

BLUES NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY

“...to preserve, promote and perpetuate the blues tradition.”

Louisville, Kentucky

March 2017

Incorporated 1989



Rocky Adcock photo by Cheryl Jagers. Dana Roy photo by David True.

The Kentuckiana blues community suffered a great loss in January with the passing of two prominent individuals. Robert "Rocky" Adcock (photo left), passed away on January 24 at the age of 70. In addition to being a local musician, who went by the name Rocky Amaretto, he was a founding member and first president of the Kentuckiana Blues Society. He also helped establish the Garvin Gate Blues Festival and was a past president of the Louisville Federation of Musicians. A memorial service will be held for Rocky at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 8 at the First Unitarian Church in downtown Louisville. On January 30, Dana Michael Roy (photo right), passed away at the age of 64. Dana had many passions. He was a deep sea fisherman, a marine ship captain, master electrician and musician. It was his DMR Music and Recording Studio that helped produce The Louisville Blues Compilation Vol II CD in 2013 for the KBS. A memorial service was held for Dana at Grayson Funeral Home in Charlestown, IN on Saturday, February 25. The blues society sends our deepest condolences to their families and friends.

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**March 2017
Volume 30 Number 3**

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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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Louisville, Kentucky

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

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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.

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Mark Sneed – president
Debbie Wilson – vice-president
David Scoggin – 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 Check's Café in Germantown**) 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!

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!
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Your membership expiration date is shown on the top line of your address label. You will be inactivated from the membership rolls after the mailing bearing this date and you will no longer receive your Blues News. We don't want to lose you! Please take a moment now and check your label and renew online at www.kbsblues.org or send a check to

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The Louisville Blues Compilation Volume II
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Letter From The Prez



KBS President Mark Sneed

Greetings Blues Fans:

I didn't go to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. I thought about it and just wasn't feeling up to making the trip. I talked to board members this week and they said it was great and I should make the effort to attend next year's event. The IBC is the only place I know that puts some of the best blues bands and artists from all the Blues Societies together. Everyone has an opportunity to bond with other musicians and bands, and to talk to the members from other blues societies. I have not heard back from Laurie Jane and the 45's or Big Poppa Stampley, but I imagine they had a great experience.

As you know from our cover, Rocky Adcock passed away in January. He was the Kentuckiana Blues Society's first President and one of the founding members. I did not know him like many others, but had the opportunity to speak with him a couple of times. He was a great supporter of the Kentuckiana Blues Society. The last time I got to talk to him was at the Garvin Gate Blues Festival. What I realized when I went to the celebration for him at Stevie Ray's Blues Bar was how much he did for the blues society and people in general. A few people came up to the stage with Rocky stories. I left that night with a deeper sense of loss and sadness. I know I've lost a lot of friends and family, my hair is all gray and I have more years behind me than in front of me. When I lose someone like Phillip Phillips or Rocky Adcock, it causes me to look at the past and makes me appreciate what I love and who is in my life. It helps me not to worry about the petty stuff we all have to deal with and embrace the good friends and support around me. We have a strong blues community in Louisville. I see that at our festivals and every time I come to Stevie Ray's for our functions or any fundraisers by MERF. I appreciate all the people involved in doing what we do, Keeping the Blues Alive.

We are forming our committees for the 2017 year and our hope is to make 2017 a memorable and fun year. We are also looking at our nominations for this year's Sylvester Weaver Award. Nominations were submitted at the last board meeting and we will be turning in our votes in the very near future. Come up and say Hi If you see me out and about. I'm still learning how to fill Gary's shoes and his are big to fill. I've put myself out there at work with what I do and in addition, I belong to another organization. Being the current President has taken some time for me to adjust. I hope to see you around town and at some blues shows.

Mark

A black and white advertisement for Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio. The top half features three caricature portraits of the band members: Bob Welsh on the left, Elvin Bishop in the center, and Willy Jordan on the right. The text "ELVIN BISHOP'S" is written in large, bold, white letters across the top. Below the portraits, "BIG FUN TRIO" is written in even larger, bold, white letters. At the bottom, there are two quotes: "FABULOUS GOOD-TIME ROMPS...THE PLEASURE IS INFECTIOUS" -BLUES & RHYTHM and "SERIOUSLY PLAYED GOOD-TIME MUSIC GUARANTEED TO PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE" -CHICAGO TRIBUNE. The bottom of the ad includes the text "AVAILABLE AT ALLIGATOR.COM AND OTHER FINE RETAILERS" and "GENUINE HOUSEROCKIN' MUSIC SINCE 1971".

I've Got a Mind To Ramble

By Keith S. Clements, reprinted from *Louisville Music News* © 2001 with permission



Photo by Keith Clements

Henry Woodruff, left, received the first KBS Sylvester Weaver Award from Rocky Adcock, the 1st KBS president, at the 1989 Garvin Gate Blues Festival.

Rocky Adcock, a.k.a. "Rocky Amaretto," 70, died on January 24, 2017. He was a bass player who played with a number of bands around town, most notably with the various bands led by Winston Hardy. He was also the President of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 6-37, for a period. He was also a co-founder and first President of the **Kentuckiana Blues Society**.

The following article was compiled from the January and February 2001 issues of LMN and Keith Clements' "I've Got A Mind To Ramble" column for those months. We reproduce them here in tribute to Rocky.

Rocky Adcock's Story

The Kentuckiana Blues Society has presented the Sylvester Weaver Award to twelve distinguished people since 1989. This year, the honor went to Rocky Adcock at our annual KBS Birthday Bash at Stevie Ray's on November 19.

Rocky had always wanted to play in a rock and roll band ever since he was a kid. His first paying gig, for all of \$5, was in 1961 when he was fifteen. It was a garage band that prided itself in doing "different" music. Rocky was playing rhythm guitar at that time but switched to bass in 1963 when he joined the Aztecs through another musician, Tom Johnson.

From 1964 to 1967, Rocky followed Johnson through three other bands: the Epics. The Mystics and the Bob Thorpe Quartet. They played bars, taverns and sock hops as a racially mixed band to racially mixed audiences. While with the Aztecs, Rocky opened for Ike & Tina Turner and played black venues like the Club Cherry in Lebanon.

The decade of the Seventies was a period of woodshedding for Rocky, with only sporadic activity in music. He occasionally played bass with Jim Smoak, doing country and bluegrass, plus he listened to alternative music. He was also raising two children and working at U of L in their Department of Surgery from 1975 to 1985.

Rocky's long association with Winston Hardy began in 1984 after Winston had returned from his sojourn to San Francisco, even though they had first met during their days at Fern Creek Junior High. Adcock followed Winston's first band, The Pharaohs, mainly to see the lead guitarist, Huey Twyman, whom they called "Lightning." Hardy, who had called himself Johnny Rio before then, left a lasting impression on Rocky with his ego-maniacal showmanship.

When Rocky joined the band, it had just changed from the 26th Street Tavern Original Blues Band to the Winston Hardy Original Blues Band. Hardy had wanted a *bona fide* blues band that included veteran black musicians like Marshall Anderson and Foree Wells to perform before the local white blues fans. The band opened for Robert Jr. Lockwood at the Center for the Performing Arts as well as opening for Red Rodney at the Water Tower Jazz Festival.

There was a falling out with some of the members of the 26th Street group just before Rocky came on board. At that time, there was a resurgence in the blues with the "Bluesday Tuesdays" jams at the Rudyard Kipling. Other clubs like Tewligans, the Cherokee Blues Bar (Blue Bird), Seville, Dutch's, Maier's, Yogi's, Pap's Place (Marmaduke's), Butchertown Pub, Uncle Pleasants and Fat Cats were booking blues bands. Rocky referred to Fat Cats as the "Cosmic Corner" at Speed and Bardstown Road, for that was where musicians met and things happened from 1983 to 1986.

Curtis Marlatt got Fat Cats co-owner Paula White to book him and later his band. Soon other bands followed. Rocky was looking after Henry Woodruff and the Noisemakers then and got Henry his first gig away from the Pleasure Inn at Fat Cats. Many types of alternative jazz and blues were performed at the "Hall of Foam" during that golden era.

In 1987, there was an ego tug between Winston and Rocky over philosophical differences as to where each was going individually. So the Rocky Amaretto Blues Band, a power trio with Andy Brauner on guitar and Chris Cahall on drums, was born. They stayed together for two years, recording "Bad Milk Blues" on the Louisville Blues Compilation album. The term "Bad Milk" came from a remark by Ray Charles during a TV commercial, where he reached into a refrigerator for a bottle of milk and said, "Phew, that milk is bad." Rocky mentioned it to his friend Tom Flood, who came up with the title for the song. Tom Cosdon (Cosmo) also recorded the song.

The "Amaretto" came from Rocky's girlfriend at the time, Rosie Brown, who noticed Rocky drinking Amaretto on the rocks. The band broke up when Chris wanted to get married and so Rocky - and Andy, for a while - returned to Winston's band. Rocky performed with Winston until his death in 1999.

Rocky has a lot of stories he could - and will - tell about Winston. He noted that Winston was not a drinker but would consume pitchers of beer while on stage, in keeping with his persona. Hardy was a pot smoker and once, when they were driving together through Appalachia to Delaware, Rocky began hallucinating that he was going down a long tunnel with a light at the end. It was from inhaling secondary smoke from Winston's joints.

This is the end of Part 1 from January, 2001. We'll conclude the article with the reprint of Part 2 from February, 2001 in the April Blues News.

Back To The Blues



Perry Aberli

The Blues.

“The Blues is like a low down achin’ chill, if you ain’t had ‘em, I hope you never will.”

“The Blues is like consumption, killing me by degrees.”

“The Blues is a worried old heart disease.”

“I got the Blues so bad, it hurts my tongue to speak.”

“Blues fallin’ down like hail.”

“My heart’s in trouble, my mind’s in misery, got the Blues so bad I really can’t hardly see.”

For as much as many like to think of the Blues as “good time booze and boogie” music, it is really far more about the pain of heartache, and of loss.

Listen to Little Walter: *“Last night I lost the best friend I ever had.”*

These lyrics and songs have been on my mind since the sudden passing of Rocky Adcock. This is a time that the Blues knows all too well about: a time of heartache and loss.

I can’t claim Rocky Adcock as my best friend; nor, I am sure, would my name have been one of those he would have immediately said. However, I do know that Rocky, along with Foree Wells, were among the best friends the KYANA Blues Society had.

I came home to Louisville at a crucial junction in my life: I was in the midst of a very unpleasant divorce; I had to leave my children, my friends, and my radio program behind in a very abrupt way. Fortunately, I had three caring brothers to sustain me. And, I had the Blues to do that, too.

Then, I met Rocky, and Foree, and Roger, and Keith. They reenergized me with their plans for a Blues Society and welcomed me into what, with a few others, would become a founding circle. Somehow it all came together and grew to what it is today.

Rocky was there all along. We used his office for meetings, and, a drawer of his file cabinet for our stuff. It was obvious that he needed to be our founding President and he took on that task willingly. Rocky was always a musician, but he did not use the Society to self-promote or aggrandize; he always acted in the best interests of KBS. He was a pragmatist; yet, he did not dampen our dreams – he encouraged and participated in them while keeping our feet on the ground. The KYANA Blues Society (as we originally dubbed ourselves) was more lucky than we knew to have Rocky in our midst.

Rocky was a fixture on the local Blues scene – like Keith, prowling around for that one perfect picture, still is. I think many of us will continue to see Rock out of the corner of our eye, at the clubs and festivals, nattily attired down to his two-tone shoes.

I miss him.

Perry W. Aberli

Kentuckiana Blues Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb-26 Bearno's by the Bridge - Open Jam Grand Theater (4th St) - Harriet Tubman starring Sheryl Rouse 3:00 & 7:00 Lettersong Studio - Mary Ann Fisher Story featuring Marjorie Marshall 7:00 Retired Servicemen's Club - Mr. Wonderful Production Band 8:00 Rubbies Southside G&B - Open Jam Shamrock B&G (Lexington) - Open Jam	27 Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) Tee Dee Young Band & Friends	28 Corbett's - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00 Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Northside Sheiks 8:00 Off Broadway (Madison IN) Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	Mar-1 Bourbon on Main (Frankfort) - Open Jam 6:00 Check's Cafe - KBS Board Meeting 7:00 Linda's Log Cabin (Vernon IN) Open Jam 7:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues and Greys Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo	2 Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Nick Stump Band 8:00 Mick's Lounge (Jeffersonville IN) Open Mic 8:00 Stevie Ray's - TNT Open Jam 9:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) - Open Jam Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	3 O'Shea's Irish Pub - Soul Circus 10:00 Stevie Ray's - Jimmy G & Sidewinders / V-Groove	4 Backstretch B&G (Lexington) - Romn Crowder and Friends 7:30 Exchange Pub & Kitchen (New Albany IN) Tyrone Cotton 6:30 Chateau Thomas Winery (Nashville IN) - Smokestack Lightning 7:00 Diamonds (St Matthews) - Soul Circus Seasons Lodge (Nashville IN) - Fisful of Bacon 9:00 Stevie Ray's - Jenny & The Jets / Edge of Barstow
5 Bearno's by the Bridge - Open Jam Retired Servicemen's Club - Mr. Wonderful Production Band 8:00 Rubbies Southside G&B - Open Jam Shamrock B&G (Lexington) - Open Jam	6 Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) Tee Dee Young Band & Friends	7 Corbett's - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00 Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Northside Sheiks 8:00 Off Broadway (Madison IN) Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	8 Kroger (Euclid Ave - Lexington) Open Jam 4:00 Linda's Log Cabin (Vernon IN) Open Jam 7:00 Stevie Ray's - Jenny & the Jets Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo	9 Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Nick Stump Band 8:00 Mick's Lounge (Jeffersonville IN) Open Mic 8:00 Stevie Ray's - TNT Open Jam 9:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) - Open Jam Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	10 Bistro 42 (Prospect) - Soul Circus 9:00 Elk Creek Vineyards (Owenton) - Keith Hubbard 5:00 Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Stevie Ray's - The Boogie Men / Kirby VFW Post (Madison IN) - Open Jam Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	11 Backstretch B&G (Lexington) - Romn Crowder and Friends 7:30 Chateau Thomas Winery (Nashville IN) - Gary Applegate 7:00 Gerstle's Place - V-Groove 9:00 Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:00 O'Shea's Irish Pub - Soul Circus 5:30 Stevie Ray's - Kirby
12 Bearno's by the Bridge - Open Jam Rabbit Hash General Store (Rabbit Hash) - Ricky Nye & Rob Lumbard 2:30 Retired Servicemen's Club - Mr. Wonderful Production Band 8:00 Rubbies Southside G&B - Open Jam Shamrock B&G (Lexington) - Open Jam	13 Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) Tee Dee Young Band & Friends	14 Corbett's - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00 Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Northside Sheiks 8:00 Off Broadway (Madison IN) Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	15 Linda's Log Cabin (Vernon IN) Open Jam 7:00 Stevie Ray's - Louisville Fats & The Rhythm Cats 8:30 Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo Willie's Locally Known (Lexington) - Reed Turchi and the Caterwauls	16 Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Nick Stump Band 8:00 Mick's Lounge (Jeffersonville IN) Open Mic 8:00 Stevie Ray's - TNT Open Jam 9:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) - Open Jam Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	17 Chateau Thomas Winery (Nashville IN) Fisful of Bacon 7:00 Diamonds (St Matthews) - Soul Circus It's Five O'Clock Somewhere (Nicholasville) - Five Below Band 9:00 Levee at the River House - Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Stevie Ray's - Carla Reiser & The Tarnations / The Saints	18 American Legion Post (Mitchell IN) - Below Zero Blues 8:00 Backstretch B&G (Lexington) - Romn Crowder and Friends 7:30 It's Five O'Clock Somewhere (Nicholasville) - Five Below Band 9:00 MOM's Music (Mellwood Ave) - Open Jam Stevie Ray's - Mississippi Adam Riggie / Soul Circus
19 Bearno's by the Bridge - Open Jam Louisville Palace - Experience Hendrix Tour 7:30 Retired Servicemen's Club - Mr. Wonderful Production Band 8:00 Rubbies Southside G&B - Open Jam Shamrock B&G (Lexington) - Open Jam Animal Care Society 5:30	20 Lyric Theatre (Lexington) - Guy Davis & Fabrizio Poggi Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) Tee Dee Young Band & Friends	21 Corbett's - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00 Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Northside Sheiks 8:00 Off Broadway (Madison IN) Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	22 Brown Theatre - Southern Soul Assembly 8:00 Kroger (Tates Creek - Lexington) Open Jam 4:00 Linda's Log Cabin (Vernon IN) Open Jam 7:00 Stevie Ray's - The Blues Drifters Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo	23 Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Nick Stump Band 8:00 Mick's Lounge (Jeffersonville IN) Open Mic 8:00 Stevie Ray's - TNT Open Jam 9:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) - Open Jam Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00 4th St Bar & Grill (Columbus IN) - Gary Applegate 7:00	24 Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Levee at the River House - Soul Circus Stevie Ray's - Laurie Jane & the 45's / Nobodys Bizness	25 Backstretch B&G (Lexington) - Romn Crowder and Friends 7:30 Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Stevie Ray's - Louisville Fats & the Rhythm Cats / Leroy Ellington Band 4th St Bar & Grill (Columbus IN) - Snakehandlers Blues Band 9:00
26 Bearno's by the Bridge - Open Jam Retired Servicemen's Club - Mr. Wonderful Production Band 8:00 Rubbies Southside G&B - Open Jam Shamrock B&G (Lexington) - Open Jam	27 Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) Tee Dee Young Band & Friends	28 Corbett's - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00 Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Northside Sheiks 8:00 Off Broadway (Madison IN) Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00 Willie's Locally Known (Lexington) Jack Broadbent	29 Linda's Log Cabin (Vernon IN) Open Jam 7:00 Stevie Ray's - Jimmy G & the Sidewinders 8:30 Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo	30 Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Nick Stump Band 8:00 Mick's Lounge (Jeffersonville IN) Open Mic 8:00 Stevie Ray's - TNT Open Jam 9:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) - Open Jam Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00 Wicked Eyed Woman (E'town) - D Man Duo	31 Captain's Quarters - Soul Circus 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Spoilers3 / Michelle and The Boys	Apr-1 Backstretch B&G (Lexington) - Romn Crowder and Friends 7:30 Stevie Ray's - TBA

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