



The South Sound Blues Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the blues as an American art form on behalf of its performers and fans through education, community and performance.

The SSBA is an Active Affiliate of



since 2005

Our 2010 IBC Representatives: An Inside Look

J. Henderson

This article is the fourth in our series about the band members the South Sound Blues Association is sending to the Annual International Blues Challenge in Memphis this next January.

This is the second time I have interviewed bass player Joe Hendershot as a result of his having earned a spot representing the SSBA at the International Blues Challenge. You may recall that he competed as part of the Michal Miller Band TWICE, once in 2007 and again last year. This year he returns to Memphis as a member of Blues Redemption, with the hope that his skill and experience will help gain the band national recognition. For Joe, the IBC is another highlight in a long musical career.

Joe Hendershot, who is a Tacoma boy through and through, has played bass professionally since he was 16 years old. As he says, "I love the rhythm end of things." Even as a teenager he liked to shake it, and he was one of those rare junior high school kids who actually danced at school dances.

His introduction to bass guitar came the classic way - he played guitar, but then his friend's band needed a bass. The bass turned out to be a perfect fit, considering Joe's love for rhythm. Six months into learning to play, he had his first paying gig with a band called "Deep Summer" at the White Spot Tavern in Aberdeen. As a minor, he was not allowed to leave the stage all night. Joe says, "I learned on the job. I hit more clams than right notes. I was terrible, but my rhythm was impeccable. I was jamming right on the beat - just all the wrong notes!"



Needless to say, he got better. Joe played with a bunch of Motown-driven bands (w/LeRoyBell, for one), usually 4 - 6 nights a week in most of the South Sound venues of the day: places like The New Yorker, The Exit, The High Hat, Old City Hall, Back Forty, Crescent Ballroom, Little Jim's Pub, and Baldies. He also studied music in college - the upright bass at TCC, the electric bass in the stage band and vocals with the Jazz Choir at Ft. Steilacoom, the choir at PLU and the UPS Tacoma Civic Chorus.

Joe has been an important part of the Tacoma music scene for many years. He backed Laurie Johnson in a rock 'n' roll band called Sleeping Village, then The Village Band. He and Doug Skoog played together in a Christian rock band, Rapture. But Joe is probably best known for being the original bass player with The New Blues Brothers, with whom he played for five years. When he grew tired of what he felt was a limited repertoire and bored with mimicking a bass part

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Thursday Dec. 17
Harmon Brewery and Restaurant
 1938 Pacific Avenue Tacoma, WA
7 pm to 10 pm
All Star Kid's Band & Adult Jammers Welcome
 Raffles and Prizes
 ALL Ages
 Hors d'oeuvre Table Provided

The Prez says ...



I can't believe it's the holiday season already! Wasn't it just yesterday that we were all on the waterfront, listening to the Back to Beale Street finalists at Duke's Chowder House on the 4th of July?

Speaking of the holidays, I would like to invite all of our members and their families to our Annual SSBA Holiday Party. This year's event will be held on Thursday, December 17th at The Harmon Brewery and Restaurant at 1938 Pacific Ave. in downtown Tacoma. We will have an hors d'oeuvre table available for those who wish to snack and we will also be providing live music. Cody Rentas and Jumpin' Josh Violette have put together an all-star youth band to perform for us. Their cast will include Cody Rentas-guitar, Jumpin' Josh-guitar/harp, Harrison McDonald-bass, Felicia Agrelius-drums and Little Lisa-vocals. The party starts at 7:00 PM so plan on spending an evening with other blues lovers and supporting these blossoming young South Sound musicians. We welcome musicians to bring their instruments and sit in for a jam later in the evening.

One of our board members recently brought a complaint to my attention. I thought it best to address it here in my monthly *Pres says* column. The complaint, in question form, is as follows: "Why is it always the same bands that have pictures and articles in the Bandspeak section of our SSBA newsletter?" and "Why is it always the same bands that perform at our fundraisers?" The Bandspeak column is made available to all of our member bands at no charge. All the member bands have been encouraged on an ongoing basis (via emails and also in our newsletter) to submit their pictures and articles for publication in the newsletter. Unfortunately, we have only had a few bands that regularly submit these articles. If you would like to take advantage of the Bandspeak space in our newsletter, please submit your input to newsletter editor Aaron Bakalar (ajbakalar@aol.com) by the 20th of each month. We also encourage our bands to contact Jane Henderson (jhendersonwa@earthlink.net), our calendar chair, with your monthly performance listings. Please make those submissions by the 20th of the month as well. In regard to the fundraisers, we send out a request to all our member bands asking for volunteers who will perform for free. Those that are first to reply are usually the groups we use. I can't recall ever turning a band down that has volunteered to perform.

I want to let everyone know that Blues Redemption (2010 IBC band representative for the SSBA) and The Randy Oxford Band (2010 IBC band representative for the WBS) are planning a joint fundraiser to help with their costs of getting to Memphis in January. The event will be held at the Imperial Dragon at 6805 6th Ave. in Tacoma on Sunday, January 17th. The line-up will include Blues Redemption and The Randy Oxford Band along with Fingertips, Dennis "Chester" Jones Band, and Orville Johnson and Mia Vermillion (2010 IBC solo/duo act representative for the WBS). The Beale Street Kick-Off Party/Fundraiser will begin at 5:00 PM and will go

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Hey, Blues Fans! Wondering why you should join the SSBA? For a \$20 yearly individual membership fee, you will receive:

- * A regularly produced copy of this newsletter
- * Monthly calendar of South Sound blues events
- * The opportunity to submit articles & music reviews
- * Special event email blasts
- * Event and merchandise discounts
- * A vote on important association matters
- * The satisfaction of knowing you're a part of the South Sound Blues community AND MORE!

South Sound Blues Association Membership Application

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City, State _____ Zip _____
Phone: Home/Work/Cell _____
Email _____

NOTE: If you want to receive your newsletter and special events information by email, the SSBA does not give out email or membership information.

- _____ Student/Senior Membership \$10/year
_____ Individual Membership \$20/year (Email News)
_____ Individual Membership \$30/year (Snail Mail News)**
_____ Family Membership \$30/year
_____ Band Membership \$50/year
_____ Lifetime Individual Membership \$200 (one-time fee)
_____ Lifetime Family Membership \$300 (one-time fee)
_____ Corporate Membership \$TBD/year
_____ Venue Membership \$TBD/year
_____ Additional Donation

Occupation _____
Volunteer Skills _____
Musicians — Instrument(s) _____
Interested in a Committee Position? _____

Please make checks payable to:
South Sound Blues Association
P.O. Box 26303, Federal Way, WA 98093-3303

Have questions?
Call Gary at (253) 230-6851, or visit our Website:
www.southsoundblues.com

** The additional \$10 charge for Individual Snail Mail Memberships is required to cover the costs of providing hard-copy printing and delivery of the Association Newsletter and the monthly Calendar of Events.

SSBA Newsletter Advertising Rates

Full Page: \$60 Half Page: \$35 Back Half Page: \$45
Quarter Page: \$20 Sixth Page: \$12 Business Card: \$8

Ad discount policy: 20%/12-month advance; 15/6; 10/3

Text: Word '97-03 (.doc), text (.txt) or rich text (.rtf)

Graphics: 300 dpi / jpg, gif, tif or pdf formats

Deadline: 20th of every month

**Maia Santell and House Blend:
House Blend Holiday Cheer!**

This has been a great performance year for us, with a variety of venues and special events. We give a special thanks to dance coach Natasha Thayer and her partner Wes Rogers of Studio 6 Ballroom for their hard work, their business sense, and of course, their good taste in music. It has been a joy working with them!



We're happy to announce our yearly Holiday Jazz and Blues Show at Jazzbones on Sunday, Dec. 6th at 7pm. Come early to hear our special guest, Jumpin' Josh, on guitar and harmonica. He is joining us on the first set, before intermission. It's an all-ages show, and the cover is only \$8.

For the past five years we've had the pleasure of working regularly for Johnny's Dock Restaurant, including four nights after Christmas, ending with a New Year's Eve performance. We return this month on Saturday, Dec. 26th, Sunday, Dec. 27th, Wednesday, Dec. 30th and New Year's Eve, Dec. 31st. House Blend instrumentalists include Al Alto on guitar, Bryce Van Parys on bass and Bruce Simpson on drums.

See you in the clubs,

Maia Santell and the boys in the band!

www.MaiaSantell.com

Becki Sue & her Big Rockin' Daddies!

Hey Blues Fans! The members of **Becki Sue & her Big Rockin' Daddies!** wish you all a Happy and SAFE Holiday Season! Please come out and hear the band this month. We have some great shows lined up, not to mention CD's for that special blues lover on your gift list!

Saturday, Dec 5 @ Roadhouse 101, Lincoln City,
OR 9pm <http://www.roadhouse101.com/>

Friday, December 18 @ The Fire Creek Alehouse, 5225
Yelm Hwy SE, Lacey, WA 8pm

ATTN: Becki Sue & her Big Rockin' Daddies! on New Year's Eve - 7 to 10pm at The Frontier Room (BBQ) @ 2203 1st Ave in Belltown/Seattle. <http://www.frontierroom.com/>

www.bigrockindaddies.com (Go to the "Music Store" page for Becki Sue & her BRD's gift CD's from CD Baby!)

SSBA band **Becki Sue & her Big Rockin' Daddies!** will be taking their act international for the first time in March of 2010 when they go to **San Felipe, Mexico** for the 4th Annual San Felipe Blues & Arts Festival! The award-winning Becki Sue & her group will, along with Alice Stuart, be the first Pacific NW band to ever play this festival on the Baja

Peninsula next to the Sea of Cortez. The festival coincides with a busy Spring Break season so the party should be on.

www.myspace.com/bigrockindaddies

Tim Hall Band

Join the Tim Hall Band every Thursday night for another legendary Rock-n-Blues Jam at 7:00 PM at O'Callahan's in Key Center. Enjoy award-winning clam chowder, good drinks & great music! Musicians bring your axes! Everyone else just come on out and have a good time!!!

Also, don't forget our Tacoma Jam every Sunday night at 8:00 PM at Dawson's! More good food, drinks & great musicians! See you there!

Richard Molina

Join Richard Molina and Tacoma's All Star Blues Band **THE BLUE MONGOLS** every Tuesday night for The Game On Sports Bar's Tuesday Night's "Lose Your Blues" show. Anthony Estrada, Curtis Smith and Aaron Lehman make up the Mongols along with Richard. Guests have included Mark Hummell and part of his road band, Drummer Dean, Billy Barner, Bob Hoffman, Gary Grape, Brien McGhee and many more! Join us on Tuesday nights - 6409 6th Ave., Tacoma (253-460-1400). Drink specials all night. Richard can be reached at 253-988-4336 or by email at:

Richardmo@comcast.net.



Mary McPage Band

(206) 850-4849
www.marymcpage.com

MySpace.com/marymcpageband

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Jumpin' Around Town

Hey blues fans — this month I was privileged enough to perform at the “Stacy Jones Band and Friends Benefit Concert” at the Red Crane in Shoreline. It was to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The

Stacey Jones Band started off the set with a few songs to get things going, and then they asked me up to play the rest of the set. I had a blast playing with them, Stacey and her Dad, Tom Jones (no, not that Tom Jones) are a lot of fun to



jam with. Drummer Rick Bowen has some rock solid beats, and Jeff Meteer is an awesome rhythm guitarist. I had a great time playing with Jeff, and I have to say thank you for organizing all the music for the entire event. Thanks Jeff!

Now, the real fun part was listening to all of the other performers that sat in with Stacy. After I finished, Mary McPage got up and blew the crowd away with her set. Now that lady can really sing! Then, none other than Billy Stoops himself came up to the stage to do some “STOOPendous” guitar playing. While he was playing Dennis Dudley was cracking jokes about Billy being the same height as I am, LoL! When Billy was done playing and Dennis was done telling jokes, the Mark Riley trio took the stage. Unfortunately, they just started playing when we had to go home, though what I saw of their set was amazing. It was a fantastic show and it was for a great cause!

Also this month I sat in with Maia Santell at Johnny’s Dock. I sat in on her last set and played some of the songs that we will be playing at her Holiday Show at Jazzbones. We went just to say “Hi” to Maia, and I got to play the last set! Wow, thanks Maia! Her Holiday Show at Jazzbones is on Dec. 6th and starts at 7:00pm. It will be an especially fun show, so come down to Jazzbones and have some fun!!



In addition, I have also been practicing with a new kids band that is going to play at this year’s SSBA Holiday Party on the 17th at the Harmon in Tacoma. Cody Rentas, Felecia Agrelius, Little Lisa, Harrison McDonald and I all have been working hard to prepare for the show. I have had such a great time playing with this group of kids; I hope we can keep this band going. The holiday party will be a BLAST!! So don’t miss it and certainly don’t miss our new band, after all, we are the *future of the Blues*... Hope to see you there!

‘til next time...

Jumpin Josh

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someone else had invented, he quit. After 16 years as a professional musician, he retired from the music business.

For six years he devoted himself to wife, family, and jobs as a cabinet maker and mortgage broker. It was the Michal Miller Band that drew him out, or more precisely, the kind of music Preston and Danny were making - music, Joe says, that “tells the truth.” South Sound fans loved their music and sent the tight, straight-ahead blues band to the International Blues Challenge two times.

Joe says that the Challenge experience definitely affected his ideas about blues. On both trips, he tried to listen to as many groups as he could and got a sense of the overall feel and sound of the music that other cities and countries were calling “their best representation of the blues... the most valuable lesson I took away from that experience was the simplicity of the music. No matter how hard one tries to come up with interesting and catchy stuff, it really misses the essence of blues if it doesn’t have that special (and sometimes very elusive) feel that goes along with it.” Joe describes the blues as passionate and unforced, a reflection of the people who play it.

After returning from the 2009 IBC, Joe was approached by his old friends Doug and Billy, who (with Brian Fiest) were in the process of inventing Blues Redemption. The band’s focus on original music interested Joe, and he loved playing with his old friends. It was his intention to continue playing with the Michal Miller Band as well, but when Blues Redemption won the band competition, and Joe found himself immersed once again in fundraisers, rehearsals, recording a CD, etc. in preparation for Memphis, he discovered that playing with both bands was “unmanageable.”

He remains connected to the Michal Miller Band, however, having already shared stages with them at various events and included them as guests at the Thursday Blues Dinner Show that Blues Redemption hosts at the Imperial Dragon. Joe hopes to do other things musical with MMB in the future and reveals that after all their shared experiences, he will always care for them.

As for his own ambitions, Joe says: “I have always had a keen interest in developing original music and will probably continue in that vein indefinitely. There is something very challenging and satisfying about crafting new music. It’s even more of a challenge to put together blues songs within a framework for allowing musicians the freedom to express themselves openly while having a distinct identity. There’s nothing else I know of that feels and sounds quite like the blues.”

The next **SSBA Board Meeting** will be held on January 4th at 6:30PM at The Hub, 203 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma. All members are welcome to attend the meeting, but must inform Gary ahead of time if they wish to speak so they may be placed on the agenda. Minutes of the board meeting will be made available upon request.

Carol, Gary and the gang

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to 11:00 PM. There will be a \$10 cover charge.

Once again I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to all our members for supporting live blues. Without you, there would be no live music venues available at which our extremely talented musicians could perform. I would also like to thank all the volunteers and musicians that helped at our fundraisers throughout the year. As the president of this organization I've had the opportunity to work with the most dedicated folks in our community. A special thanks to our board members who put in countless hours behind the scenes to make our mission a reality. That mission is to "preserve the blues as an American art form on behalf of its performers and fans through education, community and performances." If you get the chance to say thank you to our board please do. They are: Theresa Tilton/legal adviser, Leann Stacy/treasurer, Jane Henderson/calendar

and volunteer coordinator, Ricki Peto/photographer and graphic designer, John Violette and Wade Phillips/youth programs, Aaron Bakalar/newsletter editor and website administrator, Michael Stacy/vice-president and membership chair, Carol Ashurst/secretary and Mike Brooks/merchandise sales. And finally, I'd like to recognize and thank Frank Elliott, who graciously pays for the printing of our newsletter each month and Ron Hanshaw, who delivers them to various establishments in the South Sound.

Have a safe and joyful holiday season!

Gary W. Grape

"If you get a chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it."

The South Sound Blues Association
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