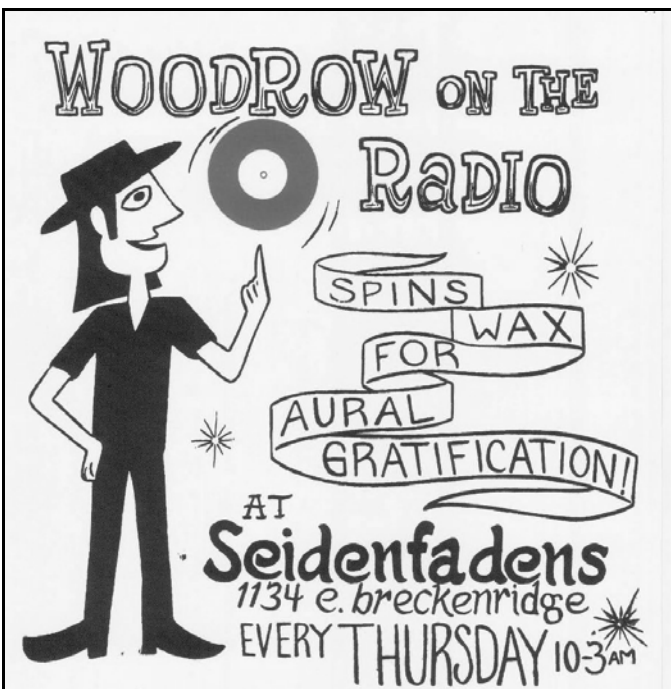
As we go to press, I am preparing for my third annual trip to the International Blues Challenge. If you ever get a chance to make it, I highly recommend this trek for any blues lover. My first year I basically wandered from place to place but last year I took the time to study the event program and really planned out my trip. I was able to see forty acts over the four days not including the jams. The Blues Foundation puts a lot of time and energy into the competition. If you are not familiar with this fine organization, I hope you will take a few minutes to check them out online at <https://blues.org/>. I will have photos and comments from my IBC trip in a future edition of *Blues News*.

Notable events this month include the Randall Bramblett Band at Jim Porter's and Frank Bang & the Secret Stash at Stevie Ray's. Both shows are Friday, February 7. Bramblett is a long-time session musician and touring artist who has played with several major performers over the last forty years including Gregg Allman, Bonnie Raitt, Robbie Robertson, Elvin Bishop, Steve Winwood and more. He plays several instruments including keyboards, saxophone, guitar, mandolin and harmonica and his music combines blues, folk and gospel. Frank Bang is a

blues/rock guitarist from Chicago who played in several national and world tours for Buddy Guy. On Wednesday, February 19, the KBS Blues Night at the New Vintage will feature Whiskey Gentry. They are a roots and bluegrass band from Atlanta, GA. When you stop into the New Vintage, be sure to ask for owner Hunter Embry and tell him who you would like to see at the bar. He's interested in booking local, regional and national blues acts at the venue.

Sometimes when you look at the KBS calendar on page 10, certain dates may seem a little thin as far as blues music is concerned. Keep in mind that our goal is to collect all material for the monthly newsletter by the 15th of the month and send it to Voluforms for printing and mailing by the 20th of the month. This is to try and get it to your mailbox by the first of the month. Many times when I check the websites or Facebook pages of venues and bands, they may not have a lot of dates listed two to six weeks in advance. Sometimes bands will book a gig just a week or so before they play. What can you do to make sure that you have the most up-to-date information? Sign up for our weekly calendar emails. Emails are sent out Tuesday nights and cover the next seven days of blues performances in our area. We also include an Upcoming Events section that lists national blues acts, festivals or other major shows within 100 miles of Louisville. If you are already a blues society member and provided us an email address, you should be receiving these emails. If not, just go to our website at <http://kbsblues.org/> and look for the box at the top of the page labeled "Join our Mailing List @ Google Groups." We do not share your email address with any group or individual outside of the KBS. If you are a band and want to provide us information on your upcoming shows, please send an email to gigs@kbsblues.org.

Gary



Mississippi Adam Riggle at Kingfish

January 2014

Remember when the weather was hot and sunny? That was before the Polar Vortex. On one of those summer days, Chris and I headed down to the KingFish on River Road. We had three things on our minds:

1. Food - Chris wanted a Crab Salad and I wanted a broiled whitefish platter and that is what we had. We both were more than satisfied; actually, we were stuffed when we left a couple of hours later. It was a good feeling kind of stuffed. I think we even went back for some Key Lime Pie.

2. Sharknado - We wanted to find out if the "Sharknado" rumors from the Made-for-Television Movie were true for Louisville and the mighty Ohio River. Well, I hate to tell you this – but we could find neither fact nor rumor to substantiate anything having to do with Sharknado. We got down close enough to the river to see some fish parts left over, maybe some skipjack bones or something, but no sharks moving around in their own waterspout!

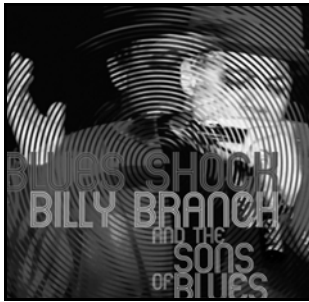
3. Blues - Mississippi Adam Riggle and the band were playing! Adam stopped by our table and said we could get some pictures while they were on break, and I did. I also got a set list – which includes but is not limited to these songs: "You Don't Love Me", "Catfish Blues", "Please Don't Leave Me Now" (an original), "Mannish Boy", "Turn On Your Lovelights", and "Stop Breaking Down". James Warfield on bass (not a fish), Brick Marlin on harp, Bobby McMillan on drums, and, of course, Mississippi Adam Riggle on guitar and handling most of the vocals, took us on a trip downstream and made us believe that he had conjured up some long gone Bluesmen who once lived in the deep South, probably along a river just like where we were sitting. Raw blues – loud blues – the kind that moves your butt, your feet and your head all at once. Anybody that hasn't seen this group live and wonders what the original blues is all about should get out and see these gentlemen play!

After the show, as we walked towards the parking lot, a gentleman joined us to find out "who them gentlemens was." He disappeared as quickly as he appeared wearing a brown suit and a Fedora to match. Many thanks go out to the KingFish Restaurant for providing a place to hear the Blues and for hiring local musicians. And a huge thank you to the musicians for having decided to learn to do what they do.

Nelson Grube

Editor's note: Adam and the guys will be at Turners on River Road from 8:30—10:30 on Saturday February 1st.





**Billy Branch
And The Sons of Blues
Blues Shock
Blind Pig Records**

Billy Branch and the Sons of Blues have just released their first studio album, "Blues Shock", in nearly fifteen years on Blind Pig Records. Back in the 1980's Branch was considered to be one of the "new generation" of blues musicians. Now after nearly 30 years of plying his trade Branch is one of the elder players whose job in my mind is to keep the blues alive and fresh for newcomers.

The album consists of seven original tunes either written or co-written by Branch or one of the members of the SOBs. Also included are covers of tunes by Willie Dixon, Bobby Bryant, John Lee Hooker and old R & B hit "Function at the Junction". Guests include The Chicago Horns for three songs and Ronnie Baker Brooks playing some tasty guitar licks and joining in on the vocals.

One of the highlights is the cover of Dixon's "Crazy Mixed Up World" where Branch is at his best both vocally and with his harp. Harkens back to the heady times of being one of the "new generation". Another song that grabs you is "Dog House" the song that has Brooks joining in. The interplay of the vocals is spot on while Branch's harp and Brook's guitar play around each other in a top this if you will challenge. Two other highlights are the instrumental "Back Alley Cat" featuring outstanding interplay between Branch and pianist Sumito Ariyoshi and "Boom Boom" which the band slays and Branch's harp takes it to another level.

Branch pays homage to Gerri Oliver, the 93-year old former proprietor of the Palm Tavern, a home away from home nightclub for artists passing through Chicago on "Going to See Miss Gerri One More Time". This tune obviously comes from deep in Branch's heart and means a lot to him. A very moving song.

The one song that really has no place on the album is "Function at the Junction". Sometimes it's better to leave R & B songs in their own genre rather than to attempt the crossover to the blues.

3 ½ stars out of 5.

Mike Suttles

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2013 Garvin Gate Blues Festival

Photos by David True



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Mike Suttles



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The Predators



Lil' Ed



Contact: Ronn Crowder

Address: 2341 Gay Evans Rd Winchester KY 40391

Phone Number: 859-948-1036

Email Address: rrcrow@aol.com

Band websites: www.facebook.com/rcandthenighshades; www.fandalism.com/rcandthenighshades; www.youtube.com/rcandthenighshades

Band Member Names and Instruments: Ronn Crowder, guitar, vocals, harmonica (band leader/ front); Jay Flippin, keyboards; Steve DiMartino, percussion; Skeets Pennington, horns; Lindsay Olive, lead guitar; Roger Tremaine, bass.

Type of Blues Played: We are an old school blues and R&B band. Ronn's authentic Memphis-style vocal sets the tone for this band, composed of veteran musicians. Keyboardist Jay Flippin has won 5 Emmy awards for his work in arranging his music for television. Ronn Crowder won the Instrumentalist of the Year in 1992 from the CCMA in Los Angeles. Three of the songs from Ronn's first album were used in the Hollywood movie "Devil Girl", directed by Rob Zombie. www.devilgirlthemovie.com. Skeets Pennington and Lindsay Olive have played with many notable blues acts like G-Busy and Johnny Rawls.

Additional Information (regularly scheduled gigs, festival dates, CDs available, etc): We play at many venues in the central KY area. Our Facebook page has notices of our play-dates. As of October 2013, we are in the studio producing our first album. It will be composed of some cover songs and some original songs written by Ronn Crowder and some co-written by Ronn and Jay Flippin. Target release date is late 2013 or early 2014.



From Minglewood to Cyberspace

“Who’s That Comin’...”

Toward an Awareness of the Pre-War Blues

Much like Maggie Campbell, the Pre-War Blues seemly to be only dimly recognized down the road. And, like Maggie, they are a bit, “too slow,” for most contemporary Blues fans. The song, though, is a perfect example of “*multum in parvo*,” that we discussed in our last column (that, friends, was the segue). After the opening verse, here are the next three:

Aah, sun going to shine in my back door some day, my back door some day
Mmm, sun going to shine in my back door some day
And the wind going to change, going to blow my blues away

Aah, see, see rider, see what you done done, see what you done done
Mmm, see, see rider, see what you done done
You done made me love you, now you're trying to put me down

Well, I'm going away, Lord, won't be back till fall, won't be back till fall
Well, I'm going away, Lord, won't be back till fall
And if I meet my good gal, well, I won't be back at all

In those brief verses recorded in February of 1928 are packed images that will reappear again and again and again in the Blues and even Rock. Listen to Tommy Johnson while reading the lyrics, here’s a link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulWSITKfMCG>. One of the first things you can note in hearing Maggie Campbell Blues is how compact the lyrics are. This is a tightly bound Blues, simple, yet complex in its makeup. Second, as I’ve already noted, is the plethora of Blues images that appear in this one song. The image of the sun in the first verse will reappear in the songs of artists as diverse as Flatt & Scruggs, and The Grateful Dead; Mitch Ryder made a career off of the phrase “CC Rider” as well as the “going away” riff, which was also reprised by The Animals. These are just the ones that come to mind, I’m sure you can come up with many more.

It’s an exercise to make my point: we are in the midst of the shadows of the Pre-War Blues, some of us just can’t see it. Another “in your face” example is “Bull Doze Blues” by Ragtime Texas (Henry Thomas). You can hear it here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Qo9R5kDZWY>. Wearing a homemade panpipe and playing his guitar, he cut this in 1928, when he was in his mid-fifties. Now, go listen to Canned Heat’s, Up The Country.

A looser cover is Al Kooper’s, “I Can’t Keep From Crying Sometimes,” derived from a song of the same title cut by Blind Willie Johnson in that great year of 1928. The Blues Project and Ten Years After scored well with this echo of the Pre-War Blues.

So, have I got your attention? When you listen to almost any “Classic Rock,” or Blues, you are hearing the Pre-War Blues in one way or another. I’ve focused on the Rock side because it’s just too easy to do this with the Blues. Okay, I’ll do just one. In 1956 Howlin’ Wolf scored with his classic Blues, “Smokestack Lighting.” In Wolf we had a direct link to the Pre-War Blues and, especially, with Charley Patton. Wolf sings about “Smokestack Lightning, shining just like gold;” in “Moon Going Down,” Charley Patton sings, “Lord, the smokestack is black and the bell it shines like gold.” His version was recorded in...you guessed it, 1928! (What a great year for the Blues!)

What else can we note about these linkages? Well, for one, we have spent our time and search looking at the lyrics of the Blues. My friend Bob Koester – who should know something about the Blues having recorded it for 60 years with his Delmark Records – once told me that listening to the Blues to hear the guitar player is like going to the opera to hear the orchestra: you miss the whole point of the performance. Sure, modern electric Blues is not going to sound like PWB, but the images persist and pervade and are not as ancient and arcane as many believe and use as the reason for not listening to them.

There’s a slogan in recovery and self-help movements: To Be Aware Is To Be Alive. My theme in the last MWCS was an appreciation of the Pre-War Blues; this time it is awareness. To be aware of the Pre-War Blues is realize that they are just as alive today as they were in that momentous era when they were recorded. To paraphrase James Joyce, The Blues Road goes round and round to meet where it begins.

Perry Aberli

Kentuckiana Blues Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Jan-26 Chill Bar Highlands – Robbie Bartlett 3:00 Pizza Place – Blues Jam hosted by River City Blues Band 7:00 | 27 Puccini's Pizza (Lexington) - Ronn Crowder 6:00 Tea Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) – Tee Dee Young Band and Friends 9:00 | 28 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 8:00 | 29 Lisa's Oak St Lounge – Muji Fuji Lynagh's (Lexington) – Blues Jam Salt's Place (Vernon IN) – Open Jam Stevie Ray's – Jazz Night 8:00 Volare – Robbie Bartlett Trio 7:00 | 30 Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Maple Inn – Open Mic Stevie Ray's – Tony & Amy TNT 8:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) – Open Jam Volare – Robbie Bartlett Trio 7:00 | 31 Amy Z Pub – River City Blues Band 9:00 Jeff Ruby's – Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Parlay Social (Lexington) – The Smith Dogs Stevie Ray's – Old School 9:00 Twisted Cork (Lexington) – D.J. Rice Wick's Pizza (Hurstbourne) – The Tarnations VFW Post (Seymour IN) – Gary Applegate | Feb-1 Jeff Ruby's – Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Stevie Ray's – The Predators 9:30 Turners - Mississippi Adam Riggie 8:30 |
| 2 Chill Bar Highlands – Robbie Bartlett 3:00 Pizza Place – Blues Jam hosted by River City Blues Band 7:00 | 3 Puccini's Pizza (Lexington) - Ronn Crowder 6:00 Tea Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) – Tee Dee Young Band and Friends 9:00 | 4 Potbelly's (Paddock) Big Poppa Stampley Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 8:00 | 5 Lisa's Oak St Lounge – Muji Fuji Lynagh's (Lexington) – Blues Jam Pizza Place – KB's Board Meeting Potbelly's – Big Poppa Stampley Salt's Place (Vernon IN) – Open Jam Stevie Ray's – Jazz Night 8:00 Volare – Robbie Bartlett Trio 7:00 | 6 Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Maple Inn – Open Mic Stevie Ray's – Tony & Amy TNT 8:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) – Open Jam Volare – Robbie Bartlett Trio 7:00 | 7 Blue River (Milltown IN) – Big Poppa Stampley 7:00 DiOrto's Pizza (Baxter) – D Man & Alley Jim Porter's – Randall Bramblett Band 8:00 / The Boogie Men 9:30 Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Stevie Ray's – Frank Bang & Secret Stash Wick's Pizza (Baxter) – Tyrone Cotton & Screamin' John 6:00 | 8 Gerstle's Place – V-Groove 10:00 Jeff St Pub (Franklin IN) – Frank & Scott Jim Porter's – The Boogie Men 9:30 Stevie Ray's – Duck & Cover 7:30 / Rock Station 10:30 Wild Earth Gallery (Elizabethtown) – D Man & the Alley Hounds 6:00 |
| 9 Chill Bar Highlands – Robbie Bartlett 3:00 Pizza Place – Blues Jam hosted by River City Blues Band 7:00 | 10 Puccini's Pizza (Lexington) - Ronn Crowder 6:00 Tea Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) – Tee Dee Young Band and Friends 9:00 | 11 Potbelly's (Paddock) Big Poppa Stampley Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 8:00 | 12 Lisa's Oak St Lounge – Muji Fuji Lynagh's (Lexington) – Blues Jam Potbelly's – Big Poppa Stampley Salt's Place (Vernon IN) – Open Jam Stevie Ray's – Jazz Night 8:00 Volare – Robbie Bartlett Trio 7:00 | 13 Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Maple Inn – Open Mic Stevie Ray's – Tony & Amy TNT 8:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) – Open Jam Volare – Robbie Bartlett Trio 7:00 | 14 Jeff Ruby's – Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 New Albany Roadhouse - Travlin' Mojos 8:00 Speakeasy on 1st (Madison IN) – Big Poppa Stampley 10:00 Stevie Ray's – Soul River Brown Band 9:30 | 15 Garage (Columbus IN) – Cadillac Scott & the Snakehandlers Blues Band 7:00 Goose Creek Diner – Big Poppa Stampley Jeff Ruby's – Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Stevie Ray's – Big Black Cadillac 9:30 |
| 16 Chill Bar Highlands – Robbie Bartlett 3:00 Pizza Place – Blues Jam hosted by River City Blues Band 7:00 | 17 Puccini's Pizza (Lexington) - Ronn Crowder 6:00 Tea Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) – Tee Dee Young Band and Friends 9:00 | 18 Potbelly's (Paddock) Big Poppa Stampley Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 8:00 | 19 Lisa's Oak St Lounge – Muji Fuji Lynagh's (Lexington) – Blues Jam New Vintage – Whiskey Gentry Potbelly's – Big Poppa Stampley Salt's Place (Vernon IN) – Open Jam Stevie Ray's – Jazz Night 8:00 Volare – Robbie Bartlett Trio 7:00 | 20 Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Maple Inn – Open Mic Stevie Ray's – Tony & Amy TNT 8:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) – Open Jam Volare – Robbie Bartlett Trio 7:00 | 21 Bara Shoulders BBQ (Charlestown IN) – Big Poppa Stampley 7:00 Jim Porter's – Lazy Eleven 9:30 Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Monkey Wrench – Tyrone Cotton & Screamin' John 9:00 Stevie Ray's – Muji Fuji 9:30 Wick's Pizza (Baxter) – Tyrone Cotton & Screamin' John 6:00 Wick's Pizza (Goose Creek) – D Man & the Alley Hounds 9:00 | 22 Jeff St Pub (Franklin IN) – Cadillac Scott & the Snakehandlers Blues Band 7:00 Jim Porter's – Lazy Eleven 9:30 Stevie Ray's – Soul Circus 9:30 |
| 23 Chill Bar Highlands – Robbie Bartlett 3:00 Pizza Place – Blues Jam hosted by River City Blues Band 7:00 | 24 Puccini's Pizza (Lexington) - Ronn Crowder 6:00 Tea Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) – Tee Dee Young Band and Friends 9:00 | 25 Potbelly's (Paddock) Big Poppa Stampley Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 8:00 | 26 Lisa's Oak St Lounge – Muji Fuji Lynagh's (Lexington) – Blues Jam Potbelly's – Big Poppa Stampley Salt's Place (Vernon IN) – Open Jam Stevie Ray's – Jazz Night 8:00 Volare – Robbie Bartlett Trio 7:00 | 27 Majid's – Tanita Gaines 7:00 Maple Inn – Open Mic Stevie Ray's – Tony & Amy TNT 8:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) – Open Jam Volare – Robbie Bartlett Trio 7:00 | 28 Chateau Thomas Winery (Nashville IN) – Gary Applegate 7:00 Blue River (Milltown IN) – Tyrone Cotton Jeff Ruby's – Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Jim Porter's – TBA Stevie Ray's – Little T&A 9:30 | Mar-1 Hideaway Saloon – Kirk Davis Band Jeff Ruby's – Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Jim Porter's – TBA Stevie Ray's – The Predators 9:30 |

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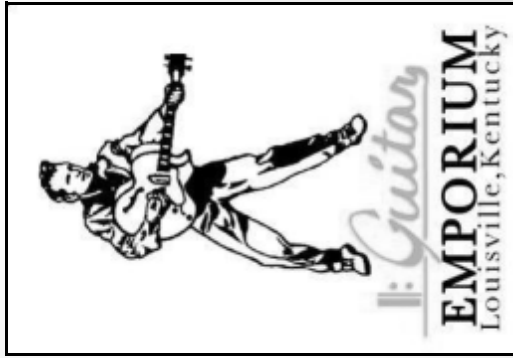
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Show dates/times are always subject to change.

It's a good idea to check in with the club before hitting the road!

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| _____ | BAND MEMBERSHIP (\$30 ENCLOSED) | CITY/ST/ZIP | _____ |
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| _____ | I would be willing to help out at KBS events | Telephone # | _____ |

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