

October Newsletter

A big thank you to everyone who contributed their time and effort to make The Greater Ozark Blues Festival a rousing success. The figures aren't all together yet but I will let you all know as soon as they are available. Our \$20,000 seed money is safe & sound and should be returned to Kellie shortly. Not only are we getting our investment back but will have profit to show for it. How many of us can say that about our investments lately. I think we have found a new home for the festival at Bass Pro. We have room to grow and if this year is any indication I think we will do just that. For an event on a new site it went off pretty smooth there are some areas that we can and need to improve on but most of these are easy adjustments and with the expertise of Bob Carr and his grounds team the few problems we had with the set up are easy fixes. If you have any suggestions feel free to drop me an email. I am pleased to announce that Ken Bauer has joined the Blues Festival Committee he will be a great assets to this committee. We already are signed up for next year and plans are underway if you have any suggestions for talent next year either email Monte or Stan. w

We want to make next year the best line up we have ever had.

Our annual Rumble the Blues Away was great success. Bill Eft put together another scenic route for the poker ride and the weather was perfect (thanks Larry) for the 55 bikes that participated ending at Murphy's where Mike Warford's smoked pork butt complimented by Mamma (Birdie) Rayman's potato salad and Kathleen's Tepiew pineapple beans was waiting for them. Thanks for all the donations of baked goods that filled the table for a sweet treat to top off their meal. John Tepiew had a great line up inside to finish out the evening with music, raffles, and fun. The event brought in excess of \$2000 for the Blues in the Schools Program. I know the BITS committee will put this to good use.

The weather was picture perfect the September picnic and Trip Wire's music rang though the woods at Ritter Springs Park. Everyone there was treated to a special appearance by Nathan Melton an original member of the band. It's hard to believe that we our last picnic of the season is coming up. The last picnic of the year will be held the October 19 the third Sunday of the month at Ritter Spring Park. Let's make this final picnic the best yet this year don't forget bring a dish to share and throw a buck in the bucket for the meat.

Memphis Bound competition is upon us. The band prelims are going to be held the weekend of October 17 & 18 at the New Key Largo. We have come back to the old format of holding prelims and the finals will be in November. The solo/duo competition is going to be held in November at Lindbergs down on Commercial street. Check out the schedule in the newsletter. Remember there is not any fee to enter. October 1 is the date that the Foundation will announce the host hotel and ticket will be available. If you think you may want to attend the International Blues Competition in Memphis in February I would strongly suggest going ahead and getting your reservations because this is likely to be one of the biggest yet.

The next regular meeting is going to held the 2nd Wednesday October 8 at the American Legion Post on Scenic at 7 pm. See ya then.

Cruizin for the Blues,
Pat Warford, President

