

WBJS Newsletter Summer 2016



Presenting: The Devon Allman Band!



Saturday, November 26 at 8PM,

In The Parkway Plaza Hotel Ballroom, Casper

Opening the show will be our WBC winners Jimmie Adams in the solo division and in the band division, The Hold-Up, from Gillette.

Check the WBJS website for more details as they are available.

♪ Wyoming Blues Challenge 2016

♪ The Taylor Scott Show

♪ Down in the Roots

♪ Melissa B Band

♪ Calling all Blues Musicians in Wyoming!

♪ Thanks to our 2016 Sponsors

♪ From The Office of the President

The Taylor Scott Show

I wanted to report on the very successful Taylor Scott



show we had on June 17.

We didn't get a lot of people that night, but the ones that were there got a real treat and nobody left early. His band includes incredibly talented musicians on keyboards, bass and drums, but the star of the show is clearly Taylor! I used to think the kid was phenomenal when he was 16, but he has taken his guitar playing to the master level of players like Joe Bonamassa or Joe Satriani all while playing his own unique style. I was not surprised by his playing

abilities, but I was amazed by his vocals. His voice has really matured and his stage presence reveals a confident young man who spotlights his band as they shine alongside him. In short, I was blown away and I think the entire audience was too. Stay tuned! -- Paul

Down in the Roots - The Wyoming Blues Challenge 2015



Since you asked, here's our experience in Memphis. We do want to thank all those in Casper who supported us in 2015!

We had a troubled trip to Memphis. Starting out from Escondido, CA on an 1850 mile drive, my truck broke down in Pecos, TX for 2 days. It took us 6 days to get to Memphis. When we got there we were assigned to a small club that allowed smoking. Now, I've played a lot of smoking clubs in my life, but I quit 'em because I have asthma. My main concern was the amp I was going to be assigned. As a player it's essential to get my sound. I heard an interview with Eddie Cotton on the radio and he said he insisted on using his own amp in the IBC in 2015, and he did, and he won. I was hoping to use my own amp but was told by the venue coordinator that would disqualify me. The amps provided were very

high wattage. I use a low wattage amp. There was no time to dial in the settings and I plugged in and was not happy with the sound. I couldn't play my Strat at all..... Loud un-sustained tone. The VC yelled out, "They'll take points away!" So I played my electrified acoustic, which still didn't sound right....feedback on the bass strings. As a result the sound (including the Bass Amp provided) was not good.

Having said all that, I had 3 musicians come up to me with compliments, awesome, sweet, and all that. A guy in the audience says to me, "I'll see you in the finals!" I said to him, "The dirty looks we're getting from these judges, we're not going to the finals or the semi-finals." And we didn't. Even the venue coordinator told us he didn't think it was a great crop of judges. One of the judges never looked up from his smartphone through several acts, like he wished he wasn't even there. These judges were hardly the Blues Professionals the IBC advertises. I recently got an email from a blues professional, Charlie Musselwhite, who offered to record with me in the future. Maybe he's a better judge than what they had down there in Memphis.

You probably don't want to print this in your newsletter, so here's a story you might like.
(We went for the un-varnished truth, as well as the 'glossy' content. – ED)

Chicago Blues Stories (The Howlin' Wolf)
by Bob Greenspan

Being born in Chicago, I got to listen to a lot of Blues on the radio in 1956-7. The Jam with Sam (Evans) Show and the Big Bill Hill radio show live from the Copa Cabana, Howlin' Wolf and band playing live over the airwaves. The Chess brothers bought the station so they could get airplay for their artists. What an impression for a young teenager just picking up a guitar! 6, 7 or 8 years later I got to meet and play with some of these Blues Cats. I was hanging around a little bit with the Butterfield Blues Band because my grade school friend, Mike Bloomfield, was the lead guitar player. The Bass Player in the band, Jerome Arnold, had left Wolf to play with Butterfield. I got to talking with him one night at Big John's Northside Blues Club, telling him how much I'd loved hearing Big Bill and Wolf from the Copa Cabana. Jerome said, "I'll take you down there." and he did.

It was way on the Southwest side of the city. No white people nearby. We walk in and I see Big Bill at a desk doing his show, beer cartons all around him, piled up to the ceiling. In the adjacent room boomed out the music I'd been hearing since grade school and all through high school. It was a visceral experience watching that gorilla of a man (The Wolf) shaking a microphone through the zipper of his pants at four women, who you might say were screaming for joy.

Back in 1960 when I was a junior in high school, me and two friends went to see The Wolf at the Evanston, ILL women's club. What a show! He had a record out then called, Spoonful. A five foot long, giant spoon, hung down from his mic stand and he was crawling on his hands and knees across the stage, blowing a harp through his nose. There never was, and there'll never be again, anyone like the Howlin' Wolf!

The Wyoming Blues Challenge 2015 - Melissa B Band

Many thanks to all the members of the Wyoming Blues and Jazz Society for hosting the Wyoming Blues Challenge last year. The Melissa B. Band was honored to be selected the winner and to advance to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. It was an experience we will never forget.



Memphis is rich in blues history, and to play in the historic night clubs along Beale Street was amazing. There were nearly 300 blues acts from all over the world, all strutting their stuff for the judges and hoping to advance to the finals on Saturday in the historic Orpheum Theater.

I'll admit, we were nervous when we played our 25-minute music set in front of judges and fans on Wednesday night. But by the time we played our set again on Thursday night we had it rolling. Everything clicked, the crowd was cheering, and the judges had generous things to say about our performance. It was a great night.

Sadly, we did not advance to the semi-finals on Friday night. We know it was a tough call for the judges because the other seven acts in our venue were all excellent. We were very proud of our performance: Melissa sang beautifully and soulfully. Gary Small was brilliant on guitar. The rhythm section of Jobe Jennings on bass and Fred Serna on drums was solid and groovin'. And I was happy with my playing on the blues harp. I know many people were surprised and impressed that a blues band from a cowboy state could play the blues like that. We tried hard to do Wyoming and WBJs proud.

Again, many thanks for making this possible. It was an experience of a lifetime.

-Rick Davis, The Melissa B. Band

Calling all Blues Musicians in Wyoming!

The Wyoming Blues Challenge event in Laramie was awesome. Both acts that participated were impressive.

Since we had only two acts total sign up for the WBC this year the event in Laramie today became the Finals, and both blues acts – a solo act and a band – were declared winners and will advance to Memphis! The next prelim event scheduled for Aug 20 in Casper has been cancelled, as has the finals event scheduled for Sept 18 in Casper.

The two winning acts are The Hold-Up (a band out of Gillette) and Jimmie Adams (a solo player from Centennial). Both acts worked very hard to rehearse and prepare for the WBC and both deserved to win no matter how many other acts may have been involved. Twenty blues bands and solo acts inquired about participating in the WBC but only these two followed through. We are very proud to be sending them to Memphis for the International Blues Challenge in January.

-Rick Davis
WBC Chairman
Wyoming Blues & Jazz Society
WyomingBluesChallenge@gmail.com



Keepin' the Music...Live
Thanks to our 2016 Sponsors

**Parkway Plaza Hotel, The Attic, The Wonder Bar, K2 TV
Mike and Starla Mammon, Jody and Nancy Taylor,**

Please consider becoming a sponsor now. Benefits for sponsorship:
At the \$300 level you get a reserved table for 4 at the concert, and name on posters/advertising

At the \$500 level you get a reserved table for 6 at the concert, plus you name or logo in all advertising, including 80 spots on K2TV, can hang a banner and distribute your business literature at the show

At the \$1000 level you get a reserved table for 12, plus all the benefits listed above for the \$500 level.
The Wyoming Blues & Jazz Society is a non-profit organization—
consult your tax professional regarding donations.

The 2016 Wyoming Blues & Jazz Society Executive Board

President: Peter Bue, president@wyobluesandjazz.org
(307) 473-3060

Vice President: Paul Rhodes, vice-president@wyobluesandjazz.org
(307) 234-6830

Treasurer: Jody Murray, treasurer@wyobluesandjazz.org
(307) 265-6749

Secretary: Meghan Tinnell, secretary@wyobluesandjazz.org
(307) 277-2995

Thanks for Your Support, Keepin' the Music...Live!

**For the most up-to-date WBJs information, check the website at:
<http://www.wyobluesandjazz.org/>**

**THE WYOMING BLUES & JAZZ
SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

August 14 MEMBERS MEETING 4PM
@ ALL THAT JAZZ

August 21 *OPEN JAM* 4PM–8PM
@ ALL THAT JAZZ

September 11 MEMBERS MEETING 4PM
@ ALL THAT JAZZ

September 18 *OPEN JAM* 4PM–8PM
@ ALL THAT JAZZ

October 9 MEMBERS MEETING 4PM
@ ALL THAT JAZZ

October 16 *OPEN JAM* 4PM–8PM
@ ALL THAT JAZZ

EVENTS...

November 13 MEMBERS MEETING 4PM
@ ALL THAT JAZZ

November 20 *OPEN JAM* 4PM–8PM
@ ALL THAT JAZZ

December 11 MEMBERS MEETING 4PM
@ ALL THAT JAZZ

December 18 *OPEN JAM* 4PM–8PM
@ ALL THAT JAZZ

Wyoming Blues Challenge

Fundraiser Show,

Friday, October 21, 8 PM

at All That Jazz, in Casper. \$10 Per Person

From the Office of the President

As my time as President comes to an end, I want to thank all of you who have made my time as President so much easier. January 1, 2017 will bring in new Board Members, new ideas, and most of all new live music! As you know the Wyoming Blues and Jazz Society is a non-profit organization dependent on member dues, donations, and paid attendance at our shows. We always welcome new members and thrive to spread the word to recruit new members. Many thanks to Vice-President Paul Rhodes and Steve Monteleone for their many hours updating the web site and providing the monthly newsletter. The Wyoming Blues and Jazz Society's monthly e-mail newsletter provides up to date information on all live music, jams and upcoming concert events locally, around the state and the surrounding areas. Also many thanks to Meghan Tinnell and Jody Murray for their hard and dedicated work.



Again I want to thank you all for your continued support of the WBJs. Keeping the music live is what we strive for. If you have comments, new ideas or want to become more involved contact us on our website, Facebook page, or come to one of our monthly meetings.

Don't forget that this is an election year, we will vote in a new Board Members, so please nominate someone!! If we don't have anyone interested in keeping the WBJs going this could be our last year, I would hate to see that happen, so please get involved!

Thanks again to all of you that made 2015/2016 great years!

Your Humble President,

Pete Bue



Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer filled with live music

Keepin' the Music...Live



PO Box 1643
Evansville, WY 82636

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED