

December, 2015



UPCOMING SHOWS

12/3: Booker T & the MGs at the Coach House

12/4: Robert Cray Band at the Belly Up Tavern

12/5: Doug David Benefit at Tio Leo's Lounge

12/7: Billy Gibbons at the Belly Up Tavern

12/10: Eric Burdon & the Animals at the Coach House

12/12: Kim Wilson at Winston's OB

12/31: Candye Kane Happy Hour at the Belly Up

Tavern

Los Lobos at the Belly Up Tavern

1/9: The Paladins at the Casbah

1/23: IBC Send-Off Party for The Holla Pointe at Tio Leo's Lounge

SAVE THE DATE!

BLUSD's IBC Send-Off Party for the Holla Pointe is happening on Saturday, 1/23/16 from 1-5 p.m. at Tio Leo's Lounge. Special guests TBA. Let's send them off in style, and be sure to tell all of your friends! Admission only \$10. See you there!



BLUES RULES – San Diego's Blues Meet Up Site



Blues fans, what do you do when you want to assure yourself a continuous supply of the blues you crave? Hollie Alcocer, one of those blues survivalists who can't live without that musical necessity, took action. She didn't just subscribe to an internet radio station, or peruse the gig calendar in Blue Ink, or show up at her favorite local club hoping for some blues. She started her own online gathering site where she could post upcoming blues events and draw fans from around San Diego County to attend them with each other. Since 2009, she had been a Co-Organizer of a previous group, *San Diego Blues Fans Meet Up*. In 2014, she left that group to launch her own blues group.

Her Meet Up site, *Blues Rules*, quickly grew a membership of 343 active blues fans who flock to the site to find live blues music to fill their needs.

You have undoubtedly seen Hollie at many blues events, wearing her sparkly blue hat that is meant to identify her to people who are looking for the *Blues Rules* Meet Up members in the crowd. She says the hat can actually light up and blink in the dark, if the need arises, although I've never personally witnessed that!



In the process of operating the Meet Up group and attending the events with her new circle of blues friends, she has enjoyed the side benefit of expanding her own blues experiences in and out of town. Since starting the group, she has now attended the Blues Music Awards three times, the IBC's twice, and has sailed on two Blues Cruises. She also discovered *BLUSD*, and became one of our members. We need groups like *BLUSD* and *Blues Rules* in San Diego, to help keep blues alive and well here, she urges.

As with many fans who grew up with blues as our native music, it was the British rock/blues groups in the '60's who first brought Hollie to the conscious realization that the name of the music that spoke to her so profoundly was *blues*. She was drawn to John Mayall, Eric Clapton, and then when she heard BB King, she says, "That's all it took." Blues music was confirmed as a driving force in her life. For her, a live performance where you can feel the interaction of the musicians with the audiences is much more enjoyable than much more than just listening to a recording.

In addition to enhancing her opportunities to attend live concerts, herself, the Meet Up group also gives her a platform to support blues artists and occasionally host house concerts in members' homes and other small venues, where perhaps a maximum of twenty will be attending. The attendees pay \$15 each, with all proceeds going to the musicians.

Despite the loss of some favorite venues over the recent years, she thinks there is a good audience for blues in San Diego. The places may change, but the music goes on. As she puts it, "When one door closes on music or the blues, there seem to be other doors opening." Although the blues audience remains largely an older population, she says the younger crowd has found out that blues makes great dance music, and they show up when the blues is rocking.

On her site, she posts meetups all over San Diego, and sometimes outside of San Diego, as for last year's Portland and Mammoth Blues Fests. You will find postings for most blues festivals around the area as well as many street festivals, such as the Adams Avenue Street Fair. She also posts nightclubs, bars, restaurants, and venues that usually or occasionally play blues. She tries to include any new

venues that open or just start booking blues bands. An example is the new Music Box, formerly Anthology.

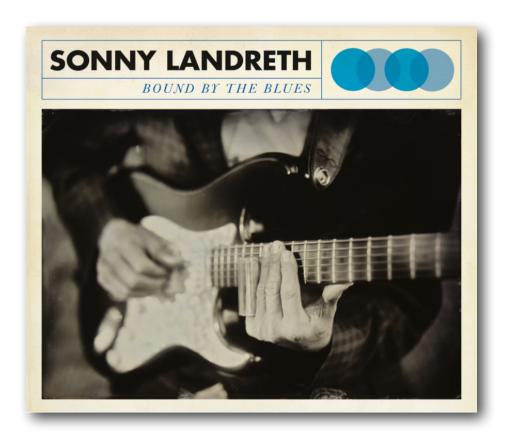
She admires San Diego's active community of blues artists, who come together and perform benefits for musicians and others in need. She always posts those benefit events to *Blues Rules*, even if she is not going to be in town to attend personally.

If you're looking for some friends to meet up with to attend some live blues in San Diego, or you want to know what's upcoming, check out the *Blues Rules* meetup site at meetup.com (http://www.meetup.com/ BLUES-RULES-IN-SAN-DIEGO/).

DM







Sonny Landreth
Bound by the Blues
Provoque Records

Over the forty plus years of his musical career, Sonny Landreth has internalized the blues to the point where his playing is innate - when he takes his guitar in hand, he *is* the music. *Bound by the Blues*, his twelfth solo album, is a mix of new compositions of his own, and some creative adaptations of classic blues songs transformed through the prism of his unique and inimitable slide guitar style. Every track is exceptional in its own right.

In general, the album maintains a lively, danceable mood, yet it is permeated with the evocative and otherworldly sounds conjured up from his guitar to convey the experience of the music to the listener on multiple levels simultaneously. You hear his thoughtful lyrics while connecting to the song on an emotional level at the same time.

The complexity of his guitar styling is well supported by the steady and powerful foundation laid by his drummer (Brian Brignac) and bassist (David Ranson).

Listening to his renditions of "Walkin' Blues" and Dust My Broom," you will recognize the words of the traditional songs, but the beat you will be dancing to is a marching stomp, and the guitar is an emotive slippery, tapping slide, punctuated by crashing cymbals.

He takes off on another very inventive approach to "Cherry Ball Blues." Skip James' original is about as high as you can get on the spectrum of ethereality. Landreth's version connects with the listener from a faster, more down-to-earth plane, but is equally powerful in its ability to draw you under its trance-inducing spell.

His delivery of "It Hurts Me Too" bears little resemblance to Elmore James' well-known classic, but it stands up as a fitting reinterpretation in a totally different style.

Equally creative is his interpretation of "Key to the Highway," an outstanding rendition of that oft-played classic.

"Firebird Blues" is his emotive instrumental tribute to the memory of his friend and fellow slide-player, Johnny Winter.

His poetic talent comes out in "Bound by the Blues," which expresses the interconnections between us all, and his pensive "Where They Will." "The High Side" tells a humorous story of a hiking adventure in his youth.

The outstanding album closes with another excellent instrumental, "Simcoe Street," a driving, hand-clapping, stomping number. You can't go wrong with this CD.



AQUA-FI is the newest, hottest band in town! You like blues? You like funk?! You like some good ole soul? What ever you like AQUA-FI will have you movin' and groovin' to the beat all night long. It don't matter if ya young, old, from this planet or another. They will make ya shake that thing like no other. With bass in ya face and guitar from outer space. With a beat that'll make ya get outta your seat. You know you'll be AQUA-FI'D when ya start moving your feet. Singing and humming their songs all week. With Tyler Ray Davidson better know as "Tyler Ray" playing those sweet, sweet guitar licks and rhythm chankahs. He will make you do zippy guitar riffs with your mouth. "Jimmy" James Harley Davidson, better know as "Jim". Slappin' the pocket and groovin' with his bass super slim. Tony Hernandez better know as "Stony Tony" stickist extraordinaire. Drummin' up some funky beats with his snare. Do you dare come get AQUA-FI'D? www.aqua-fiband.com

"...young group AQUA-FI (formerly known as Electric Church) Let the good times roll with their fast, vibrant, funky version of the blues that rocked the house from the start..."

Boogie Magazine

"This up-and-coming band introduced their high-energy mix of funk and blues, peppered with a Hendrix flair, to an receptive crowd... A refreshing blend of youth and experience... AQUA-FI is poised and ready to make their mark on the local music scene and beyond."

- Nick Abadilla (Prof. Photographer)



For all who have performed with or know Kevin Cooper, our huge congratulations to him for this amazing achievement in his career.



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BLUSD is a non-profit 50 1(c)3 organization. Dues are tax deductible and also support our Blues In The School program.

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