



**The Double Door Inn
Fan Club**

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Congratulations, Ralph Speas! The Piedmont Blues Preservation Society, serving the Greensboro / High Point / Winston-Salem areas, recently awarded their 2009 "Keepin' the Blues Alive" award to **Ralph Speas**. As archivist for the PBPS, Ralph's tireless devotion to filming blues concerts, Blues in the Schools performances, and PBPS events has resulted in an impressive library of blues archives. Ralph has also been a past guest speaker at a *BLUESunday* for CBS, and more recently has taught his informative and historically relevant 'Learnin' The Blues' course at Guilford Technical Community College.

➤ **Blues Blast Music Awards – Don't Forget to Vote!**

The 2009 Blues Blast Music Awards are posted and voting is now open! The awards are given annually by Blues Blast magazine, an internet publication boasting a circulation of 12,000 subscribers. Nominations are determined by a group of twenty five radio programmers, blues journalists, and presidents of blues societies. Visit www.thebluesblast.com (audio clips available to help you decide! but you'll recognize many of the names ... from John Nemeth to Cedric Burnside & Lightnin' Malcolm, from Kenny Neal to B.B. King, from Janiva Magness to Robin Rogers!

Nominations for now open! The



Yes, a "close, personal friend" of the Charlotte Blues Society – **Robin Rogers** – was nominated for "Best Female Artist." Blues Blast describes Robin as "an accomplished artist with a soulful voice and infectious enthusiasm for the blues." Shucks! We know that! So log on and show those folks at www.thebluesblast.com some Carolina action!

- **Songs from the Road – Jeff Healey** Ruf Records has announced an early September release date for a new album featuring 11 previously unreleased live tracks from the late, uniquely gifted guitarist Jeff Healey. *Songs from the Road* is the follow-up to *Mess of Blues*, which was released just weeks after Jeff's untimely death from cancer at age 41 on March 2, 2008. *Mess of Blues* was honored at this year's Blues Music Awards as "Blues-Rock Album of the Year," the debut of that award category.
- **Escape From the Chicken Coop – Watermelon Slim** Be on the lookout for this latest release from Watermelon Slim, scheduled for release in early August (Northern Blues label). Bill "Watermelon Slim" Homans has built a remarkable reputation with his raw, impassioned intensity. HARP Magazine wrote "From sizzling slide guitar...to nitty-gritty harp blowing...to a gruff, resonating Okie twang, Slim delivers acutely personal workingman blues with both hands on the wheel of life, a bottle of hooch in his pocket, and the Bible on the passenger seat." Paste Magazine writes "He's one hell of a bottleneck guitarist, and he's got that cry in his voice that only the greatest singers in the genre have had before him."
- **Between a Rock and the Blues – Joe Louis Walker** Stony Plain Records has announced a late September release date for this latest album from multi-Grammy and Blues Music Award winner, Joe Louis Walker. The album features some of the nastiest guitar work Walker has recorded in his career, tearing into both electric and slide guitar, while aided and abetted by Kevin Eubanks' accompanying crunchy fretwork. Another guest on the album is Duke Robillard.
- **Betsy came back from Ireland too soon! The Harvest Blues Festival** in Monaghan, Ireland, will be held Sept. 4-6. The line-up includes many acts from the U.S. and various European countries – Coco Montoya, Harper, Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas, King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys, Too Slim & the Tail Draggers, Bib Mamma's Door, and many more!
- **"Virginia Rocks! The History of Rockabilly in the Commonwealth"** This is a 2-CD set that includes more than 60 songs that draw their pulsing-with-life energy directly from the pure, unadulterated fountainhead of early rockabilly. Legendary Virginia singer Patsy Cline dabbled in rockabilly, as did Roy Clark and Wayne Newton. Songs by them are included in the set, but with these few exceptions, this is a tribute to obscure Virginia artists who could rock it up with the best of them. "I think the real importance of this project is the recognition and acknowledgement it gives to people from communities throughout Virginia who started out by imitating the music, and then went on to create their own." (--Roddy Moore, director of the Blue ridge Institute and Museum of Ferrum College, which is the state's center for folklore and folklife.) the set costs \$22.50 and is available at www.countysales.com (or call 540-745-2001).
- **Guest List for Local Festival** - Elwood Blues (aka Dan Aykroyd), The BluesMobile.com, and The Blues Festival Guide want to get you into a local Blues music festival **FOR FREE!** They are giving away tickets to over 50 Blues festivals all across the continent, all summer long. 40 Blues fans will each win a pair of tickets to a Blues festival in their area. The festivals range from small, unique gatherings to large, multiple-stage events. Each festival has its own character. Enter for your chance to win a pair of tickets and choose a festival in your region. **10 winners** will be chosen each month in May, June, July, and **August, 2009**. For your chance to get on Elwood's Guest List visit TheBluesMobile.com