



BLUES

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Mark Miller and the Cold Wind

“It (music)....is a great way to know I’m not alone in this humongous universe.”



Mark Miller and the Cold Wind: Randy Sparkman, Mark Miller and Randy Reese.

Story and Photo by Bill Martin

Vocalist/guitarist **Mark Miller** has loved music since he was a kid when he fondly remembers traveling with his grandparents during the summer and being exposed to gospel music in churches.

“I had a great childhood and wonderful education, Mark notes. “I’d sit down with someone and I’d take (learn) something from them. “It (music) is great therapy; a great escape,” he says. “It’s a great way for me to share something with someone I’ve never met. You get the same feelings, the same experiences. It’s a great way to know I’m not alone in this humongous universe.”

Mark has signed with Tulsa record label *White Fang Entertainment* and plans to release an album this spring. He formed his current band, **Mark Miller and the Cold Wind** about six or seven months ago. On bass is **Randy Sparkman**, whom Mark met about six years ago when they were members of the band **Sticks and Stones**. They eventually left that group and paired up for a project Mark was starting “and we’ve been buddies ever since.

The band has had a couple of drummers who left because of pressing family matters and now aboard is veteran **Randy “Mr. Dobie” Reese**, who is a fixture in the Tulsa music scene. “Randy’s doing a great job. He’s a great drummer and a real solid guy,” Mark says. (continued on page 5)

7th Harmonica Summit Bringing in Heavy Hitters for March 19th Show

Even though the annual Harmonica Summit has moved from the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame this year to the Hyatt Regency at 100 E. 2nd St. in downtown Tulsa, renown Tulsa musician **David Berntson** says it will still have a lot of great workshops, not to mention heavy hitting harmonica players.

David, along with **Jimmy “Junior” Markham** are board members and founders of the Route 66 Harmonica Club, which is presenting the show. They are joined by the club’s president **Brian Walker**.

Among the headlining performers are multi-award winning artists **Billy Gibson** from Memphis. **R.J. Mischo**, who now lives in Ventura, CA, plus **Deake Harp** from Clarksdale, Ms, Sugar Blue and Johnny Long.

Deak has a popular one-man band, but also is known for his harmonica emporium in Clarksdale. He also puts on a Mississippi “saxophone” Festival, with a sax really being a harp in that part of the country. (Continued on page 2)

INSIDE:

Birthday Party/Blues Choice Awards Set, Blues Society Officer Election results, IBC Pictorial, Trouble Comin’, Tommy McCoy, Clarence “The Bluesman Turner, Ernest James Zydeco, Sam Butler, Blue Largo, and more!

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e-mail News: Curt Fillmore

BLUES NEWS STAFF:

Editor: Billy Austin
e-mail: billysblues@peoplepc.com

Design: My Creative Pixel

 Sally Roper
www.CreativePixel.com
918.280.9167

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Kerry Kudlacek, Freddie Morrow,
Sharon Thornhill, Curt Fillmore, Sam
Latham, Fripp, Billy Austin



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LOCAL BIRTHDAYS

March 1 – Rob McLerran; **5** – Pat Cook; **10** – Polly Ess; **11** – Calvin Youngblood, Josef Glaude; **13** – Jordan Hanson; **16** – Junior Markham; **18** – Wanda Watson; **18** – Flash Terry (2004); **22** – Rusti Love (2009); **23** – Mat Donaldson; **25** Virgil Broyles; **27** – Steve Elmore; **28** – Mark Bruner; **31** – Lowell Fulsom (1995); **April 1** – Randy Crouch; **2** – Leon Russell; **4** – David Russell, Rockin' John Henry (2004); **6** – Larry Bell (2015); **7** – Bill Pitcock IV (2011); **9** – Gus Hardin (1996), Tiny Davis (2010); **15** – Roy Clark; **18** – Walt Richmond; **22** – Bob Childers (2008); **25** – Earl Bostic; **27** – Jim Keltner; **29** – Debbie Campbell (2004).

BST MONTHLY MEETINGS

are held the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. The March 14th and the April 11th meetings will both be held at the Cimarron Bar, 26th Street and South Memorial. Non members are always welcome! It's a fun and informative gathering of music lovers!

Welcome Our New Members!

Steve Morton and David Loftin, both of Tulsa.

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Charles Tuberville and Junior Markham will be performing at the Tulsa Harmonica Summit 3/19.

Harmonica Summit

(continued from page 1)

David says many of the “usual suspects” of local talent will also be on hand including himself, **Junior Markham**, **Steve Corbett**, and **Mike Peace**. Also lending their talents will be the likes of **Jamie Oldaker**, **Casey Van Beek**, **Joe Scheke**, and **Charles Tuberville**.



David Berntson

The Schedule: 11 a.m. – doors open
Noon – Youth programs, including free harmonicas and lessons (must be accompanied by an adult).

1 p.m. – Adult harmonica lessons.

2– 4 p.m. Workshops. Harmonica repairs – **Mike Peace**; Harmonica microphones and amplifiers – Dennis “**Mr. Microphone**” Oling; Teach-in with several tables where attendees can sit in with a professional harmonica player, ask questions, visit, etc. 7 p.m. – **The Melody Makers**, who play traditional music on harps, whose primary audiences are in nursing homes, where they provide free harps, give lessons and entertain.

There also will be a cavalcade of local harmonica talent performing, along with national acts, many which have been previously mentioned.

Hotel Rooms – A limited number of rooms are available on a first come first serve basis at the Hyatt for \$89. Offer expires March 9th.

Summit Cost: \$20 for adults; kids under 14 free.

The Blues Society is a sponsor and will have a table at the event.

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2016 International Blues Challenge: *We're Proud of Our Tulsa Acts!*



Joshua Yarbrough represented the Blues Society in the solo/ duo IBC competition, but just prior to that event recorded with a band at Sun Records in Memphis. Here is: Chris Kyle, keys; Garrent Heck, guitar; Josh, vocals and guitar; David Knight, drums, and Kat Irons, bass. (Photo by Patrick Nicholas)



Darell Christopher & the Ingredients (Photo by Don Whitney)



Tulsa's Christine Jude and the Gentlemen Callers performing on Beale Street at the IBC. The band was sponsored by the Oklahoma Blues Society.



Dylan Whitney Band performed at BB King's as part of the Youth Showcase. (Photo by Don Whitney)



Joshua Yarbrough (both photos by Joshua Yarbrough)



The Dylan Whitney Band: Kelsie Hammons, Dylan Whitney, Blake Bush and Eli Elliot. (Photo by Don Whitney)



Blues Society to Celebrate 14 Years; Blues Choice Awards are Set March 26th



Chris Kyle

The Blues Society will celebrate turning 14 years old with a big birthday bash celebration featuring its annual *Blues Choice Awards*. A BCA ceremony will be held honoring some of Tulsa's finest musicians who were voted "the best" for 2015.

The event will held Saturday, March 26th at the Centennial Lounge (VFW Post 577), 1109 E. 6th St., Tulsa, starting at 9 p.m. There is a \$5 cover.

Voted the Best Group of 2015 is **The Dustin Pittsley Band** featuring **Dustin Pittsley**, guitar/vocals, **Donnie Wood**, bass; **David Teegarden Jr.**, drums and **Chris Kyle**, keyboards. Also receiving awards will be **Patti Taylor** and **Dustin Pittsley** (Best Vocals); Dustin also was voted Best Lead; Best Rhythm awards will go to **Harry Williams** and **David Teegarden Jr.** (both drummers).

The Dustin Pittsley Band will be the host band and the other winners have been invited to perform. BCA winners are voted upon by members of the Blues Society.



Bill
Martin



Amber
Pittsley



Christina
Rybacki



Tammy
Hodges

Blues Society Officers are Re-elected

All four officers of the Blues Society of Tulsa were unanimously re-elected in the annual voting for officers by members present at the February 8th meeting held at the Cimarron Bar.

President **Bill Martin** was re-elected the word to his 13th one year term. Vice President **Amber Pittsley** begins her second year. Treasurer **Christina Rybacki** also begins her second term. Secretary **Tammy Hodges**, a founding member of the Blues Society, is the only person to have served as secretary for the organization.

"With Tammy willing to stick with me on the board (as an officer) I like to think we provide some stability, experience and leadership to the BST. At the same time, when Amber and Christina were first elected a year ago, it added some younger, talented people with fresh ideas," Martin said. "I'm very honored to serve another year knowing we continue to have one of the larger, better and more respected Blues Societies anywhere. This certainly wouldn't be possible without such a strong, active membership base."

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Mark Miller...(Continued from page 1)



Mark Miller

“my buddies there say it sounds like Okie rock slobber.” Although he’s reluctant to categorize his sound, Mark admits, “I may have a Tulsa sound, and rock with a heavy blues influence.”

Major musical influences of Mark’s range from **Howlin’ Wolf** to **Robert Johnson**. Mark also has a special love for the slide guitar mentioning such slide stalwarts as slide pioneer **Elmore James**, **Eric Clapton**, **Billy Gibbons** of **ZZ Top**, **Frank Marino** of **Mahogany Rush**, **Jeff Healy**, **Alvin Lee** and last, but certainly not least **Duane Allman**.

“Nobody could make the slide sound like him (Duane). I’ve always been endeared towards slide playing, although I’m not as good at it as I need to be. Duane Allman could play anything on it. That is my hero on slide,” Mark states.

As for his deal with *White Fang Entertainment*, Mark says it evolved with forming a friendship and bond with **Gerry James** and **Bill Hoy**.

“It is something I thought would be beneficial to me, my personal journey, and for everyone involved. We get along and like each other. We can joke and criticize one another and tell the truth,” he says.

As for that “journey” Mark says that involves “making some noise and getting our music out there.”

Continuing he adds, “But first it is whatever God wants. We pray for God to bless what we’re doing. I believe Jesus was a rebel and will be right here with us, and bless us, as long as we have good intentions.”

Mark has always had a love for the blues, but likes all kinds of music “that has a good message and tells a good story. It’s an enjoyment. Something I love. It’s just a part of my life and I can’t imagine life without it.”

As for the pending new album release, Mark calls it “blues fusion,” for lack of a better term. It is not traditional blues, or rock.
“If blues could grow up and become what rock has become, I think that is what blues would be today,” he says.

Mark, who performs a lot in Indiana says some people there believe the band has a Tulsa sound, but adds with a laugh,



CD REVIEWS



Tommy McCoy: **25 YEAR RETROSPECT** (Earwig Music Company)

Here’s a 30 track; two Cd set of rockin’ blues originals and covers spanning Tommy’s career over the last 25 years. The whole album rocks from top to bottom with outstanding songs; many

with an incredible horn section, and Tommy’s amazing guitar throughout.

Tommy’s been playing music since age eight and has played with or met practically everyone of note in blues music. The only negative thing I would have to say about this entire album is that the vocals might take a little getting used to. -- **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



Clarence “The Bluesman” Turner: **THE CASTER** **BLASTER**

(Uniqek Sound Records)
This is Clarence “The Bluesman” Turner’s second album of real good originals and covers

performed with a great horn section and rockin’ high energy from start to finish. Pretty good vocals, straight, single note guitar playing and a great funky blues groove to keep your toes tapping all the way through. Good job Clarence! -- **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



Ernest James Zydeco: **AUTOMATIC** **HARVESTER** (Jam Rat Records)

Ernest James Zydeco is living proof you don’t have be from the Louisiana bayou country to play sizzling good zydeco.

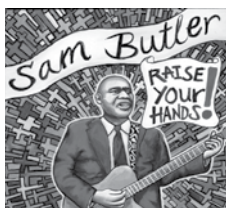
Straight out of Kanas City, this quintet mixes Creole and Cajun southern influences with R&B, rock, country and zydeco into a melting pot of back porch dirt music featuring everything from accordion, guitars, dobro, keys, washboard and drums, among other instruments.

This is EJZ’s fourth release for Jam Rat Records, with a previous release, *3 Steps from La La* receiving Grammy consideration. Led by its namesake, EJZ has toured extensively and headlined a Cajun and zydeco festival in the Netherlands. Excellent band and music. – **Bill Martin**





CD REVIEWS



SAM BUTLER: *Raise Your Hands!*

(Severn Records, Inc.)

Former **Blind Boys of Alabama** guitarist **Sam Butler** has released an album that has touched my soul as much as about any I have heard. I normally

am skeptical of records full of cover songs, but this is the exception. I'm not sure I'd have even given this CD the time of day except I noticed Sam did *God's Hotel* by one of my favorite artists, **Nick Cave (Grinderman, Bad Seeds)**. I thought, anyone who has the "kahunas" to record a Nick Cave song, deserves a listen.

Other cover tunes are from the creations of **Tom Waits, Van Morrison, Johnny Cash, Bruce Springsteen, U2** and **Eric Clapton**, among others. Sam's vocals are rough, bluesy and tremendous. His guitar playing is incredible. Sam is backed by some of the best: **Sacred Steel's Roosevelt Collier**, pedal steel guitar; drummer, **Marco Giovino (Robert Plant)** and bassist **Viktor Kraus (Lyle Lovett, Bill Frisell)**.

At one time in my life I would have never dreamed the Lord could speak to you through the blues. If you want that tremendous feeling of trials and tribulations lifted and the burdens of life now bearable, try listening to *Raise Your Hands*. If you ever doubted there is a God and there is a heaven, this album should erase it. — **Bill Martin**



Blue Largo: *SING YOUR OWN SONG*

(Coffeegrinds)
The music of **Blue Largo** is straight out of the 1940s and '50s. This traditional blues band with vocalist **Alicia Aragon** reminds me a lot of **Billie Holiday**

and **Dinah Washington**. Band founder and guitarist **Eric Lieberman** pens seven originals of the 14 songs. Based in San Diego, a lot of artists contributed to this fine album featuring everything from up right bass to saxophones, various guitars and percussion. The band's third album is well produced, the music is tight, most of the songs are good, and I found it to be very enjoyable. Available at: www.cdbaby.com/cd/bluelago12 -- **Bill Martin**



Trouble Comin': The 3rd Time Around

If you are a veteran of the Tulsa music scene and the band name **Trouble Comin'** rings a bell, there is good reason. It has once again been reincarnated by bassist/vocalist **Danny Humphrey**.

In fact, this is the third time

since 1999. Danny also has played in previous bands ranging from **Diamond Back** to **Cartel Blues Band**.

Rounding out the rhythm section of this power rock, blues, southern jam style group is **Marshall Woodson** who has drummed for **Joshua Yarbrough** and **The Boogie**.

Completing the trio is **Aaron Pride** on guitar, who also distinguished himself on drums with the band **Locus**. He's also been with **Elaborate Hoax**. These days Aaron is proving he is every bit as talented playing a Stratocaster.

During one of its gigs fans may hear anything from **Bob Seeger** to **Creedence Clearwater Revival**, **Lynyrd Skynyrd** and the **Allman Brothers**, plus some original tunes.

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Stretch Moon laying down some mighty fine licks as a special guest of Calvin Youngblood and Cold Front February 8th after the monthly Blues Society meeting at the Cimarron Bar. (Photo by Bill Martin)

Blues Society of Tulsa

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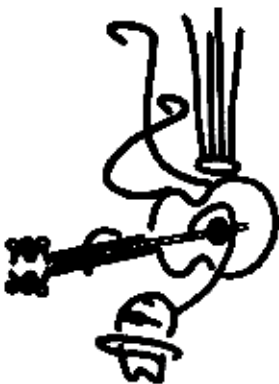
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