

## A Little About the Blues

**R.L. Burnside** is the best-known proponent of what is known as the "Mississippi Hill Country blues." A raucous, rhythmic, foot-stomping brand of blues made to be performed in the region's numerous juke joints, Burnside was one of the style's most popular practitioners. Backed by a red-hot band that included two of his sons and a son-in-law, Burnside's influences were modern performers like Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker, but his mentor was Mississippi Fred McDowell, so his electric blues sound is firmly footed in the country rather than the city.

Although Burnside worked with folklorist and producer George Mitchell on a series of field recordings during the 1960s, and recorded sides for a handful of small blues labels during the decade, he primarily worked as a farmer until late in his life. Burnside would play on weekends in North Mississippi's numerous juke joints. In 1992, Burnside appeared with his friend, fellow bluesman Junior Kimbrough, in the documentary film Deep Blues. He had signed with independent Mississippi blues label Fat Possum, which released his debut album, Bad Luck City, the same year.

Recorded live with his family band, Sound Machine, Bad Luck City featured sons Dwayne on guitar and Joseph on bass and son-in-law Calvin Johnson on drums. Kenny Brown would later join Burnside's band on guitar. Burnside followed his debut with the 1994 studio album Too Bad Jim.

Burnside recorded A Ass Pocket O' Whiskey with rocker Jon Spencer in 1996 for the Matador label. It is his Fat Possum label recordings on which his reputation is based, however. Burnside toured several times during the 1990s, including European blues festivals. A live album, Burnside On Burnside, was released in 2001.

The 71-year-old bluesman worked with producer Tom Rothrock on 1998's Come On In. Rothrock added samples, loops and beats to Burnside's organic country blues, creating an entirely new and exciting sound that attracted young fans. During the late-1990s, many of Burnside's early-60s recordings were also released on CD. Recommended Albums: Too Bad Jim offers up a plate full of Burnside's trademark greasy blues, but Come On In mixes "deep blues" with modern technology to fine effect.

Recommended Albums: Too Bad Jim offers up a plate full of Burnside's trademark greasy blues, but Come On In mixes "deep blues" with modern technology to fine effect. (By Reverend Keith A. Gordon , About.com Guide)

An obscure artist, by most accounts, during most of his life **David "Junior" Kimbrough** was one of the last true Mississippi Hill Country bluesmen. Although he recorded sporadically through the years, and performed mostly in North Mississippi juke joints, Kimbrough's early-to-mid-1990s recordings for the Fat Possum label brought his raw, hypnotic country blues sound to a young audience looking for sincerity and authenticity in their blues.

The son of a sharecropper, Kimbrough was raised on a farm, but picked up the guitar at an early age. A naturally gifted player, Kimbrough learned from local legend "Mississippi" Fred McDowell. Through the years, Kimbrough held many jobs, including farmer, mechanic and moonshiner, but music was always on his mind.

During the 1950s, Kimbrough ventured to Chicago to pursue his career, but moved to Memphis a few years later. He recorded sides for Sam Phillips' Sun Records, but met with little success.

(continued on back)

Sparky & the Wipers hasn't played much in the past several years. Getting the entire band together with everyone's busy schedules just doesn't seem to work. However, from time to time, the stars align and we get to enjoy that rare combination of Paul 'Sparky' Hinz, Mike Schlenker, Tom Ouimette and Terry DeMars.

Don't expect the Eau Claire band to pull all-night cram sessions to prepare though. "We'll get together a little bit," lead guitarist Mike Schlenker said. "We don't want to rehearse enough to hurt ourselves."

"This is going to be just as much fun to see the people as it is playing," he said. Sparky and the Wipers formed in the late 1990s. The band is named after guitarist and lead singer Paul Hinz, who owns Sparkle Wash of Eau Claire. "He has a unique way of how he hears and plays things," Schlenker said. "His guitar playing is very cool."

In 2001, Sparky and the Wipers released a self-titled CD of blues covers. The group gained a following through energetic live shows. "It's very guitar-driven,"

Schlenker said of the Wipers' sound. "It's pretty much wide open. We play a slow song or two, but the whole set is very up-tempo and in your face."

The last time the band got together was a Sunday show for our 'Lust for Blues' event this past spring at The Metropolis resort, Action City. As usual, rehearsal time was minimal and the music was rockin'!

At one point it was decided that Sparky & the Wipers wouldn't "officially" perform unless all four members were present. Not the types to sit idly by, Paul, Mike & Terry recruited Tony Basley on drums, giving birth to the lineup known as Sparky & Friends that you'll see today at Tuesday Night Blues.

As far as upcoming shows, there's one. October 1st, they'll be at the Snout in Chippewa Falls.

(Portions of this article were written by Troy Espe, for an article originally appeared in the Leader-Telegram on March 19, 2009. You can read the entire article by going to [chippewavalleyblues.com](http://chippewavalleyblues.com) and clicking the 'In The News' link on the front page.)



### Next Week (July 5) The Jayson Collins Group

The Jayson Collins Band is a high energy jazz group playing a mix of joyful and soulful blues and R&B tunes. They will play standards from Ray Charles to original music by Jayson Collins. The band features Cathy Reitz on vocals, Todd Bartlett on trumpet, Jay Collins on alto, Jeff Reitz on tenor saxophone, Dean Granros on guitar, Joshua Gallagher on piano, Steve Clay on bass, and Matt Gulixson on drums.

*The*  
**4th Annual**  
**BLUES**  
**ON THE**  
**CHIPPEWA**

FREE ADMISSION  
FREE TENT CAMPING  
ALL AGES WELCOME  
CONCESSIONS ON GROUNDS

**15 BANDS OVER 2 DAYS**

**SATURDAY**

Davey Jones, Love Buzzards  
Lucas K & The Cool Hand Saints  
Steve Meyer Band, Swamp Kings  
Sena Ehrhardt Band  
Mojo Lemon, Deepwater Reunion  
Westside Andy & Mel Ford Band

**SUNDAY**

Yata, Do Da Day  
Lonesome Dan Kase  
Pete Neuman Band  
Ross William Perry Band  
Catya & Code Blue, Combo Flambe  
Left Wing Bourbon, Lamont Cranston

**Saturday & Sunday**  
**Aug 6&7**  
**Memorial Park - Durand**

A free will donation of non-perishable food or cash for the Pepin County Food Pantry will be appreciated!  
No pets allowed on the grounds  
Classic Car Show, Motorcycle Show, and Craft Show also held on Saturday  
[www.bluesonthechippewa.org](http://www.bluesonthechippewa.org) or call (715)672-8785 for more information

<p><b>BEARPAW</b> DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION Mark E. Morgan (715) 695-3265 <a href="http://bearpawconstruction.com">bearpawconstruction.com</a></p>	<p><b>SOS</b> <b>SPEED OF SOUND</b> Your Sound and Lighting Specialists <b>SEE US IN OUR NEW LOCATION</b> 2113 BIRCH STREET (715) 839-8021</p>	<p> Kevin K. Dettmann Carpentry &amp; Painting General Construction - Remodeling Window &amp; Door Replacement Certified Marvin Window Installer Home Maintenance (715) 839-8408</p>	<p><b>VTa</b> <b>VINOPAL TITLE AND ABSTRACT</b> Title Insurance &amp; Abstracts Escrow &amp; Closing Services <a href="http://www.vinopaltitle.com">www.vinopaltitle.com</a> (715) 831-0880</p>
<p><b>CHIPPEWA VALLEY blues SOCIETY</b></p>	<p>Visit the NEW <b>ChippewaValleyBlues.com!</b></p>		
<p><b>GENERAL BEER NORTHWEST</b> General Beer Northwest 2200 Lake View Drive • Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 Main Line (715) 728-2600 Fax (715) 723-1315</p>			

# Tuesday Night Blues 2011

Owen Park, Eau Claire

All shows begin at 6:30

In case of inclement weather, Tuesday Night Blues be held at the House of Rock, 422 Water Street.

\*August 3 will be held at Phoenix Park.

- May 31 Lucas K & the Cool Hand Saints**  
facebook.com/lucasandthesaints
- June 7 The Jonestones**  
AMBlues.com
- June 14 Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max**  
HowardLuedtke.com
- June 21 Left Wing Bourbon**  
LeftWingBourbon.yolasite.com
- June 28 Sparky & Friends**  
Facebook.com/SparkyAndTheWipers
- July 5 Jayson Collins Group**
- July 12 Code Blue with Catya & Sue**  
Catya.net
- July 19 The Steve Meyer Band**  
MySpace.com/SteveMeyerAndTheBluesDogs
- July 26 Deep Water Reunion**  
MySpace.com/DWReunion
- Aug 2 \*Pete Neuman and the Real Deal**  
PeteNeuman.com
- Aug 9 The Love Buzzards**  
LoveBuzzards.com
- Aug 16 The Sue Orfield Band**  
SueOrfield.com
- Aug 23 Ross William Perry**  
http://www.rosswilliamperry.com/
- Aug 30 Mojo Lemon**  
MojoLemon.com

Kimbrough also recorded for several regional labels during the late-1960s, including a pair of duets with his childhood friend, rockabilly star Charlie Feathers.

Returning to North Mississippi, Kimbrough began throwing house parties, eventually turning his home into a juke joint. Kimbrough would later purchase a larger building, opening Junior's Place juke joint. Through the years, the club would draw famous customers like members of U2 and the Rolling Stones, who came to watch Kimbrough and his close friend, R.L. Burnside, perform onstage.

Kimbrough appeared in the 1992 documentary film Deep Blues alongside Burnside and Jessie Mae Hemphill. He signed with independent blues label Fat Possum, which released his debut album, All Night Long, the same year. Recorded live, Kimbrough's band for the album included his son Kenny Malone on drums and Burnside's son Gary on bass.

Kimbrough performed a few shows outside of Mississippi, including a trip to England, but mostly stayed around North Mississippi. Kimbrough recorded two additional studio albums for Fat Possum before his death in 1998. Sadly, Junior's Place burned down in 2000, the fire judged an arson.

Recommended Albums: You Better Run: The Essential Junior Kimbrough is the place to start, a dozen great performances culled from the bluesman's Fat Possum albums. (By Reverend Keith A. Gordon, About.com Guide)

## Friends of the Blues

(Thank you for your donations)

The Timber Lane Toms, Quigly and Schultz.



**VolumeOne**

**DigiCOPY**

CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT IN THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY

See the Digital Difference!

If you'd like to sponsor Tuesday Night Blues, just talk to one of the CV Blues members at the park.

**July 2&3**

**Memorial Park - Durand**

**12 Bands Over 2 Days**

[www.grassonthechippewa.org](http://www.grassonthechippewa.org)

**2nd Annual**

**GRASS ON THE  
CHIPPEWA  
BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL**



Highway 52 - Forest Ridge  
Seegar Boys Ruby Magpie  
Evergreen Grass Band  
.357 String Band - King's  
Countrymen  
Mabel's Band - Stoop Singers  
Maximum Grass  
Gypsy Lumberjacks  
Two Many Banjos & More

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

A free event takes money to put on. As with most things, the economy is having an impact on this series. If you're a business person or know of one who would be willing to be a sponsor of Tuesday Night Blues, we'd love to talk to you. Just stop up to the Chippewa Valley Blues Society tent or contact Mike Fischer at (715) 309-9721.

# Tuesday Night Bluesletter

June 28, 2011 at Owen Park

## Sparky & Friends



**Bjorkstrand**  
**METAL ROOFING INC.**



Leaky roof  
giving you  
the blues?

call 866-A1-ROOFING

or visit [wimetalroofing.com](http://wimetalroofing.com)